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Wells Street School to close for good

York Region District School Board trustees voted 10-2 to close the historical Aurora's Wells Street School at a meeting Thursday night.

They voted to close the school permanently, after 117 years of service as an educational institution in downtown Aurora.

Voting to keep it open were Aurora-King Trustee Gord Kerr and Newmarket Trustee Martin Van Beek. It is the site of Aurora's first high

school.

However, some opponents aren't crazy about the result.

Members of the Olde Aurora Ratepayers Association and Community Action for Wells Street (CAWS) are currently considering the option of requesting an administrative review by the Minister of Education.

"I was very disappointed with the result," Dan Revington said. "The volunteer moms and dads in CAWS

worked for months going to meetings, writing letters, delivering flyers, preparing submissions - doing everything the Board asked them to do to save their historic school for their children and for the community.

"The moms ran a booth in the Aurora Farmers' Market all summer long, in all weather, collecting spare change to pay for their buttons and signs.

"After all that, the former Chair of

the York Region District School Board (Bill Crothers) called them "damned selfish" and "self-serving", and he and the other trustees voted 10-2 to close their school.

"They don't seem selfish or self-serving to me," Revington said. "The OARA is proud to support these

moms and dads."

The school, which was vacated in June 2007, following independent engineering reports that warned of serious structural deficiencies, has operated out of a school on Stone Road for the past two years.

Please see page 10



Aurora's Junior A hockey team, the Tigers, opened their home season Friday with a tailgate party outside the Aurora Community Centre. Then the team went inside and handled the Bramalea Blues, winning 7-5. Sunday afternoon they were back at it again, and details may be found on Page 12. Above, Tiger mascot "Slapshot" joins a possible future Tiger, Luke Catania, at the party.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Historic Petch House gets stay of execution

The oldest house in Aurora received a temporary stay of execution at a general committee meeting last week.

The committee was reviewing a staff report that identified options for the 165-year-old

Petch House, which has remained vacant and boarded up since it was temporarily relocated in 2003 to its current site on town-owned land on Leslie Street, just south of Wellington Street East.

Based on the poor condition of the house, extensive renovations are required, should the town wish to use it. According to experts, the building would need to be disassembled, and

Please see page 8

Briefly

Out of business

Thompson's Fine Furniture and Interiors, a staple on the west side of Yonge Street, south of Wellington, for decades, is going out of business.

Thompson's - the family also owned Thompson Funeral Home - has been an institution in Aurora for 89 years and at one time ran an ambulance service from the rear of their building on Victoria Street.

The furniture store is currently being run by Jamie Thompson, who plans to retire. The store is now closed but will open Friday for a huge "going-out-of-business" sale.

New entrance

Aurora's Home Depot has built an entrance archway for the northern entrance to the Aurora Community Arboretum, similar in design to the archway south of the seniors' centre.

Building the archway happened Friday through Tuesday at the southeast corner of St. John's Sideroad and Industrial Parkway.

The Aurora store supplied materials and volunteer labour for the project, which will be enhanced by a low maintenance garden with assistance from the Aurora Horticultural Society.

Once the project has been completed, together with the adjacent garden, there will be an opening ceremony, according to John Clement of the Aurora Community Arboretum.

Concert set to go

The second annual Colours of Fall Concert is an evening filled with activities such as fiddling, pumpkin carving, live entertainment and an old fashioned community corn roast.

The event is slated for the Town Park, Thursday, October 8th, and activity gets underway at 6 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m. A nominal fee will apply for the corn roast and donations to the local food pantry would be appreciated.

For more information, visit www.e-aurora.ca and click on the Town of Aurora's Special Events link or call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

Guest speaker

The Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket is inviting all men, women and students to hear Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Professor of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto, author and Georgina Island First Nation member, share her expertise on the topic, "Moving Beyond Historical Trauma to Reconciliation".

The event takes place at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, October 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Enter through the east doors. Admission is free.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves home-made soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. weekly.

Peace Flame Tree Sculpture committee meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the main floor boardroom of the Aurora Community Centre. For further information contact deborah.campoart@sympatico.ca

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.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

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 six and seven-year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to eight to 17-year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@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 three 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 on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings at St. Andrews' 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



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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.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps has openings for boys and girls ages 12 to 18. Membership is free. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening from 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 138 Larmont Street. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the death of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight-week session, from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, October 7 and ending November 25. The program is non-denominational and is open for free to all in the community. To register or for more information, contact Mary at 905-727-6984 or kenmar.smith@rogers.com.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

Friends of Hospice and the Board of Directors of Hospice King-Aurora invite you to an evening of fine dining, dancing and fun at the Jitterbug Ball at The Manor at the Carrying Place Golf & Country Club in King Township. The dress is elegant casual and tickets are \$175 per person. For ticket information contact Hospice King-Aurora at 905-773-0155.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

A "Country Corral" is coming to Aurora with the toe-tapping tunes of five women playing 13 musical instruments. You don't have to dance - but you certainly can - during this evening that gets underway with a country supper and ends with hours of danceable music. Event begins at 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street. Tickets, at \$25 each, are limited. Call the church office at 905-727-5011.

Fall concert at the Aurora Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East. Local talent plus guests from Peterborough and Winchester. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

The Aurora Film Circuit presents "Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country", a documentary at the Odeon Cineplex beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets, at \$10 each, are available at R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street, and the Aurora Public Library.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Appraise your treasures by experts in china, art and silver, brought to you by the Aurora Historical Society. Appraisals, to take place at Hillary House on Yonge Street, are on a first come, first served basis with a charge of \$5 per item with a maximum of four items per family. Appraisals take place between noon and 4 p.m. with all proceeds going to the care and restoration of Hillary House. For further information, call 905-727-8991.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Aurora United Church Rummage Sale. Individual sale held from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street at the corner of Tyler.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Aurora United Church Rummage Sale. bag sale held from 9 a.m. to noon. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street at the corner of Tyler.

Murder Mystery at Hillary House. The year is 1909 and another murder has taken place at Hillary House! Enjoy a three-course catered meal in Aurora's only National Historic Site and watch as the mystery unfolds. Tickets are \$80 per person and include the meal, wine and hors d'oeuvres. Guests are encouraged to attend dressed in period costume. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 905-727-8991.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The York Regional Police Male Chorus will host their 17th Annual "In Harmony With the Community" fundraising concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 17955 Leslie Street, Newmarket. Start time is 7:30 p.m. Performing this year will be the York Region Children's Chorus, the Ottawa Police Chorus, the Toronto Police Association Male Chorus and the York Regional Police Male Chorus. Tickets are \$10. For tickets or info please call 905-727-9676.

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



Aurora Historical Society president Andrew Kipfer scratches his head wondering what to do with the tons of historical artifacts that were finally moved back to the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) last week. The items had been in storage for about seven years. Now they need to be set up in the newly-renovated school where the society held its regular meeting last week.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Non-residential construction tops the \$100 million mark

The Town of Aurora experienced strong construction activity in the first half of 2009 with close to \$103 million in non-residential construction, up from \$65 million during the same period in 2008.

The commercial sector experienced particularly strong growth, increasing \$59 million or 152 per cent from 2008.

Throughout the course of 2009, The Town of Aurora has been working towards the completion of a number of projects aimed at promoting a strong local economic base, including a downtown revitalization project, developing a business retention and expansion strategy and creating a new economic development website.

An important indicator of the Town's current financial position and a valuable tool for measuring forecasted planning targets, this year's commercial building permit revenues are up nearly \$33,000 over 2008.

The strong commercial activity is anticipated to continue with the completion of six major commercial developments in the coming months.

"These numbers demonstrate Aurora's ability to

continue to attract significant investment even during rough economic times," said Chris Ballard, Chair of

the Town's Economic Development Advisory Committee. "Aurora is an attractive and competitive

location for commerce and Council's commitment to supporting local business has secured our community's position as a premier destination for investment within the GTA."

YSO prepares for 48th season

The York Symphony Orchestra will offer a series of five concerts between October and June, each played twice - Saturday night at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora, and Sunday night at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts as the famous orchestra enters its 48th season.

In addition, the annual holiday concert in Aurora is a favourite.

This year it will be held on December 19th and will feature the Trinity Anglican

Children's Choir. Details can be found on the YSO website, yorksymphony.ca.

Rehearsals have already begun for the upcoming concert season of York Region's own performing orchestra.

Included in this season's line-up of guest artists are Su Jeon, winner of the 2007 Eckhardt Grammaticé National Music Competition, Andrew Ascenzo, Corey Gemmell, Clarisse Schneider, pianist Lucas Porter, and the original Onnanoko Drumming Ensemble.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

The things you see...

What is it they say? It's amazing what you see when you don't have a a...camera.

Such was the case last Tuesday night when Patricia and I decided to eat out at Jonathan's Restaurant in Aurora.

Okay, we had another reason for being there, but I'll save it for later.

Getting out of his car when we arrived was Chamber of Commerce President Geoffrey Dawe.

Over his shoulder was slung a guitar case.

Geoffrey, as he apparently does every Tuesday night, was going to play at Jonathan's along with whoever else showed up for this weekly "jam session".

Nearly 20 others, men and women, did...and guess what, they sounded good.

We were there to celebrate the 50th (should I have said that?) birthday of Patty "the singing waitress" McLaughlin.

So were others, including Auroran letter writer Bill Hack who sent me the following note:

"I have only known Patty for the years with Jonathon's song circle.

"However, for me, she is "just what the doctor ordered".

"Patty offers such encouragement, enjoyment and appreciation to young and old alike (I'm a perfect example of the latter), that keeps me coming back for more.

"Both self taught and professional, all sharing our music, to me is quite a remarkable tribute to Patty.

"Patty herself is an exceptional entertainer in her own right.

"All she talks about is how she enjoys us, and all we talk about is how we enjoy Patty."

It was an interesting evening, to say the least.

A friend

Derek Boles is one of Toronto's leading railway historians. He frequently gives walking tours of Union Station and other "railway lands" sites in the downtown core and is active with the Roundhouse preservation group.

Derek is a "brother" from the same fraternity that I belonged to when I was a student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, back in the days before the school became a university.

We belonged to Rho Alpha Kappa, a journalism-radio, television arts fraternity at RPI.

So, Derek was the guest speaker at the York-Durham Heritage Railway's monthly meeting in Uxbridge this week.

The subject of his talk was "Toronto's Railway Heritage", with particular reference to areas north and east of the city.

Perhaps he talked about my idea several years ago - before they ripped up all the tracks around the Aurora station - to run an excursion train from the famous Toronto roundhouse to Aurora - the "head of rail" in 1853. They tore up the tracks to the roundhouse, too.

Sounds like someone didn't like my idea.

The train - I visualized it pulled by a steam locomotive - could come to Aurora and return to the big city once or twice a day. Where I would get a steam locomotive, I had no idea, but...

At the time, I could see train stock parked on sidings being used as restaurants, etc. and I could also see a quick ride to the city for anyone who didn't want to fight the early-morning commuter traffic.

York-Durham Railway runs a train between Stouffville and Uxbridge on a regular basis...and since I'm a train freak (yeah, I like streetcars, too) I tend to visit these places whenever I can.

The train runs out of Stouffville only on Saturdays for the month of October and if you want times, fares and activities, check the website at www.ydhr.on.ca.

Well named

I was delighted to hear, while attending a regular meeting of the Aurora Historical Society recently, that the group has agreed to call the huge room on the second floor of the old Church Street School "Brevik Hall".

Margaret Brevik, who died a couple of years ago, was a huge promoter of the Historical Society, a member of the board of directors, and an employee of the York Region District School Board.

Back in 1969, the then York County school board held its first meeting in that room.

Well named...



Who says Aurora never had streetcars, or at least a railway that ran on the streets? At one time, the Toronto and York Radial Railway made its way up Yonge Street, through Aurora, into the north, going all the way to Sutton. In 1899 it was in Aurora and Newmarket. That was the same year the first automobile was seen on Yonge Street. Sometime between 1906 and 1912, the radial station seen in the above photo came into being. We know it was on Yonge Street, but where? To win a \$100 gift certificate to Oakland Hall tell us this: 1 - Where was this building and what's there now? 2 - How many tracks were on Yonge Street in Aurora, one or two? 3 - Did the line, at one time, use Wellington Street West, and, if so, why? Call 905-727-3300 after noon Friday, October 2, with your answer. The photo comes from the postcard collection of Councillor Bob McRoberts.

Letters to the Editor

Job applicant changes tune

To the editor,

A short while ago, shortly after the firing of the integrity commissioner, I made a public application for that very position in a letter to The Auroran. YES, I believe that I had all the qualifications necessary to carry out the functions of this position. As of the writing of this letter, I have heard nothing back from the Town Hall regarding my application.

Maybe they never saw my letter? Hmmm?

Or maybe they weren't looking for someone as upbeat and positive as the "YES" man that I portrayed myself to be. Hmmm?

Maybe I should change my tactics and become a "NO" man.

So, at the risk of sounding negative, (which I'm not, by

the way), here's my new hard line approach.

NO, I will NOT read any more letters from "out of towners" in The Auroran telling the good people of Aurora that they should "embrace" the NEW Aurora.

NO, the OLD Aurora is not broken, except six of the nine members of the current council, and YES Mayor Phyllis Morris, according to the math that I learned right here in Aurora, that makes it a two thirds majority! I'm a great supporter of the saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". Well, in this case, it's "broke".

NO, there is nothing wrong with Aurora, except the aforementioned malfunctioning Town Council.

I have voted in every election I have been entitled to vote in (Municipal, Provincial

and Federal) since I was 18.

I have never told anyone how I cast my vote.

That is something private between myself and the voting booth.

Having said that:

NO, I will NOT vote for Phyllis Morris for Mayor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

NO, I will NOT vote for Al Wilson for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

NO, I will NOT vote for Wendy Gaertner for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

NO, I will NOT vote for Stephen Granger for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

NO, I will NOT vote for John Gallo for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal

Elections.

NO, I will NOT vote for Evelina MacEachern for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

And finally, and probably most importantly:

NO, I will NOT vote for Sher St. Kitts for Councillor of Aurora in the 2010 Municipal Elections.

Even though she is currently NOT a resident of Aurora and therefore ineligible to run for office, I can almost guarantee that you will see her name on the ballot in 2010.

What do you think now, Aurora Town Council?

Can I have the job of integrity commissioner or "NO"?

**Mark Holmes
Aurora**

Recycling bins needed for those who sell food

Open letter to the councils of Newmarket and Aurora.

I spend a lot of time in both towns and live in Newmarket.

I wish to draw your attention to an issue of some concern to me.

I have noticed that many businesses, especially those selling food and drink, do not have recycling containers.

Starbucks and Second Cup are examples.

Recycleables are thrown in the garbage.

As much as I am reluctant to recommend more bylaws for small business, I do think that it is reasonable that all businesses selling drinks and food ought to be required to recycle where possible and provide containers for customers to do likewise.

In a related vein, I note that the schools are not recycling.

I have looked into the reasons why, and the custodians

say there are issues with ants, etc. getting into the blue boxes in the school so the program was quietly discontinued.

I think this is a shame and we need to find some way to reintroduce this - perhaps the students could take turns taking recycling material outside to containers in the school yard each day.

I have personally been cleaning up the street near my house in the College Manor subdivision and am saddened by the amount of littering by the young people.

Teaching environmental issues in the school is one thing - but something is obviously not getting through to some of these kids.

Perhaps having some real responsibility in and around the schools, subject to safety, etc., would be good.

**Malcolm Watts
Newmarket**

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
at 95 Edward Street,
Aurora, L4G 1W1

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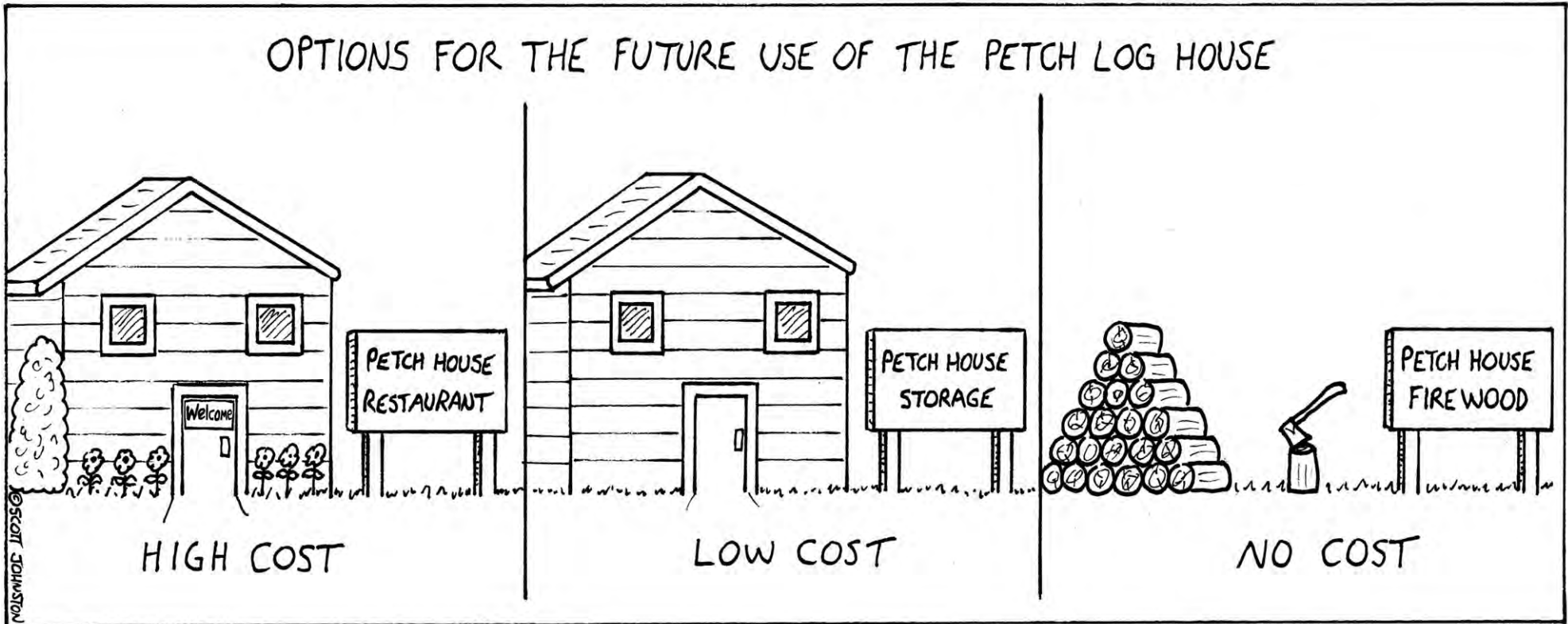
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Candles at the cemetery

Located across from the Canadian Tire store in the southern part of town is the local war memorial.

As I walked eastbound across Veterans' Lane, I was struck at once by both the magnificence and also the simplicity of the two structures that comprise this edifice.

For me, the cenotaph is a place of reflection, solitude and introspection.

The valour and selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling.

As you make your way along the path looking due east you only see the monument and the trees behind it; during the summer not a building is in sight.

This lends an aura of serenity to the place, even though it is located on Yonge Street.

The park has been well maintained; the grass was recently cut and the trees have full leaves.

Farther south in Aurora, off Yonge Street, is the Aurora cemetery.

It, too, is a place for reflection and remembrance. I had never been on the property until last week.

My family and I had just returned from a fun Saturday afternoon at Canada's Wonderland.

As I walked into our house I noticed there was a message on our answering machine.

Our family friend, Kerri, had just left the message a few minutes previous.

"Stephen, we just came back from the candlelight vigil

for veterans at the cemetery - it was beautiful - as I know you are interested in this type of stuff, you should go and have a look - bye."

My legs were a little tired from all the walking that we had done that day, and I was just about to sit down to the Ohio State - USC college football game, but my curiosity got the better part of me.

As I drove southbound on Yonge Street at about 8.15 p.m. that night I thought to myself, "what a beautiful night it is - cloudless and warm."

As I drove past the cemetery the total darkness was broken only by the candles affixed to the graves of service veterans and the headlights of the people driving through the cemetery.

I couldn't believe the amount of candles - there must have been at least 300 of them.

I stopped at many of the headstones and thought about these people.

Each of these names had a life, a story.

How many of these men perished in battle or while training or while serving in another capacity? Which battle? Did any or all of these men have a wife? Any children?

I am happy that Kerri called; I plan on making this half hour pilgrimage an annual event.

One headstone stood out in particular. It was not the length of the message or the ornateness

or size of the tombstone.

It simply read:

**36th BN Cdn. Infr.
Albert Atkins
Private
Age 44**

What was interesting was the simple message that was chiseled at the bottom of the granite/marble tombstone.

It is both a fitting and appropriate way to end this column:

"Absent but not forgotten."

Ward system: both the publisher/editor Ron Wallace, and a member of our community, Graham Wride, took issue with my views on the ward system.

Mr. Wride's well written letter to the editor last week ended this way: "I urge the present council to keep the status quo; however, if not, please let something this important to our democracy be decided by the voters."

While I disagree with Mr. Wride's first sentiment I concur whole-heartedly with his second.

Next week I get some councillor views on the use of a ward system and also their feelings regarding an extra York Region seat for Aurora.

**Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Buzz off

Experts claim there are more hornets and wasps around this year, and I think I know why the scientists are saying that. They must have been at my house.

It all started in July when yellow jackets, a particularly serious member of the bee family, decided to move in, setting up shop in the soffit right above the front door.

Soon every venture outside, even just to pick up the morning paper, necessitated waiting until the swarms had died down in number. Even then, lightning reflexes were still required.

We couldn't see the nest, which was somewhere up inside the edge of the house, so we initially resorted to the tried and true insect control method: swatting.

Amazingly, we didn't get stung, and although we did manage to carpet our porch in bee carcasses and wear out our best flyswatter, our efforts were in vain, as the queen was obviously producing workers faster than we could whack them.

I must admit, having a buzzing swarm hovering on the stoop was an excellent way to discourage those pesky door-to-door sales people, but eventually we had to do something about it, as we had company coming to stay with us.

I found some leftover hornet spray from a nest we

had on the house a few years earlier, so one evening after the daily activity had died down a bit, I blasted the main entrance they were using.

As I feared, the nest was too far buried in the bowels of the house, so that didn't do any good.

From there I visited the local hardware store to see what I could do to upgrade our aerosol arsenal. After describing our situation, I was recommended to use some sort of foaming concoction. Then, after giving a positive response to the question "do I react badly to bee stings", I was given the best advice I'd heard to date: "Get your wife to do it".

Like that was going to happen.

So that night I sprayed the entire can of foam as instructed, sealing up all the holes, and getting the stuff as deep into the soffit as possible.

Our foaming house looked like it was suffering from rabies, but the bees obviously felt fine, because the next morning they were their buzzing selves again.

By then our houseguests had arrived, and we spent a few days sneaking in through less convenient entrances, before we finally caved in and arranged for a pest control company to take care of them for us (the bees, not the houseguests).

Whatever they used, it did the trick, and our front door was once again safely accessible.

Before nature discovered this housing vacuum and more wasps could move in, I filled every bee-sized entrance into the soffit with enough caulking to cause the front of the house to sag slightly.

But that wasn't the end of it.

A few days later I was mowing the lawn and noticed wasps coming out of a hole in the ground. These guys were versatile.

Out of chemicals, and not having the pest control company on retainer, I changed tactics and buried the entrance under a couple of shovelfuls of dirt. That actually did the trick.

Then a new bunch started building under the overhang of a window. Why they were just starting to nest in mid-August was beyond me, but at least we could actually see the hive this time, so we knocked it down, which took it out of commission.

Although lots of solitary wasps have come visiting since then, none seem interested in setting up shop again. But I won't feel fully confident that we're free of them until the snow flies.

However, these yellow jackets were tough, and I'm not positive that even winter will phase them.

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

Letters to the Editor

Disabled person not allowed to use restroom

To the editor,

Recently, my daughter - who has disabilities - got off a bus at the 404 Plaza in Newmarket and urgently realized she needed to use a restroom.

She went to the closest place, the York Medical clinic and asked if she could please use the restroom,

emphasizing this was an emergency.

The receptionist told her "NO....the restroom is for patients only".

My daughter, who was clearly in distress, begged her to please allow this.

The receptionist refused again, so my daughter was forced to leave in search of another restroom.

In her frantic quest to find a restroom she soiled herself.

She is not a child, but in her early twenties.

She was embarrassed and humiliated beyond belief.

I couldn't believe what happened -- particularly at a medical clinic.

I hope that those of you

who read this letter will show compassion if you ever find yourself witnessing something like this.

This receptionist's behaviour was cruel and unacceptable.

I phoned to ask her why she had turned away someone who was obviously distressed and disabled.

She responded that she was busy and that it's against company policy.

I hope that in her lifetime she finds herself in a similar situation and maybe then, she will recognize we can all be vulnerable...and in need of human compassion.

Offering a helping hand, particularly when you work at a medical facility, should be part of the job description.

I have since called the corporate office five separate times to report this behaviour, but I have still not received the courtesy of a return phone call.

I can only assume that this type treatment is acceptable since the receptionist is simply copying the

behaviour of the management of the York Medical clinics.

Anonymous
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The Auroran is aware of the author's identity.

Walk to fight cancer was another success

To the editor,

Once again I'd like to thank The Auroran for printing an article about our third annual mini Winners Walk of Hope in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada.

We had a wonderful turnout and the walk was a huge success.

Jackie, Lisa, Brenda and myself are thrilled to announce that our total so far is \$11,500, with more money coming in.

The sun was high and the crowd grew to about 120 participants.

I wish to give thanks to Mayor Phyllis Morris who gave a moving and kind speech.

Thanks go to Longos for providing water; Tim Hortons for hot chocolate and Timbits; Mars for fabulous chocolate; Chatelaine for the October issue; Robinson's Karate for three passes, and Fitness Clubs of Canada for gym passes and providing a great warm-up for us.

I was moved by the presence of many ovarian cancer survivors, and women who have just completed treatment.

They came from Niagara, Uxbridge, Mount Albert and other locations.

What began as a walk by two sisters to try to do

something for their sister has developed into something much bigger and I am proud to know that our little committee of four women is making a difference.

Thank you to Jackie, Lisa and Brenda, and I look forward to doing great things with you all again next September!

Thank you for reading

this and please consider joining us next year in the endeavour to help OCC find an early detection tool.

Special thanks to Rebecca, a high school student, who tirelessly helped the walk go smoothly.

Gayle Palmer
Aurora

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We were included in church planning

To the editor,

On behalf of the neighbourhood, thanks to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church for inviting us in to discuss the planning for a new church.


As Father Tim Hanley suggested, it is better to hear the facts before incorrect speculations circulate.


We on Catherine Avenue are also thankful to the church for providing parking as our new sidewalks came into being over the last two weeks.

Marie Barnes
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

She felt Miller would not run again

To the editor,

His Honour the Mayor of Toronto, David Miller has declared he will not seek re-election.

I felt it would happen. David Miller, himself alone, carried the weight

and stress of an entire hot summer of a strike by garbage workers. They held the city hostage.

The responsibility wasn't shared by his all-powerful executive committee or any other member of council.

Some members added to

the burden with criticism of his handling of the problem, while sharing none of the responsibility for solving it.

Family time for the Millers must have been minimal. They witnessed the toll at first-hand.

It was a crisis. The reso-

lution was not good. But it was the best it could be.

At the end, before time or reflection could evolve, and because they could, the media took a poll to determine the mayor's popularity.

His ratings fell from 69 per cent to 29 per cent. Not

surprising in the time span. I felt it.

Such is the reality of politics.

Mel Lastman would have called in the army and been hailed as a hero.

North York's garbage was contracted out.

As is York Region's.

The service is satisfactory. Complaints are minimal. We have never had a strike.

Had he been inclined, David Miller could have gone the Lastman route. He, too, would have been cheered.

But his base support is organized labour.

He knows how quickly they can turn.

Bob Rae's experience with public service unions is still current to any student of politics.

Which brings me to my contention, the City of Toronto, as it is, a contrivance and a legacy of the Mike Harris Conservative regime in Ontario, is politically an ungovernable entity.

I also contend, what we have in Aurora is worth any fight it takes, to protect it from the Philistines.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Letter needs more specifics: reader

To the editor,

Re: Leadership, Marten A. Mol (Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, September 15th)

Ah, ideal leadership, what a beautiful thing – helping others, chasing bold visions and not compromising one's values.

If only life on the ground ran so smoothly.

If this letter is meant as a prod to Council, it needs some specifics.

Aurora is projecting a

40 per cent population increase by 2031 as part of the Ontario's Places to Grow and the national immigration policy.

We realize that this is to finance social services and health care as the Baby Boomer Bulge retires, leaving fewer workers to pay the bills.

Will these people live in a 21st century compact community or our traditional urban sprawl?

We think that Ontario has lots of water, but around the world water

tables are falling as 6.7 billion people use water with abandon.

Our per capita daily use is more than 300 litres - 30 per cent to flush the toilets.

Should we learn to harvest rainwater like our grandparents did?

Should we mandate green roof and porous pavements to reduce storm water run-off and mitigate global warming?

At the Downtown Study sessions last spring we heard about parking problems.

Toronto has just approved a 42-storey building with parking requirements reduced to zero.

Should we promote walking, cycling and electric vehicles at the expense of petroleum powered transportation?

Are those visions worth chasing?

Or will we allow our leaders to settle for something less bold?

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

Farmers' Market maintains its importance because of vendors

To the editor,

RE: Morris, Granger brought Farmers' Market back, this reader maintains (Letter to the editor, The Auroran, September 15)

Oh dear.

Another week, another patronizing letter from our self-proclaimed Town Crier, Ms Sher St. Kitts.

And let's not leave out sycophantic and self-serving – a remarkable

feat that few can accomplish.

In all of her town council butt-kissing and self-back patting, the Town Crier seems to have forgotten the most important element of our farmers'

market; the vendors.

To me, THEY are the ones who make the market a joy to experience every week.

Let's not forget they are there, rain or shine, at an hour on Saturday mornings when most of us are still tucked up in bed.

No doubt after a long hard week preparing their products to be sold at market.

Please. Do not insult the town with any more of your pep rally rantings.

Not to mention the very transparent and pathetic attempts to force your politics into the market.

A farmers' market can exist without politics but is nothing without the vendors.

BBBS thanks car wash participants

To the editor,

Three cheers to the great staff at East Side Mario's in Aurora for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of York with a car wash on Sunday, September 20.

It was a great way to cel-

ebate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month.

We would also like to thank all those participants who took the time to have their car washed and generously donated to our agency.

We met a lot of wonderful people, including some

past and present "Bigs" and "Littles" and washed a lot of cars.

Special thanks to Jordon for setting up this event; the two smallest crew members - Thomas and Anna (5 years and 2½ years); and we can't forget Chewbacca who did a great job advertising the car wash in front of East Side Mario's.

Big Brothers
Big Sisters
of York

Kelley Howard
Aurora

Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, Sept. 14: N/S - Sue Scott and Ruth Rea; Carole Belol and Nan McLean; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White. E/W - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Rose White and Gloria Smith; Melody Irving and Jeannine Mackie.

Monday, Sept. 21: N/S - Joan Rottenberg and Mary Oglanby; Don Newman and Murray Sinclair; Carol Bell and Nan McLean. EW - Jeannine MacKie and Melody Irving; Sandra Davey and Silvia Thompson; Lucille Sequeira and Isobel Garrett.

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The outgoing and the incoming were on hand Thursday evening as the Aurora Chamber of Commerce held its annual general meeting. The gathering, attended by more than 100 people, was held at the new retirement home - Hollandview Trail - on John West Way. Joining new Chamber of Commerce president Geoffrey Dawe, centre, are outgoing executive director Michael Keith, left, and incoming director Judy Marshall.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

House gets stay of execution

From page 1
any deteriorated logs replaced.

Three options were suggested for its future use.

1. Both the exterior and interior of the house could be restored, and the building used by the town or a community group.

2. The exterior could be fixed up, and the interior only minimally so, and the building could be used for storage, perhaps by a local sports club.

3. Any retrievable artefacts could be taken out for preservation by the Aurora Historical Society, and the building demolished.

The first two options would also require moving the building to a new location, as it cannot remain on the present site.

As with many town projects, the key consideration is cost.

While \$108,000 was included in Aurora's 2009 Capital Budget, this was based on discussions from four years ago doing only minimal repairs.

A permanent restoration could cost upwards of \$400,000.

That was too much for some councillors.

Councillor Al Wilson proposed that the third option, involving salvage and demolition be pursued.

Other councillors also balked at the potential cost. While he was all for preserving Aurora's heritage, Councillor Stephen Granger said he would not approve \$400,000.

Perhaps the building could be dismantled and stored until "a richer time", suggested Councillor Bob McRoberts.

He asked staff what the ballpark estimate would be for restoration and was advised a professional estimator would be required to conduct a proper study, which could cost up to \$5,000.

But alot would depend on the proposed use, and considerations such as whether the building needed to be fully heated and cooled for year round use.

Councillor Evelina

MacEachern also said it was difficult to make a decision without a proper analysis of the financial implications, and an understanding of the potential uses of the 1,200 square foot building. That was echoed by Mayor Phyllis Morris.

The town already has a historic log house in Sheppard's Bush, Councillor Evelyn Buck reminded the Committee.

She also said the Ontario Heritage Trust had advised that even restored, Petch House would not have any historical authenticity. Questioning the value of the structure, she reminded the members the town had already tried to give the building away, and that "no one within 200 miles wanted it".

"Are we in the business of funding storage for sports clubs?" she asked.

Due to all the "misinformation on the table" Councillor Wilson withdrew his motion to demolish the building.

After further discus-

sion the committee referred the issue back to staff to have a professional evaluation done, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, and report back with further details on the cost of restoration and potential uses for the building.



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Food Pantry needs help

The York Region Food Drive is taking place from now until October 16, and Aurora's Food Pantry needs your help.

While donations are required all year round, the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons are a particularly busy time for the food pantry.

"We hope we can count on your support," said Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, who spoke at Aurora's General Committee meeting Tuesday night.

According to the councillor, the region is getting involved this year to assist in a number of education initiatives, such as partnering with the area school boards to encourage the schools to conduct food drives.

Requesting that "the citizens of the great town of Aurora open their hearts and wallets", she noted that the food banks in the nine municipalities serve 5,000 residents in York Region.

The Aurora food pantry is located in the Old Post Office building at 15213 Yonge Street, one half block south of Wellington Street, and assists up to 200 Aurorans each week.

People in need who use this service can do so once a month, and typically receive enough food to last for four to five days.

Non-perishable food donations are always needed, especially at this time of the year.

Most sought after are tea, coffee, peanut butter, cereal, and canned goods, such as fruit, soups, and tuna.

As well, there is a big demand for items that can be used in children's lunches, such as fruit cups, juice boxes and snack bars.

Donations may be dropped off either at the food bank during its normal hours of operation on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or at the bins located at No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, Sobeys, Longos, Foodland, and the two Aurora fire halls.

Apart from the challenge of having enough donations, the increased demands on the Aurora food pantry - use is up 25 per cent over last year - has resulted in it outgrowing its current location.

A search committee has been formed, and any assistance that can be provided by the community to supply space would be greatly appreciated.

Apart from the region, the Town of Aurora is also firmly behind the current food drive.

"We're hoping this will be the biggest and best one ever," said Mayor Phyllis Morris. "If everyone gives a little, it will all add up."





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Historic school closing

From page 1
Board Chairperson Diane Giangrande said the decision was difficult because of widespread neighbourhood sentiment favouring repair or reconstruction, but that trustees could not ignore the obvious case supporting closure.

"The Board was not able to justify spending \$5 million to \$10 million on an aging school building with a clear pattern of declining enrolment, in a community with an abundance of empty classroom space in nearby schools," she said.

Wells Street Public School has been the subject of a year-long review process, which is prescribed by the Ontario Government for any public

school district considering a school closure.

The review required the formation of a student accommodation review committee, including both Board staff and community members, tasked with completing a detailed evaluation of the school, compiling a report and making recommendations to the trustees.

Throughout the past year, the committee conducted a series of five public meetings to receive public input on the school's future. Another two regularly scheduled trustee meetings were adapted as forums for receiving public delegations on the fate of the school.

Director of Education Bill

Hogarth acknowledged the proposal to close Wells Street Public School has been stressful for both community members and many staff of the Board.

"It is regrettable that the process has pitted Board staff against many members of the community who oppose the closure of the school," he said.

"It is my sincere hope that tonight's decision will be the beginning of a process to restore trust and confidence and return the community to a focus on student achievement."

The fate of the school building, which was declared an historic site by the Town of Aurora last year, is yet to be determined.



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York Region draft plan has Aurora in its sights

Higher standards for green buildings and water efficiency, greater protection for species at risk, mobility systems that prioritize walking, cycling and transit use and a population of 70,400 by 2031 are just a few of things the Town or Aurora can look forward to in the years ahead according to the Draft York Region Official Plan.

The Plan was presented to Aurora's General Committee recently by John Waller, Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning for the Region of York.

Referencing the province's Places to Grow document that identifies a projected population of 1.5 million people in York Region by 2031, as well as other recent plans that impact upon the region such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan, Metrolinx, Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and Source Water Protection, Mr. Waller noted that it was an "opportune time to update our (Regional) Plan".

He explained that the Regional Official plan focuses on several areas:

Sustainable Natural

Environment identifies such goals as linking and enhancing the greenlands systems, protecting significant natural heritage and woodlands areas, ensuring water quality and availability, and planting more than 750,000 trees and shrubs.

Healthy Communities would see the provision of affordable housing choices, access to clean air, land and water, a range of quality services, transit, schools, public spaces and local amenities, and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles.

Economic Vitality recognizes the importance of a strong stable economy in Aurora or York Region and would work to encourage investment, and attract a high quality workforce.

It is estimated that Aurora's employment base will be 34,200 in 2031, an increase of more than 10,000 from today.

Urbanization focuses on accommodating the influx of residents into regional centres and corridors, urban areas, towns and villages, that have integrated green-space and pedestrian and transit networks, and provide a variety of housing, transportation,

human services and employment options.

While Aurora's population is expected to increase, it is now projected to be 70,400 by 2031, which is down from original forecast of close to 75,000.

This is because of development restrictions placed on lands within town associated with the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine.

Agricultural and rural areas will also receive significant protection through the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Currently, about 38 per cent of York Region's lands are devoted to agricultural use.

Finally, Servicing Our Population considers transit, streets, water, wastewater, waste management, energy, utilities and communications, and links to a number of other master plans.

The development of this plan has been an ambitious undertaking, and has built on several other studies and reports, as well as input from a number of public consultation meetings.

Future meetings are arranged in Richmond Hill, East Gwillimbury, and Newmarket.



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Aurora Tigers split home games

With his grandfather watching the game, the Aurora Tiger captain poured in a pair of goals as the Junior A hockey team opened its home season Friday night with a 7-5 victory over the Bramalea Blues.

David Morley scored the opening goal in the first period, added one in the second,

Barbarians win pool final game

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club will advance to the round of eight of the Ontario McCormick Cup as the number one seed after a difficult 17-3 win over the defending champion Irish Canadians Rugby Club of Toronto Saturday in the final game of pool play for both clubs.

Aurora will host Stoney Creek at Fletcher's Fields in Markham next Saturday in a quarterfinal match after Stoney Creek lost to the number two seed Crusaders in Oakville by a similar 17-3 margin.

The Irish Club put out what was arguably their best team of the season

Please see page 14

then had an assist to continue his hot pace this season.

After four games, Morley is tied with the scoring lead, having five goals and two assists for seven points.

Sunday afternoon, again at the Aurora Community Centre, the Tigers tried to come back from a 4-1 third period deficit, but fell a goal short as the Collingwood Blues won its first game of the season 4-3.

Tigers played Monday night in Buffalo, but results of that game were too late for The Auroran's deadlines.

A total of 235 fans attended the game Friday night after participating in the Tigers' first tailgate party held for a couple of hours prior to the game outside the Centre.

The crowd dropped to 120 for the Sunday afternoon encounter which saw Collingwood win its first game in seven tries so far this season.

Aurora's record, not counting the Buffalo match, is two wins and two losses.

Many fans fear the splitting of the league into two sections will hurt the gate for Aurora.

Rivals Newmarket Hurricanes and Stouffville Spirit are in the other league and will not likely meet Aurora, unless a playoff works in the Tigers' favour.

Aurora is in a league known as the Ontario Junior A Hockey League with teams from Bramalea, Brampton, Buffalo, Collingwood, Couchiching, Georgetown, Huntsville, Kingston, Milton, Mississauga, Oakville, Trenton, Vaughan and Villanova.

The competition from Newmarket, Stouffville and Markham, has now been removed as those teams are in the central division of the Central Canadian Hockey League.

COLLINGWOOD 4 AURORA 3

First Period

C - Josh Graves (Hodgson) SH 13.01
A - Nick Quinn (Lovatsis, Vanderlugt) 13.25
C - Andrew Ciampichini (Van Ness, Scott) 13.47

Second Period

C - Dustin Scott (Gard, Gieseler) PP 7.36

Third Period

C - Ryan Gieseler PP 3.10
A - Ryan Marcuz (Gregorack) PP 15.31
A - Derek Gregorack (Lisi, McLaughlin) PP 16.17

AURORA 7 BRAMALEA 5

First Period

A - David Morley (Sardella, Quinn) 2.12
B - Jeffrey Pinto 9.54
A - Nick Vangog (Quinn) 15.15
B - Peter Ranieri (Burnell,

Hawkrigg) 15.44

Second Period

A - Nick Vangog (McLaughlin, Lisi) 2.07
B - Lukas Ciotti (Brand, Mastrodicasa) 3.21
A - David Morley (VanNatter) 3.27
B - Daniel Sbrocchi

(Crozier, Pinto) 12.03
A - Lucas VanNatter (Morley, Sardella) 12.40
A - Lucas VanNatter (Quinn) 17.27

Third Period

B - Jeffrey Pinto (Hawkrigg, Sbrocchi) 7.26
A - Jeff Vanderlugt 19.41

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Aurora's Minor Bantam A squad pose for a photo following their bizarre winning of a hockey tournament in Markham recently. At the rear are assistant coach Doug Johnston, Trainer Paul Beresford, assistant coach Ed Jackson and head coach Todd McKee. In front of them are, left to right, Justin Pirie, Liam Beresford, Robert Stokes, Tait Snedden, Evan Jackson, Zac Cowl, Connor Cowl, Austin Persaud and Jerryd Jensen. In the next row are Jack Caldwell, Jake McKee, Graham Robinson, Nathan Nealon, James Johnston, while Marc Casullo and Paul Neophytou are in the front.

Photo by team manager Elena Neophytou.

After losing two games, Minor Bantams win it all

The Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam 'A' team kicked off their season by winning the championship in the Markham Waxers Early Bird Tournament after losing their first two games.

In the first game against Ajax, the Tigers dominated the play and outshot their opponents, only to come out on the losing end of a 3-2 decision.

James Johnston and Jack Caldwell tallied for the Tigers.

The second game against a very difficult Whitby team also resulted in a loss that could have gone either way.

Liam Beresford and Connor Cowl scored in the 4-2 loss.

The Tigers were faced with an unusual opportunity to get into the semi-finals when the other teams in their division faltered.

Two goals by Paul Neophytou and singles by Austin Persaud, Liam Beresford, and Jack Caldwell, against the Uxbridge Stars, proved enough to get the Tigers to the semis on goal differential.

The Tigers took full advantage of their unexpected good fortune in the semi-final game.

They faced the undefeated Innisfil Winterhawks who to that point had allowed only one goal in the tournament.

Jake McKee put the Tigers up 1-0 in the first period with a pass from Graham Robinson, but a third period marker by Innisfil sent the game to overtime.

On the first shift of the 3 on 3 overtime format, Connor Cowl broke down the left side, and banged home his own rebound.

The championship game had Aurora facing a Brampton Battalion team who defeated Whitby in the other semi-final and it was a nail-biter to the end.

Excellent goaltending at both ends had each team frustrated and Aurora was successful in killing off a crucial five on three power play midway through the third period.

Tiger goalie, Marc Casullo, continued to showcase his moves, however, Brampton finally squeaked in a goal.

The Tiger squad never gave up. As the third period was winding down, Persaud sent Zac Cowl in on a breakaway to

tie the game.

With just over a minute and a half left, Cowl displayed incredible patience behind the net and set up Caldwell, who banged a one-timer into the upper corner to seal the Tigers 2-1 victory.

Jerryd Jensen, Jake McKee, Robert Stokes, Evan Jackson, Tait Snedden and Justin Pirie were solid on defence.

The Tigers displayed a dis-

ciplined, team effort throughout the tournament to get the season off to a good start.

Minor Peewee AAs win finalist trophy

The Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA hockey team started their season off with a stunning display of teamwork and goal scoring, winning the finalist position at the Richmond Hill Early Bird tournament recently.

The Tigers dominated their first three games against the Humberview Huskies, Windsor Spitfires, and Georgina Blaze.

In the semi-finals, the Tigers gave the game everything they had in a battle against the Duffield Devils, who led by a goal with two minutes left in the third period.

The Tigers tied the game up, and with a minute left in regulation time, scored the winning goal.

Within a few hours, the Tigers were back on the ice for the championship game against the North York Knights.

They didn't win, but left the tournament with the finalist trophy and the best stats in their division, scoring the most goals for and the least goals against.

Making up the team are Graham Sanford, Jack Pecora, Cameron Morrison, Evan Woodhead, Daniel McConnell, Anthony Orlandi, Taylor Kauffeldt, Patrick Servideo, James Wyndham-West, Jared Reeves, Jared Brown, Austin Kiraly, Alec Magnante, Keegan Matthew, Shaun Broad, and goalies, Adam Leader and Austin Pringle.

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STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

The Auroran accepted an advertisement from the Town of Aurora and the ad, a quarter page in size, ran in the July 28 edition of the paper, on Page 13.

The ad was accepted in good faith, considering the Town of Aurora is a good customer of The Auroran and a government body as well.

The Auroran had nothing to do with the composition of this ad. It ran as was presented from the Town. One would assume the comments made by the Town were correct.

The ad alleged a town councillor was making remarks in a blog that were "disturbing in that they were highly critical and very disparaging of senior Town staff".

The Auroran's lawyer could find no such reference after printing out copies of the councillor's blog, and the councillor in question has denied acting in any capacity other than the one to which she was elected.

If the printing of such publicity release has caused harm to anyone, The Auroran recommends you make such harm known to the Town.

However, the publisher stands by his decision to print the ad, and offers this only as an explanation.

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Baseball diamond cost higher than expected

The price tag for the Stewart Burnett Park senior baseball diamond has gone up.

It was only two months ago that Aurora Council, after much debate, approved a final budget of \$951,000.

Due to concerns about the cost of the project, and having already cut a number of proposed features from the original budget, council took the unprecedented step of not including a contingency allowance.

According to staff, a contingency of 10 to 15 per cent is standard on most large projects to address unexpected site conditions, delays, or other factors that may impact slightly on the total cost.

Since the budget was approved in late July, staff members have identified that an additional \$26,000 is required to address storm water infrastructure, soils testing and site inspections, and the need for a storm

water management analysis.

"No construction contract is ever awarded without a contingency," said Councillor Evelyn Buck.

As a result, she felt council was "discovering the error of our ways".

In contrast, while not thrilled with a cost increase, Councillor Al Wilson was pleased that the decision to not have a contingency was allowing council to keep a closer eye on the cost of this

project.

There was talk of deleting \$26,000 from another element of the project to balance out these new items, but without the detailed budget in front of them, and time to review it, this couldn't be done at the meeting.

While it is possible that efficiencies may eventually be found in this project to offset these new costs, for now, general committee reluctantly approved the cost increase.



The Aurora Novice A finalists in a recent Markham Early Bird hockey tournament are shown here. They are, back row, left to right, assistant coach Scott Crabbe, trainer Murray Campbell, head coach Kevin Therkildsen, assistant coach Peter Wloka, Blaire Crabbe, Criag Therkildsen, Myles Vasilevski, Stefanie Baxter, Jack Campbell, Matthew Gram, Will Sherman, Sam Ashton, Matthew McConnell, Brendan Sanford, Jeremy Gonsalves, Maeve O'Connor, Adam Wloka, Jason Gage, Andrew Park, Spencer Morrison and Diam Matthew.

Barbs win

From page 12

seeing the return of several veteran players for the cup run.

Aurora was short a couple of their regular starters due to injury and commitments to the Ontario provincial team.

In the last ten minutes of the first, half Aurora scored a penalty from winger Jeremy Campbell and a try by rookie Fly-half Aaron Holt who was replacing Andrew Ziricino due to an injury in Ottawa a week earlier.

Campbell also converted Holt's touchdown to make the score 10-3 at the half.

The second half was evenly contested and the outcome in doubt until the last couple of minutes when Neil Dunn took a quick tap penalty and set up Nolan Ott for a try.

The second conversion by Campbell sealed the win for Aurora.



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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, September 27



House League

Atom

402 Boston Gold Omar Shoes 1 - Christian Ridd 1G. **411 Colorado Burgandy Danny's Boys 1** - Dylan Clark 1G.

Peewee

603 Toronto White Aurora Orthodontics 4 - Nick Armour 1G, Christopher Ottman 1G, Troy Foster 2G 1A, Jacob Fenchak 1A, Daniel Cariou 2A, Ethan Mills 1A. **608 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 1** - Matthew Neice 1G.

607 Pittsburgh Powder Blue Diamond Groundskeeping 9 - Kyle Bryden 3G 1A, Alex Hoffman 1G, Hunter Jones 2G, Nathan Plourde 2G, Geoffrey Siow 1G, Matthew Colucci 1A, Cole Davison 1A, Chris Aldis 1A. **604 Los Angeles Purple 2** - Tarek Koudmani 1G, William Stroud 1G 1A, Robert Cabral 1A.

602 Boston Gold Tilemaster 4 - Riley Callaghan 1G, Andre Cristillo 1G, James Power 2G, Ryan Batten 1A, Harrison Lambrinos 2A. **609 San Jose Teal Backyard Pool & Spa 1** - David Hall 1G.

610 Los Angeles Grey AHPA 4 - Bradley Snoulton 1G, Christian MacGillvray 1G, John Barber 1G, Derek Keun 1A, Brenden Ruuskanen 1G. **601 Florida Red Rogers 2**.

606 Pittsburgh Black Rival Concepts 7 - Mitchell Law Heese 3G, Jordan Elliott 3A, Christian Baggio 1G, Christopher Baggio 2G, Anthony Loduca 1G, Aaron Rival 1A, Lukas Ackerman 1A, Parker Jackson 1A, Will Ashton 2A. **605 St. Louis Blue Rotary Club Of Aurora 4** - Lucas Rusica 1G, Jonathan Jin 1G, David Leeper 2G, Sandy Rundle-Sanderson 1A, Evan Nicols 1A, Ben Kissack 2A, Ryan Simmons 1A.

Bantam

813 St Louis White 3 - Morgan Walker 1G, Jimmy Brookes 1G, Kienan Osborne 1G 1A, Jason Mizuguchi 1A, Dustin Tartanen 1A, Andrew Hall 1A, Mitchell Waite 1A. **802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 1** - Mac Cawfield 1G, Mitchell Arnold 1A.

812 Dallas Kelly Green 5 - Matthew Roach 4G, Andrew Foresi 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 1A, Matthew Reynolds 2A, Owen Woodcock 1A, Brandon Plourde 2A, Andrew Staples 1A. **803 Toronto White Orr & Associates 3** - Bailey Miller 1G, Matthew D'Allessandro 1G 1A, Daniel McDonnell 1G 1A, Daniel Antoniel 1A, Liam Devlin 1A, Justin Motazedian 1A.

811 Colorado Burgandy 5 - Tyler Indos 2G, Dylan Indos 2G 1A, Josh Lawlor 1G 1A, Nick Holliday 1A. **804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 1** - Tyler Futterer 1G.

806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 5 - Michael Hosmer 2G, Nicholas Bertrand 1G 2A, Brian Pedron 1G 1A, Robert Ruscica 1G, Peter Mangaly 1A, Scott Dunlop 2A. **810 Los Angeles Grey 2** - Collin Laird 1G, Declan Johnson 1G, Cody Mulhern 2A.

809 San Jose Teal 4 - Adam Darvay-Canavor 1G, Drew Davison 2G, Brian McDonald 2A, Matthew Pelkola 1A, Austin Boudreau 2A, Jamie Pountney 1G 1A. **805 St. Louis Blue AHPA 1** - Andrew Begg 1G.

Minor Midget

901 Florida Red Aurora Chyrsler 2, 906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 1.

905 St. Louis Blue 8, 902 Boston Gold CW Coops 1.

903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 5, 904 Los Angeles Purple 3.

Rep Games

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Evan Pringle 2G, Cory Read 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Malcolm Johnston 1A, Trevor Dungey 1A. **Markham 1.**

Novice AA Tigers 2 - Malcolm Johnston 1G 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1G. Matteo Orlandi, shutout. **Clarington Toros 0.**

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Russell Tanaka 1G, Ben Liotta 1G 1A, Cory Read 1G, Michael Orlandi 1A. **Barrie Colts 1.**

Georgina 3, Novice AA Tigers 1 - Evan Pringle 1G, Malcolm Johnston 1A.

Novice AA Tigers 7 - Malcolm Johnston 4G 1A, Evan Pringle 3G, Ryan Cunniam 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Luke Jarvis 1A. **Markham 4.**

Novice A Tigers 4 - Stefanie Baxter 1G, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Sam Ashton 1G, 1A, Andrew Park 1G, Matthew McConnell 1A, Jason Gage 1A, Adam Wloka 1G, Spencer Morrison and Diam Matthew, shutouts. **Newmarket 0.**

Brampton 3, Novice A Tigers 0.

Novice A Tigers 7 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G 1A, Jack Campbell 1G 1A, Andrew Park 2G, Blair Crabbe 1G, Matthew McConnell 1G, Stefanie Baxter 1G, Sam Ashton 1A. **Markham 5.**

Novice A Tigers 2 - Andrew Park 2G, Matthew McConnell 1A, Adam Wloka 1A. **Brampton 1.**

Whitby 8, Novice A Tigers 3 - Andrew Park 1G, Myles Vasilevski 1G 1A, Blair Crabbe 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A.

Novice A Tigers 1 - Matthew Gram 1G, Sam Ashton 1A. **Orillia Terriers 1.**

Novice AE Tigers 2 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Justin Harbaruk 1G. Hunter Wong, shutout. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 0.**

Milton Winterhawks 6, Novice AE Tigers 5 - Justin Harbaruk 4G, Harris Goan 1G, Thomas Childerhose 1A, Kyle Fowler 1A.

Ajax 4, Novice AE Tigers 3 - Luke Catania 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Justin Harbaruk 1G, Alex Sandras 1A, Noah Johnson 1A.

Novice AE Tigers 3 - Harris Goan 2G, Rony Wahab 1G, Owen Romano 1A, Connor Thomas 1A. **Oshawa Minor Generals 2.**

Novice AE Tigers 4 - Justin Harbaruk 2G, Evan Robertson 1G, Harris Goan 1G, Rony Wahab 1A, Colby Prymych 1A. **Markham 3.**

Atom A Tigers 2 - Eric McGhie 1G, Alex Wyndham-West 1A, Thomas Kostoff 1G. **Leaside Flames 1.**

Burlington 3, Atom A Tigers 0.

Leaside 6, Atom A Tigers 2 - Chris Pettit 1G, Kyle Rice 1G, Clayton Allen 1A, Rhys Perry 1A, Lucas Dane 1A.

TNT 2, Minor Peewee AA Tigers 1 - Patrick Servideo 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Graham Sanford 1A.

Tigers Minor Peewee AA 6 - Patrick Servideo 2G, Keegan Matthew 2G, Jared Reeves 1G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Shaun Broad 1A, Cameron Morrison 1A. **Humberview 1.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 5 - Shaun Broad 2G, Jack Pecora 1G, Daniel McConnell 2G, Alec Magnante 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Cameron Morrison 1A, Keegan Matthew 2A, Jared Brown 1A, Graham Sanford 1A. Adam Leader, shutout. **Windsor 0.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 5 - Patrick Servideo 4G, Alec Magnante 1G 2A, Shaun Broad 1A, Cameron Morrison 2A, Daniel McConnell 1A. **Georgina 2.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peeeee AA 6 - Cameron Morrison 1G 1A, Patrick Servideo 2G, Keegan Matthew 2G, Taylor Kauffeldt 1G 1A, Jared Brown 2A, Graham Sanford 1A, Jack Pecora 3A. **Duffield 5.**

North York 4, Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 0.

Newmarket 5, Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 2 - Patrick Servideo 1G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Jack Pecora 2A, Keegan Matthew 2 A.

TNT 2, Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 1 - Taylor Kauffeldt 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Graham

Sanford 1A.

Meadowvale 4, Minor Peewee A Tigers 2. Stouffville Clippers 2, Minor Peewee A Tigers 1.

Minor Peewee A Tigers 2, North York Knights 2.

Aurora Minor Peewee AE 4 - Michael DaCosta 1G 1A, Christian Arcuri 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G, Connor Downs 1G, Adam Caicco 1A, Tyler Williams 2A, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Zach Fletcher 2A. **Markham 1.**

Aurora Minor Peewee AE 2 - Nicholas Sansalone 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G, Connor Downs 1A, Tyler Williams 1A. **East Gwillimbury 0.**

Aurora Minor Peewee AE 3 -.Nicholas Sansalone 1G, Michael DaCosta 1G, Connor Downs 1G 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A, Tyler Williams 1A. **Uxbridge 0.**

Burlington 3, Aurora Minor Peewee AE 0.

Aurora Minor Peewee AE 2 - Connor Downs 1G 1A, Tyler Williams 1G 1A. **TNT 1.**

Ajax 2, Aurora 0

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 2, TNT 1.

Ajax 2, Minor Peewee AE Tigers 0.

Burlington 3, Minor Peewee AE Tigers 0.

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 4 - Michael DaCosta 2G 1A, Christian Arcuri 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G, Zach Fletcher 3A, Matthew MacDonald 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Connor Downs 1A. **Stouffville Clippers 1.**

Peewee A Tigers 5, Stouffville Clippers 0.

Peewee A Tigers 2, Oshawa Minor Generals 1.

Peewee A Tigers 5, Innisfil Winterhawks A/E 0,

Peewee A Tigers 4, Midland Centennials 2.

Kanata Blazers 5, Peewee A Tigers 2.

Peewee AE Tigers 5, Georgina 1.

Peewee AE Tigers 1, TNT 1.

Peewee AE Tigers 4, Georgina 2.

Peewee AE Tigers 1, Brampton 0.

Peewee AE Tigers 2, Whitby 1,

Newmarket 2, Peewee AE Tigers 0,

Barrie Colts 0, Peewee AE Tigers 0 - Alec Popa, shutout.

Minor Bantam A Tigers 5 - Paul Neophytou 2G 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G 1A, Zac Cowl 1A, Austin Persaud 1G, Nathan Nealon 1A, Liam Beresford 1G, James Johnston 1A. **Uxbridge Stars: 2**

Whitby 4, Minor Bantam A Tigers 2 - Liam Beresford 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G, Graham Robinson 1A, Connor Cowl 1A.

Minor Bantam A Tigers 2 - Jake McKee 1G, Connor Cowl 1G, Graham Robinson 1A. **Innisfil Winterhawks 1.**

Minor Bantam A Tigers 2 - Connor Cowl 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G, Zac Cowl 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A. **Brampton Battalion 1.**

Minor Bantam A Tigers 4 - Nathan Nealon 2G, Zac Cowl 1G, Liam Beresford 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Connor Cowl 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Jake McKee 1A. **TNT 2.**

Georgetown 5, Minor Bantam AE Tigers 2 - Ian Dunlop 1G, Brayden Beswick 1G 1A, Kyle Strachan 1A, Nicholas Steiner 1A.

Minor Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Kyle Strachan 1A, Ryan McGolrick 1G. **Newmarket 1.**

Minor Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Brayden Beswick 1G, Ben Goldman 1A, Scott Kostin 1A. **Richmond Hill Stars 1.**

Bantam A Tigers 3 - Andrew McDonald 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A, Quincy Ing 1G, Matthew Pryse 1A. Ethan Slimkowich. shutout. **North York Knights 0.**

Bantam A Tigers 6, Grimsby Kings 1.

Bantam A Tigers 2 - Quincy Ing 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1A, Eric Archibald 1A. **Clarington Toros 1.**

Bantam A Tigers 3 - Ryan Baskin 1G, Eric Damecour 1G, Colton Lee 1G, Jonathan McConnell 1A, Quincy Ing 1A, Andrew McDonald 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A. **Brampton Battalion 1.**

Bantam A Tigers 2 - Jonathan McConnell 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G, Hayden Trask 1A. **Richmond Hill Stars 1.**

Bradford 5, Bantam A Tigers 2 - Vincent Ruscica 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1G, Quincy Ing 1A, Kyle Fedec 1A.

Bantam AE Tigers 3 - Sam Steenhorst 1G, Casey Severini 2G, Eliot Harkin 1A, Connor McQuillan 1A, Sasha Dajia 1A, Connor Moody 1A. **Uxbridge Stars 1.**

Bantam AE Tigers 2 - Connor McQuillan 1G, Peter Sandwell 1G, Sam Steenhorst 1A, Sasha Dajia 1A. **Oshawa 1.**

Bantam AE Tigers 6 - Paul Louis Steiner 2G, Casey Severini 2G, Trevor George 1G 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1G 1A, Connor Moody 2A, Zachary Ferry 1A, Sasha Dajia 1A, Jeffrey Lam 1A. **Ajax 2.**

Bantam AE Tigers 2 - Massimo Longhin 1G, Peter Sandwell 1G, Trevor George 1A, Jeffrey Lam 1A, Christopher Cherubini 1A. Andrew Stobbe, shutout. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 0.**

Newmarket 4, Minor Midget AA Tigers 3.

Georgina 4, Minor Midget AA Tigers 1.

Minor Midget A Tigers 4 - Alex Woodward 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 2G, Brendan Beresford 1G, Tyler White 1A, Brett Wilson 1A, Ryan Hughes 1A. **Innisfil Winterhawks 2.**

Minor Midget A Tigers 5 - Alex Woodward 2G 1A, Josh Klinowski 2G, Ryan Hughes 1G 1A, Tyler White 1A. **Innisfil Winterhawks 2.**

Toronto Penguins 1, Minor Midget A Tigers 0.

Minor Midget A Tigers 6 - Matt Hart 1G 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 2G, Tyler White 1G 1A, Alex Woodward 1G, Josh Klinowski 1G, Graham Loney 2A, Matthew Melito 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A, Brendan Beresford 1A, Reid Sisson 1A, Brett Wilson 1A, Mackenzie Wooder 1A. **Toronto Ice Dogs 3.**

Duffield Devils 4, Minor Midget A Tigers 0.

Lorne Park 6, Minor Midget A Tigers 5 - Tyler White 1G, Brendan Beresford 2A, Cooper Riswick 2A, Ryan Hughes 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 2G, 1A, Josh Klinowski 2G, 1A, Reid Sisson 1A.

Markham Waxers 4, Minor Midget A Tigers 1 - Reid Sisson 1G, Tyler White 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A.

Newmarket 5, Minor Midget AE Tigers 2 - Jake Langford 1G, Kelley Hudson 1A, Nick Heintzman 1A, Taylor Butler 1G, Anthony Selski 1A.

Minor Midget AE Tigers 4, East Gwillimbury Eagles 1.

Minor Midget AE Tigers 3, Orangeville 1.

Hespeler 2, Minor Midget AE Tigers 1.

Midget AE Tigers 3 - Patrick Lee 1G, Sean Agostino 1G, Michael DiVincenzo 2A, Alex Heintzman 1G 1A, John Haralampopoulos 1A, Michael Nonnewitz 1A. **Bradford 2.**

Whitby 2, Minor Midget AE Tigers 2.



Aurora Writers' Group members Tom Davey and Dierdre Tomlinson, and Dierdre's grandson, Booker, relax following an on-the-spot poetry contest held during the Words Alive Literary Festival Sunday in Sharon. Booker's insightful poem, written in 15 minutes, won honourable mention from the judges.

Belinda to lead “Run for the Cure”

Former Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach is the Honourary Chair of York Region's first ever CIBC Run for the Cure and is hoping a strong presence from Aurora will help make the run a success.

The national Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation event, taking place in 56 communities across the country, raises funds in support of breast cancer research, education and awareness, and happens this Sunday, October 4.

Stronach, a breast can-

cer survivor, is encouraging local residents to sign up and join her and the rest of "Team Belinda" at the run/walk taking place at Richmond Green Park in Richmond Hill.

"Having the Run here in York Region will enable more members of our community to take part closer to home as well as to honour all those who have been affected by breast cancer, either through personal experience or through someone close to them," said Stronach. "I will be lacing up my running shoes and encourage

others to do so as well."

Participants can choose a one-kilometre run/walk or a five-kilometre run/walk.

The park is located at the northwest corner of Elgin Mills Road and Leslie Street in the Town of Richmond Hill.

Belinda will address participants during the opening ceremonies at 9.30 a.m.

According to statistics from the Canadian Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer - and cancer deaths - in females aged

20 to 59.

To register for the run, visit www.cbcf.org.



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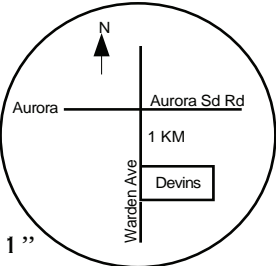
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“A FAMILY FARM SINCE 1921”





Author Tosca Reno was in Aurora at a book signing last week and spoke to a sell-out crowd. Tosca lives in Caledon East. She is the author of nine books on what to eat to lose weight.



Senior Scape

The Body, Mind and Spirit event last Sunday was so successful it should be considered for a return engagement.

The variety of services to be tried were coordinated and achieved excellent results in pleasing our ladies, included Reiki treatments, reflexology, facials, body massage and neck and shoulder massage, and the reports I have heard is that they were really pleasing.

There was a hair stylist available to cut and style hair, as well as a yoga instructor who demonstrated standing yoga sessions.

Not surprisingly, the astrologist and numerologist along with tarot and palm readers were kept busy from the get go with constant line ups.

Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence and Sunrise Residence again supported the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) by their presence and provision of refreshments.

The seniors' kitchen team did an excellent job

setting up the refreshments and Marie Leone, Virginia Ciufo and Judy Buchanan were the ASA organizers.

Seniors are invited to support Belinda Stronach by promoting York Region's first "Run for the Cure". Belinda is the 2009 event chairperson.

The run is scheduled for Sunday, October 4th starting at 10 a.m. from Richmond Green in Richmond Hill and participants may choose to run or walk the distance.

Registration can be made on a computer by visiting www.cbcf.org, and the final opportunity to register can be made at 8 a.m. on the day of this fund-raising event.

The chess club resumes Tuesday, October 6th, between 6 and 8.45 p.m.

Past and present players are all invited, regardless of playing strength; all games will produce a tie or a win for someone, and playing strength will sort itself out as the season progresses.

Body, Mind, Spirit event may repeat

By BRIAN WARBURTON

This is the third season the ASA chess club has been in operation and the pleasures of chess competition are open to all members of the centre.

Judy Buchanan, who has transformed the garden area close to the ASA entrance, appealed for helpers and was delighted to obtain the services of four willing members.

The garden is eye catching and adds pleasure to all who appreciate flourishing floral and decorative vegetation.

The entrance to the seniors' centre is also improved greatly and enhances impressions of what lies inside the entrance before the doors are even opened.

Starry Night was the grand event planned by Herb Koller at the ASA Friday night, the weather was almost perfect and about a quarter moon was bright in the sky.

With the night sky favouring good viewing, the evening was a huge success and the turnout of maybe 60 to 70 people

was above expectations, and gratifying to see.

Bill and Mary Higgins provided coffee and hot chocolate and the hot chocolate proved to be very popular.

Herb was busy most of the evening talking and explaining how the planets and stars behaved, and was able to inform everybody that the International Space Station was due to pass over and it did and right on time.

Eventually the ISS disappeared into the shadow cast by earth, which was quite close to the planet Jupiter, shining in the night sky.

Anybody who wishes to visit "heaven-above.com" on a computer, may access a program providing time and dates to view the passage of the ISS.

An evening devoted to astronomy among so many familiar faces makes for an interesting and refreshing change, and I have little doubt that the evening astronomy program will be presented again at some future date.

Advertisement

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OR BUST

"This is the third in a continuing series of messages to the people of Aurora"

Under the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006, proclaimed in force January 1, 2007, Ontario municipal councils were granted, with respect to Accountability and Transparency, "the power to establish codes of conduct for members of council and members of certain local boards. They can also, at their discretion, appoint an integrity commissioner."

It is likely, in our opinion, that Ontario's larger urban centres would have a greater need of such a code of conduct, and if need be, an integrity commissioner.

Physical scale and population numbers often create temptations that can be enormous, in comparison with those that might come before the council of a town the size of Aurora. Influence is freely bought and sold.

In smaller, Aurora-sized towns, people tend to be friendlier, distances are not so great, children play safely in parks, people walk their dogs, barbeque smells permeate the evening air; we feel a sense of ease with our surroundings.

This sense of ease somehow extends to those who volunteer to run for public office, to serve the people of the community, people who generally share the same set of interests.

It would have been difficult to imagine at the time of the last municipal election that Aurora's newly-elected council would require a code of conduct in order to fulfill its responsibilities to us, and that some day an integrity commissioner (at council's discretion) would prove necessary.

Even more unbelievable would be the recruitment, hiring and then the firing of this person, for having failed to agree with the council.

In Phyllis Morris' six-page Inaugural Speech delivered December 5, 2006, no mention is made of a code of conduct for council.

Phyllis focuses on "teamwork."

"I believe an effective team requires players with a diversity of strengths and points of view. So, yes, as Mayor, I will stress teamwork. I'm listening closely to the views of your new Councillors. I hear much from them that should unite us in the months and years ahead. I hear true affec-

tion for our town and our people."

Almost from the outset, the new council appeared as dysfunctional as its predecessor.

But this time there seemed to be a degree of personal vitriol in evidence; this was not what we had expected, certainly not what we had elected.

What was happening to Phyllis' team?

Why were some of them knocking their teammates into the boards, tripping and crosschecking with abandon?

There were no referee's whistles, no penalties called. There was no management. Where was Phyllis? This was not a Stanley Cup contender; it lay floundering in the cellar.

Could Don Cherry have saved it? Doubtful!

Now let's fast forward to April, 2008. Aurora was shocked by the sudden resignation of Grace Marsh, one of its new councillors.

Grace was able, intelligent and had valuable work experience, all combining to qualify her for the responsibility of the position.

Ironically these assets worked against her as she attempted to represent the citizenry.

Quoting from her letter to The Auroran published the week of April 29: "I expected an atmosphere of respect for others and their opinions, a working atmosphere...where discussion can and do take place without anger, threats and insults...I expected a group of nine that could and would work as a team, without obvious splits."

Grace's resignation was merely the first of many significant events that have followed to date, events that have demonstrated the complete arrogance, to the very core, of the Morris administration.

The "team" that was glibly mentioned during her inaugural, has never existed in the broader sense; one exists to the extent that Mormac does, together with three water boys and a stick girl.

The management skills Phyllis flaunts are a chimera.

We do not intend to regurgitate the resignations, the hiring and firing of senior staff, the infamous code of conduct and the unaccepted report of the integrity commissioner.

You are probably as sick of this as we are.

Why does council spend untold hours in secret meetings accompanied by lawyers?

How is it that a member of council has seen fit to initiate a legal action against Phyllis and "her" team? Why can members of council not even follow their own Procedural By-law, as evidenced on September 15?

Aurora has the dubious distinction of being one of a very few Ontario municipalities to come to the attention of the provincial Minister responsible.

During the past 33 months, many thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money have been spent on lawyers to conduct investigations, to provide cover for probable personal irregularities and to render advice that seems to have gone unheeded.

On behalf of the taxpayers of Aurora, we demand that a detailed statement of expenditures on "extraordinary" legal matters be posted on the town's web site immediately, together with explanations. Enough closed room cover-up!

In our first ad, the second stated objective was to rid Aurora of Phyllis and her minions by taking a stand at the next municipal election.

Nothing has changed since then; matters have only deteriorated.

Possibly there should be an inquiry into the conduct of Aurora's council.

Where are Accountability and Transparency? They were trampled long ago.

Please remember: In order to rid ourselves of the arrogance on council, people will have to come forward to stand for public office. This is your community – you can make it work. And then you have to vote. Write to us at auroracoalition@gmail.com.

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