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Vol. 5 No. 28

Week of May 3, 2005

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They celebrated Earth Day at Regency Acres Public School Friday in a big way. Students, teachers and parents were on hand for the official opening of the Regency Acres Environmental Learning Garden. But no one could get near it because the terrain was too muddy. That didn't stop members of the Environmental Committee from continuing with an hour-long ceremony to mark the event. When operating, the garden will include an outdoor teaching area. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Chamber needs a loving couple

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is still looking for a couple who would like to announce their engagement at the upcoming June 4 street dance.

Called Diamonds and Denim, Dancing under the Stars, the event is being held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street.

Advance tickets are \$10, a bargain considering each ticket carries five coupons, worth more than the ticket itself.

"If you use the coupons," said dance and street festival chairperson Kimberley Kerr, "you'll actually make money by buying the ticket in advance."

Entrance to the dance June 4, without an advance ticket, is \$15.

Tickets are on sale at the Chamber office, Yonge and Industrial Parkway South; Oakridge Outfitters, Flipside, and The Auroran office.

Dancing will begin at 7 p.m., and continue until midnight, featuring the live band, The Maze. Brian Larter, of Larter Advertising, has agreed to act as master of ceremonies for the event.

Thanks to several local businesses, great prizes will be available, including a set of diamond earrings.

Food will be available for purchase from three featured vendors, Topper's Pizza, Aw, Shucks! and Charlie FitzWhiskey's Tap and Eatery.

Meanwhile, the not-to-be-forgotten street festival, slated for Sunday, June 5, is ahead of last year as far as booth reservations are concerned.

More than 425 booths have been booked so far, compared with 395 for the same time last year.

The ninth annual festival set attendance records as more than 40,000 people took in the event, held on Yonge Street, between Wellington and Murray.

If you wish to book a booth, call the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at 905-727-7262.

Contest entries will boost image

It may be difficult to describe all the great things about Aurora in 300 words, but that's the challenge facing youngsters who participate in an upcoming contest.

On Saturday, June 18, Aurora is going to celebrate itself by holding an "Aurora Day" at Ontario Place.

The contest will be part of that event.

The Aurora Day Committee, the result of an idea from Councillor Evelyn Buck, has arranged with Ontario Place officials for Aurora to be highlighted in Festival Square at the Lake Ontario Park.

As part of the day there will be a visual arts and creative writing contest for five age groups up to 18 years.

Contest rules will be distributed through Aurora's schools.

Participants are required to write up to 300 words on "What I Love About Aurora" or create a work of art on the same theme.

A total of 10 winners will be

selected with one creative writing submission and one visual art submission from each of the five categories.

Winners will be invited to Ontario Place for Aurora Day and will receive one free family pass for four people, a \$120 value.

They will also be honoured at Ontario Place by Mayor Tim Jones.

In addition the winners will be invited to attend a private pizza party with the mayor and receive two pizzas a month for a year from Topper's Pizza in Aurora, plus two free movie passes from the Cineplex Odeon Theatre coming to Aurora this fall.

For those who can't get to Ontario Place to see the winning selections, they will be published in a future issue of The Auroran.

Participants must be residents of Aurora and submit entries prior to the deadline at 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 3.

Councillor Buck told council members last week about the work of the committee in plan-

ning the event and the many activities that will take place in addition to the visual arts and creative writing contest.

She said it would be a Showcase for Aurora.

Councillor Ron Wallace, a committee member, said just as the Street Sale was planned as a once-only event to celebrate

Yonge Street's 200th birthday and is now in its 10th year, it was possible Aurora Day could develop in the same way.

It's expected that thousands of people will visit the Aurora area of Ontario Place that day and will witness demonstrations, displays and activities, all pertaining to Aurora.

Briefly

Play soccer?

Perhaps you like to play a little soccer but you don't think you're good enough. If you're looking for a very casual, low-keyed men's soccer league, and you're between the ages of 25 and 55, Scott Sillcox has room for eight more players. Games are played in Aurora every Wednesday at 7 p.m. from late May until mid-September. Registration is \$100. If you're interested, call Scott at home at 905-727-5685, at work at 905-940-9229 or by e-mail at ssillcox@ca.inter.net.

Still in town

D-mac Furniture, which had to vacate its Yonge Street premises after 32 years, has landed on its feet in Aurora. D-mac opened a new location at 155 Edward Street recently and business is continuing without interruption.




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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Merlin's Hollow English garden has set its open house dates for the summer. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, the garden will be open Saturdays, May 14, June 11 and July 2 and Sunday, July 10. Garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent.

York Region Food Network invites you to join the Aurora Community Garden. Vegetable plots (10' x 20') are available at no charge. Call Catherine Cook, Community Garden Coordinator, at (905) 967-0428 or e-mail at cgcyfrn@bell-net.ca.

Friday nights at the Legion. Wildberry Express Jam Night. Free admission, 8 p.m.

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.

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7.30 p.m.

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 Bannon at 905-853-0859.

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings and special interest groups. Contact Barb at 905-713-3587. Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora.

MAY 5

The Aurora Public Library, with FOCUS, York Region Learning Connections, presents "Steps To A New Career", a free workshop for women. 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 6

Blood Donor Clinic at the Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

MAY 7

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society annual plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

MAY 8

Luncheon at Hillary House. Noon to 2 p.m. \$15 per person. Call 905-727-4015 or 905-727-8991 for reservations.

MAY 14

16th Annual Girls Incorporated auction. Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. Admission \$60 each or \$110 per couple includes entertainment, dancing, appetizers and door prizes. Reserve by calling 905-727-4897, extension 305.

Aurora Optimists present the FabFour at the Aurora Legion for a fundraising dance and to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary. Tickets on sale at Royal LePage, 14799 Yonge Street.

National Charity BBQ Day at M & M Meat Shop on Yonge Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Music, children's entertainment and other activities planned. Proceeds to the Cohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Further information at 905-727-1250.

MAY 17

Devotional meeting sponsored by the Bahai's of Aurora at Aurora Public Library at 7.30 p.m.

MAY 25

Aurora Public Library hosts "Analyzing A Series Of

Dreams", part 2, with Stephen Crowther, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Registration is limited. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 28

"Lilac Tyme Luncheon," featuring salads and ham, with strawberry cheesecake, will be held from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Event is sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild. Tickets: \$8 for adults; \$4 for children under 12.

The York Chamber Ensemble, with the Trinity Festival Chorus, tackles the wonderful Dixie Dominus, by Handel, and works by Abos and Suk in a choral concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. concert at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, cost \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

MAY 31

Aurora Public Library hosts a creative writing workshop with Aurora author and instructor Marnie Maguire. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. in the Marjorie Andrews Room. Registration is limited to 15. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

JUNE 1

Surfing and Searching - a basic overview of navigating the internet free seminar presented by Aurora Cable Internet and The Aurora Public Library at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the library. To reserve, call 905-727-9493 or visit www.aci.on.ca.

JUNE 4

Street dance on Yonge Street between Murray and Henderson, 7 p.m. to midnight. Advance tickets at \$10 on sale at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street, Flipside and Oakridge Outfitters.

JUNE 5

Tenth annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Yonge Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from Wellington to Murray.

JUNE 8

Third annual Charity Golf Classic tournament, sponsored by Aurora's Women's Centre of York Region takes place at the Briars in Jackson's Point. To register call Golf Tournament Coordinator Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837, extension 107.

JUNE 11

Annual Farmers' Market opens in Temperance Street parking lot near Yonge and Wellington. Every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving.

JUNE 18

Aurora Day at Ontario Place. For further information, call Kristen at 905-727-3123, extension 4228.

JULY 4

Baseball summer camp starts at the Aurora Leisure Complex and offers a full-day camp experience for kids aged 5 to 14 until August 26. Campers will be divided into five age groups and will receive baseball skills training as well as the chance to play in a game each day.

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA

Old library, senior centre space goes on the market



Two coveted Paul Harris awards were issued last week as the Aurora and Newmarket Rotary Clubs joined for dinner at the Graystones Restaurant. Chamber of Commerce Manager, Rosalyn Gonsalves, top left, and long-time Rotarian Luigi Scanga, bottom left, received the honours from past Aurora Rotary Club president Charlie Flynn. Some 40 people attended the event which featured Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach as guest speaker.

If you belong to one of the many non-profit groups or organizations in Aurora who are searching for accommodation, this may be your opportunity.

Recently, Aurora Council approved terms and conditions for the lease of 20,000 square feet within the former Victoria Street Library and the adjacent seniors' centre.

Interested parties are invited to submit an "Expression of Interest" in a sealed envelope to the Director of Leisure Services prior to 4:30 p.m., May 30.

All submissions will be considered, however priority consideration will be given to non-profit, community-based organizations within Aurora. Existing users of the facilities will not be given priority and equal consideration will be given to all groups.

The former library is a three-storey structure with approximately

16,000 square feet of available lease space.

The Seniors' Centre is a one-storey structure of approximately 4,000 square feet.

Applicants are asked to indicate which location and square footage they prefer.

Both facilities have limited to no parking available.

Anticipated occupancy will be late 2005, subject to council approval.

Staff will be available to provide tours of the facilities May 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. for all interested applicants.

Space will be leased at a cost of \$9 per square foot, plus cost of utilities, estimated to be \$2 per square foot per year and all leases will be for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years.

All "Expressions of Interest" must indicate special requirements, such as a kitchen, private access, high ceilings, etc., as well as

preference of facilities or location within a particular facility.

The town has identified a list of property improvements required to ensure the facilities comply with the Ontario Building Code.

These works will be completed upon the execution of lease agreements.

The lessee shall be responsible for all leasehold improvements and required permits.



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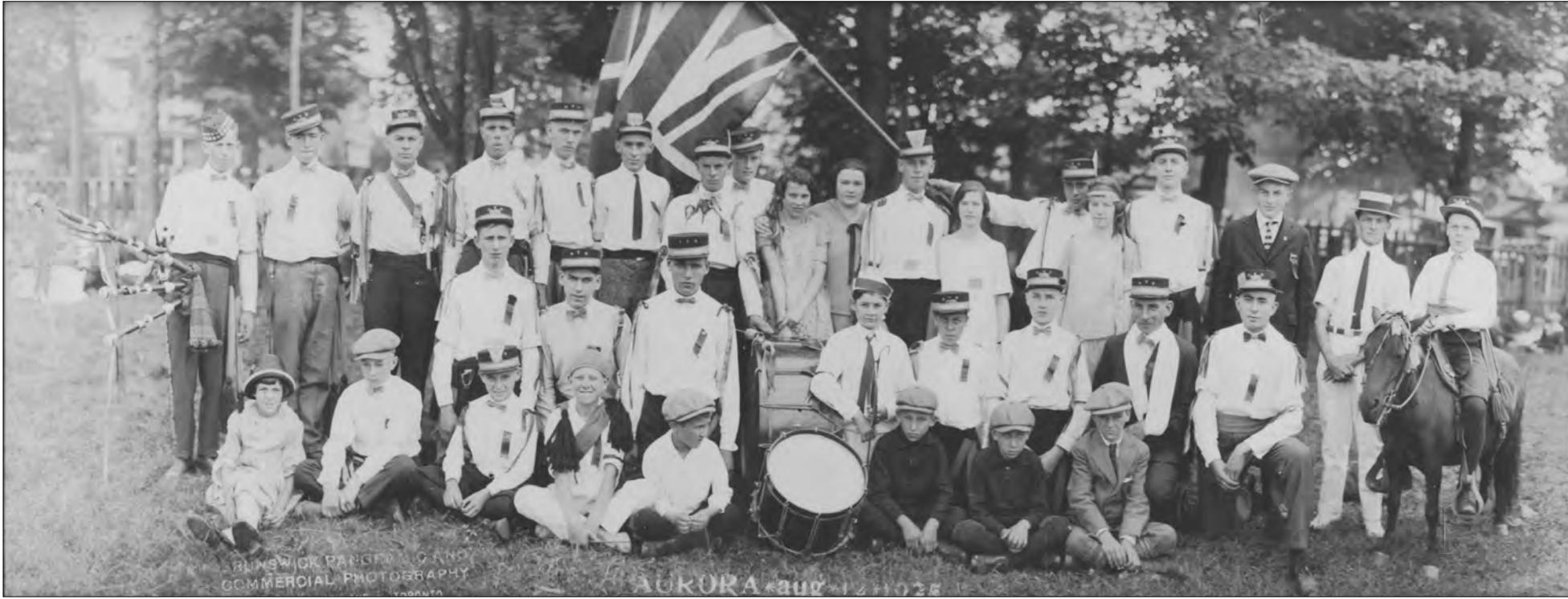
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This incredible photo was taken in Aurora's Town Park on August 12, 1925 (that's almost 80 years ago) and it shows members of Aurora's Orange Lodge. We know very few people in this photo. In the back row, fourth from the left is Roy Ellis and next to him is Lorne Ellis. Down the row is Cecil Long

and next to him is his wife Margaret. We believe the seventh man from the left in the second row is Cecil Brown. This photo belongs to Wanda (Ellis) Eveleigh of Cookstown who has loaned us a number of class pictures from Church Street School, which we will present to you in the coming weeks.

Letters to the Editor

City-government link a good start: reader

To the editor,

An open letter to Dick Illingworth

Regarding the sale of Aurora Hydro and related matters, you say in your column (Auroran, week of March 29) the acceptance of a single bid for an important asset with the complete loss of control is a disservice to the citizens of Aurora and is a decision that council and citizens will live to regret. My view is that may be

so, but not in any way due to the fact of a single bid; even with multi-bids the deal would still be a gamble for the town, would it not?

My feeling is the sale was either to raise money for the support of underfunded services or simply because of a cost-efficiency problem with Aurora Hydro, or both.

Any and every discussion of a problem of this nature leads inevitably to the issue of wages and salaries and this can be appraised only in a broader context.

The belief that strike action or the pledge thereof is the only way to obtain a decent wage suggests this is an area desperately in need of more attention.

It is heartening to know there are new or proposed measures designed to improve Ontario-Toronto relations and also Ontario-federal and Quebec-federal relations.

A new City of Toronto Act will give Toronto more powers than any city has ever had (Toronto Star, April 5).

This, I believe, will be a big step in the right direction, but only if city residents are called upon to participate - as with York Region's published announcement regarding the Bathurst trunk sewer project.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest on the fourth of his five principles of federalism: the fourth principle is balance; fiscal and political balance.

Long-term balance cannot exist in a federation if one level of government is in

a position that diminishes the relationship between the two levels of government (Star, April 6).

That's a very good point in my estimation, but with limited potential.

I feel the importance of fiscal balance (income-outgo balance) is now insufficiently stressed.

Fiscal balance is important not only for government but for all involved, including all secondary public services, business enterprises, households and all individuals on reaching employment age.

A marked improvement in these areas could mean a marked and sustained improvement in the employment scene.

Political balance would self-adjust.

Is this too much to hope for?

Maybe Toronto Mayor David Miller would care to express his thoughts on this.

I have a feeling of confidence in this new government-city relationship, to the point where I now wonder whether such a relationship would be beneficial for not only other provinces, but other countries.

In Russia, for example, uprisings in three former

Soviet republics - Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan - could put Russia at risk of breakup, according to Dmitry Medvedev, President Vladimir Putin's chief of staff (Star, April 5).

My question: why the uprisings, if not because of the impression the central government is not providing sufficient monetary aid for outlying regions?

Maybe President Putin would like to see cities accomplishing more for themselves.

**W. John Trusler
Richmond Hill**



Poor Richard

Town needs multi-year business plan

*The 2005 tax bill is in the mail,
Its arrival will bring bad news;
The future doesn't look better,
Be prepared for a fit of the blues!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

As most Aurora residents are aware, council previously adopted a 2005 operating budget with a property tax funded expenditure of \$19.2 million resulting in a 7.9 per cent increase over 2004.

Regional council approved a 2005 budget with a tax funded expenditure of \$568.1 million, up 5.3 per cent over 2004.

The impact on Aurora property owners will vary according to property class.

The Ontario Ministry of Finance has advised municipalities that the Education Rate established in 2004 remain unchanged in 2005.

Now that all the pieces are in place the property tax rate can be established for all property classes and the tax billed prepared and distributed.

If your residential property is assessed at \$250,000 you can expect to pay \$2,914.94 or \$128.47 more this year than you did last year and it will be up to you to determine if you are getting good value for your tax dollars.

For commercial properties assessed at \$250,000 owners must be prepared to hand over \$6,833.04 or an extra \$154.24 this year.

For residential properties, the town's share is \$897.58, an increase of \$65.40 over 2004 with commercial properties paying the town \$1,083.38, up \$78.12.

York Region takes a total of \$1,277.36 of your residential tax bill, an increase of \$63.07 over 2004, while commercial property owners will contribute \$1,541.77 or \$76.12 more than the previous year.

The education share of residential property taxes is \$740 in 2005 the same as 2004 and commercial taxpayers will contribute \$4,207.89.

One of the reasons the budget increased was that in preparing the 2004 budget several items were deferred

until 2005 to keep the 2004 budget within reason at a 5.5 per cent increase, but projecting a 15.6 per cent increase for 2005 and about eight per cent in 2006.

In 2003 the increase was 5.9 per cent for town operations and as Mayor Tim Jones said at the time "taxpayers were paying a little more today so they would not have to pay as much tomorrow", as council adopted its fourth consecutive tax increase.

The 2002 budget included an 8.8 per cent increase after starting out with a first draft indicating an increase of 19.8 per cent with a projected tax increase of more than 30 per cent over the next three years.

It was much the same in 2001.

The town's strategic plan includes the statement "To maintain a well managed and fiscally responsible municipality", but sometimes you have to wonder if there's any link between the strategic plan and council's actions.

Capital projects, such as the new recreational centre and seniors' centre and before that the library and the merger of the fire department, were done more or less in isolation without an overall plan as to the total impact on the taxpayer.

The seniors' centre is being financed through development and other charges and the \$1.2 million that had been budgeted to renovate the former library.

Both the old library and the current seniors' centre require renovations but the money has been allocated elsewhere, the same as the funds that were planned for a youth centre, and will have to be found somewhere.

The town purchased land on Leslie Street for recreational and industrial uses at a price much higher than its assessed value and it's still sitting there unused, as the town later purchased the Burnett property for the recreational complex.

The worst is yet to come as the projection for 2006 is for a 19.1 per cent increase and a 22.9 per cent increase in 2007.

The town needs a multi-year business plan similar to the 10-year road needs forecast so that the approval of projects remains within the taxpayer's ability to pay and it can't come too soon.

AURORAN

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Columnist amuses her

**To Cathy Vrancic,
Cathy's Corner**

I just had to share my chuckle with you over the last two articles you wrote.

I loved the drape hanging episode - oh, how I could relate.

I, too, will never be a Martha Stewart!

And last week the teen and laundry battle... a classic!

Keep up the good work; I look forward to reading future articles.

**Patty Davidson
Aurora**

IN A LITTLE-KNOWN OFFICE

WHY DON'T WE REDUCE WELLINGTON TO ONE LANE AT YONGE STREET?



Department of
Public
Frustration

Meeting
in Progress

BUT WE JUST DID THAT LAST YEAR

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Aurora's 2005 budget

On March 22, Aurora Council gave final consideration to passing the Town's 2005 Operating and Capital Budget.

The operational budget of \$19,295,077 resulted in a tax levy increase of 7.9 per cent over the 2004 budget requirements on the Town portion of the tax dollar.

In a previous column, I described the effects of the Region's budget, approved at \$568,117,000, which resulted in a tax levy increase of 5.3 per cent over 2004 on the Region's portion of the tax dollar.

The impact to Town of Aurora property owners varies according to property class, i.e. residential, commercial, etc.

We received good news from the Province when they advised us recently that the education rates for all tax classes for their portion of this expenditure remain unchanged for 2005 from 2004.

When you consider the accumulated Town (7.9 per cent), Region (5.3 per cent) and education (0 per cent) influence on their portions of the tax dollar, the actual bottom line increase for residential taxes for 2005 is 4.61 per cent for Aurora residents and the actual bottom line increase for business taxes for 2005 is 2.32 per cent.

For residential taxes, of each dollar in taxes you pay in 2005, 30.8 cents comes to the Town to pay for town services, 43.6 cents goes to the Region and 25.6 cents goes to the Province for education.

In speaking to the Town's portion of your tax dollar, it was influenced for 2005 by the following main considerations:

- Staffing - earlier this year we arrived at a three-year contract with our unionized staff which called for a wage catch up to comparable positions in the area.

This influenced our budget in the area of 4.6 per cent.

The Town was not competitive in many positions, both union and non-union, and this became evident by the number of trained staff we were losing to other municipalities that paid more, and in our ability to attract good people for jobs in our Town.

- The construction costs and associated financing, as well as the preliminary staffing of our new Leisure Service facilities.

Based on the direction taken from the previous council, we moved forward with the construction of a new recreation complex, home to two rink surfaces and a 25-metre, eight-lane swimming pool with associated learning and play pool pods located on Wellington near Leslie.

We also have started a new seniors' centre.

- Utility costs have had an effect on our budget this year.

- At the Town Hall, we are moving forward with improvements to our finance systems and staff resources to better plan out the financial demands on the Town.

- Road reconstruction also plays a major part in all budget deliberations with the emphasis this year directed to the Vandorf Sideroad (\$2,993,000) which comes from both operational and capital budgets.

There are many more details regarding the budget and numerous priorities and areas of expenditure, from a new fire hall near the new recreation centre, to park developments, road maintenance, sidewalk construction, traffic calming, and life cycle maintenance on existing facilities.

Your council has risen to the challenge for 2005 but will remain challenged for the years ahead in trying to meet the desires of residents and businesses while doing its best to keep the overall tax effect to the Town within a manageable range for services provided.

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



Cathy's Corner



Bouquets for moms

Like I said, I don't want Dick Illingworth's whole job - just the "Bouquets and Brickbats" part.

And since this Sunday is Mother's Day, I can't think of a better time for bouquets.

Of course, being a mom, I do have a slight advantage over Dick. I know things.

Three times I got to experience expansion, and I know all about contractions. Plus, I know that "push" is a four-letter word.

Furthermore, as a retired card carrying member of the diaper toting society, I know that moms deserve bouquets for keeping a change in the strangest places, and medals for making the change in the most unlikely places.

I know that moms are special people who do their best, give their best, and make the best of everything.

I know this because I was raised by one of those.

So, bouquets to moms who make sacrifices, who go without so their kids can have, who do what's right when it isn't easy, and whose kids will never know how much it cost.

Bouquets to moms who demand the best from their children, even when it means poking, prodding, pleading, and pulling teeth...and hair.

Bouquets to moms who can't remember the colour of the fridge before it became an art gallery.

And bouquets to moms who unwittingly bought stainless steel fridges that froze out the art gallery.

In case you didn't know, magnets don't stick to stainless steel.

Bouquets to moms who taught sons to do laundry, and daughters to cut grass, and bouquets to moms who taught daughters to bake, and sons to pump gas.

And medals to moms who taught all of their children to do what needs to be done.

Bouquets to moms who taught their children everything they know, only to find out that their children know everything.

Bouquets to mothers who raised obedient children; bouquets to those who raised rebellious children.

Sometimes it's something she did, sometimes it's something she didn't do, sometimes they grow out of it, and sometimes they grow into it...and sometimes there's just no figuring it out.

Bouquets to moms who have the patience of Job, and

bouquets to moms who lose their cool once in a while...just to prove that they're human too.

Bouquets to moms who stay up all night with babies, and bouquets to moms who stay up all night waiting for teenagers to come home...and bouquets to moms who stay up all night because they're used to it now.

Bouquets to moms who let their kids dress themselves, and bouquets to moms who catch hell when their teenagers see the old videos and photos of the spectacle.

Bouquets to moms who sit through three-hour recitals to watch their kids shine for three minutes, and bouquets to moms who freeze their tootsies off at soccer, baseball and hockey games...and riding the toboggan uphill.

Bouquets to moms who help their kids learn algebra, trigonometry, and how to drive a car, but still can't teach them to change a roll of toilet paper; no matter how hard they try.

Bouquets to moms who have nursed scraped knees, chicken pox and gastroenteritis.

And bouquets to moms whose sanity has survived tantrums in the toy store, the cereal aisle, and just about every store where candy is sold.

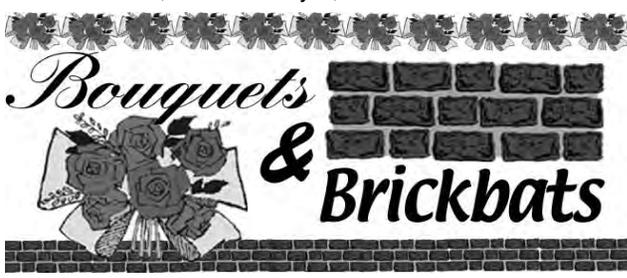
Bouquets to moms who save baby teeth and locks of hair, who cry at graduations and cry harder at weddings, and special bouquets to moms who still cry because their children are far away.

Bouquets to moms who feed other people's children, who bake cookies by the dozens, who buy popsicles by the case because they understand, as my son once said, "it hurts to be disincluded".

Bouquets to the chauffeur, the chef, the handyman; bouquets to the nurse, the peacekeeper, the financial advisor; bouquets to the breadwinner, the homemaker, the storyteller, and very special bouquets to the soft shoulder, the spiritual advisor and the heart and soul of the family.

I wish all of the moms in Aurora a very, very happy Mother's Day, and I'm getting rather attached to this bouquet thing...but the truth is, there are not enough bouquets in the world to show mom how very, very dear she is, so why don't you just tell her?

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



Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the organizers and the more than 700 participants who took part in the 4th Annual Bob Hartwell Runners' Challenge. More **BOUQUETS** to the weatherman for providing a perfect day for the event.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for not negotiating a seat on the board of directors of PowerStream with the sale of Aurora Hydro, so that all control over the affairs of this important utility has been lost. Not only that but Aurora users get stuck with the atrocious salaries the councillors of Markham and Vaughan set for themselves as members of the board.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for purchasing military equipment for the Armed Forces. The Air Force has had to replace a vital part that holds together the tail rotor of its 15 spanking new search and rescue helicopters. The hubs have been replaced 87 times since the military fleet began flying them in October, 2001.

BOUQUETS to Marvin Alexander and his partners in the Orleans Restaurant and Jazz Lounge located in an historic home on Yonge Street for bringing jazz back to Newmarket. Featured recently was the Brad Rose Quartet with vocalist Jo Ivens. Good food and good music!

BRICKBATS to Mr. Justice David Watt when sentencing Clara Da Silva for the death of her two-year-old daughter by leaving her for 33 hours in a 35-degree room while she danced the night away, said it was important to denounce such reckless neglect of a child and then sentenced her to three years. Three years for a life. The sentence should be appealed!

BOUQUETS to 15-year-old Perry Watt of Aurora on being selected for the Ontario developmental ski team in preparation for the 2005-06 high-performance FIS season. The Aurora High School Grade 9 student was the top qualifier from a field of 121 at the Ontario provincial championships.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for approving all kinds of variances to the sign bylaw to satisfy the whims of the big box store operators like Shoppers Drug Mart, Sobey's, Zellers or Home Depot, but refusing to grant the same for Hakim Optical. If you're big, okay, if you're small forget it! Why have a sign bylaw if it's not followed for all. Let's be fair!

BOUQUETS to the 36 members of the Aurora Master Ducks swim team who travelled to Sault Ste. Marie to win the 2005 Ontario Masters Swimming Championship, beating out the home team for the win. Several individual awards were also won by club members.

More **BOUQUETS** to the same club members for raising \$11,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation from funds raised during a recent 24-hour marathon in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to the McGuinty Liberal government for imposing Bill 136, Places to Grow, on municipalities without providing any funds for the infrastructure required, nor the opportunity for citizens to object to intensification and higher densities under the proposal.

BOUQUETS to Lucille Sequeira and Irene Stone, members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, on finishing first and second in the Stratfield Intermediate-Novice bridge tournament games played in Toronto.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Hydro and Aurora Council about being so secretive about the departure of Hydro's chief financial officer Sharon Jamieson in May, 2003. Council and board members met behind closed doors and no reasons were given.

Letters to the Editor

Time will tell if hydro decision the right one

To the editor,

There were eight of us at the table...directly elected to make decisions.

Some councillors started with a bias towards a merger between Aurora and Newmarket Hydros. Many months had been spent working that out.

My own bias was to stand alone. But common sense dictated against it. Deregulation (read privatization) has opened a whole new territory.

All the indicators have changed and they are all new to me.

The offer to purchase by PowerStream, Inc. was a bolt from the blue...pardon the pun.

We already knew the value of our asset was 26 million dollars.

It had been determined for our share of the merged utility with Newmarket.

PowerStream's offer was almost 36 million....a considerable premium.

Quite enough, I think, to require us to give it serious consideration.

We did. We had Martin Gross, a specialist in corporate law; William MacLean, specialist in the electrical industry law; and Jonathan Earling a specialist in corporate finance, all there to answer our questions.

We had Scott Somerville, a veteran of provincial finance matters and long time CAO of the City of Vaughan at the time of their merger with

Markham and purchase of Richmond Hill's hydro utility. He was on hand to give us the benefit of his experience.

It was probably the most serious decision Aurora Council has ever undertaken...all the more because once taken there would be no turning back.

There was no one at the table who did not understand that.

We heard from Aurora's corporate board, from a delegation from Newmarket, and from a delegation from PowerStream.

We spent many hours....exhausted all of our questions and ourselves in the bargain.

We listened to the questions and the answers.

We listened to each other's ideas.

We swung this way and that.

Finally we agreed that in our best collective judgement that at this time and in our current provincial environment the best of the two options was to sell.

We were not dazzled by the money. We were not dazzled by the dollars.

Though from my perspective and in the immortal words of the scribe to whom this letter is addressed...36 million dollars is a nice chunk of change.

Seven of the eight voted in favour of the sale. Time will prove if we were right or not.

All we can say at this point is we did the best that any other eight people in the town would have done in the circumstances.

We took the best

advice available... we spent the time.

It was our job to do and we did it.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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Plans underway for anniversary

To the editor,

On behalf of the 2005 Aurora Home Show Committee I would like to thank all of the exhibitors and attendees for making last weekend's Home Show such a great success.

The feedback we have received from all of you is much appreciated and helps to ensure that all future shows are even more successful!

Of course, an endeavour like this would not be possi-

ble without a great deal of expertise and time commitment from the Committee members, volunteers and the Chamber staff.

Thanks for all of your hard work!

As many of you know, next year is the 20th Anniversary of the Aurora Home Show and we are already looking forward to planning the celebration.

See you there!

Stephen Forsey
Home Show Chairman

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Letters to the Editor

"I fear for the breakup of Canada": reader

To the editor,

RE: "Proud to be a Liberal": Martha (The Auroran, April 26)

It was very interesting to

hear about Martha Hall Findlay's loyalty to Paul Martin and the Liberal party.

She has every right, and I will be the last one to deny her the right to follow her

corrupt party over the cliff in the coming election.

In her letter she says she has been "asked informally" to cross over to the Conservatives.

She says she declined

because she is proud to be a Liberal.

I doubt there is any soul in the Conservative party who would ask her to go against Belinda no matter what party she is in.

The more I read the Gomery revelations the more I fear for the breakup of Canada.

My uncle ran against Paul Martin, Sr. for the liberal nomination in Essex County, when his dad started out in the political arena.

My uncle lost on the third ballot because Paul Martin bought free beer for everyone on Election Day. I guess nothing has changed.

After too many years of corrupt control in Ottawa, it is no wonder things have degenerated into the danger of Canada's breakup.

There are too many friends in and around Ottawa of the corrupt Liberals. There are too many friends throwing illegal money at the Liberal Party. Power certainly corrupts.

Martha says she is so angry at what is being revealed by the Gomery

inquiry. But not angry enough to not jump on the gravy train to Ottawa. Why do lawyers want to be members of Parliament? Because that is where the big money is.

If the sheep in Toronto follow Martin over the cliff again, Canada is heading for a bigger breakup than just Quebec.

The people in Quebec are glued to the TV on the Gomery inquiry.

They are getting angrier by the day as most Canadians are. If The Liberals get back in, Quebec will say, "What's the use." Alberta will say, "What's the use." BC will say, "What's the use."

If one city, like Toronto, can control all of Canada, please put us out of our misery and let us go.

Hugh Allen
Aurora

Hall Findlay letter "nauseating"

To the editor,

Martha Hall's "Proud to be Liberal" pre-election letter to the editor (Auroran, April 26) has to rank as one of the most nauseating letters ever written.

Is she proud of her fellow Liberals who have given us the broken promise on the GST and the grossly ineffective 1 billion dollar gun registry that to quote Deputy Prime Minister Ann

McClellan 'saves lives every day'?

The family of Livvete Miller might disagree.

What about Shawinigate, or the \$40 Billion rip-off of UIC?

What about untendered Bombardier contracts or the \$2 billion HRDC Boondoggle, that Liberals have succeeded in sweeping under the rug and away from the Canadian Public but which in reality was

another Adscam?

What about the Gomery Inquiry and testimony which leads right to the Office of the former Prime Minister, a man who Paul Martin praised for his testimony at Gomery?

What about a current Prime Minister who, as a witness at Gomery, insisted he knew Ad Executive Claude Boulay and his wife only in passing, only to have his testimony refuted by

Boulay's wife at Gomery?

What about a Prime Minister who vows to personally fight for the Canada Health Act against those "Dangerous Tories" yet whose own personal physician and long time friend is a major player in the for-profit private health business in Quebec and in direct contravention of the Canada Health Act?

What about the despicable comments of senior counsel to Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, Beryl Wajzman on "Ethnics" or that of Senior Manitoba Liberal Organizer Chief Terrance Nelson on Jews?

Ms Hall, rather than quoting from the taxpayer funded Ernscliffe (yet another scandal) crib notes perhaps you should do your own research. John Taylor did and found the facts staggering.

Maybe you would, too!

Alan Cairns
Aurora

Martha's comments "reasoned, balanced"

To the editor,

Thanks to Martha Hall Findlay for a reasoned and balanced look at the current fiasco in Ottawa.

Looking at the situation both realistically and objectively, it is obvious that the people in the Liberal Party outside of Quebec are not inhabited by the same people in the party conditioned

by years and years of the corruption at all political levels in Quebec.

This corruption was understood and condoned by Mr. Martin's predecessor, Jean Chretien...a quintessential political thug.

While Mr. Martin confessed that he should have been "more vigilant", the reality quite simply was that he could not and would not be allowed to blow the whistle on "da boss".

So we have a mess left to Martin by his thuggish predecessor. We are all angry at the Liberals.

But have we honestly looked at the alternative? Can we as Canadians

really see Mr. Harper "leading" this country, let alone his own split Conservative/Reform/Alliance party?

What is the party's mission, its principles, its specific plans for all Canadians, not only the embittered and vindictive Westerners?

The only alternative, albeit weakened by Chretien, is the current Liberal Party under Martin.

They, at least, have a series of plans for the country, and if a decent majority can be achieved, Mr. Martin could very well move from Mr. Dithers to Mr. Leader.

Richard Hunter
Aurora

Reader has suggestion for slogan

To the editor,

I read with great interest Martha Hall Findlay's letter in The Auroran (Page 4, April 26).

I guess she has begun the campaign with what can only be described as a very large pair of rose-coloured glasses.

Using the slogan "raising the bar" for her alleged campaign is pretty cheeky!

I could use many other terms, but this is a family newspaper.

I think a more accurate slogan for her campaign should be 'BEHIND BARS'.

Martha, be prepared to get one heck of an earful in the real world of door to door.

Terry Sherin
Aurora

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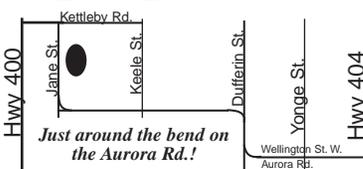


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Residents of the Aurora Retirement Centre on Murray Drive held a "Spring Fling & Bake Sale" recently and the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society is ahead \$365.75 because of it. The presentation was made Friday. Taking part in the event were, front row, left to right, Allie Waddell, Monty Dwyer, Alma Riddiford and Elizabeth Lori. In the back row, left to right, are Edna Johnston, Janice Hodgson, president of the CCS Unit who received the cheque, Norah Callaghan and Fran MacFadyen.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Budget questions still unanswered

Although Aurora's 2005 operating budget with a 7.9 per cent increase and the tax ratios were previously approved by council, the debate continues.

As the bylaw to set and levy the rates of taxation for 2005 was included on the agenda of the recent council meeting, it was the subject of a discussion prior to the meeting.

Rebecca Beaton reminded members of council that at the March 27th public meeting to obtain public input on the budget, she had asked several questions and had

been promised answers. She's still waiting for the answers.

Councillor Phyllis Morris suggested the bylaw be given two readings and the third reading delayed until the information had been provided, but council agreed to proceed with the three readings in order to issue the tax bills.

Acting Treasurer Paul Dillman said he had not attended the March meeting and had no knowledge of the questions.

Treasurer Jim Carey has not appeared at a

council meeting in several weeks and while there are rumours he has resigned or is on a leave of absence, there has been no official announcement as to his status.

Mayor Tim Jones

requested a copy of the questions asked by Beaton at the public meeting and promised to provide answers but in the meantime the budget enacting bylaw was adopted.

Klees criticizes McGuinty ruling

Frank Klees, MPP for Oak Ridges and an Aurora resident, said in the Legislature recently he was astonished at the "morally bankrupt judgment" of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Klees pointed out that McGuinty agreed to reinstate funding for sex reassignment surgery while appealing a court ruling that would have provided funding for IBI therapy for autistic children past the age of six and refusing enzyme replacement therapy for Fabry patients in Ontario.

He said he was shocked to hear the Premier agree to provide funding for sex change operations if the rights tribunal ordered him to do so and at the same time refuse to comply with a Superior Court ruling calling on the government to fund treatment for autistic children.

Klees, who has been at the forefront of the official opposition's call for funding of autism treatment and funding of the rare but fatal Fabry disease, characterized the Premier's judgment

as "devoid of any sense of human decency".

Klees said it was a very disturbing indication of the Premier's priorities, following his actions in cutting physiotherapy, chiropractic and optometry services, and you have to wonder what drives his decision-making.



POLECAT

This furry feline spent a harrowing few hours last week perched atop this hydro pole. Apparently, it decided to climb the pole Thursday night while chasing a squirrel. It was rescued Friday by a staff member from Kennel Inn Animal Control. The drama took place on Aurora's Johnson Road.



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DIAMOND TEA SPANX PIEGE

Horse Show readies for its 83rd season

In spite of the growth and urbanization of Aurora, the Aurora Horse Show carries on a tradition that was started in 1922 on the Hazelburn farm of Aemilius Jarvis.

There were 22 spectators in attendance.

Hazelburn farm was located on Yonge Street, south of the Vandorf Sideroad, now the site of Hazelburn estate homes.

Jarvis founded the show to provide an opportunity for people living in the area to gather around the ring to watch the schooling of horses.

In 1923 the show and riding competitions were moved to the Town Park to become an annual popular event for the next 50 years.

But Aurora made news in the horse world even before that.

In 1904 a thoroughbred named "Sapper" bred in Aurora by Richard Wells won the King's Plate.

The Wells' stables were in the rear of the buildings that used to be located on the north side of Wellington Street East where a bank parking lot is now located.

The Horse Show grew in popularity and the local paper wrote that while many fairs and horse shows were having difficult times with suburban sprawl, the Aurora show was expanding.

The Ladies' Section was founded in 1935 by Lorne Evans, and it operated from a tent. On display were quilts, hand-woven rugs and baking goods.

In 1936 the Ladies' Section moved into the Wells Street Public School for one year and then to the Aurora Armouries where it remained until 1970.

At the 1963 Horse Show, Aurora's Centennial Year, guest of honour was the Hon. Earl Rowe, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Tom Gayford riding Blue Beau, owned by Herb and Ruth Coad of Aurora, won the Town of Aurora Shield.

Blue Beau went on to set a world jumping record in New York City during an International Jump with Tom Gayford in the saddle, clearing a seven-foot brick wall, a record that may still stand.

By 1966 the Horse Show was outgrowing the Town Park.

The town's largest annual event was drawing thousands of local people and visitors to see some of Canada's finest horses and riders with the 1966 event breaking all attendance records.

That year, Jane Holbrook riding "Argyle" won the Town of Aurora Shield and in 1967 it was won by Jimmy Elder riding

"Pieces of Eight".

Following the 1966 show, it was suggested the annual event be moved to a new park for Canada's Centennial Year in 1967, but it remained in the crowded Town Park.

The 1968 show was a qualifying event for riders and horses who would make up Canada's Equestrian Jumping Team to compete in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

The 1969 show was highlighted by the Homecoming Welcome for Canada's Gold Medal winning Equestrian Team.

Jim Elder, Tom Gayford and Jim Day, Grand Prix Jumping Champions of the 1968 Olympics, had been competing in the Aurora Horse Show for many years. The fourth member of the Olympic team was Dusty Miller.

The last Horse Show to be held in the Town Park was in 1970. It was

most appropriate that Ontario Chief Justice Dalton Wells was in attendance to officially open the show. Wells Street was named for the Wells' family, long-time Aurora residents.

The Aurora Horse Show, one of Canada's great equestrian spectacles, marked its golden anniversary in 1971 in a new setting and a new format.

The more spacious Machell Park across from the Community Centre, provided vastly enlarged and improved facilities.

The event got underway on the Friday night with a midway in full operation and a dance in the Community Centre with the Carleton Show Band of the Pig 'n' Whistle TV show.

Featured on Sunday was the first jumping competition for the \$5,000 Rothman's Grand

Prix of Aurora.

In 1972, more than 15,000 people jammed into Machell Park to watch the proceedings of the 51st annual Aurora Horse Show.

Crowds continued to attend the Horse Show with more than 10,000 at the 1972 show.

The 1973 show became a three-day event. Friday evening, when normally only the midway operated, featured a Junior Grand Prix with young riders challenging jumps of modified Olympic standards.

Saturday was for the jumpers, ponies and heavy horses with Sundays a day for junior riders, commercial horses and road horses.

In addition to the 17,500 attending the three-day event, thousands viewed the CBC's first live coverage of the event on more than 45 stations.

The 1976 edition of the Aurora Horse Show was a key event in selecting Canada's equestrian team for the Olympics being staged in Montreal.

The 1978 show was a five-day event, but it was much more than just the horse show as the ladies division was larger and other aspects of an agricultural fair were featured.

In a break with tradition, Joyce MacMain took over as president of the 1978 fair and show, the first woman to do so.

But work on the horse show was nothing new to Joyce as she had served on the committee for 17 years. She was the society's first female general secretary and later its first woman treasurer.

The 1979 show returned to a four-day event, even though the

number of entries caused concern about outgrowing the park.

In 1985 with emphasis on a Trillium Circuit competition, the organizers of the Horse Show hoped to revive the fun and family aspect that had been missing over the past few years.

The annual event has changed over the years but it still provides an opportunity for city dwellers to go back to their rural roots and recapture memories of

more quiet and peaceful days.

It is organized and run each year by the volunteer members of the Aurora Agricultural Society, as part of Aurora's living heritage.

The 83rd Annual Horse Show will be held on the first two weekends in June this year and will provide Aurora residents and visitors with an opportunity to see the best in horsemanship and enjoy a family event right here in Aurora.



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Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean congratulates artist Christine Valenti Friday night after her painting of Aurora's "Morrison House" on Wellington Street was selected as winner of the "Preserve Aurora" competition, part of the annual Art Aurora show held at the municipal building over the weekend.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

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The youth program of the Aurora Ducks Swimmers - its members shown here - won the Ontario Division 3 Team Championships recently at a meet held at the Etobicoke Olympium.

Ducks bring the title home

A total of 20 swimmers and five coaches represented the Aurora Ducks swimming youth program recently at the Ontario Division 3 Team Championships in Etobicoke and came home winners.

Besides the Championship Banner, the swimmers won 34 individual medals and defeated 35 other Ontario teams.

The bright yellow swim suits, representing the team's colours, stood out during the competition, and were most noticeable on the winners' podium.

"It was a huge team effort," coach Reg Chappell said. "All levels

of the club and all age groups were represented and were part of the scoring. Each member of the coaching staff, Karen Bonham, Kelly Hughes, Adam Porteous and Yorick Tong put swimmers on the team and were as one as they coached throughout

the championships."

The club is growing and getting stronger and with the new Aurora pool opening next season, there will be additional programs, more swimmers and the team will increase in strength, Chappell noted.

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Skating results

Following is a list of Aurora Skating Club results from competitions in Scarborough recently.

- Pre-Preliminary Ladies Freeskate Group 4 - Katie Sutton, 1st.
- Preliminary Ladies Freeskate Group 4 - Hailey Riggs, 8th; Group 7 - Allie Sutton, 3rd.
- Junior Bronze Ladies Freeskate Group 3 - Julia Ranson, 1st.
- Senior Bronze Ladies Freeskate Group 1 - Meaghan Jones, 7th; Group 2 - Emma Hayzelden, 2nd; Group 4 - Fayme Cockshutt, 1st.
- Junior Silver Ladies Freeskate Group 2 - Sarah Gray, 2nd.
- Pre-Juvenile Ladies A Group 1 - Jordana Goldman, 3rd.
- Pre-Juvenile Ladies A Final - Jordana Goldman, 6th.
- Pre-Juvenile Men's A Final - Alex Woodward, 2nd.
- Pre-Novice Ladies Group 1 - Chelsea Kerr-Short Program, 6th; Long Program, 7th; Group 2 - Maya Goldman-Short Program, 4th; Long Program, 5th.
- Novice Ladies Group 2 - Lauren Cooper-Short Program, 6th; Long Program, 4th; Group 3 - Carolyn Armstrong-Short Program, 4th; Long Program, 4th.

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Beacon Hall

Community thrives deep in the forest

As you drive south on Bayview Avenue below the Beacon Hall Golf and Residential Club of Aurora and the first application for development was submitted in early 1984 for the former 193-acre Toronto and North York Hunt Club property.

It was revised in December that year with the addition of the 84-acre Teasdale property and when complete became one of the area's first "gated" communities.

The application included a championship calibre 18-hole golf course with practice facilities, clubhouse with recreation facilities and an outdoor pool, 42 condominium ownership townhouse residences, six one-acre estate-type single family lots, 19 condominium ownership apartments, a visitors building with six guest suites and hiking and cross-country ski trails.

Some palace. The townhouse units are arranged in clusters of three to six units, located in wooded areas within the golf course, but buffered by trees. Guest suites and apartments are located adjacent to the clubhouse.

The former Hunt Club property consisted of open grassed areas on the west half of the property, with reforestation and natural growth woodlot on the remainder of the lands. The property was bounded by the Aurora Cemetery and the

Hazelburn Estates to the north and the Wycliffe Estates residential development to the south.

The only buildings on the property were at the west end and consisted of old frame structures, used by the Hunt Club, which were demolished.

The Teasdale property fronted on the Vandorf Sideroad and consisted mainly of open grassed areas with an existing farmhouse.

As neither municipal water nor a sanitary sewer system was available, arrangements were made for on-site servicing with drilled wells and septic systems, with tile beds, designed to meet the town standards.

Road maintenance and snow removal were contracted to private companies.

In addition, a separate irrigation system was provided for the golf course.

The irrigation system and storage pond was also made available for fire fighting requirements for the development.

The buildings were designed to create the feeling of a cohesive village, responsive to the topography of the site and largely located in existing forest.

The 45 condominium dwellings are approximately 2,600 square foot, two-storey units with spacious foyer, living room, separate dining room, kitchen, breakfast area, master bedroom with sitting and dressing areas, sunbathing deck and a guest bedroom or den.

Adjacent to the living room is a large, stone-paved terrace, positioned to allow residents an enjoyment of the trees and an

outlook to the golf course.

The clubhouse is a two-storey square structure of approximately 16,000 square feet with a spacious foyer.

The upper level contains a lounge and dining facilities with floor to ceiling windows to take full advantage of the view in every direction.

Conveniently attached to the clubhouse is a two-storey structure of approximately 42,000 square feet containing 18 condominium apartments of about 1,500 square feet each and six hotel-type suites, of about 500 square feet each.

Across the country gated communities appear to come in two categories; a retirement or adult lifestyle community populated by an older age group, and single family developments where security and image are important like Beacon Hall Golf Club.

It is reported that many of the families living at Beacon Hall are away a good part of the year and their homes contain many items worth stealing. In a gated community they feel more secure.

While some sociologists and urban planners claim that gated communities are elitist, others contend some gated communities help to maintain the vibrancy of inner cities.

A second entrance to the facility is located on the Vandorf Sideroad near Timberlane Athletic Club.

TA production impresses

If you believe Prime Minister Paul Martin has troubles with a minority government and the sponsorship scandal or Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty with his broken promises, their troubles pale to those of British MP Richard Willey.

His problems compound throughout the play "Out of Order" which opened Friday at Theatre Aurora.

Played by Don Colucci, Willey is a junior minister and rising star in Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government.

He attempts to have an affair with one of the secretaries of the Leader of the Opposition in Suite 648 of the Westminster Hotel in London.

What was meant to be a well-planned private rendezvous soon became "out of order" with a bumbling room service waiter, always with his hand out, a suspicious hotel manager and a nosy chambermaid.

Then there was the "body". When the drapes covering a picture window opened, there was a man's body pinned at the shoulders.

Willey panics as he can see his promising career ruined if he's caught in a scandal. He phones his executive assistant and tells him to get over to the hotel immediately.

When George Pigden arrives, they drag the body to the closet and leave it there in a standing condition. Willey then arranges for George to rent the next-door suite.

George is told to take the body back out the window to the adjoining suite until they can figure out what to do with it.

Things start to get interesting when Ronnie, the secretary's macho husband arrives looking for his wife. He had been suspicious of her actions and hired a private detective to follow her and he knew she was in the hotel.

Then Pamela, Willey's wife, arrives and later Miss Foster, Pigden's secretary, shows up.

Their comings and goings through the window, which often closes with a loud bang, cause things to get not only out of order but out of control.

"Out of Order" is a typical farce/comedy by Ray Cooney who is a master in writing witty lines, impossible situations, assumed identities, and a thousand laughs.

Colucci plays the difficult role of Richard Willey in a most capable and believable manner. A newcomer to

Theatre Aurora, he has had considerable stage experience with other community theatrical groups, especially in Georgetown.

He is on stage most of the time with a plethora of lines and always in control of the situation, even when he's telling lies and making excuses.

Tammie Van Dyk is the secretary and she is always on the move from hiding in the bedroom, the closet or anywhere to escape her angry husband, played by Steve Birtles, with his spiked hair and macho dress.

Jeff Naworynski plays the harried George Pigden and has the difficult role of having to fit in a variety of situations in order to try to protect his MP.

Travis Montague is the body and plays the role to perfection as he is dragged here and there, left standing

hidden in the closet or other places. He returns to life but has difficulty remembering who he is and why he's there.

Willey's wife is played by Anna Pelc Draper and Gladys Foster by Michele Fournier. Eric Gordon is the hotel manager and Dan Lockhart the waiter.

Laurier Cuthbert Campbell is stage manager along with Miriam Keegan who makes appearances as the maid. Keegan also looks after opening and closing the window.

Brad Poirier directs the play and selected a strong cast to provide an enjoyable evening of fun and laughter to make one forget about the political scandals in the real world.

"Out Of Order" continues May 4 to 7 and 11 to 14 with curtain at 8 p.m. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

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MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach
(Newmarket-Aurora)



Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach was guest speaker at a combined Aurora-Newmarket Rotary Club meeting in Aurora last week. Welcoming her is Aurora president Frank Mete.

*Auroran photo
by David Falconer*

A busy week in the riding

I spent much of last week here in Aurora as all Members of Parliament returned to their home ridings for Constituency Week. It was great to be back home, attend a number of local events and meet with various clubs and associations.

The Aurora Rotary Club invited me to speak at their combined Aurora-Newmarket Rotary dinner at Graystone's Restaurant – the very same place the local club received its charter 54 years ago.

The club presented Paul Harris Awards to Luigi Scanga and Rosalyn Gonsalves for their years of dedication and service to our community.

Luigi and his wife Maria owned and operated the Atrium Banquet Hall on Edward Street for many years, and Rosalyn, who wears a number of different hats, is perhaps best known in the community as General Manager of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to President Frank Mete and all of the club members for volunteering their time on behalf of the community. At the Rotary Club dinner, I was asked to talk about the current political situation in Ottawa.

It's unfortunate but important work that needs to get done is not being looked after because the Prime Minister and his members are distracted by the scandal that has engulfed the Liberal Party.

I personally find the revelations of corruption involving taxpayer dollars to be extremely disrespectful to the hard-working people of this community. Fortunately, we have a strong Opposition in the House that is ready to govern and is willing to manage the finances of the nation more responsibly.

Prior to the Rotary Club dinner I had an opportunity to visit the old Church Street School.

The Town of Aurora has done a great job in restoring the building exterior and the Aurora Historical Society is renovating the interior and expanding the operations.

When the building reopens next year, I strongly encourage you to drop by and visit.

I was also pleased that I was able to take in the annual Aurora Home Show at the Aurora Community Centre.

It was great to see so many local businesses there, and good to see that people in our community are supporting them by buying their products and services.

Congratulations to Stephen Forsey, this year's Home Show Chairman, and the tireless team at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, who consistently help put on quality events around town.

When it comes to keeping our community safe from crime, York Regional Police do a fantastic job.

So it was a pleasure to attend the annual York Regional Police Appreciation Dinner last week, where a number of York Region's finest were honoured for their dedication and service above and beyond the call of duty.

Since its start 13 years ago, the dinner has raised more than \$1 million for initiatives such as the Air Support Unit, Anti-Bullying Strategies, Community Safety Village and the "Say No to Drugs" Program.

On a final note, please let me say how fortunate we are in this community to be served by the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

As you may know, Southlake is one of the hospitals under consideration as a site for a new Regional Cancer Centre.

I have been a strong advocate of establishing a regional centre at our hospital and have spoken with my colleagues at all levels of government to make the cancer care centre a reality.

I will continue to lobby at my end, and I encourage you to make your support known – a regional cancer centre will truly help improve the quality of life for many families in our community who have a loved one who has been stricken by this disease.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Looking back to Aurora's December, 1981

Theatre Aurora presented the musical "South Pacific" with Marg Mason in the role of Bloody Mary and Chuck Cino as Luther Billis.

The play was nominated for five awards and the THEA for Best Supporting Performers went to Mason and Cino.

Marcia Thompson won a special THEA for Best Performance by a Newcomer in a Leading Role.

The Picture Book Corner of the Library was a happy spot as John Lott entertained children of all ages.

He had been putting on his Christmas concert for the kids for six or seven years. He also played a concert every spring.

Downstairs in the Library artist R.J. Moddle exhibited a selection of his watercolours along with the Pine Tree Potters with their Christmas sale.

Aurora Cable TV lit up their tower on Ridge Road with a cross of lights.

The Aurora Museum presented "Christmas Past" at an open house at the museum in the Church Street School.

Resthaven Nursing Home held their annual Christmas Bazaar.

Doctor Crawford Rose visited Resthaven every Thursday to read poetry to the residents.

At the Legion Cy Buck presented guitarist/vocalist Bob Davies as part of his Music at the Guitar series.

That was December, 1981, in Aurora.

SCIENCE WHIZ KIDS

In March, 1996, the Country Day School was the big winner in the 26th annual York Regional Science Fair sponsored by the York Regional Science Fair Committee.

Ashley Whitehead and Andrea Farquhar in the senior division at the Country Day School won a gold medal for their Projectile Motion.

Using an elevated ramp they were able to predict the distance a marble would travel after gaining velocity and shooting off into the air.

Gary Sutton from Aurora High won a silver medal in the senior division for his exhibit on Relativity and schoolmate Hans Fischer also received a silver medal for his display on The Physics of Violins.

Mike Ekers, also of Aurora High, won a bronze medal for his Snow Surfer exhibit.

Country Day School and Aurora High School were the only two schools in the region to submit entries in the secondary division.

A silver medal went to Elissa Gellany and Rachelle Jackowski from the junior division of the Country Day School for their display Crystals of the Earth

CALLING THE UNICORN HOME

Not many new residents to Aurora may know that the Shoeless Joe's Restaurant in St. Andrew's Village was originally opened in the 1980s, as the Unicorn Pub, operated by the famous musical group, The Irish Rovers.

Entertainment was a regular feature of the Unicorn with a rare appearance of the Rovers.

By August, 1985, a 26-year-old guitarist, Rick Washbrook, called the Unicorn home as he was a bit hit with a growing number of fans in the Aurora area.

He was thrilled to be invited to join the Rovers during an Easter concert at the pub.

His music included songs from the 60s, folk, contemporary tunes and some of his own material.

He played a 12-string guitar and sang.

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People were complaining of headaches and respiratory problems and real estate agents admitted they had never heard of a property insulated with urea formaldehyde being sold.

The federal government provided a grant to certain residents with high levels of toxic gas released into their homes.

But the grants were only available to less than 10 per cent of the homeowners involved and the \$5,000 maximum grant was a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of ripping out the insulation.

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Speed limit drops on several Aurora streets

Aurora Council has approved more traffic controls for Aurora drivers by endorsing a recommendation from the Aurora Traffic Safety Board that the speed limit be reduced on certain residential streets.

Streets listed in the board's report include Heathwood Heights Drive, Haida Drive, Mark Street, McClellan Way, Richardson Drive and Stone Road.

The enacting bylaw,

including a total of 73 local streets, was adopted at the council meeting and the lower speed limit will become effective when signs are posted.

After recently approving multi-way stops at Temperance and Kennedy Streets, Tyler and Temperance Streets, McLeod Drive and Murdock

Avenue and Gurnett and Kennedy Streets, the TSAB rejected two other requests.

Intersections that will not have all-way stop signs are Richardson Drive and Lee

Gate and Kemano Road and Banff Drive.

Council endorsed the Board's recommendation.

Town staff members were asked to conduct a

review on Richardson Drive and report back to the TSAB and York Regional Police will be asked to enforce the posted 40km/hr speed limit.

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Notice of Public Meeting

Electricity Supply to York Region - Public Consultation Launch



The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) invites you to attend a public meeting on the future electricity supply to York Region.

Background

As part of the electricity industry's long-term planning process, the north part of York Region was identified as an area where demand for electricity would soon exceed the capacity of existing facilities. Subsequently, Hydro One recommended that the existing transmission corridor between Parkway Transformer Station (TS) in Markham and Armitage TS in Newmarket be upgraded to accommodate a two-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line. Hydro One's plan was opposed by affected municipalities, residents and regional school boards. A criticism was that only transmission options were being considered, and generation and demand management options had not been identified. The consultation process was stopped in early 2005.

With the introduction of Bill 100 in the fall of 2004, the Ontario Power Authority was established. OPA's broad mandate is to conduct long-term

integrated power system planning for the province of Ontario, and to contract for investment in new generation projects and conservation initiatives to reduce the demand-supply gap for electricity in the province.

OPA's specific mandate for York Region will be to:

- reassess the need for electricity supply in the region
- develop and analyze a broad range of options to fulfill the assessed need, including generation, transmission, distribution and demand management
- conduct a public consultation process to invite public participation in the assessment of a range of options and integrated solutions
- submit OPA recommendations to the Ontario Energy Board

Purpose of Public Meeting

Ontario Power Authority is seeking public participation and would like feedback on the planned public consultation process that allows stakeholders to participate. At this meeting OPA will describe the process, answer questions and invite comments

from those in attendance. Please note that Ontario Power Authority staff do not have any recommendations or solutions selected at this time.

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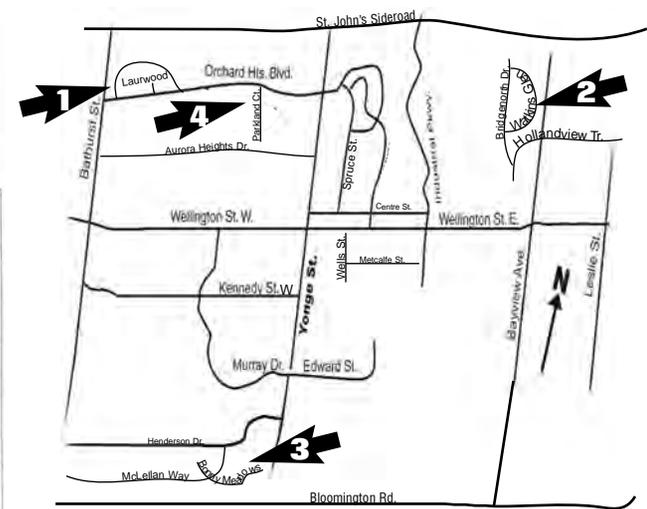
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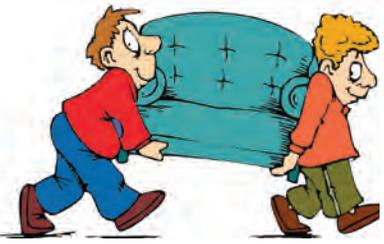
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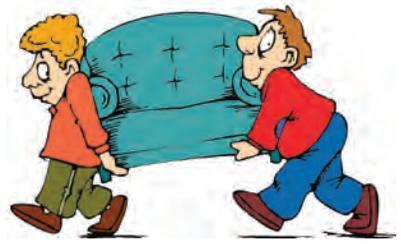
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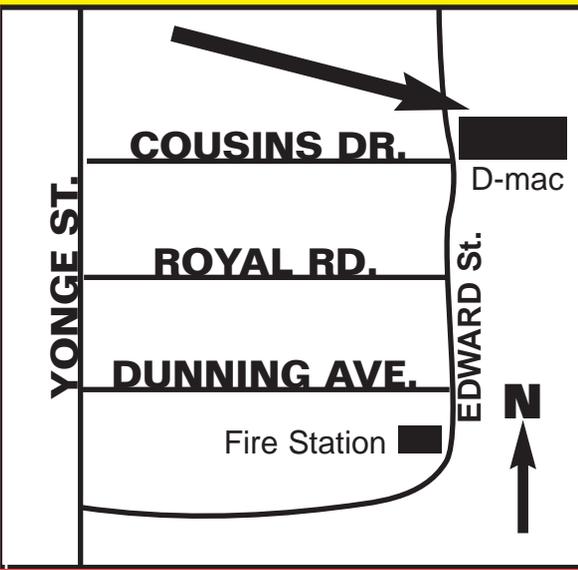
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