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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 25 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of April 21, 2009

Photo guru dies at 80

Aurora's Robert Black, a co-founder of Black's Photography, died in hospital Friday. He was 80.

When he retired, Robert fished and played golf. He and his wife, Lois, who died of cancer in 2006, divided their time between Delray Beach in Florida and their home in Aurora's prestigious Beacon Hall.

Robert was a Rotarian and had won a Paul Harris Fellow award, according to his daughter-in-law Nancy Black, wife of a son, Bryan. They are Aurora residents.

There are three other children, Susan and Jane, both of Toronto, and Paul, who lives in Newmarket. All are married. There are 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Black bought the organ at Our Lady of Grace catholic church in Aurora.

He was also a generous contributor to the hospital in Newmarket.



With help from York Central Fire Services, the Aurora Rotary Club was able to speed up the flow in Tannery Creek Sunday afternoon to hold their 4th annual frog race. Firefighters took water from the creek, ran it through a pumper then hosed it back into the water to speed things up. Winners may be found elsewhere on this page.
Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Town agrees to pay for lights

It has taken almost two and half years, but Aurora Council has finally authorized the mayor and town clerk to execute the agreement for the town to assume the maintenance and operating costs of three streetlights to service residents of the Mosaics community.

It was back in October, 2006, when councillors first heard from a homeowner in the area about an entranceway to the 86-townhouse complex behind Canadian Tire, off Murray Drive.

The pedestrian walkway was not regularly lit at night and residents felt it was a safety issue. However, while the town is responsible for operating lights along municipal rights of way, the three lights in question belonged to Canadian Tire, and were on that store's property.

The debate has continued since then with town staff initially noting it was a private issue between the business and the condominium corporation.

But in 2007 most councillors

eventually agreed it was a safety issue, and approved that the town assume the operation of the three lights.

Since then discussions have been underway among staff, Canadian Tire and the condominium corporation, with the latter two parties agreeing to share the cost of \$9,195 to separate the three lights from the rest of the Canadian Tire parking lot grid, and tie them into the town's system.

At a meeting last week, a few councillors noted their continued opposition to the town assuming these lights.

But since the arguments had already been raised in earlier meetings, and overruled by the majority, the objections were half-hearted, and without further debate the staff recommendation to execute the agreement was passed.

The annual cost of \$360 to operate these lights has been included in the town's 2009 operating budget.

Neighbours oppose trail plans

Two proposed links in Aurora's trail system are being considered, and the town is looking to residents for input.

At the north end of town, the final link is being planned in the

Nokiidaa Trail system, however, opposition to the plan has risen.

The link would connect the Aurora and Newmarket sections of the trail by completing the gap currently existing between St. John's Sideroad and Aurora's north boundary.

The proposed works may include a section of elevated boardwalk, a pedestrian bridge over Tannery Creek, and a section of granular surface trail.

It is intended that construction would begin late this year for completion in the summer of 2010.

While it sounds like a simple and much-needed project, it has been controversial.

Some residents in the area are concerned about the exact location of the trail, and about how it may impact both their homes, and the protected areas and wildlife of the nearby Mackenzie Marsh.

The issue was raised at Aurora Council last week, based on a recent letter to The Auroran.

Please see page 3

Jones would seek nomination, but not without competition

No sooner had Auroran Tim Jones said he would again attempt to seek the nomination of the federal Liberal party in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, when he was faced with competition.

Newmarket resident and councillor Chris Emanuel threw his hat into the ring shortly after Jones, a former Aurora mayor, made his announcement.

"I am running for the nomination because it has been a lifelong passion of mine to work for the residents of our community and to champion their issues in Ottawa," Emanuel said.

Emanuel is serving his second term on Newmarket Council and has served as chairman of the Central York Fire Services Joint Council Committee. He also was chairman of a committee to develop Newmarket's Cultural Master Plan.

"I am excited about the opportunities we face and I know that, with your

support, we can win this nomination...and Newmarket-Aurora in the next federal election," he said.

"At this point, I am interested in seeking the nomination to be the candidate," Jones told The Auroran. "I am currently asking supporters and anyone who is interested to renew or sign up at www.liberal.ca so at such time a nomination may be called, I will be ready to go forward."

Jones served several terms as mayor and councillor of Aurora and was defeated in the last election by Councillor Phyllis Morris.

He ran federally for the Liberals in an election last year, and lost to Progressive Conservative candidate Lois Brown.

Responding to a suggestion that he would run again seek the Aurora mayor's position left Jones without comment.

Briefly

A first at Williams

For the first time ever, Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School students will hold a community Rummage Sale at the school.

The event, handled by the school's Student Council, is scheduled to take place Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Purpose of the sale is to raise money for student events and to support our local charities.

Donations are being accepted until this Friday, April 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the front foyer of the school.

Frog race winners

Six-year-old Nicole Muirhead of Newmarket had the fastest frog in the Aurora Rotary Club's 4th annual frog race held Sunday afternoon in Tannery Creek beside Machell Park. She won \$300 cash. Second place (\$200) went to Jackie Hills, while third place (\$100) was won by Aurora lawyer Jack Laurion.

The Rotary Club sold 1,000 frogs for the race and will use the proceeds to send two children to Easter Seals camp.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Registration is now open for all events slated in this year's York Region Plus 55 Summer Games, slated to run from May 5 to June 9. Registration forms are available at Aurora's municipal office, library, senior citizens' hall and the Legion. Deadline for registration is April 25. For further information, call Verna Ross at 905-727-0682 or click on ontarioseniorgames.ca and follow the links to District 14 - York Region.

The Probus Club of Aurora meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Royal Canadian Legion on Industrial Parkway North. Probus was sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club in 1995 with an initial membership of 25, now 82, for retired and semi-retired professional and business men and women, former executives and others. The club is non-sectarian and non-political. For information call 905-841-3558 or 905-727-9344.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

The Adult Bereavement Support Group offers a chance to learn how to cope with the loss of a loved one. Fred Bullen has given the use of the Aurora Lions Club and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will provide administrative cost so that this service is given free to the community. Contact mariesgrieffjourney@yahoo.com to reserve a seat or get further information.

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight-week session starting Wed. April 8 to May 27, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no fee for this program. Participation is open to all the community. To register or for more info please call Mary Smith at 905-727-6984.

"Voice" is a creative writing collective for teens between the ages of 13 and 18. At the meetings, held at the Aurora Public Library, teens learn various creative writing techniques, give and receive constructive feedback on their writing and meet other like-minded young writers. Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month, September through May, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is not required.

"Louder" is a semi-annual young adult magazine created through the creative effort of teens and produced by the Aurora Public Library's Young Adult Services Department. Submissions of writing, poetry, art, graphic art and photography are accepted. E-mail your submissions to yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca or drop it off to the Children and Young Adult Information Desk to the

attention of Monika Machacek.

On Thursdays until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepingsing@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

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

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.

Masonic 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. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

Meet at Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised go to local charities.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Aurora Public Library, with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volun-

teers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4 for more information.

Annual Historical Fair happens today at Aurora's St. Andrew's College on Yonge Street. Awards ceremony and public open house begins at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
Aurora Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be a joint event with the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce and Human Resources Professionals of York Region at Oakview Terrace, 13256 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill. Showcase starts at 11.30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.
Please see page 19

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Two members of the Central York Fire Services received pins in Aurora for long-time service last week. Brian Patrick, centre, received his 30-year pin, while Chris Dudka, second from right, was given his 20-year pin. Also attending the presentation were, left to right, Deputy Chief in charge of fire suppression and the training division, Rob Comeau; Paul Leslie,

Deputy Chief in charge of administration and the fire prevention division; and fire chief John Molyneaux, far right. The awards were presented during a regular monthly meeting of the fire department's Joint Council Committee, held in the Aurora Council chambers. The committee is made up of representatives from Aurora and Newmarket.



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Trails cause opposition

From page 1

Leisure Services Director Al Downey confirmed it has always been the town's intent to connect the Aurora trail to Newmarket through this area.

This was taken into consideration during the design and construction a few years ago to widen St John's Sideroad and install the boardwalk at MacKenzie Marsh.

The reason it has taken so long to implement is that the trail connection from Newmarket has only recently been completed.

A Public Information Open House will be held on the subject in the Holland Room at Town Hall on April 28 starting at 6 p.m. Project drawings will be available, and town staff will be on hand to answer questions.

But the Nokiidaa Trail link isn't the only gap in the town's trail system that is raising controversy.

Work is also underway to establish a trail to link Timpson Drive and Kennedy Street West, through the area of Elizabeth Hader Park and Aurora High School.

Based on feedback obtained from residents in late 2008, town staff proposed a route through this area.

However, concerns were expressed in the neighbourhood about the route.

As well, the Lake

Simcoe Region Conservation Authority approved an alternate route through the area that changed the number of required bridges.

For those reasons, in

February, council directed staff to repeat the consultation process, and to investigate the Conservation Authority's proposed route.

So it's back to residents for feedback.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Now it's a robin flying into window

Back on April 7, Aurora resident Christine Woodley wrote a letter to the editor explaining why birds (a male cardinal in particular) fly into windows on houses.

I was particularly interested in the letter, because for several years, I had the same event happening to me.

But only by cardinals.

Now, I have a new problem.

A robin (female, I'm sure, because of its colouring) has taken a liking to the windows of our house, and has been doing what that cardinal did for years.

I first noticed the noise at the second-floor washroom window, which was a favourite of the cardinal.

Naturally, I thought my friend had returned.

It came as a complete surprise when I realized the bird wasn't a cardinal at all, but a robin.

When it got tired of that window, it decided to try the sliding back door window located on the main floor that exits to a backyard deck.

Again, the cardinal never once picked on that window...although the bird did attack the rear-view mirror on the outside of my car.

I had asked people why this was happening, and got the same reasons Christine had discovered when she did research.

The male was steering off other suitors of his female friend.

Every time he saw another male (reflection) in the window, he would attack.

That, however, doesn't explain the actions of my female robin, who leaves me with the impression that if I opened a window or door, she'd fly right in and make herself at home.



You've probably seen either one or the other of these pictures before, but we don't think you've seen them together. The top photo was taken in 1955 and the second in 1957. The service station, on Yonge Street in Aurora's south end, is no longer there, and neither is Spruce Villa that offered rooms and "modern cabins". The station obviously grew, too, since the bottom photo shows the building with two garage doors, as opposed to one in the top picture. And, look at the price of High Test gas in 1957: 44.9 cents a GALLON. To put everything in perspective for you, the corner of the building behind the station in the top photo is part of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

Letters to the Editor

Ev "shoots from the hip", reader says

To the editor,

I read with great interest the Letters to the Editor in The Auroran, in particular, the letters generated by Councilor Ev Buck.

She shoots straight from the hip and her honesty is much appreciated.

With last week's letter (Confusing Ball Diamond discussion, Page 4), I sat and shook my head after reading how absolutely dysfunctional and incredibly infantile our elected members of council in this town really are, with the exception being Mrs. Buck.

And to think that we actually "pay" these idiots for arguing like six-year-old children in the school yard.

(My apologies to ALL six-year-old children in Aurora for grouping them with the current town council.)

What is the sense of asking for a report, then have Councilor Evelina MacEachern (or any councillor for that matter, as it seems they're mostly cut from the same bolt of cloth that Mayor Morris has sold to the good people of Aurora) argue about wording of the report, totally reject the professional opinion that they requested in the first place (because, of course, our councillors all

know more than any professionals in the field) and then request ANOTHER report be drawn up?

WHAT?

I have presented to council in the past, and at the conclusion of my presentation, have simply "implored" (begged, demanded, etc.) that they "make a decision".

I thought at the time that they may have actually listened to me and taken my suggestion of getting on with business rather than continually stalling to heart, but no, not was the case.

And this trend seems to be continuing.

We, the voters of Aurora, elected a council in good faith, to govern our town with sense and maturity. Had there not been a three-way race for the mayor's chair last election, former Mayor Tim Jones would have handily defeated Phylis Morris.

Tim, as mayor, always had control of the council and under his leadership, the council was productive, with maybe the exception being the council he had to deal with prior to the current one.

Having been a long-time resident of Aurora, I have many times thought of running for a councillor's position on town council.

My good friend, Betty Pederson, with whom I worked with for more than 25 years commentating the Aurora parades on Cable 10, told me, as a former councillor herself, NOT to consider it, as the whole venture would consume me.

Many friends and family over the years have encouraged me to run in the municipal elections.

I could not see me

even in the same council chambers as these so-called "councillors" because of their childish antics, and unprofessional care towards the town's business.

My worse fear of all would be that I would "become" just like them, something that I absolutely deplore.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

Daffodil Days successful thanks to many volunteers

To the editor,

Through winds, rain and even some snow, volunteers with the Holland River unit of the Canadian Cancer Society donated many hours selling Hope Daffodils recently.

This is a welcome event that kicks off the April residential campaign.

As usual, Aurora residents did not disappoint us and a whopping 12,500 stems found a home.

We could not do that without the many volunteers who made it happen.

A cancer patient once referred to the volunteers as "dear hearts and gentle people".

I could not say it any

better.

We would like to recognize the Aurora businesses who opened their doors to our volunteers to make this a successful campaign.

We would also like to make a special mention of Skelton Truck lines who generously stored and refrigerated our daffodils for the duration of the campaign.

Thank you to all our friends.

We hope that this year will bring many new discoveries in the fight against cancer.

Alex Reil
Unit Manager
Holland River Unit
Canadian
Cancer Society

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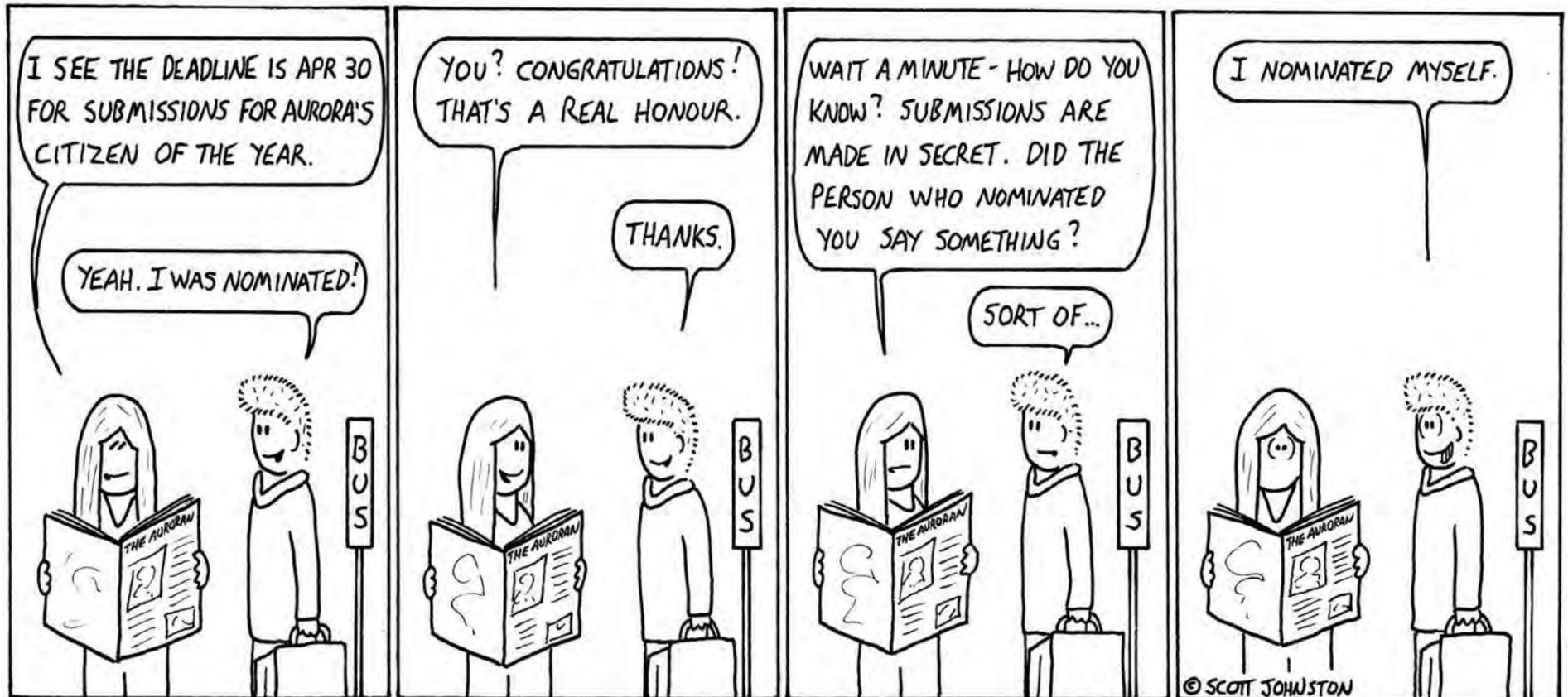
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Never mind the debate over the spring bear hunt. End the Aurora Easter Egg Hunt - now!

This is supposed to be one of those activities - among many - that Aurora families can partake.

This event is supposed to join the likes of the Horse Show, RibFest, Street Festival, or my personal favourite, the annual Santa Claus parade, as one of the great things to do within our town's borders.

These events are supposed to increase our quality of life, strengthen our community, and bring us a bit closer together.

This year's edition surely did not meet the challenge.

But before I get to this, let's backpedal in time.

I attended the sixth annual Aurora Easter Egg Hunt event two years ago and loved it.

If memory serves, the weather did not deter the success of the event. In fact more families attended that year than ever before, even though it was a rather cold and windy day.

It was also truly a great bargain at four dollars per child.

Now fast forward to this year's disaster.

Two weekends ago was the eighth edition of the Town of Aurora Easter Egg hunt held at Sheppard's Bush.

The Town, in partnership with the Girl Guides of Aurora, hosts the event, which serves as a fundraiser for the Girl Guides. The Optimist Club of Aurora also has a pancake breakfast.

It could not have been a better day, the sun was shining, it was warm and there had to be well over 1,000 people in

attendance.

The reason that I am not a happy camper is because of a rule change. It may have had something to do with the exploits of my neighbour and I a couple of years back when we scooped up quite a few chocolates when no one was watching.

This year, instead of trying to find a whole bunch of chocolate filled Easter eggs, you just had to find one, solitary plastic egg. You were then supposed to return this plastic egg it to the station and receive a goody bag.

Simply stated, I could not find any of those #@!?!## eggs.

I was there with my wife, son and two nephews. As we split up into two teams to search for the eggs, I was supposed to keep an eye on my eight-year-old nephew.

For what seemed like an eternity, I couldn't locate any eggs.

I became so engrossed and enraged in my search that I forgot all about my nephew. I believe he found his way home safely!

What aggravated me to no end was the constant yelling and shrieking of the various two and three-year-old kids excitedly exclaiming, "found one" or "I just found two, daddy!"

As soon as I would hear this - just as fishermen everywhere do when a fellow angler catches one - I converged on the area and proceeded to crowd out the kids - to no avail.

After more than an hour of searching, I finally resorted to trying to purchase an egg from one of the children. The

Aurora Easter Egg hunt

economy hasn't affected the kids in this town, I tell you.

One three-year-old girl laughed in my face at my \$10 offer. She said "a 20 might do it". I told her that I had no more money on me. She said she would be on her way then - "with my egg".

A nice lady who was with her children took pity on me and said that her family had attained its egg allotment, and that there were a couple of eggs over near one of the big trees. I thanked her, scooped up an egg and then quickly went looking for my family.

To continue the shame and embarrassment (why stop now?), my five-year old son proudly and quite loudly stated he found three eggs.

He then exchanged the eggs for a bag of chocolates. I know the only person happier than Ryan was probably his dentist.

The ParticipACTION group had a booth set up on one of the trails leading to the egg hunt. They were giving out personal pedometer devices, which is a great way to find out how active you are.

ParticipACTION recommends active adults generate 10,000 steps per day and active children 16,500 steps per day.

That Saturday morning I did 735,405 steps. I won't be running the Hartwell again any time soon - I don't need to!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

So, just how dirty can one town get?

Obviously, dirty enough that Mayor Phyllis Morris herself has to roll up her sleeves and pitch in to help clean it up.

Yes, it's time for another Mayor's Anti-Litter Day.

These are held every spring, and allow citizens who would normally think of any excuse not to take out their own garbage the opportunity to voluntarily grub around picking up other people's trash.

It may sound like some sort of civic punishment, but you'd be surprised how many good folks volunteer to participate.

And it's extremely well organized, with town providing gloves and bags and other supplies. They'll even assign you a "hot spot" (read: really debris-filled green space) to clean up, if you can't find a messy enough place of your own.

And don't think there aren't enough places to go around. Now that the snow has finally melted off for good this spring (please, let it be for good), it's revealed no end of coffee cups, and bottles, and plastic bags, and paper, and who knows what else.

You're bound to have an adventure, but hopefully not

quite like the true story that happened to a friend of mine during a recent clean-up day.

I'll call her 'Jill' (because Susan would get upset if I used her real name).

Jill didn't officially volunteer, but it was a beautiful day for a walk, so she decided she'd help out by picking up litter on a street near her house. She grabbed a garbage bag and headed out planning to walk to one end of the street, and turn around and come back.

She was walking along the curb, enjoying the scenery and picking up the odd bit of trash, when she found a broken hockey stick.

Instead of carrying it all the way down to the end of the street and back, while she stooped to pick up other trash, she decided to leave it, and get it on her way back.

Just then she heard an angry old homeowner sitting on his porch say: "Don't walk by and leave that. Pick it up. It's been there for weeks."

Now think about this. Here this piece of garbage had been sitting at the end of this guy's driveway for weeks. He'd known about it all along. Had probably walked and/or driven right past it dozens of times, and yet he had never picked it up.

Spring cleaning

And not only had he never picked it up, but he'd stewed and simmered about no one else picking it up, until he finally vented on a Good Samaritan, who was taking her own time to clean up garbage at the end of his driveway.

And better yet, when Jill explained that she was going to take it away in a few minutes on her way back, that wasn't good enough. He said she had to pick it up right now.

Truly amazing.

Fortunately, this was (I really hope) an isolated incident. And besides, anti-litter days are usually not about picking up trash from inconsiderate people's properties, but from town parks and other green spaces.

So if you feel like a bit of fresh air and exercise this week-end, and don't mind getting (a bit) dirty with your fellow Aurorans for a good cause, you may want to contact the town to see how you can pitch in.

And just a suggestion; if you're in my neighbourhood and see a broken hockey stick at the end of a driveway, and don't want to get yelled at, you may want to pick it up.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Still time to register for Hartwell Challenge

To the editor,

It's only days away from the 8th Annual Hartwell Challenge and the number of participants pre-registered for the event already exceeds those who participated last year.

Although the focus this year is to raise funds for the new Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake, it's important to remember how this event began and why it is so important to so many who knew Bob Hartwell.

There will be many children and people new to the community who will not be aware of the significance of the event and why it's so important to Bob's friends.

Bob was a long distance runner and long time Aurora resident.

You see, Bob died in October, 2001, while participating in the Toronto Marathon.

It was his fellow runners whom he shared the pavement with who decided this event would be a perfect tribute to a

man they respected and loved.

That group of very close friends, rightfully remain extremely proud of their legacy to Bob.

A running event that served not only the serious runners but also recreational participants was something Bob had dreamed of bringing to Aurora.

He also sat as member of Council in Aurora from 1997 to 2000.

That's where I met Bob. We sat next to each other at the council table.

Anyone who has been there knows the significant time spent as an elected official at that table.

We quickly became kindred spirits.

Bob loved his community and gave his all to promote the prosperity and well being of Aurora.

He was a very special person who truly cared and exhibited his commitment to others daily.

The Hartwell Challenge not only will serve as a great

opportunity for families to get out together and participate in either the half marathon, the half marathon relay, or the 5 kilometre run or walk. There's even a Mini-Mile for children.

There is an option for everyone to enjoy.

For those who wish, pledges can be raised to support our hospital.

If you're unable to participate, come to the Aurora Community Centre and witness the spirit. Cheer on the runners.

Bob would be very proud.

Not only for what his friends have created, driven by Bob's spirit, but for the good it brings to our community.

For some of us, it's that one time each year when we remember our friend, his genuine laugh, that smirk he wore so often.

We know full well how amazed he'd be at this incredible community event and the goodwill it continues to bring to those of us who live in this great Town.

We are all better to have known Bob as we honour him April 26th at the Hartwell Challenge.

There is still time to participate. Visit www.hartwellchallenge.com and become part of this great local tradition.

Town had low budget because of federal and provincial money

To the editor,

I really hope the residents of Aurora dig deeper into the mayor's comments about the 1.89 per cent increase in the Town's portion of the taxes.

She cheerfully seems to be taking credit for this lower than normal tax increase along with her faithful council (well, certain council members).

This budget was greatly enhanced by both provincial and federal monies being distributed to many

communities in Ontario and Canada.

This extra funding has reduced the town's portion of the much needed infrastructure to repair roads and other needed repairs.

A portion of the funding of the Church Street School came from government grants that normally would have come out of town coffers.

All of these grants have allowed this mayor to take credit where credit is not due.

I would have loved to

see certain current spending scrutinized rather than future spending getting cut by grants and allowing the 1.89 per cent tax increase.

What about internal spending?

What about selling or leasing the old hydro building so the Town would be able to get some extra tax money rather than letting the Town's public works department use it with no tax money coming to the Town?

What about selling or at least leasing the Jack

Wood's property?

Each one of the vacant town owned buildings is costing you, the taxpayer, money the longer they stay vacant.

So while 1.89 per cent sounds impressive, it really isn't when you dig into how that number was reached.

For the folks who think that I write because I am mad that I lost the last election give your heads a shake as this has everything to do with this mayor's shortcomings

rather than my past loss.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Steve Hinder
Co-Chair
2009 Hartwell
Challenge

How far will "Big Brother" reach into our lives: reader

To the editor,

Recently, I read that the Ontario Provincial Police have started yet another crackdown

CNIB thanks its volunteers

To the editor,

The week ending April 25 marks National Volunteer Week in Canada.

To mark the occasion, CNIB would like to thank all its volunteers for their hard work and dedication to people living with vision loss.

CNIB was built on the work of volunteers: the leadership of Colonel Edwin Baker, who lost his sight in World War I, and six other dedicated volunteers led to the founding of CNIB in 1918.

Currently, CNIB has more than 10,000 volunteers who contribute at every level of the organization, all across the

country - from working in offices to travelling to provide support to people with vision loss in their homes and in rural communities.

Obviously, seatbelts do save lives, however the decision to wear one should be

made by the adult driving the car.

They put an end to smoking in vehicles while children are present, which I agree with due to the health risks to the kids.

The seatbelt issue is different.

If I don't wear my belt, I alone suffer the potential physical harm.

Allowing the OPP or any other police service to force me to buckle up for my own safety, or else get a hefty fine and lose points is tantamount to having them write me a ticket for smoking a cigarette alone in my own home, or eating two big greasy burgers in my backyard, both of which can be considered bad for my

health and well-being.

It really comes down to how far will we let 'Big Brother' reach into our private lives.

Our rights are being diminished on a daily basis with the onslaught of new rules and bylaws designed to hurt us financially if we don't comply.

The only time a fine should be levied for a seatbelt infraction is if the driver allows children to remain unbuckled, otherwise mind your own business!

With all the drug dealers, gangsters, rapists, and murderers on the loose you'd think the police would have more important concerns!

M. Chisholm
Aurora

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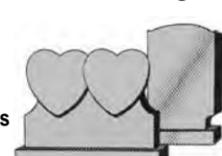
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Letters to the Editor

Amalgamation: you out of your mind?

To the editor,

Re: Time to talk amalgamation, he says. April 14, 2009

It is at times quite surprising what some people will suggest as a possible solution when they find themselves in an uncomfortable predicament that they would rather not find themselves in.

For some, what they perceive to be desperate times call for similar desperate measures.

The dilemma, of course, is what may seem to be a big problem for one, is not necessarily any kind of problem for another.

Or anyone else for that matter.

Now, I understand and appreciate that you good folks in Aurora do have a big problem.

You are having some difficulty regarding governance in your town. (Oh what the heck, lets call a spade a spade and just say that your local government is about a FUBAR as it gets.)

Actually to be entirely truthful, I don't think anyone understands the mess you find yourselves in, least of all the elected members of said local government (with the exception of Mr. Gallo who didn't

even bother with the whole getting elected thing apparently).

And that is because they seem to have difficulty with such universally accepted concepts like democracy, cooperation, accountability and common sense, to say nothing of lacking the basic ability to act their ages.

So when Barry Hall suggests, by way of citing the works of one Lewis Carroll (more about him later), that it would be in the best interests of the people of Aurora to simply amalgamate their incompetent government and the collection of malcontents that comprise it, with those governments of the other towns in York Region, I, as a resident of one of those other towns, namely Whitchurch-Stouffville, have this to say: Are you out of your mind?

Have you taken complete leave of your senses, laddie?

Are you under the demonic influence of the same sorts and similar amounts of illegal mind-altering stimulants that the aforementioned Mr. Lewis-follow-me-down-the-rabbit-hole-Carroll was doubtlessly so fond of?

And besides, what the h-e-double hockey sticks have we ever done to you?

This "...single...focused

city government... instead of six..." would be made up of officials representatively elected by the citizens.

And since your dear little screwed up Aurora, by virtue of being the second most populace member of the six, it would doubtlessly include one or more of your current crop of municipal misfits in this "New City" government.

I say "doubtlessly" because based on the past voting patterns of your citizenry, you would, in all likelihood, select from the same terrible pool of incompetents.

My goodness, the horror.

The mere thought of any one that bouquet of buffoons you folks refer to as a to a council having any sort of legislative authority over me and the rest of the good burghers of Whitchurch-Stouffville causes serious straining of both my gag reflex and my solemn vow to avoid contemplating physical violence against elected officials.

Now I will be the first to admit that our own council is far from perfect.

Most of our councillors whose one commonality, other than being basically otherwise unemployable, is that they do, for some stroke of good fortune, have the skill to make it

through a meeting without coming within a hairbreadths of fisticuffs, and have the wherewithal to make the occasional meaningful decision, and are capable of actually successfully finishing a meeting before either everyone falls asleep or the sun comes up.

And our mayor, whose experience previous to being elected consisted primarily of the ability to accurately weigh loose nails at the village hardware store, at very least has the capacity to actually lead a council, regardless of its makeup or the total competence (or lack thereof, as the case may be) of its membership.

Contrary to what Mr. Hall would have us believe, it is not time to talk amalgamation. Anything but. Especially when viewed from over here to the east of you.

And I do not believe it would stretch the limits of credibility to suggest that every one of the other six towns you include in this nightmarish scenario would have similar sort of feelings about the possibility of joining you Aurorans in that dream of a "New City".

What is time to talk about, at least in Aurora, is impeachment or some other form of representative reparation to allow you folks the opportunity to enjoy good governance for a change.

And if you can't wait for that, there's always the pitchforks, torches and the tar and feathers.

Now that sounds like something worth talking about...

**Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda**

you - pick a singer, but if you have to have a public servant speak for you - pick the Police Chief.

Cheers, Dick.

**Chris Sorley
Aurora**

So the lesson is that you can ignore your inevitable fate that we will all face or if you acknowledge it, and plan for it, don't leave out that important point of - who will speak for you?

If you want it to be about

Who will speak for you when you die, he asks

To the editor,

Although death is inevitable, talk of its happening has often been put aside, its planning ignored. Conglomerate, TSX traded corporations, have bought out the local small town funeral homes, witness our own Thompson's.

Along with the increased investment has come the push for preplanned funerals, coffin, place, type of internment etc.

The focus, however, has missed a fundamental and important focus - who will speak for you at your passing?

Many will have small close family gatherings.

Others will have touched the world in ways that will attract many to their passing - but who speaks for them?

If the largest memorial to a local icon recently is any indication then you can count on the following:

The current mayor will mention herself 18 times in the eulogy;

The current MPP will mention himself 35 times in the eulogy;

The current MP will mention herself 21 times in the eulogy;

The ex-mayor will mention himself 12 times in the eulogy;

The Chief of Police will mention himself 10 times in the eulogy;

The Opera Singers will never mention "I" or "Me".

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Letters to the Editor

We need fewer parking spaces: reader

To the editor,

Re: "Parking shortage in vacant lot plan", The Auroran, April 14.

It was very disappointing to read in The Auroran last week that town council caved in to residents and decided to maintain the minimum parking requirements of 1.5 cars per unit on the property at 5 Tyler Street.

Our mayor has championed many environmental causes in the past. I served with Councillor

Wendy Gaertner myself on the Environmental Advisory Committee last term.

Councillor Evilena MacEachern has also frequently been an outspoken champion of the environment in the past.

So why were they and other councillors silent on the wider environmental consideration here?

Are they simply unaware of the environmental impact of these sorts of bylaws?

It is becoming more commonly recognized that

the car culture of North America is unsustainable and a very large environmental threat.

We North Americans are slowly learning that we must shed our cars and embrace public transit and urban intensification for the betterment of our environment and our children.

Our new awareness is evident in the provincial "Places to Grow" strategy which stipulates intensified urban hubs as well as intensified transit corridors.

It is evident in the

provincial Green Belt legislation which is trying to contain those hubs by telling us where we cannot build.

But what of the municipalities?

We cannot reasonably intensify our towns and prohibit the development of farm lands if we do not remove some of the bureaucratic barriers such as the one at the centre of the 5 Tyler Street development.

Council should not only have allowed this minor zoning variance, they should be doing everything possible to turn the existing bylaw on its head.

We should not be stipulating minimum parking requirements at all.

It should be the opposite and we should be stipulating maximum parking requirements which demand that developers justify extra parking if they feel they need it.

This is actually the norm through most of Europe.

American cities are figuring it out, too. Seattle recently created bylaws setting maximum off street parking allowances. Even our own new Metrolinx transit authority policy 7.13 states "Municipal parking and zoning bylaws shall be updated to establish maximum parking require-

ments".

But again, this is a provincial rather than municipal project.

We must recognize that the environmental impact of cars is not just in the exhaust they spew, but in the land they demand for parking and roads.

This is very inefficient land use which presents a massive barrier to the goal of intensification and transit improvement.

If there are developers out there who believe they

have a good business case in providing fewer rather than more parking spaces then we should be encouraging that.

We must stop building with the assumption that everyone drives a car, and stop insisting that developers make the same assumptions.

Until we do, we will never be able to break our car addiction.

Darryl Moore
Aurora

Volunteers' work was "impressive": organizer

To the editor,

The official Spring Food Drive for the Aurora Food Pantry is now finished.

All the food has been sorted and stored for use throughout the summer.

Thanks to a short notation in The Auroran a few weeks ago, we got a fantastic response to our call out for volunteers to help.

Although food donations were down this year (and the need is increasing), these amazing volunteers stepped up and gave many hours of labour these last four Saturdays and we were able to get the job done without too much

stress on any one person.

I have to mention that the volunteer base consisted not only of our returning volunteers who helped me keep the place organized and running smoothly but also men and women who had never done anything like this before.

They came not knowing what to expect and went right at it.

However, equally impressive were the students who showed up.

I'm sure many of them came driven by the requirement to fulfill their volunteer hours at school.

After being there for only a few minutes, every one of them could see the

need and the purpose for what they were doing and worked hard with great attitudes.

They were truly impressive.

So a big thank you goes out to all the food drive volunteers, as well as the grocery stores in town who make space in their lobbies and put together bags for ease of purchase.

Thanks also to every person who donated food and we hope your giving will be ongoing.

Our next campaign is at Thanksgiving.

Patricia Wallace
Aurora Food Pantry
Aurora

Mayor didn't do homework, reader thinks

To the editor,

I attended the opening of the Aurora GoodLife coed club last week.

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris was there doing a ribbon cutting with the owner of the club.

She stated "it was so nice to have the new business in town and how glad she was that they chose Aurora as their new location."

Does Phyllis not do her homework?

I guess she hasn't driven down the road a kilometre or so!

She certainly made it sound like Aurora did not already have any GoodLife facilities!!

Twenty push ups, Phyllis!!

J. Donohue
Aurora

Be thankful, complainers

To the editor,

I would like to share a Happy Easter thought with all those people complaining about hearing the train.

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Bob Anderson
Aurora



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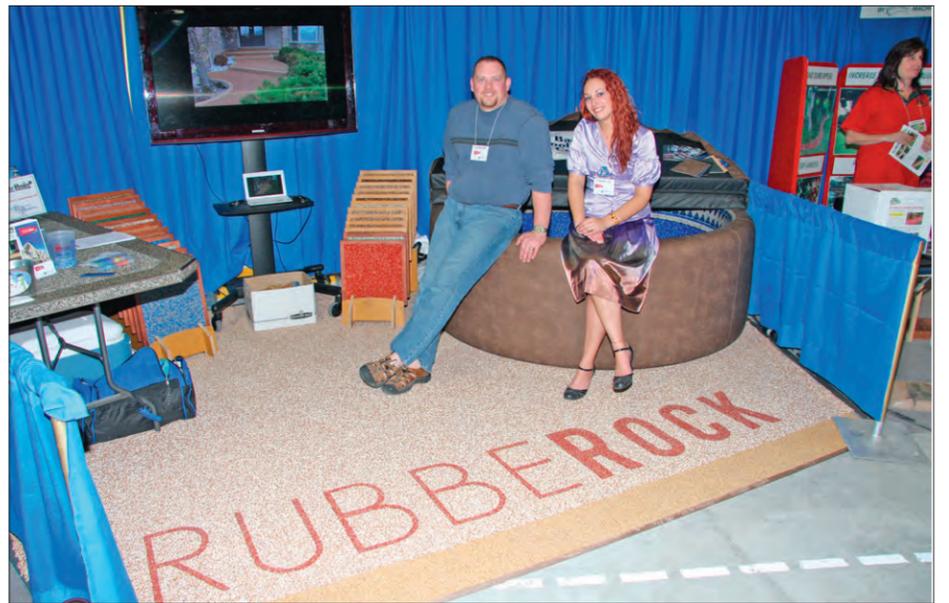


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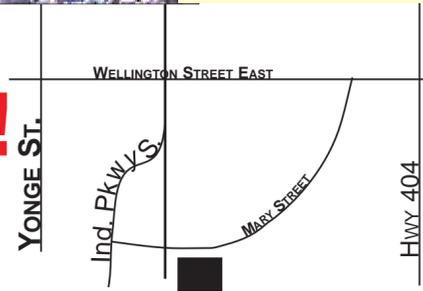
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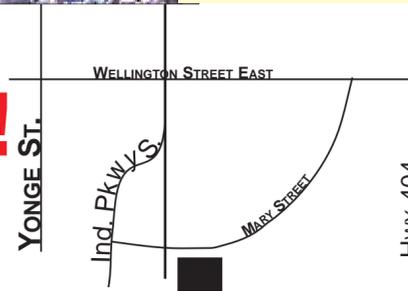
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Westview Golf Club gets Audubon award

Aurora's Westview Golf Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses,

an Audubon International program. The Auroran learned last week.

Gary Stadnek, Course Superintendent, and Lesa Stadnek, Horticulturalist, have led the effort to obtain

sanctuary status on the 27-hole course and both are being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International.

Westview is the 41st course in Ontario and the

675th in the world to receive the honour.

"Westview has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program, and are to be commended for their efforts to provide a

sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas." Categories include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management.

Gary and Lesa Stadnek have been pleased with the results and ecological benefits of their efforts in the Audubon program.

"Working on golf courses has been gratifying for both of us. To achieve certification with Audubon International at

Westview Golf Club while working there together has been very rewarding," Lisa said. "It has brought out our creative and competitive sides, one of us will get an idea for a project and then the other will take it a step further."

"I am very pleased to learn that Westview Golf Club has reached Certified Audubon Sanctuary status," said Colin Nisbet, Westview president. "I have always felt that our course has maintained an eye towards preserving the natural environment, and under the guidance of our staff, led by Lesa and Gary, Westview has further enhanced the appeal of the course."

Westview is located on the Vandorf Sideroad, east of Leslie Street.



VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Ontario champions after 45 years, Senior Girls volleyball team wins title

In a huge upset, the Aurora Eagles Senior Girls Volleyball team from Aurora High School has managed to capture a gold medal at an OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) tournament.

It is the first time since 1964 that a York Region team has won the title.

The Eagles won the York Region Senior Girls Volleyball Championships in February 2009 defeating Markham and then proceeded to win the gold medal for AAAA Senior Girls Volleyball at the prestigious OFSAA tournament recently.

They were in the toughest pool at the tournament - AAAA level with the three top teams in Ontario.

In the championship round, in a string of upsets, the Aurora Eagles defeated the number one seeded team, the Sinclair Celtics from Whitby, in the quarter-finals and then went on to

win against the fifth-ranked team, Forest Heights from Kitchener, in the semi-finals.

In the finals, the upstart ninth-ranked Aurora Eagles defeated the Birchmount Panthers 3-1 (25-22, 19-25, 25-21, 25-23).

To that point, Birchmount had gone undefeated at the tournament, including a tense preliminary round vic-

tory over Aurora (21-25, 25-17, 15-10).

Led by veterans Kailee Stock and Lauren Ebenhardt, the Aurora team really came together in the final match.

"It was amazing," said power hitter, Aleshia Ing. "We moved to the championship round and we just kept on winning. The

Birchmount team had provincial players on their team and we weren't expected to win."

In the previous two years, the Aurora Eagles team placed 4th at OFSAA.

The team is coached by Kim Watson and Ian Morrison.

Neighbourhood Network increases aid to agencies

Former Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach announced at a public news conference this week that Neighbourhood Network, an organization she founded, would launch new community programs aimed at helping volunteer agencies and residents in need.

She made the announcement at the Neighbourhood Network office in Aurora, her former constituency office when she was MP for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

With Neighbourhood Network Ambassadors Tom Taylor and Tim Jones in attendance, Ms Stronach announced a number of community initiatives being launched by Neighbourhood Network during National Volunteer Week.

The initiatives are intended to provide assistance to residents and to volunteer agencies, as well as recognize local residents who serve the community.

Other details of the conference were not available at press time.

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Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Showtime approx. 8:30 p.m.
A hot and cold buffet dinner will be served featuring a full salad bar, carved roast beef and decadent desserts.

Celebrating Our Community's Volunteer Spirit!



A Message from Belinda Stronach

April 19-25, 2009 marks National Volunteer Week this year—a time to promote volunteerism and to recognize and celebrate individuals in our communities who contribute their time to improve the lives of others.

Volunteering in our community gives you the opportunity to work for a cause you care about, to help neighbours in need, and to share your personal skills and experience with fellow residents. You will become more connected to the community. And you will gain the great satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your part to make our community a better place.

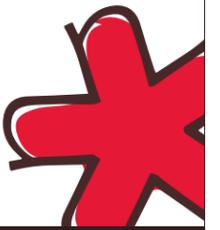
To my fellow residents—especially those who have thought about volunteering but haven't yet made the formal commitment to get involved—please consider becoming a local volunteer. Personally, I cannot think of a more rewarding and gratifying feeling than helping others. If you would like to help but don't know where to begin, give Neighbourhood Network a call at 905-727-3737 or visit us at www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org. We will pinpoint your unique skills and areas of interest and match you with a local charity or organization.

On behalf of Neighbourhood Network and our team of dedicated volunteers, I would like to offer my sincere thanks during National Volunteer Week to all those individuals who are willing to lend a hand. Thank you for donating one of the most precious things you have—your time. And thank you for caring about our community. We are truly building stronger communities together!

Sincerely,

Belinda Stronach
Founder

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Winning team in the recent Jeff Harting Memorial hockey tournament held in Aurora was this squad, known as the Aurora 66 team. They were back row, John Archibald, Steve MacDonald, Ken Fisher, Scott Harris, Tom Hussey, Jody Matthew, Ken Rumble, Craig McConnell and Rob Blakely; front row, John Anderson, Todd Chapman, Scott Crabbe, Brian Stemmel, Dave Campbell. The goalie is Walter Karabin and his counterpart, Mike James, was absent from the final game.

Oldtimers still have it

At one time, Aurora was so young and slight in population that it had only one rep hockey team for each age group.

If you watch a hockey game today in the original rink at the Aurora Community Centre, you can see these teams' purple and gold championship banners hanging from the rafters.

In the foyer of ACC 1, the team pictures line the walls, each team proudly sporting the Olde Aurora hockey uniform: purple and gold with a large "A" in its centre.

To the relief of many young Aurora hockey players today, the purple and gold uniforms were traded in for the Aurora Tiger's white, gold, and black; but the players born in 1966 recently returned to their home rink, wearing the purple past on their backs and the gold "A" on their chests.

Scott Crabbe, Aurora's 66 General Manager, surprised the players with their new 'olde' uniforms the morning before their first game in the Jeff Harting Memorial

Hockey Tournament recently.

In memory of two dedicated fans who died before the team reunion, gold toques with purple initials ER (Ella Rumble) and HM (Harry Matthew) were also made for the team.

Other parents of the players were able to relive the past while they watched their sons achieve three straight wins to win the tournament.

The team, Aurora 66, is made up almost entirely of Aurora rep players who played in the 1970s. They were a championship team then.

Almost 40 years later, the team still has its championship grit, synergy, and determination. Competing against much younger teams, the Aurora 66 players showed their hometown that they still had it when they claimed the Canadian Championship Cup at the Jeff Harting Memorial Hockey Tournament earlier this month at the Aurora Community Centre.

On the team were John Archibald, Steve MacDonald,

Ken Fisher, Scott Harris, Tom Hussey, Jody Matthew, Ken Rumble, Craig McConnell, Rob Blakely, John Anderson, Todd Chapman, Scott Crabbe, Brian Stemmel and Dave Campbell.

Playing goal for the winners were Walter Karabin and Mike James.

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The AMHA is currently accepting on-line registration. To register on-line please visit our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net and click on the "registration info" tab and follow the instructions. We will also be registering players in the AMHA hockey office located at ACC1 during AMHA Rep tryouts.

In office dates are as follows;

- Mon: Apr 27 & May 4 from 7-9 PM**
- Wed: Apr 29 & May 6 from 7-9 PM**
- Sat: May 2 & May 9 from 10 AM-1 PM**

ALL Players MUST be registered and paid for with the AMHA before they can attend any tryouts

Visa, Mastercard, Debit, Cheques and Cash are accepted

Date	Day	Arena	Start	End	Team	Birth Year
8-May-09	Fri	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Tyke Select	2002
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Tyke Select	2002
14-May-09	Thu	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Tyke Select	2002
26-Apr-09	Sun	ARCE	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Novice AA	2001
27-Apr-09	Mon	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice AA	2001
30-Apr-09	Thu	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice AA	2001
2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Novice A	2001
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	Novice A	2001
5-May-09	Tue	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice A	2001
8-May-09	Fri	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice AE	2001
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Novice AE	2001
12-May-09	Tue	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Novice AE	2001
26-Apr-09	Sun	ARCE	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	M Atom AA	2000
29-Apr-09	Wed	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Atom AA	2000
1-May-09	Fri	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom AA	2000
2-May-09	Sat	ARCW	1:15 PM	2:45 PM	M Atom A	2000
4-May-09	Mon	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom A	2000
6-May-09	Wed	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom A	2000
7-May-09	Thu	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom AE	2000
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	M Atom AE	2000
13-May-09	Wed	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Atom AE	2000
26-Apr-09	Sun	ARCE	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Atom AA	1999
27-Apr-09	Mon	ARCE	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Atom AA	1999
28-Apr-09	Tue	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Atom AA	1999
2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Atom A	1999
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	Atom A	1999
5-May-09	Tue	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Atom A	1999
8-May-09	Fri	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Atom AE	1999
9-May-09	Sat	ARCE	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Atom AE	1999
11-May-09	Mon	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Atom AE	1999
26-Apr-09	Sun	ARCE	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	M Peewee AA	1998
28-Apr-09	Tue	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Peewee AA	1998
30-Apr-09	Thu	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Peewee AA	1998
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11-May-09	Mon	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	M Midget AE	1994
13-May-09	Wed	ARCW	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	M Midget AE	1994

Writers' Group ready for concert at Trinity

One of York Region's premier musical families perform Saturday, May 9th, at the Trinity Anglican Church.

The concert of secular vocal music, in support of the Aurora Writers Group, will be performed by Ellen MacDonald-Kramer, a third-year student in the classical voice program at York University, along with her songwriting and performing brother and parents.

The event gets underway at 7.30 p.m.

The elder MacDonald-Kramers have been writing and performing their unique acoustic and vocal music for several years.

Jonathon Kramer is from a Mennonite background which instilled in him a passion for music from early childhood, and has classical vocal training as a baritone.

Janet MacDonald-Kramer was a teenager when she first began to sing and write music.

The two first met at the Black Swan Coffee House in Stratford, where they sometimes filled in when the house band, The Perth County Conspiracy, was on the road.

Their own group,

Arethusa, performed regularly in clubs and at folk festivals.

Jonathan plays six-string and 12-string guitar, and Janet plays dulcimer.

Their song themes range from humour, politics, and love, to inspirational and introspective.

Ellen MacDonald-Kramer is currently finishing her third year in the Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts program at York University, where she studies classical voice with renowned mezzo-soprano Catherine Robbin.

She has been the recipient of past scholarships from the Kiwanis Music Festival of Greater Toronto, and competed at the provincial level for the Ontario Music Festivals Association.

She has performing experience in community theatre, and performed with Theatre on Main in a 2006 production of the Canadian musical Jasper Station, singing the role of Nikki.

In a recent opera study course at the Royal Conservatory of Music, she sang the trouser role of Orphée in an excerpt from Gluck's Orphée et Euridice.

Ellen writes novels,

poetry, and memoirs, and is a member of the Aurora Writers Group.

Will MacDonald-Kramer is a self-taught guitarist and composer of original music.

He spends hours at his craft and continually surprises his family and friends by turning out at least two new songs a day.

He records his own music on a daily basis and incorporates vivid lyrics and unique acoustic effects into his creative works. This year, he will release his first album.

The Words and Music concert will include songs from Broadway musicals, original folk music, and light classics.

Some of the music will be augmented with professional accompaniment on the church's grand piano.

Members of the Aurora Writers Group will read short pieces from Aurora Storyalis II, the group's second anthology.

A light reception is included and Indie book sellers will be present.

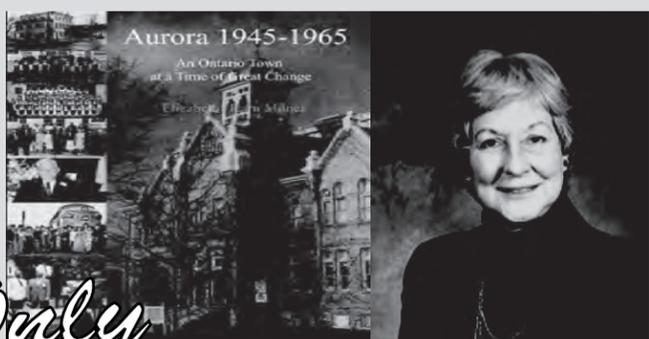
Tickets, at \$12, are available from R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street, Aurora, or at the door. For further information call 905-898-5484.



Jonathon Kramer and Janet MacDonald-Kramer will perform at Trinity Anglican Church, Saturday, May 9th, at 7.30 p.m.

AURORA 1945-1965

It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner and features numerous stories and photos relating to that 20 years of Aurora growth.



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Town, York continue to support hospitals

In order to ensure quality health care to the residents of York, the region will continue to fund improvements to its hospitals.

This was the message to Aurora Council delivered by Bill Fisch, Chairman and CEO for York Region last week.

Mr. Fisch explained that historically, the province has covered about 65 per cent of the costs of hospitals, with the local communities, in this case York Region, covering the remaining amount.

While hospitals work hard to raise as much money as possible through donations, galas and other fundraisers, with the increasing cost of building and expansion, it is not feasible for them to cover all the amounts required.

Therefore the region has been assisting for more than 35 years.

From 1972 to 1977, \$8.8 million was provided to the two hospitals in the region; York Central in Richmond Hill, and what is now Southlake in Newmarket.

Over the following 20 years this amount increased to \$34.3 million. From 1997 to 2000, \$7.8 million was given annually. This was followed by \$64.2 million over the next nine years to date.

Mr. Fisch advised that the region expects and intends to continue contributions for a number of years.

This year, the region has committed to set aside \$12 million from its reserve funds for its three regional hospitals; York Central, Southlake, and Markham-Stouffville.

He also noted that the provincial funding formula has changed, with the province now funding 90 per cent of the costs

of what he called the "bricks and mortar", which includes construction of new facilities and expansion.

The remaining 10 per cent, as well as everything that goes into the buildings, such as equipment, must be covered by the community.

Although the ratio looks like it has changed in the region's favour, when you include the "non bricks and mortar" ancillary costs, the region still ends up paying approximately a third of the total.

According to the Chairman, Queen's Park will not contribute funding for hospital growth without a commitment from the local community.

Apparently, other municipalities had attempted to obtain funding from the province without providing their share, and have not been successful.

Based on a review of their

expected requirements, the three regional hospitals have determined that they will need \$2.2 billion in funding over the next 10 to 20 years. This also includes the expected requirements of a new hospital to be built in Vaughan in the future.

The community's share of that would be just over \$700 million.

Of that total, the hospitals have asked the region to cover two thirds, while the hospitals would undertake to raise the additional amounts.

For this reason, the region decided to increase its annual commitment from \$7.3 million to \$12 million for the next 20 years.

Mayor Phyllis Morris, noting that she didn't have the exact figures at her fingertips, said she believed this worked out to about \$85 annually per household.

According to Mr. Fisch, this increased contribution was necessary "because we (the Region) feel hospitals are key to our communities".

Both Mayor Morris and Mr. Fisch emphasized that this funding was part of ongoing and long-term commitments that had been made in open meetings.

And, despite some observations to the contrary, all levels of local government had been working to ensure the public has been kept informed along the way.

These comments were in part in response to a letter sent to the mayor from a local senior citizen, who complained about this funding being a new tax grab, decided upon behind closed doors, with no public consultation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Fisch's presentation, Councillor

Evelyn Buck expressed concern that residents from outside of the region, such as from Barrie, were using York's hospitals without contributing their share.

It was then pointed out that this tends to balance out, as many York residents use hospitals outside of the region.

And, as Mr. Fisch pointed out more than once, while there are several levels of government, the taxes raised by them all come from the same taxpayer.

Council voted to endorse the duplicate resolutions put forward by the councils of Newmarket, Durham and Cambridge which stated that to address inequities in funding across the province, the Ontario government be asked to speed up hospital funding to high growth areas such as the Region of York.



Readying for the upcoming mayor's anti-litter day are, left to right, Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Public Works; Peter Piersol, Chair, Environmental Advisory Committee; Gordon Barnes, Member, Environmental Advisory Committee; Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris; Amanda Newman, Waste/Recycling Assistant and Peter Horvath, Manager of Operations Services. Anti-litter day has been slated for Saturday, April 25th. For further information, call the Mayor's Office at 905-727-3123 ext. 4260.

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We wish to thank all our friends, neighbours & family who shared in our 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration. Special thanks to our daughters and sons in law, Lisa & Paul Knappett, Newmarket; Janice & Tom Mellary, Aurora; Karen and Alex Delaney, Victoria B.C., who planned & organized the celebration. We were blessed to have all 9 grandchildren present, too.

Bernie & Dayle Taylor, Alliston.

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Senior Scape

Seniors in need of new equipment

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) consists of retired residents who are talented, artistic or gifted in other ways.

It produces a formidable association of diverse groups within the whole with constant requirements of all kinds emerging, including space, time and an assortment of equipment.

The ASA drama group urgently requires staging upgraded for a production in rehearsal and this requirement may be satisfied by borrowing or by purchasing and by manufacturing or modifying what currently exists.

The choir needs a new piano which would not only produce the quality of sound required of this major musical instrument, but which would also present an appearance of quality in keeping with the fine West McKenzie Hall and the dedicated rehearsals and concerts that consistently characterize the choir as a deeply motivated group of singers.

The sewing and knitting groups find their satisfaction in the quality of what they produce.

They now have their minds set on a piece of equipment to enable fine embroidery to be crafted.

The crafts these ladies produce is often for their own use, while some is donated to good causes and some is sold with the proceeds donated to the ASA.

The "Let's Create" group has requested a machine that will glue posters, magnets, paper and cards and probably a lot more.

They are seeking a machine that will cut out "Logos" from paper or vinyl and which will be applied to hand-outs or programs.

This group is busy and they appear to have a very interesting concept.

I have written about the "Let's Create" group on other occasions and I am always alert to everything they turn their creative minds to because they are full of ideas and never tire of novelty.

New members are always welcome and if you consid-

er yourself a learner or a novice, please do not let that deter you from joining the group.

If any activity in the ASA has equipment requirements, inform Jytte Gillies or Charles Sequeira in the next few weeks.

If you are unsure whether or not your requirements can be met, make your requirements known regardless.

All of the requested equipment that the ASA obtains will be available to all members and activities and in the careful custody of the members, will last for many years.

Volunteer Appreciation Night was held last Wednesday, for ASA volunteers in general to be recognized and thanked for their contributions not only to the seniors' centre, but to Aurora in general.

Collecting accurate records of what is done, how long it takes to do, together with assessing the volume of volunteer hours expended away from the ASA, including using personal equipment or traveling, all add up to an unknown total.

What is known is that the number of hours is formidable and that the equivalent work, if performed by paid administration staff, would be unsustainable.

Where the Aurora Seniors are involved, volunteerism will continue as a way of contributing to a sustainable and infinitely better way, of promoting a passionate style of life in the latter years of life, and this is available to every senior now and in the future to every resident who graduates to seniority.

Town council was well represented by the mayor and several councillors, and a cheque was presented by Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown for \$4,720.

This was a cheque from New Horizons, which is a federal government agency and to whom we express an appreciative thank you, and is a cheque designed to upgrade tools in the wood shop and to maintain and update technology in the computer room, and probably add a little boost to our local economy, just when it needs it.



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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Aurora Writers Group monthly meeting at the Aurora Town Hall beginning at 7.30 p.m. New members 18 and over are welcome. For further information, call Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

Annual general meeting for RAYS (Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South) begins at 6 p.m. at the Timberlane Athletic Club.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Staff report and ARC report to the Board re the fate of Wells Street School happens in the Boardroom at 8 p.m. If you wish delegation status, contact Mrs. Lori Barnes at lori.barnes@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or call 905-727-0022 ext. 2263.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking event is a Business After Five from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at the Town of Aurora Skylight Gallery Annual Art Show and Sale, 1 Municipal Drive, Aurora.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School first ever community rummage sale at the school on Dunning Avenue from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Aurora Arboretum presents community planting day beginning at 10 a.m., on Industrial Parkway, south of the leash free dog park. For more information, click on www.auroraarboretum.ca/complant09.html.

MAY 7-8-9

Theatre Williams at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School presents "Once Upon a Mattress", a musical comedy about the "real" story of the Princess and the Pea. Performances May 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and May 9 at 1 p.m. at the school. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

MAY 7 TO 9

Pine Tree Potters' Guild Spring Pottery Sale at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad East. All proceeds from the charity table go to CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors). For further information, call 905-727-1278 or click on www.pinetreepotters.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

"Words and Music" is a concert to benefit the Aurora Writers Group. It will be held at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora beginning at 7.30 p.m. Live music will include selections from Broadway shows, 60's folk music, and light classics. Readings from Aurora Storyalis will be interspersed with the music.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society holds a plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, Club House and Grounds cleanup at 10 a.m. at McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets.

International Migratory Bird Day. Bird Walk takes place today at 8.30 a.m. Meet at the Gazebo between the Leisure Complex and the Soccer Bubble. For further information, click on www.auroraarboretum.ca/birdw09.html.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

The Aurora Historical Society hosts a luncheon in the Ballroom of Hillary House in honour of Mother's Day. Guests can enjoy a three-course meal in historic Hillary House. Two seating times are available: Noon and 1.30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$16 for Aurora Historical Society members and must be purchased in advance. For tickets and more information call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

MONDAY, MAY 11

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Necessities of Life" (Ce qu'il faut pour vivre). Canada's contender for the 2009 Foreign Language Oscar - this Canadian film about a tubercular Inuit man confined to a Quebec sanatorium is rich in lump-in-the-throat moments, as he experiences both profound culture shock and uplifting human connections. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45 and film at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club Spring Meeting 6.30 pm. at the McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets. A pot luck supper will be served.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Wesley United Church Annual Roast Beef Dinner has two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Adults are \$15; children 6-12 yrs \$8; under 6 yrs free, but they must have a ticket. The church is located at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Road. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Networking Breakfast & New Member Trade Show at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Members who joined the Chamber in March, 2008, or later are encouraged to fill out an application for a free booth space. Deadline for application submission is April 22nd, and application forms can be found on the website at <http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/UserFiles/File/Applications/Application%20Form-Trade%20Show-2009.doc>.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club open house and beginning of the lawn bowling season at 2 p.m. Bowling Club is located at McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4

School teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Bob McRoberts is retiring. A party will be held today at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Yonge Street. For details contact Lynn Gardner at 905-727-3131 ext. 157 or Joe Pagnello at joseph.pagnello@yrdsb.edu.on.ca. If you plan on attending, you must RSVP by May 15. Appetizers and cocktails begin at 5 p.m. with presentations at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual Longest Street Sale on the Longest Street beginning at 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Longest lacrosse game in history, starts today at 5 a.m and continues until 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13 at the Aurora Community Centre, Rink #1. The game is being played to raise awareness and support for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (www.abusehurts.com) and the Spirit of the Stick campaign (www.spiritofthestick.com). In addition to the longest lacrosse game in history, a silent auction and a Family Fun day (Saturday) will be in full swing. Mayors and councillors from Aurora and Newmarket will play with lacrosse players from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday. For more information go to www.laxdove.ca or www.amll.ca.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Aurora Rotary Club golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Shotgun at 10 a.m. \$150 per golfer includes lunch and dinner. Call Ron at 905-727-3300 for details. Participation limited.

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