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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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The Magna Hoedown Saturday night attracted more than 3,000 people, including this five-some from Aurora (top photo). They are, left to right, Yolanda McLeod, Joanne Brankin, Michelle Dinwoodie, Laurie King, and Rolanda McLeod. Cheque presentation, below, will see \$420,000 shared among ten local charities. Frank Stronach is third from the right, and that's Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees on the right.

Auroran photos by Rob Schuetze

Church Street School funding still up in the air

The Town is still undecided how it will keep the Church Street School project moving. Recently, Councillor Evelyn Buck presented a motion regarding the completion of the restoration of the Church Street School. At a meeting she recommended the town provide additional financial resources to complete the restoration within a given time frame and designate the

school as the Aurora Heritage and Culture Centre by bylaw. She suggested some of the funds might come from the sale of Aurora Hydro or potential sale of town-owned lands. She said action was urgently required as after September 29th council would be in a "lame duck" position until after the election. She noted that until the

restoration was complete the town was without a museum. While other committee members were in general agreement with the intent of the resolution, they expressed concern about it being too vague with no indication as to how much money was required. In spite of strong arguments from Buck, the committee

Please see page 8

Briefly

Hogg won't run

Councillor Bill Hogg is the latest in a lengthy list of Aurora Councillors who have decided not to seek re-election in the November 13 municipal election. Hogg, in a letter to citizens which appears on Page 7, said he plans to spend more time with his family. As many as five council seats could be up for grabs election day. Councillors Damir Vrancic and Ron Wallace are not running, Councillor John West has yet to make a decision but rumours suggest his health will prevent him from running again, and Councillor Nigel Kean will run against Mayor Tim Jones. Councillors Evelyn Buck and Wendy Gairtner both intend to run, while Councillor Phyllis Morris has yet to make a decision.

Candidates' meetings

The Auroran is aware of two all-candidates' meetings being held prior to the November 13 municipal election. The first one is sports-oriented and is slated for the Aurora Legion October 26, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Arranged by the newly-formed Aurora Community Sport Council, the event seeks to learn candidates' positions when it comes to sports facilities in Aurora. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has changed location of its all-candidates meeting this year. It will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel November 1 and will feature a mayors' debate. At last count, two people were bidding for the mayor's chair, while a total of 12 people are seeking to fill the eight seats on council. Nominations close September 29.

Elections

Elections were held at the last Probus Club meeting and the new president for the 2006 - 2007 season is Michael Varcoe. Other elected positions include Vice-President, Marilyn Munslow; Secretary, Julie Andrew; Treasurer, Lorne Smith; and Consultant, Daisy Hurst.

Clean up Case

Oak Ridges Trail Association members will join with Aurora residents this Saturday, September 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. for the Fall clean-up of the Case Woodlot near the corner of Bathurst Street and Henderson Drive. Gloves, garbage bags and refreshments will be supplied. Participants should meet by the baseball diamond behind Highview School on McClellan Way. For more information contact Rob at 905-727-9377.

Minor deficiencies remain

Only a few minor deficiencies are standing in the way of tours through the historic Church Street School September 30, according to Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Building Administration Director. Following an inspection last week with Central York Fire Services personnel, some minor deficiencies were noted such as lighting in the stairway, housekeeping and restricting areas that will not be occupied. The school will be reinspected prior to the event to clear the deficiencies. Prior to the event, the Aurora Historical Society will provide a letter outlining proposals including restricting access to certain areas, number of staff manning the building and a Fire Safety Plan in case of an emergency. When the deficiencies have been cleared and the letter accepted by the Town a temporary occupancy permit is expected to be issued. AHS members will set up the barbecue to draw attention to the historic building at Church and Victoria Streets. It will begin at 11 a.m. September 30, and if you plan to attend, admission is free, but it would be helpful if you would call 905-727-8991 and let them know you're coming.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

The 3rd Aurora Scouting Group has spaces available in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. For registration information or to volunteer call 905-726-2393 or 905-841-0556.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its second season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided.

Until the end of September in the Skylight Gallery at the municipal building is a display of black and white photographs entitled "Life Through An Open Window" by Andy Brooks. Open during office hours.

Voice is a group of aspiring writers ages 12 to 19 interested in developing writing skills, working on a magazine and embarking on creative adventures with similarly minded people. The group meets in the Marjorie Andrews Room of the Aurora Library on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Call the Library at 905-727-9493 for more information.

Aurora Seniors present a movie night every Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for guests, which includes the movie, a frozen treat and a drink.

Aurora Farmers' Market every Saturday morning at the Temperance Street parking lot until Thanksgiving. Free space is available for non-profit groups. Contact Nigel Kean at 905-751-0790.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group has resumed sitting every Monday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7.30 p.m.

Weekly barbecues will be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday in the Norma Jean Legge Room of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Call 905-726-4767 for more information.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 6.30 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

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 councillors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for 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 905-830-9205.

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.

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.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

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

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley 905-727-2151.

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion, 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in Committee Room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McClenny at 905-727-9676.

Queen's York Rangers free summer camps for boys and girls, 12 to 18. Aurora Squadron runs Friday evenings at the Aurora Armoury. For further information, call 905-726-8600 any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m.

Aurora Therapeutic Touch Practice group meets the second Monday of the month, September to June at Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street. Further information: 905-841-6059.

UNTIL NOVEMBER 17

CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) and CHAP (Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program) are conducting free blood pressure clinics daily at pharmacies throughout Aurora, (except holidays), between 9 a.m. and noon. For details, visit your local pharmacy.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

General meeting of the Aurora Historical Society at 8 p.m. at Hillary House. Guest speaker to be advised. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup includes Tannery Creek where it runs through Fleury and Macell parks. Meet at the Aurora Community Centre parking lot on the south side of Aurora Heights Drive at 10 a.m. If possible, wear rubber boots. Hip waders will be provided by the town. To register, call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Aurora Horticultural Society presents Four Season Containers at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Theatre Aurora opens its 49th season with the comedy "Educating Rita" at the Factory Theatre. Other productions in the fall/winter line up include "Crazy for You", "Dr. Cook's Garden" and "Blythe Spirit".

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Barbecue and tours at the Church Street School, from 11.30 a.m. Church and Victoria.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Aurora Film Circuit presents "Half Nelson", starring Canadian Ryan Gosling, beginning at 6.45 p.m., Odeon Cineplex Aurora Cinemas,

Bayview Avenue. Individual tickets available at R&R Revisited on Mary Street, or at the Aurora Public Library. afc@library.aurora.on.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Gateway Cafe and Lanes, 210 Edward Street. 7.30 to 8.45 a.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

An evening with Katherine Govier hosted by the Aurora Public Library. She will read from her book "Three Views of Crystal Water", followed by the sale and signing of the book. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with York Regional Health Services presents a child car seat safety information session, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

York Regional Police Male Chorus host the 14th annual "In Harmony With The Community" concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Newmarket. Concert features police choirs from Halton and Durham Regions and York Regional Police Male Chorus. Guest community choirs will be York Region Children's Chorus and "Vivace" from Newmarket. Tickets are \$10. Call 905-727-9676 to order.

Willow Children's Garden, a Waldorf Early Childhood experience for parents and children, open house from 10 to 11.30 a.m., 15040 Yonge Street, above Needles and Knits.

Harvest Fair at Wesley United Church from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., corner of Woodbine Ave and Aurora Sideroad (Wellington Street East). For further information call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

OCTOBER 12-15

The Aurora Opera Company will produce a version of "Hansel and Gretel" at the Newmarket Theatre. The two-act opera will be performed by the Singers of Opera Zone. Tickets, at \$16 each, are available by calling the Newmarket Theatre Box Office at 905-953-5122.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

140 Royal Canadian Air Cadets hosts an open house for youth ages 12 to 18 at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School (back entrance) from 7 to 9 p.m. Visit www.AuroraAirCadets.ca or call 905-727-4692 for more information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Celebrate Business Excellence in Aurora hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church will feature Rev. Canon Tim Elliott performing "Two by Eight", a selection of inspirational jazz by one of the pioneers of incorporating jazz into sacred space. For ticket information call the church office at 905-727-6101.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Aurora Seniors travel to the Stratford Festival for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" with lunch included for \$107 for members and \$112 for non-members. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

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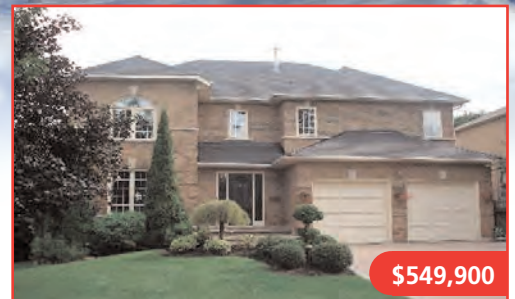
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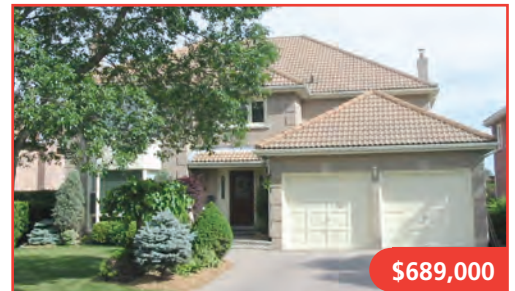
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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA

Council rejects Magna topsoil removal request

MI Developments, the real estate arm of Magna International, applied for a topsoil permit so that work could begin on the site of a new subdivision on the north side of Wellington Street East opposite the Magna property.

One minor problem: the company doesn't have draft approval for the plan of subdivision yet.

Tuesday, Aurora Council said no.

Earlier, town staff said it was not the town's standard procedure to issue a topsoil permit in advance of council granting draft approval for the plan of subdivision.

MI wanted to begin work of topsoil removal and site grading to accelerate the construction process for their new subdivision.

There is a significant amount of fill required on the site to bring it up to grade in 2006 in anticipation of servicing the site in 2007.

Staff members said they did not feel it was proper to issue the permit that would allow any part of construction to begin in advance of council's approval of the development.

The draft plan, staff said, would be available early in council's new term.

In spite of arguments by Mayor Tim Jones in support of the permit as he claimed council had enough protection, the town's general committee denied the application on the basis it was contrary to the town's standard and could set a precedent.

Tuesday, council endorsed that ruling by a 4-3 vote.

Bruce Milburn, representing MI Developments, appeared before council Tuesday to request reconsideration and approval of the topsoil permit.

He pointed out that the application for the subdivision had been submitted in January and the public planning meeting had been held in June.

Approval from the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority to place the fill and approval for a temporary access to the property from the Region had already been granted, he said.

He said that removing the topsoil and grading the property now would reduce the inconvenience on Wellington Street East later and asked that the permit be issued.

He also noted that the requirement of draft plan approval before issuance of a topsoil was not practiced by many municipalities.

Councillor Nigel Kean recommended the committee report denying the permit be confirmed based on the staff report and the possibility of setting a precedent.

Councillor Evelyn Buck disagreed saying she couldn't see any reason not to issue the permit.

Since Director of Works, Wayne Jackson, had referred

the report to council, it was now a political decision, she said.

She asked what terrible things could happen to the town if the permit was issued.

Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that staff had made it perfectly clear that granting the permit was contrary to the town's standard policy and reminded Councillor Buck that in the past she had continually reminded members of council that staff had been engaged to provide professional advice and council should listen to its staff.

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This group of Aurora buddies is shown in 1938 prior to them signing up for Second World War action. They are, left to right, Dudley Wilcox, Perry King, Grant Stephenson, Harold Neilly, Doug Seath, Keith Southwood, Bill Thompson, Barton Teasdale, Wilbert Preston, John Sisman and Bill Stephens. Thanks to Aurora's Bill Devins for the use of the photograph.



Poor Richard

*Opinions can change with age
And do a complete flip-flop;
Based on government decisions
That pushes one over the top!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

I have never been a believer in a fixed term of elected office, whether it be municipal, provincial, federal or even the President of the United States.

It was always my belief that the decision should be left to the electors to decide how long a person should serve.

I think back to my days in Municipal Affairs with the province when I knew most of the heads of council and their political history.

I remember Reeve Fred Cada who served a small township near Windsor for more than 20 years and was re-elected time after time by acclamation as he was so well respected and had the confidence of the people.

Then there was Maurice Farr, Reeve of Tiny Township, up near Midland, who served about the same length of time with the same respect and support.

There were many others across Ontario, especially in rural and northern municipalities, who served with very little compensation but because they were civic-minded and wanted to help their municipality and the people.

There was no thought of personal gain.

Letters to the Editor

Tenant told to move, but house still empty

To the editor,

This letter is to the Catholic school board.

I'm writing in regard to the empty homes on Wellington Street East.

I rented Number 260 for three years.

Much to my surprise I received notice to vacate on Jan. 5, 2006. I had to be out by April 1st.

Not wanting to leave things to the last minute, I found a place for Feb. 1st.

This was very upsetting for me because I had taken much pride in my home and the garden that I had worked on for three years.

Now, when I go by these homes I get very mad, to say the least.

Why could you not have rented the homes to the people until you were ready to tear the homes down?

Instead they sit there

to be vandalized. Have you looked at them lately?

How disenchanted this makes our town look!

No doubt, kids are playing in them. Will you be accountable to the parents if their kids get hurt?

Are you waiting for something really bad to happen before you do anything?

Having to leave my home so fast did something to me.

I had a breakdown and had to be in hospital for a short stay.

Maybe if I had more time to adjust to the fact, just maybe I could have been spared.

I cannot get over the fact I could have had one more summer to enjoy my garden!

Instead of new schools and bigger churches, you could think about building affordable housing for the

But my opinion changed when Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty imposed a four-year term of office for municipal councils effective this November with no input from the voters or taxpayers, or the local politicians, but at the request of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

It was not one of his government's finer moments as the change was sneaked in by attaching it to a budget bill, with little opportunity for debate.

While there are many municipal politicians who serve in the interests of their community, especially in rural and smaller urban communities, for others it is a lucrative full time job, with lots of perks, and the aim is to get re-elected and re-elected, and Toronto is a good example.

It is nearly impossible for a newcomer to knock off an incumbent now after a three-year term, so by adding an extra year, it makes their tenure more secure as they continue to build their profile, so that elections might as well be forgotten.

In addition, the incumbents become better acquainted with corporations and developers who are active in the community and want friends on council.

An interesting and disturbing study was carried out by York University Professor Robert MacDermid on the 2003 municipal election in nine municipalities in the 905 area of the Greater Toronto Area.

He found that corporate donations made up 85 per cent

little people, oh, but that wouldn't bring in the big bucks, would it?

It would only be the

Christian thing to do.

Debra Ruest
Aurora

Lectures resume

To the editor,

Do you enjoy gardening, but would like to know more about garden design?

Mark Cullen, gardener and writer, will help you to understand the "Five Principles of Garden Design that you really can't afford to Forget" at the Monday morning lecture series at the Aurora Library.

Or, perhaps you enjoy scrabble.

In that case you will enjoy the lecture in November by Katherine Barber, Lexicographer, on "Six Words You Never Knew Had Something to do with Pigs"

If you are more interested in politics, Robert Matthews'

lecture on "The Sudan: The Difficult Road to Peace" might be more your cup of tea.

The series of 10 lectures, organized through University of Toronto's Continuing Education, is currently operating and runs this year to Monday, December 11 with no lectures scheduled October 9, November 6 and November 13.

Lectures are held at the Aurora Library from noon to 1 p.m. and it's a fabulous way to spend a Monday lunch hour.

For more information, contact 416-978-2400 or learn.utoronto.ca.

Sylvia Gilchrist
Aurora

of election campaign collections by municipal politicians and that they had become tools of the developers they pretend to reform.

Now, with the four-year term the time is appropriate to limit the time spent in office to two terms or a total of eight years as was suggested by Stephen Somerville in his Front Porch Perspective in The Auroran recently.

If a mayor or member of council can't get done what they wanted to get done and why they ran for public office in the first place within eight years, it's not likely they will get it done in a longer period or it's not worth doing.

With a two-term limit, just think of the constant turnover, fresh ideas and new blood that this would bring to Town Hall.

With a time limit, it's possible that many more things would get done as time wouldn't be wasted on petty bickering and personal feuds built up over the years.

The current system rewards inaction and pays members of council to sit back and not rock the boat and then compensates them for idling away the years.

Municipal politicians, like those at other levels of government are elected to perform a public service and they do not have, nor should they have, the right to permanent residence at Town Hall, and newcomers should be given a chance.

The time has come for a fixed term of office.

AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

It is rather ironic that while I can barely boil water I do enjoy watching various television programs on the food channel, particularly the Iron Chef and Licensed to Grill.

Maybe it has something to do with the adage that “I love work - I could watch it all day”. In my case it would be, “I love to cook - I could watch someone else do it all day!”

A while back, the food channel featured an hour-long show about a rib-cooking tournament. There was a cook-off somewhere in a southern US city and many teams were competing for first prize.

The teams were from all over the states. I couldn't believe the size of some of the barbecue grills that were being utilized, some similar in size to a Winnibago.

The amount of time, love and seasoning that went into the preparation of the ribs bordered on the ridiculous. In some cases, the meat was slowly cooking for 16 hours!

I was getting very hungry watching the program, so I made my own special delicacy, crackers with melted cheese heated for exactly 32 seconds in the microwave.

In the end, they crowned a winner, who was given a trophy, and if memory serves, \$5,000 and a new barbecue.

I can certainly understand the cash component, but I don't understand presenting the winner with a new barbe-

cue as first prize.

It is like winning a new driver for the longest drive at a corporate golf tourney; you won the prize using your existing driver, why don't they give you a putter or pitching wedge instead? But I digress.

Last summer I went to see my father, who lives in Mississauga. He mentioned that at City Hall they were having a Ribfest festival. Having seen the television show not too long before this, I said let's go. And it did not disappoint. The food was superb.

So when it was announced that Ribfest would be coming to Aurora I was every excited.

I was told that Shelley Ware, the Special Events Co-ordinator for the town of Aurora, came up with the idea while employed in a similar capacity in Barrie.

The event was held last week at Machell Memorial Park. It was very convenient of the organizers to have this event near my home - thank you!

Timing of the event couldn't be better, the weekend after Labor Day, thus assuring big crowds. Too bad next year the event will probably be in the third week of August, as the cooking teams are not available after Labor Day.

Friends of ours joined Julie, Ryan and me Saturday after-

noon at Machell Park for dinner. We had five rib cooking companies to choose from so we simply decided based on who had the largest and most trophies in front of their station (the trophies could have said “Best Dad” for all I know!)

No chance for price shopping as all five teams priced the full rib tray at \$20.

We ended up sampling a couple of the different types of ribs, had the barbecued corn on the cob, and ice-cold lemonade. The food was excellent and well worth the price!

Other than being somewhat chilly that afternoon, the event was a great one, and I am happy it will be held on an annual basis.

A month or so back, I wrote a column regarding the top ten reasons I love Aurora. The tenth reason was “Aurora has an abundance of parks and green spaces. There are also some magnificent trails that our family takes advantage of”. I wrote that the number one reason that I loved Aurora was, for self-preservation purposes, my wife.

So, the Aurora Ribfest obviously isn't number one but it's somewhere in the top ten for sure!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

Everybody thinks a concussion is a bad thing. “Oh, my God! You poor thing,” they exclaim seriously, sympathetically...endearingly, even!

It makes me feel so...loved! Sniff, sniff!

I didn't know much about concussions before, but back in August, I got a “shift in consciousness” courtesy of my daughter Jennifer's shoe...collection.

They say a woman can't have too many shoes, but let's face it - a head-on collision in the dark with a five-pair pile-up on the main thoroughfare (read “hallway”) and cracking your head on ceramic tile because shoes are not equipped with headlights, taillights, parking lights...or any other idiot-proof warning devices (!!!) can send enough shock waves through your brain to change your mind!

Not to mention - change your life! I haven't been quite right since!

Before, I would forget to pay the Visa bill and I had nobody to blame...well, except for Jake. Now, I just blame it on the “doggone” concussion, and...presto! The guilt simply vanishes! I feel so validated!

It used to be that my garden was immaculate. Now, I have weeds that are five feet tall...with six foot wingspans and I don't even notice them! Blurred vision, you know? It's so liberating!

Before the concussion, I never burned dinner. Now, not only do I burn dinner, but last week, I burned myself too! I had to go ballroom dancing with an Aloe Vera leaf taped to my arm, for heaven's sake!

The sympathy was almost more than I could take! Almost, but I'm a trooper.

And ever since I got a concussion, my brain can't seem to compute the downside of more sympathy and less slaving away in the kitchen. Can you feel my pain?

We go out...we order in...and all I have to do is sit there and look stunned!

You wouldn't believe how easy it is to look stunned when

The joy of concussion

everybody jumps up to clear the dishes! It comes naturally!

If I had known this before, I would have happily installed ceramic tiles all over the house and slammed my head against them years ago! Repeatedly! Just to make sure!

Sometimes though, it gets really bad. I start to feel faint. Like when I walk into the laundry room and Nadia is washing and Damir is folding and the iron is heating up.

Omigod! Somebody catch me! I am so losing it! Honestly, it feels like I'm teetering on the edge of my sanity!

Other times, I just get a little dazed. “Cathy,” asks Damir, “did you feed Jake?”

“Huh?” I am definitely feeling dazed...swaying, even! “Could you repeat that?”

“Did...you...feed...Jake,” he repeats syllable by syllable.

Of course I look even more dazed, so he starts to look at me strangely (concerned but sympathetic - I like that!) as he tries spelling it out. “The D-O-G ... Did you F-E-E-D the D-O-G?”

“D-O-G?” I look quizzical and disoriented. “Dog? We have a dog?”

So now that I'm off kitchen, laundry and kibble duty, I have more time for the important things. Things like massages, hot baths and naps. I feel totally spaced out!

Hey, when you're used to racing to keep up with the speed of life, S-L-O-W takes a few spelling lessons.

I've even had to adjust to having time to go out for lunch with my daughter, Nadia, so we can practice converting fractions into non-lethal dosages...and chat about her other adventures at nursing school.

Of course, a concussion does complicate matters.

Last week we went to Aurora's popular lunching spot, Jonathan's. First, I couldn't read the menu. Blurred vision, you know?

Second, I couldn't remember whether the lowest common denominator is the big number or the little one. Hey, I can't even spell. What makes her think I can count?

Then, I wanted to order the special, but I couldn't get the words “spinach”, “feta cheese” and “pie” out in the right context. Brain swelling...but not getting any bigger, you know what I mean?

After several failed attempts at making sense, “I'm sorry, I have a concussion,” I apologized to our server.

He nodded sympathetically...endearingly, even! “Layers...green stuff...cheese...got it.” He brought me lasagna.

I just knew he understood. I started to feel warm and fuzzy all over, but just as I was letting out a great sigh of contentment, Nadia leaned in.

“Mom,” she whispered, “you do not HAVE a concussion!” Then, stern as a nurse dealing with a hypochondriac, she added: “You HAD a concussion.”

Of course I immediately got that stunned and disoriented look.

“Yes, dear. But now I have...um, lasagna!”

What? No sympathy? No concern? I thought I was going to faint!

I felt dazed - queasy, even! “Sweetie,” I pleaded, “I still HAVE signs...after effects...you know - symptoms of a concussion!”

“No you DON'T, mom,” laughed my little expert. “What you HAVE are signs and symptoms of AGING!”

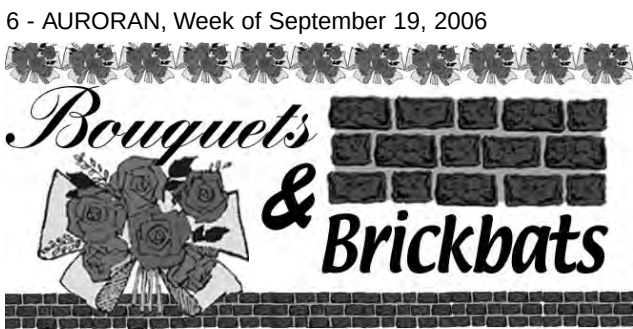
My vision completely blurred, my ears began to ring, and I nearly fainted dead away!

For THIS I paid her tuition bill? I want my money back! And I want my concussion back too! Sniff, sniff!

It was wonderful...while it lasted.

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

6 - AURORAN, Week of September 19, 2006



Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Mark Heese of Aurora and his partner Rich Van Hulzen who won the Gold in the men's division at the Canadian National Beach Volleyball Championship. Heese is a three time-Olympian and bronze medalist at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council members for their unruly conduct at the recent general committee meeting with points of order and snide personal remarks and bouquets to Councillor Ron Wallace, who was chairing the meeting for keeping it reasonably under control and getting it over on time.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's 16-year-old Jordon Meron for finishing 7th in the World Baton Twirling Championships in Rome. She also placed 10th in the Junior Solo event. While in Italy she found a Hotel Aurora in a quaint little village.

BRICKBATS to the weatherman for not playing ball with the opening night of Aurora's first Ribfest by providing a colourful lightning exhibition with accompanying thunderclaps but making up for it with sunny Sunday.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Conner O'Grady for going down a water slide 635 times and raising \$265 in the Slide for Southlake at the new swimming pool on Wellington Street East. Aurora's lifeguards used the slide for 12 hours and raised more than \$1,000 for Southlake Regional Health Centre.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Ministry of Energy for not exercising more control over the salaries paid to Hydro One's brass with its President Tom Parkinson who received \$1.56 million last year and the personal use of a corporate jet for his family members.

BOUQUETS to former board chairman of the York Region District School Board Harry Bowes on his 31-year political career as he steps out of office at the end of this municipal term. He was elected school trustee in 1974 and served 23 years, six years as chairman and has completed two terms as a Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor.

BRICKBATS to those in the National Defence Department for not deploying technical equipment to Afghanistan which was designed to prevent friendly fire accidents. Friendly fire killed a Canadian soldier and injured others recently. The equipment was designed and tested after an earlier friendly fire accident killed four Canadian soldiers.

BOUQUETS to the parishioners of York-Credit Valley for presenting Bishop Philip Poole, formerly of Trinity Aurora, with the gift of his first cope. The cope is a liturgical garment that resembles a very long mantle or cloak. He has served there as area Bishop since September, 2005.

BRICKBATS to the Toronto municipal politicians who failed to make any plans of what to do with their garbage after all the warnings they received about the possibility of Michigan closing its borders, which will happen in 2010. Toronto people deserve better!

BOUQUETS to Cupid and Psyche designer Teresa Cook, of Aurora, on being selected as the feature designer at the Second Annual eTalk Tastemakers Celebrity Gift Lounge during the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival.

BRICKBATS to the Crown Attorney in Vancouver for deciding that no charges would be laid against RCMP Constable Paul Koester who fatally shot Ian Bush, a sawmill worker, in the back of the head during a jailhouse altercation. Obviously, there's one law for the police, another for the rest of us.

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Letters to the Editor

Issues irk this reader

To the editor,

Re: Growth and destruction in Aurora.

I am proud to be a resident of Aurora.

When I arrived here in the 20s, Aurora had a

population of 2,200 souls.

Today it has a population of 41,000, oops, 46,000, oops again - 48,000.

Blame this embarrassing error directly on Mayor Jones. He gets blamed for everything else.

Why the wanton destruction of Wellington East?

Why not Wellington West? We can't show favourites, you know.

Let's put the train whistle article to rest - enough is enough.

The offended citizens and GO Transit should directly have this issue resolved in New York City by the United Nations.

Perhaps The Auroran may not like this but a mere mile to the east of Aurora on Warden Avenue is located an old historic orchard (belonging to me) which has been featured on national TV and Ontario TV many times.

It is an area of absolute tranquility and to date we do not even have a gas bar located on the property.

As long as I live no developer backhoe will ever "dig" on this property. My daughter, Sandra, agrees.

I called the new subdivision at Wellington and Bayview a "monstrosity".

Well, I found one subdivision that can beat this.

Just south of Victoria Square on the west side is a subdivision that can easily beat the Aurora sideshow.

It makes an army barracks from WW II look glamorous.

In closing - to Poor Richard: Quit picking on Stephen Harper - he's the best PM we've had in 14 years but you just don't want to admit it.

**W. Devins
Aurora**

To the editor,

We are writing in support of the motion which has been put forward to Aurora Council by Phyllis Morris to allow the use of clothes lines on residential properties in the Town of Aurora.

In this day and age of awareness of global warming, the question should not be "may I hang clothes out and thereby save about 900kg of greenhouse gas emissions each year?" but rather "why would you not hang laundry to do your part in

protecting the environment?"

The simple act of hanging clothes, an age-old practice, can make a real difference in the amount of greenhouse gas emission in a community. It saves in energy consumption. It saves in the costs of running a household. How on earth did real estate developers attain the right to tell me as a taxpaying citizen of this town that I cannot hang a pair of blue jeans in my own back yard?

It seems beyond ridiculous that this is even an issue.

In the last year we remember seeing an article in the local paper saying there are still contaminates in a local creek from a leather tanning operation many decades ago. Everyone deplores this situation.

So why not take action where we can and actually encourage people to hang laundry?

We would like to publicly thank Ms Morris for putting this motion forward and hope to hear that it has been speedily passed by council in the near future.

**Sharon and Tony
De Furia
Aurora**

ED. NOTE - The motion passed unanimously last Tuesday night.

Has Auroran decided who should be mayor?

To the editor,

I found Stephen Somerville's "Front Porch Perspective" in the September 5th issue of The Auroran to be puzzling.

He states the reason cited for rejection of his column was unfair publicity for one of the municipal candidates, but for the last several months when I open my Auroran, I find on page 3, usually in the middle, an advertisement for one of the mayoralty candidates.

A plum location.

Now, there is a sitting councillor who has been advertising for the last several years, albeit for his private business, but his ad, like other advertisers, is shuffled throughout the paper.

Hmm...does this mean The Auroran is backing this candidate for mayor?

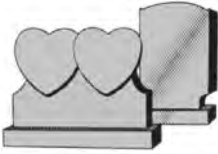
Interesting!

**B. Cordell
Aurora**

ED. NOTE - While The Auroran believes every page of the newspaper is a "plum location", this advertiser pays a premium to have his ad appear on Page 3. Three other advertisers - Aurora Shopping Centre, Graystones and Peter Virtanan - also wish to be on the same page each time their ad appears, and have booked and paid for space accordingly. Location of an ad does not indicate support for any politician by the newspaper.

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Hogg decides not to seek re-election

To the residents of Aurora

I'd like to express my appreciation for your support and encouragement throughout the two terms I have had the privilege to represent the people of Aurora.

I am honoured and humbled by your confidence and trust.

You gave me the opportunity to work with all stakeholders towards building a community we are proud to call home. Together, we have accomplished much, although there is still much to do.

After careful considera-

tion, I have decided not to seek re-election at this time.

I have decided to spend more time with my family and will look for another way to contribute and be involved in my community.

This has been a very difficult decision because of the many enjoyable aspects of being your councillor.

Aurora is fortunate to have dedicated, talented and knowledgeable staff.

Our enthusiastic Aurora volunteers in fundraising, sport, culture and environment create the many programs our families enjoy.

And each member of the

community who chooses to participate and become involved makes this a community whose shared values make it a place my wife and I are proud to raise our family.

However, this past term has also been especially difficult.

It has accurately been described as a dysfunctional council and at times the good work accomplished has been overshadowed by divisiveness founded on an unwillingness to put aside personal agendas and work cooperatively to support the majority decisions of council.

Divergent opinions are essential: Aurora must expect its elected representatives to speak honestly and act with independence, determination and integrity; to examine options thoroughly; to debate the issues in a positive and constructive way and to have the courage to collectively make decisions that are in the best interest of the broader community.

However, once the direction is determined, everyone must pull in the same direction to accomplish the goal.

Aurora must expect its elected representatives to

subjugate their personal agendas to the will of the entire council and work together as a team for the good of the whole community.

My hope is that the next council will learn from this lesson so it is not repeated.

There are many candidates seeking your support.

I encourage you to investigate each with the past lessons in mind.

Get involved: vote, volunteer, participate.

I think change is good – together, let's make it a change for the better!

I thank you for the honour of representing Aurora – it will always remain a highlight in my life.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude.

Bill Hogg
Aurora

Candlelight tour another success

To the editor,

On Saturday, September 9, six Aurora homeowners graciously opened their residences to the public in support of the Aurora Historical

Society's Candlelight Tour of Homes. The weather cooperated and our supporters enjoyed another delightful evening strolling through the newly created North-east Heritage Conservation

District and visiting the historic Willow Farm.

We would like to thank the individuals and businesses who supported this event.

Homeowners: Beth and

Mike Eagan; Valerie Fleck and Steve Taylor; Michelle and David Haney Kileeg; Linda and John Houser; Diana and Peter Piersol; Jennifer and Michael Robertson.

Refreshments: Chris' No Frills; St. Andrews IGA.

Restaurants: Baldwin's Steak House, Chinook, Jonathan's, Graystones.

Sponsors: Mac Fleming Paint & Wallpaper, Harvest House Furniture, Irvine Robinson Interiors, Ab Cox Pontiac Buick, Aurora Home Hardware, Curves for Women, Decca Décor, Giampierre's Beauty Salon, Golf Glen Veterinary Clinic, L.H.Lind Realty Inc, Mary's Flower Shop, Thompson's Fine Furniture, VandenBosche Jewellers, Vic's Shoe Repairs.

All proceeds from the Candlelight Tour go to support the restoration and operation of Hillary House, a National Historic Site owned and operated by the Aurora Historical Society.

The next Aurora Historical Society event is the barbecue at Church Street School in support of the Aurora Heritage Centre - Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

See you there!

Helen Roberts
President,
Aurora Historical Society

Why did Buck want to be mayor in the first place, this reader is wondering

To the editor,

I read with great interest Evelyn Buck's letter in The Auroran citing her reasons for not running for the mayor's job.

I can help but question her motive for considering it in the first place.

Mayor Tim Jones is hugely popular.

He has an easy going manner, works well with the many community groups whose interest he serves and contributes generously to town organizations.

Nigel Kean has been a worthy member of council and his stand on various issue I can strongly support.

I suggest reality struck.

Mrs. Buck has been a most controversial and contentious member of council.

Her stand on issues has already been loudly and, at times, inappropriately expressed.

I refer to the infamous paper "assault" of 2005.

Why then, considering her low vote total in the last election, would she consider the top post?

The next election will seat candidates for four years.

I look forward to reading about and hearing from the new slate of hopefuls for November 13.

It is clear to me after following council meetings, a few in person, more on cable, that we desperately need positive change; people who can work together in rational reasonable ways.

An exchange of differing views is critical in a demo-

cratic society.

However, equally important is the way they are discussed.

Nothing is accomplished with hostility and personal attacks.

The ability to express ideas calmly and rationally and bring others to a consensus should be high on a candidate's list of qualifications.

I attended an all-candidates' meeting at the town hall when Mrs. Buck first ran after a considerable time out of office.

She concluded her short remarks with the comment "HEAR ME ROAR".

We have heard little since.

Judy Salmon
Aurora

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Aurora Legion President Len Whines signs a yellow ribbon indicating his support for Canadian forces, both overseas and in Canada. "Support Our Troops" Ribbon was in Aurora recently and officials hoped to have collected more than 100,000 signatures before the end of September.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

School renos still awaiting financial aid

From page 1

agreed to direct staff to meet with Aurora Historical Society officials and flesh out details of what was required to complete the restoration and how it would be funded and to bring back a revised motion.

The reworded resolution showed up Tuesday and met considerable opposition.

Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that few details had been provided as to what had been done and what was still to be done.

He added there were 101 questions that needed answers and as the town was facing considerable budgeting pressures, there was a need for a detailed report on costs to complete the restoration.

Councillor Buck stressed the need for an early decision as the Society could lose the \$100,000 Trillum grant and there was an urgency for a decision by council.

By using funds from the sale of town-owned land, the capital costs would not be added to the tax bill, she said.

Councillor Ron Wallace stressed the need for action as the costs to complete the restoration were climbing due to council's delay and that council should appreciate the work of the Society.

Councillor Vrancic repeated his request for a financial report so that council can make a

decision.

He said much money had already been spent on the building and it was an issue of dollars and cents.

Councillor Buck pointed out the Society hadn't asked for help as it was a council initiative.

After further discussion, it was finally agreed to defer the issue for two weeks for a detailed report with Councillor Buck in opposition.

At the same meeting, council accepted a motion by Councillor Phyllis Morris that a bylaw be prepared designating the Church Street School as the Aurora Heritage and Cultural Centre.

Backyard clothes drying may be on the way back

Once it was a common sight to see clean laundry flapping in the breeze in the backyards as housewives dried their washing in the sun and fresh air.

There has been considerable comment in the daily press involving the right of developers to include a restrictive covenant in the residential sales agreement which would prevent the homeowner from using an outdoor clothesline, other than the umbrella-style.

Councillor Phyllis Morris brought the issue to Aurora Council Tuesday night with a three-page motion.

She pointed out that if a purchaser signed the covenant or purchased the house from someone who signed it, then they were

expected to comply, and the covenant may have been signed unknowingly when energy was not such a costly commodity.

As the town doesn't have a clothesline policy or bylaw, staff is unaware as to how many homes may be affected by the covenant in the sales agreement.

A battle will no doubt rage, not only in council but with the development industry as to who is responsible for setting the rules regarding clotheslines.

Morris' motion pointed out the need to conserve energy as homeowners could no longer take the energy supply for granted and the idea of allowing outdoor laundry drying was an appropriate energy cost saving measure.

The motion made reference to the Energy Conservation Leadership Act which received Royal Assent last March but has not yet been proclaimed.

The Act empowers the province to remove barriers to conservation or to promote opportunities for conservation.

The motion petitioned the province to designate clotheslines by regulation despite any restrictions that might have been imposed and to proclaim the legislation soon.

Councillor Morris' Notice of Motion about the Right to Dry was picked up by CanWest

News Service and printed across the country resulting in 20 e-mails of support from individuals and organizations.

In response to a question as to why the Right to Dry couldn't be included in the subdivision agreement, staff replied the agreement was between the town and the developer whereas the sales purchase agreement with the restrictive covenants was between the developer and the purchaser.

The motion was approved unanimously by members of council.

Seniors have busy schedule

Probably the most active group in Aurora, the Aurora Seniors Association will present an educational overview on Powers of Attorney next Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 2.3 p.m.

The overview will review the types of Powers of Attorney, picking and triggering actions for the POA.

The following day - Thursday, Sept. 28 - the ASA open house and showcase takes place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The day includes showcasing various programs and activities involving seniors.

On Friday, Sept. 22 the +55 dances return in the West-McKenzie room from 8 to 11 p.m.

After September the dances will be held on the first and third Friday of each month.

Movies are shown every Tuesday at 6.30 p.m. in the McAlpine lounge, every Wednesday volunteers prepare a tasty lunch combo, served in the Norma Jean Legge room from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

For further information call 905-726-4767.

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Film Circuit announces fall program

Tickets are now on sale for the Aurora Film Circuit's October 2 offering "Half Nelson".

The film stars Canadian actor Ryan Gosling (*The Notebook*) as a young inner-city junior high school teacher whose ideals are tested in the face of reality.

In his rundown Brooklyn classroom, he manages to inspire his 13 and 14-year-old charges to examine everything from civil rights to the Civil War with a new enthusiasm.

Rejecting the standard curriculum in favour of an edgier approach, he teaches his students how change works - on both a historical and personal scale - and how to think for themselves.

However, his own personal demons and some complicated friendships bring both teacher and students to a dramatic intersection, where the

choices they make will change their lives forever.

The film, directed by Ryan Fleck and written by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, was featured at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

It features the music of Canadian musical cooperative Broken Social Scene.

November's film, which rounds out the 2006 series, is the acclaimed Al Gore documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" which compellingly describes Mr. Gore's assertions around global warming and the environment.

The New Yorker commented that "if even half of what Gore says is true, this may be the most galvanizing documentary you will see in your lifetime."

Individual tickets (\$10) for each film are available one month

before the screening at either R&R Revisited, or at the library.

Tickets may also be available the night of the screening, pending availability.

Subscriptions for the 2007 Aurora Film Circuit season will be on sale at the October screening, which begins at 6.45 p.m. at the Cineplex Odeon theatre on Bayview Avenue in Aurora.

The eight films that will make up the series have yet to be announced (pending the choices the program-

ming committee is viewing this week at the Toronto International Film Festival).

Proposed dates are Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12 (March Break runs March 9-18), April 9, May 14, September 10, October 1, November 12.

Subscription kits will also be available for sale at R & R Revisited on Mary Street and at the Aurora Public Library. As always, you can visit www.afc.library.aurora.on.ca for more information.



Here's how it's done

Aurora Councillor Damir Vrancic and his wife, Cathy (The Auroran's Cathy's Corner author) study the art of dancing during an open house held at the Aurora Legion last week. They were two of more than 150 people who showed up for the event which will now be held regularly every Monday evening. Steve Miller is the instructor and classes began Monday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

ACI planning to help families at Christmas

Last year Aurora Cable Internet raised enough money to help four local families enjoy a memorable Christmas.

They plan to do it again.

To that end, ACI staff have chosen to sponsor and provide a Halloween Party called "The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity" for residents of Aurora and surrounding area Friday, October 27 at DiNardo's "haunted" Mansion.

Joe DiNardo has agreed to donate his banquet facilities for the event.

Now ACI needs some help from the community.

"We are soliciting donations from area businesses for prizes, silent auction items, decorations, and refreshments," said organizer Tracey Mead. "If your business is interested in

donating to this project we would greatly appreciate your input. All donations would be recognized as donated from your establishment at the party, in the party roster, on our web site and on our local television station."

Donations, she said, will be used for the sole purpose and benefit of "The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity" and no donations will be awarded to participants or employees of Aurora Cable.

"Our project goal is to provide a spooktacular Halloween party and at the same time a memorable Christmas season for at least 10 Aurora families," Tracey said.

For further information, contact Ms Mead at 905-727-1981 extension 240, or tmead@aci.on.ca.

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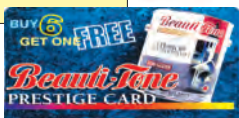
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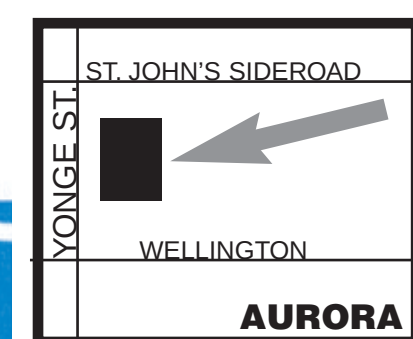
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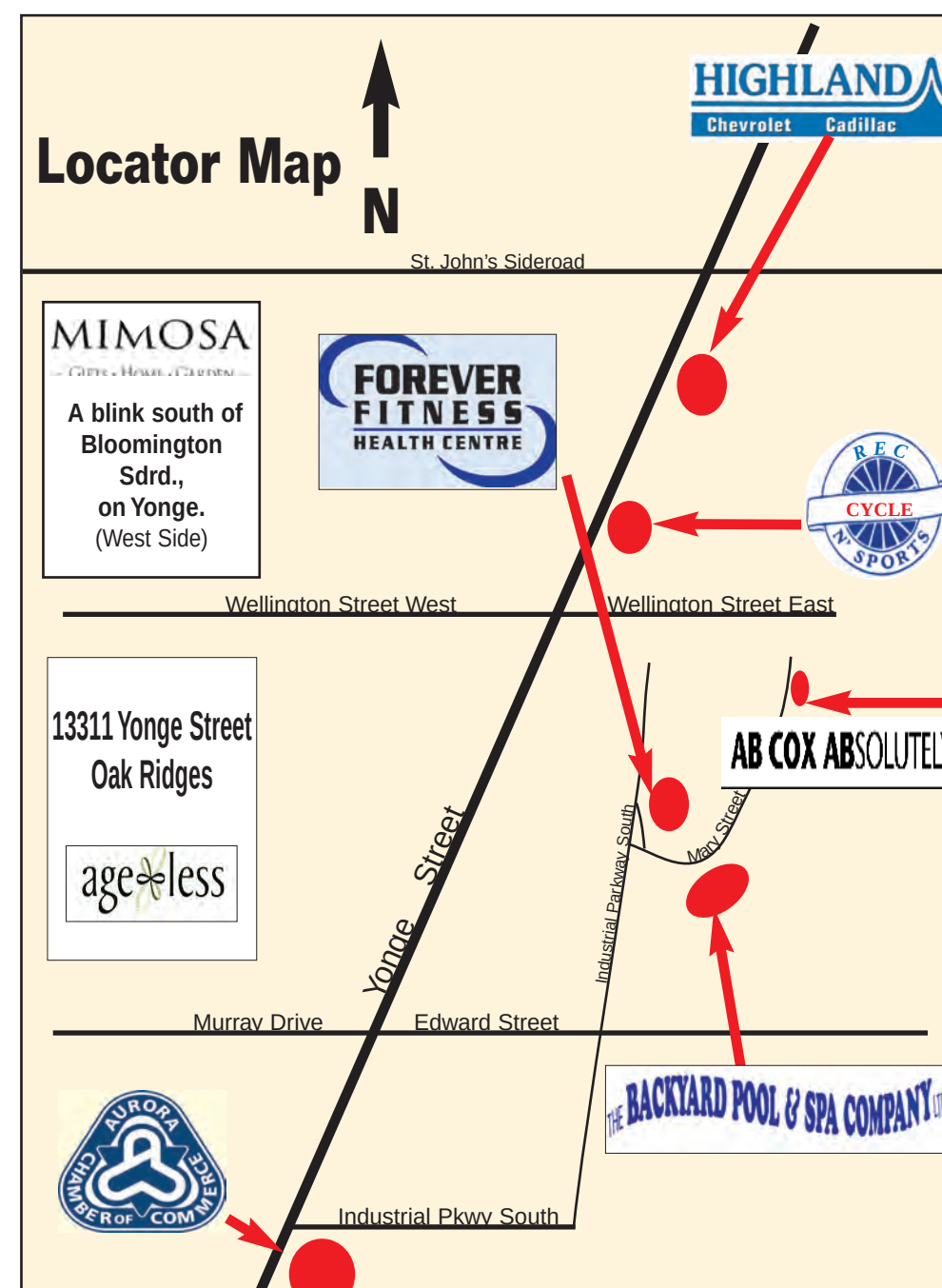
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AURORAN, Week of September 19, 2006



The first Tiger goal of the season at the Aurora Community Centre is scored in the first period over the Newmarket Hurricanes. Aurora went on to win the game 7-2



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Tigers thump 'Canes

After three games this season, Aurora's Provincial Junior A Tigers are still undefeated.

Led by another three-goal performance by Joey Martin the Tigers left their home faithful happy by beating their up the street rival Newmarket Hurricanes 7-2 in Aurora's home opener Friday night.

"Yes, Martin deserves credit for yet another excellent outing but we received better contributions from many others tonight and that led to the successful home opener outcome" said Tiger Coach Jerome Dupont.

The win comes on the heels of a 4-1 exhibition win over Newmarket recently in a charity game billed as "The Battle of Yonge Street".

Raising funds for the proposed cancer centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre, the game was the brainchild of Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach.

Then Sunday afternoon, Aurora trounced the North York Rangers 11-0 after opening slowly with only a single goal in the first period.

They salted the game away with five in the second and five more in the third to keep their

unbeaten streak alive.

Also scoring for the Tigers Friday night was Andrew Favot, with a goal and an assist.

Adding singles were Fraser Smith, Colin Williams and Doug Henderson.

A three-assist night was recorded by Ken Blain who continues to shine while players who recorded two assists included Quinn Waller, Mike Dahlinger and Alain Goulet.

Goaltender Tyler

Gordon, mainly because of penalties, saw lots of rubber facing 35 shots and was solid in net again.

The Tigers take their game on the road and meet Orangeville Thursday night before returning to the Aurora Community Centre Friday to play the North York Rangers.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.

Tigers won their season opener last week in Huntsville.

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Fresh from winning the Vaughan Rangers Early Bird Tournament last week, the Aurora Tigers Atom AA team is shown here. They are, front row (on ice, left to right), Cody Child, Ryan Manson; kneeling, Sean Foxwell, Jack Caldwell, John MacDonald, Erik Balkovec, Brett Theissen, Evan Jackson, Logan Blaser; standing, Connor Graham, Parker Baile, Nicolas DelZotto, Jerryd Jensen, Austin Lane, Kyle Locke, Matthew Iwai, back row, John A. MacDonald, Ed Jackson, Dick Jensen, Glenn Manson, and Barry Locke.

Photo by Rochelle Lane

Five straight victories

Atom AA Tigers win tourney

It may be a little early in the season for hockey, but don't tell the Aurora Tigers Atom AA team.

Last week, in straight-forward fashion, the team won their first five games of the season to capture the 2006 Vaughan Rangers AA Early Bird Tournament Championship.

The Tigers kicked off the tournament with a solid 3-1 win over a competitive Brampton Battalion team, then proceeded to dump the Barrie Colts 5-3 and host team Vaughan Rangers 8-0 in round robin action.

In the semi-final game, the Tigers again faced the Colts in what proved to be a very closely contested match-up.

This time, Aurora edged their OMHA rivals 1-0.

Later that day, the Tigers won the Championship tilt 4-2 over the Seaway Valley Rapids.

Following the championship game, Tigers' Assistant Coach Ed Jackson praised the team's efforts.

"The Town of Aurora was well represented again this weekend. In the face of some stiff competition and despite the fact we have seven new faces in the line-up, our boys certainly supported each other and worked as a team," he said. "We can be proud of these talented young hockey players and the

fast-paced brand of 'Hometown Hockey' they play."

Tigers now gear up for their regular season home opener against border town rivals, The Newmarket Redmen.

This Atom AA version of the "Battle of Yonge Street" is slated for 4.15 p.m. Sunday, September 24, at the Aurora Community Centre.

The Aurora Atom AA Tigers are comprised of 16 top players picked from a talented pool of Aurora Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) players born in 1996.

They compete during the regular season in the York Simcoe Minor Atom AA West Division of the Ontario Minor Hockey

Association (OMHA).

They have won the OMHA Championship two years running and have been selected to host the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Atom AA Championship Tournament in April, 2007.

The staff is made up of head coach, John A. MacDonald; assistant coaches Dick Jensen and Ed Jackson; trainer Barry Locke; and manager Glenn Manson.

Parking remains a problem for Library Square district

Recently, council agreed, in committee, to the expenditure of up to \$30,000 from the 2006 contingency fund to provide a report on parking solutions in Library Square and the surrounding area.

With a decision made not to demolish the former library and seniors centre and with the leasing of the former seniors' centre on a temporary basis, the committee agreed a parking solution must be found.

Correspondence was received from C. Simpkin and D. Moore.

Mr. Simpkin suggested making Church Street one-way from Yonge Street and permit angle

parking or to charge for parking, while Mr. Moore suggested more programs be planned for the two buildings and to encourage residents to walk.

Councillor Phyllis Morris moved the committee recommendation and noted the citizen comments submitted

suggested an opportunity be provided for the public to comment.

Staff replied that citizens would be encouraged to submit comments which would be referred to the consultant and included in the report to council and the parking study was approved as recommended.



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for

Aurora Town Council

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Winners...again

Major Peewee Jays capture 2006 OBA Championship

The Aurora Jays Major Peewee baseball team capped an exceptional season with five straight wins and no losses at the 10-team Ontario Baseball Association championship tournament held in Guelph recently.

It brought the Jays' season record to an impressive 34 wins, eight losses and three ties and includes tournament championships in Burlington and Mississauga North, a consolation championship at Southwest London and quarterfinal placing at the recent 32-team CNE peewee tournament.

In York Simcoe Baseball Association league play, the Jays finished first overall with a record of 12 wins, three losses and three ties.

The OBA championship is their second in the last three years - the Jays were runners-up last year.

The five victories included wins over Waterloo 20-1, Patrick Jones MVP; Guelph 9-8, Ben Ruffa MVP; Whitby 11-1, Chris Leslie MVP; Waterloo 15-3, Scott Bromley MVP; and the championship game against Whitby 5-4 in eight innings, Josh Beaton MVP with great pitching from Patrick Jones and Travis Roberts.

Players include Patrick Jones, Nick Skillins, Jamie Cherutti,

Troy Gouveia, Daniel Nicoletta, Ben Ruffa, Travis Roberts, Chris Leslie, Matt Carter, Scott Bromley, Josh Beaton, Matt Miller.

Head Coach of this year's team was once again Randy Jones; assistant coaches were Mark Cherutti, Nigel Gouveia, Frank Nicoletta and Greg Ruffa.

Sponsors include Aurora Lions Club, TSN, Colossus Dental Clinic, Cole Engineering, Phil Dymott - Co-operators Insurance, Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League, CIBC, Gallaughers Contracting, Sunopta Inc., JJ Barron Real Estate, Minto Communities and Kylemore Homes.

Aurora Minor Ball Association Results from Final Tournament Peewee Division

Round Robin

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Mastercut 13, Shoppers Drug Mart 9
Good Year 15, Mastercut 12
Futurestars 9, Shoppers Drug Mart 3
Home Hardware 18, Good Year 10

Semi-Final Results

Home Hardware vs. Good Year:
Home Hardware advances to finals.
Futurestars vs. Mastercut:
Futurestars advance to finals.

Final Results

Futurestars vs. Home Hardware:
Futurestars
win final weekend championship
for Peewee Division.

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circa 1860 Residential Building Available for relocation or salvage

260 Wellington Street East, Aurora.

Prior to demolition, the owner's consultants are inviting proposals for the removal or salvage of the Georgian Style, 1½ storey house located on the above property. To view the building, representatives of the owner will be available at the site between the hours of

10 am & 12 noon

on Saturday, September 30, 2006.

All submissions should be addressed to:

IBI Group Architects

1091 Gorham Street, Suite 106

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Seven Aurora properties designated

Tuesday night, Aurora Council passed bylaws designating seven heritage properties in Aurora under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The action brings the total of designated buildings in Aurora to 21.

The list of designated properties includes four early 20th Century homes along Wells Street; the Enos Lundy House, built circa 1828, among the oldest and most significant heritage buildings in the Town; the Reuben J. Kennedy House at 15032 Yonge Street, a significant Aurora Landmark of the Victorian era along Yonge Street; and the Radial Railway pillar, a significant reminder of the electric Radial Railway line which once served Aurora.

The designations were achieved by the Heritage Advisory Committee, with the cooperation of property owners, as part of its program of commemorating heritage properties in Aurora through designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. With two designations in 2005 and others underway, the current Heritage Advisory Committee has had the remarkable achievement of doubling the number of heritage designations in the municipality in a single

term and ensuring that these heritage buildings will be preserved for future generations of Aurorans.

Heritage Designation recognizes and reinforces the cultural value and community appreciation of heritage properties and provides protection against demolition.

Designation does not prevent changes to buildings rather it provides a mechanism to help guide any proposed changes to harmonize with the significant attributes of a building. Designation does not restrict uses or changes to the interior of properties, nor does it impact property values. Designated properties are identified with a commemorative plaque.

Anyone interested in learning more about heritage designation should contact Michael Seaman at the Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123, ext. 4351.

Following are photos and a brief writeup on the structures designated last week:



**Lewis Stephens House
97 Wells Street**

The Lewis Stephens House, built in 1912, is a well-preserved example of an Edwardian Classicism Style house, built out of pre-cast concrete block. The house was built by local builder Lewis Stephens. Its first occupant was John D. Collie, one of the principals of the Collie-Cockerel furniture manufacturing company of Aurora. Significant features of the house include pyramidal roof shape, marble faced concrete block façade, substantial front veranda, original window openings and wide eaves.



**The Reuben J. Kennedy House
15032 Yonge Street**

The Reuben J. Kennedy House at 15032 Yonge Street was built circa 1870-80 and is an excellent example of a late 19th Century, L-shaped house built with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style. The house was built for Reuben Kennedy, a prominent local citizen. In the 1880s the house was owned by Andrew Yule, who served as reeve and was the office manager for the Fleury Foundry. Significant features of the dwelling include L-Shaped Victorian House form with Gothic Revival influences, yellow brick facing, angled brick voussiors, decorative brick plinth, historic doorway, windows openings and sash, decorative brackets and gingerbread in eaves, louvered wood shutters and a classical doorway with sidelights and transom.



**Walter Grice House
89 Wells Street**

The Walter Grice House, built in 1923, is a well-preserved example of a bungalow style house, built with the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement in Southeast Aurora in the early 1920s. The first owner of the house was Walter Grice, a local carpenter. Significant features of the house include the overall bungalow style form, large roof, centre gable, covered front porch with solid balustrade and brick piers, decorative multi-pane windows and period exterior doors.



**The Pugh House
106 Wells Street**

The Pugh House, built in 1916, is a good example of a brick house built with the influence of the Edwardian Classicism and American Foursquare styles. The original owners of the house were Percy Pugh and his wife, Clara (nee Stephens). Significant features of the house include overall Edwardian Style form and roof shape, pressed red brick exterior, original windows and doors, and a substantial front porch.



**Roderick and Ethel Smith House
88 Wells Street**

The Roderick and Ethel Smith House, built circa 1941, is a good example of a Colonial Revival Style House. The original owners of the house were Roderick and Ethel Smith. Significant features of the house include its overall 1½ storey colonial revival form, front dormers, symmetrical façade and window openings.



**The Enos Lundy House
938 St. John's Sideroad East**

As the home of one of the original Quaker settlers, the Enos Lundy House is significant as a reminder of the early settlement of Whitchurch Township in the vicinity of Aurora. The house, built in the 1820s, is one of the oldest buildings standing in Aurora and the Region of York. Significant features of the house include overall Georgian House form, 12/8 windows, hand-made brickwork, historical chimneys, original doors and openings.

**Radial Railway Bridge Abutment
520 Industrial Parkway South**



Built as part of a road bridge across Yonge Street, in 1899, Aurora's Radial Railway Bridge Abutment is historically significant as the last remaining reminder in Aurora of the historic Radial Railway line that linked Lake Simcoe and towns to the south and to the City of Toronto. The line existed until 1930, and the tracks removed the following year. The abutment is a sturdy, tapered, limestone pillar, designed to hold the weight of a railway line, cars and freight. The stone of the pillar is expertly laid and is typical of the construction methods of the era.



Your invitation to Open House

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Please consider this article as your invitation to attend at the Aurora Seniors Association [ASA], 5 Municipal Drive, Thursday, September 28 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The ASA presents 'Showcase', which is an open house, to enable the public an opportunity to see the seniors in their fine new building, going about their daily activities.

The partnership of management, formed by the Town and the ASA, manages the centre competently, which is clearly evident by its popularity, and by the crowd-pulling success of senior events.

Good management has created a place for senior fun, for music and laughter, games and lunches, banquets and balls.

The seniors are devoted to activities that provide pleasure, and thus the centre and the members have become a magnet; constant and growing attendance speaks to that.

We tend to be quietly satisfied and contented with each other, or filled with the laughter of the moment.

We enjoy the constant close intimacies of dear friends, as well as the interludes of privacy, which are also important. And we cherish the light-hearted banter and chatter we enjoyed in our youth, and still enjoy.

The constant supply

of programs, activities, and lectures of common interest, workshops and seminars clearly provides a powerful incentive for seniors to spend time in the centre, and the opportunities for merrymaking, fun and games, music, singing and dancing.

Many members are happy to be a quiet part of the scene, serene and tranquil.

But belonging and fellowship are qualities that must be allowed to develop, and for that to happen, seniors must become members, choose an interest or interests from the many offered, and invest their time in those surroundings.

The 'Showcase' day's activities have still to be finalized, but expect to see the craft and sewing club busy with their work and the artistic members painting and sketching.

Card players will be in action on this occasion, and dancing, including line dancing will engage some members.

Scottish Country Dancing will be demonstrated and is open for recruits, as are all of the activities.

The excellent billiards/pool room is very popular with men and women, and is usually very busy, and the computer club is open for visitors.

The ASA choir will sing, and our fitness club will be stretching and flexing their muscles,

and the seniors will continue to celebrate the long life we have been blessed to live.

We, as a seniors' organization, are interested in what interests you; we welcome your interested comments and suggestions and we trust, you will find where you fit in the ASA, and consider membership.



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

When Hotel Aurora had a piano lounge

It was back in August, 1985, when Hotel Aurora, now Howard Johnson, added a piano lounge to its Dinner Theatre to become the entertainment centre in the area. Entertaining in the Abbey Room, a section of the main dining room, Patricia Watson's vocal talents were as diverse as the songs she performed. She also had what many performers lack and that was the ability to involve her audience. She played calmly for the people during the dinner hour and then later in the evening started to let loose with her big voice and a nice, bouncy touch on the piano. She knew a wide range of songs including some of her own compositions.

THE NATALIE DAVIES MEMORIAL AWARD

In June, 1988, the Aurora Public Library presented the Natalie Davies Memorial Award to 14-year-old Jillane Smith of Aurora, a Grade 8 student at Regency Acres Public School. The award was in memory of Natalie who was killed in a tragic accident in 1983 at age 15 and it was awarded annually to a young person who exemplified the spirit and joy of youth. Jillane was nominated by her teacher, Pamela Gillan, who said she was mature, kind, caring and an excellent student in all respects. She added that Jillane had many community interests including the Anglican choir and was active in a church youth group. Nancy-Jean Rummencie was the first award winner in 1984, followed by Maureen Cattet in 1985, Jason Bound in 1986 and Renee Gallant in 1987. Is it still being awarded?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

It's hard to believe but back in the early 1980's during the construction of Highway 404, Ontario Transportation Minister James Snow and Deputy Minister Harold Gilbert went on trial for breaches of the Environmental Act. The charges were laid by Ron Reid, a staff environmentalist with the Ontario Federation of Naturalists. Although the extension of Highway 404 from the Gormley Sideroad to Wellington Street in Aurora had been exempted from an environmental assessment by cabinet, it was alleged that the minister and the deputy knew work was being carried out before the date of the exemption. Although the publication of the evidence at the trial was prohibited, it is understood they were both found guilty and fined and, according to reports, the fines were paid out of their pockets. Can you imagine that happening today, especially in Ottawa, where the philosophy of "I'm Entitled to my Entitlement" remains.

Aurora Women's Institute celebrates 95th

Although their numbers are dwindling, members of the Aurora Women's Institute will meet at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Thursday to celebrate the group's 95th birthday. It was in the old town hall in 1911, then located at the corner of Yonge and Mosley, when the Aurora branch of the Women's Institute was organized by Mrs. Charles Doan. First officers of the group included Mrs. A.A. Conover, Miss Laura Hartman, Mrs. W. Case, Mrs. Tom Hulse, Mrs. John Ferguson, Miss Leila Reynolds and Mrs. Doan. The Women's Institute was originally started in Stoney Creek, and has since spread across the country and around the world. Motto of the organization is "For Home and Country" and their theme

is "Safe and Healthy Communities". With that in mind, the Aurora branch has contributed to the health and welfare of its citizens and assisted each other in improving the health and happiness in the members' homes for the past 95 years. The group led the way to have the government have health and dental inspection in the schools. During the First World War, the Aurora group held teas on the lawn of H.W. Fleury (current loca-

WHAT HAPPENED?

At a general committee meeting in November, 2005, Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern regarding a house fire in the area of Steeplechase Avenue where there are no fire hydrants. He requested the Fire Chief to provide a report outlining the areas in Aurora which were not serviced with hydrants, the resources available and methods used to fight fires in these areas. According to the Council Pending List dated in May there was a Fire Service Report last February. What did it say as it was never discussed in council?

* * * *

One of the best kept secrets in Aurora over the past 35 years has to be the activities of the Aurora Model Aircraft Club. One of the reasons was that flying their radio-controlled planes required space so the planes were flown in surrounding rural areas. In June, 2002, club officials negotiated with the town for the use of the town-owned Leslie Street lands. As the town was promoting the sale of the property, last January, the officials returned to council to request help in finding another site, possibly use of the flood plain as members would like to stay in Aurora. The request was referred to Leisure Services for a report. What happened?

SAYING GOODBYE TO TWO GENERATIONS

Some of the estimated 1,300 kindergarten students who went through her classes at Wells Street Public School may recall the night in June, 1988, when kindergarten teacher Florence Closs said goodbye as she retired after 34 years as a teacher, 24 of them at Wells Street. More than 200 former students and wellwishers attended her retirement announcement as she said that she hoped that she had touched the lives of her students in some way. Catherine Petch made a presentation on behalf of her former students.

QUEEN'S YORK RANGERS AND THE GREEN HOWARDS

In June, 1989, several members of A Squadron of the Queen's York Rangers in Aurora made an official visit overseas to help Great Britain's Green Howards celebrate 300 years of service with the presentation of their new colours. The Queen's York Rangers ties with the Green Howards are long standing although the original date was unknown. The Rangers was one of two Canadian units celebrating with the active line regiment. Members of the Rocky Mountain Rangers, also a unit of the Canadian Armed Forces, also travelled to England for the celebration.

tion of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church) to raise money for the war work. In both wars, the WI assisted the Red Cross, sending boxes overseas and working with bereaved families. In the 1920s, they had drinking fountains installed in the schools, bought glasses for needy children, furnished a bed and outfitted a room at the then York County Hospital. A history book was kept, and in the 1980s, copies were given to the Aurora Historical Society

and the library. The group will celebrate its birthday with a cake to be shared at Martha's Table at the church noon Thursday.



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The winner and the runner-up share a moment following the final decision of the judges at a three-week “Hoedown Showdown” to determine who would wind up on the stage of the 19th annual Magna Hoedown Saturday. Winner was Kirsten Jones, left, who narrowly defeated Anique Robitaille. Anique won a guitar for her efforts; Kirsten won cash, a guitar and a chance to perform at the Hoedown. The Showdown, staged over three Wednesday nights, saw judges whittle down 15 competitors to select the winner. It was held at the Graystones Restaurant in Aurora.

Auroran photo
by David Falconer



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“Relay For Life” may be coming to Aurora in 2007

Spending a night walking around in Newmarket has been so successful, organizers want to do it in Aurora.

The Canadian Cancer Society's Holland River Unit has been holding a “Relay For Life” on the grounds of Pickering College in Newmarket, and it's usually attended by hundreds of participants.

This year the event raised \$261,000 and accommodated 80 teams of 10 people each.

The Relay is a 12-hour event starting at 7 p.m. on a Friday night and continues until 7 a.m. Saturday morning with teams of 10 members participating.

Team members take turns in running, jogging or walking around the course lit with candles purchased from the Society.

Other members relax in their tent in “Tent City” adjacent to the course.

Each team member pays \$10 to register and each team is asked to commit to raise at least \$1,000 in pledges. Holland River Unit

President Diana Dawson appeared before Aurora's general committee recently and pointed out that because many of the walkers lived in Aurora, a “Relay For Life” might be held here next year.

She asked councillors to consider that possibility.

A recent Cancer Care Ontario report indicated York Region has the highest provincial increase in cancer mortality rates, projected at 24 per cent.

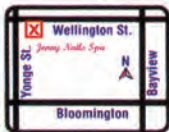
The Canadian Cancer Society provides fundraising for cancer research, programs and services to assist people living with cancer, provides information and tries to raise public awareness.

The first Relay was held in Ottawa in 1999 and one was held in Markham shortly afterwards.

The committee was unanimous in its support and referred the request to staff to work with Society officials as to location and other details.

As a word of caution it was pointed out that the first weekend in June was when the annual Yonge Street Festival is scheduled.

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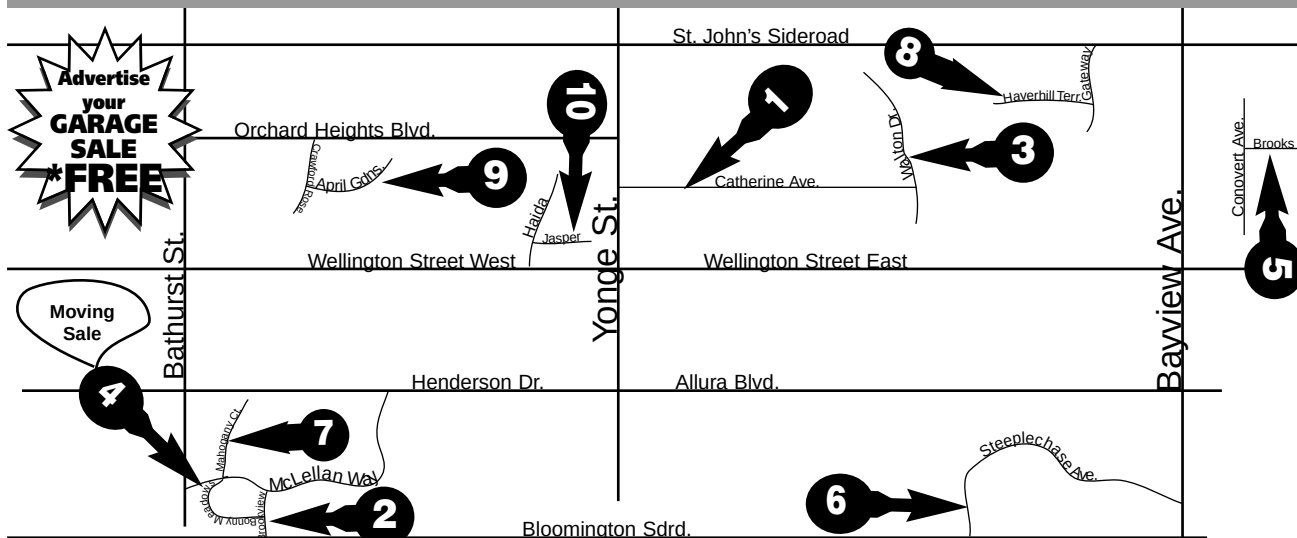
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