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THE AURORED

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of May 25, 2010

When is storey not a storey?

Aurora Council will continue discussions this week over a proposed site plan amendment to the building slated to occupy the vacant site on Yonge Street at Centre.

The amendments, which would allow the construction of a six or seven storey, 76-unit building rather than a five-storey structure, were the subject of a lengthy discussion at the table at last week's General Committee meeting where Councillors raised concerns over not just the building itself but also the timing.

After consultation with town staff and nearby residents, the developer of the site, the Kaitlin Group, were requested to reduce the projected building height by one storey.

The developers came back with a "creative solution" to these concerns.

Instead of removing one physical floor from the plan, they compressed the heights of the proposed six floors, reducing the height of the building by the equivalent of one storey.

"Over the past year we have been working quite diligently with our client and also internally with our engineers and also with the staff, we think (this is) a solution that addresses many of the concerns that were raised," said Stephen Mac of MArchitecture Inc., speaking on behalf of The Kaitlin Group.

"We have taken very much to heart the concerns raised by council and the public and what we've done is reduced the building in height by approximately 12 feet, which is greater than one floor.

Please see page 9

15th Street festival completely sold out

The 15th annual Aurora Street Festival, still two weeks away from becoming a reality, is sold out.

It means that nearly 600 vendors will be on Yonge Street for the one-day event.

This year, the festival will be held Sunday, June 6, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Yonge Street, from Wellington in the north to Murray Drive in the south will be closed, and organizers are expecting about 40,000 people will participate in the annual event.

Entertainment this year will include the "Aerial Angels" a world renowned high-flying circus group; Ben Burland and "The Ben Show"

a fast paced local comedy entertainer; and the "Nicks Juggling Family", a juggling family from Toronto.

George St. Kitts Band is set to perform at the Yonge and Church intersection all day, while Patty McLaughlin will be at the Yonge and Golf Links intersection from 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and the Manatee Band will perform at the same intersection from 2.30 p.m. to closing.

A Vintage Car Show will happen all day at south end of Yonge Street near Murray Drive.

For a complete list of information and maps, go to <http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/>.



York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, top photo left, joined with Detective Kim Killby and Detective Andrew Graham, two of three officers selected by the Aurora Optimist Club for their work in solving several car break-ins in Aurora last year. They, along with Detective Mark Colaris, who couldn't make the event, were honoured at the annual Respect for Law dinner held by the club last week at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club. Also taking part in the presentation was Stan Colley, Superintendent of One District, York Regional Police. Meanwhile, in the bottom photo, Optimist member Steve Hinder, who organizes the event each year, presented Chief La Barge with a copy of the Optimist Creed, after the chief recently announced his retirement from the force.
Auroran photos by David Falconer

Growing school seeking sidewalks

Additional sidewalks need to be added to Aurora's infrastructure to ensure the safety of students, according to Michael Comeau, Chair of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School Council.

There is a distinct lack of sidewalks on the bordering streets surrounding the high school, he said at last Tuesday's general committee meeting.

With the school population anticipated to increase almost by half next year with the addition of another grade, the problem is expected to become more immediate.

"Some of the students who are walking to school are walking on the side of the road," said Mr. Comeau. "It's nice in the summer when it is dry, but our concern is in the winter. We were very lucky last year with very little snowfall and when we do have snowfall it makes where they are walking almost impassable."

Where students are walking is along Industrial Parkway North, the primary vehicular entrance to the School.

When plows clear the road in the winter, pushed snow on the curb forces students to walk directly on the road, particularly at peak road times.

Lack of sidewalks is also an issue along Wellington Street heading west from the front entrance of the school.

"The Director of Infrastructure was gracious enough to come to Parent Council two weeks ago and said that this has been looked at and a promise was made that it would be in place for next September," said Mr. Comeau, adding the concerns on Industrial

Please see page 13



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSIness people, hence the name Probus. It is a fun fellowship with well-chosen speakers. New members are welcome. For more information call Marilyn Munslow, 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders, 905-841-3558.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North in Aurora. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a cappella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Firehall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a cappella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Firehall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

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.

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 Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) 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 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' **Please see page 15**



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MP1123 (10/2007)



Gabrielle Butler, left, and Vanessa Ursini from Aurora's Toscana Bakery and Café show off their selection of breads at the Aurora Farmers' Market Saturday morning. In addition to the breads they have a selection of pies and pastries that always sell out by the end of the market day.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ten grand infusion expected to receive okay from council

Aurora Council is expected to approve a \$10,000 infusion into the Town's Accessibility Department this week to tackle urgent issues facing accessibility and integration in the Town.

The move comes after councillors scrutinized the Accessibility Advisory Committee's draft Accessibility Plan at last Tuesday's general committee meeting.

In reviewing the plan, Councillor Evelina MacEachern said what was before councillors needed to be fleshed out with further detail before final approval is given to the items listed.

"There is a lot of great work in (the plan), but there is also potentially huge financial commitments without being thoroughly discussed or looked at," she said. "I would like to not adopt the plan as presented, but I would like it to be referred to staff so they can prepare (it) in the same format as all other budget processes that take place, like the capital projects and the operating projects. Basically, it is becoming a part of the budget process but I

don't feel that I can adopt it the way it is before us.

"I would like staff to bring forward a business plan or budget plan. (Some of it) is capital projects, some of it, I believe, has operating components to it, although some have no cost at all."

Items in the Accessibility Plan range from a financial commitment to increase the number of one on one integration workers in Aurora's Summer Camp programs, to retrofitting Town facilities such as the Aurora Public Library and certain aspects of Town Hall, to simple signage issues.

"One of the items that piqued my attention was the Library elevator to the basement for the Potters Guild," added Councillor MacEachern. "That, I'm sure, is going to be a huge expenditure and how does that unravel? Does the Town pay for that?"

The ongoing matter of Summer Camp integration workers was also discussed at length.

"Anything we can do to enhance integration and programs for the children and others that need Summer Camp programs is important," said Mayor Phyllis Morris on moving \$3,000 from the Accessibility operating budget to Parks and Recreation Services in order to help fund integration workers.

"The (Accessibility Advisory Committee) thought if we threw money at (the Summer Camp budget) perhaps we can hire some additional counsellors," said Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation Services. "I don't know whether that is possible or not. It may be possible for us to get some additional folks but we're not sure. We're looking at one in our Counsellor-In-Training program that might be moved up in this particular area, but I don't know if \$3,000 is going to help."

The Annual Accessibility Plan is a requirement of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Ivy Henriksen, Aurora's Accessibility Advisor said.

"The annual plan is essentially our community wish list," she said. "These items come from our staff consultations, our public forum consultation, and...accessibility feedback forms. These items are your wish list that we've already set aside our annual budget for."

"We have an annual operat-

ing budget to increase accessibility at \$50,000. This plan is an evolving document, what I would call the cake without the icing. I would like to start with the easier, cheaper (items on the list) and the ones staff have been waiting on direction for,"

Prioritization was key to going forward, said Councillor MacEachern.

"Some things look like they should be absolutely done right away and some are nice to have but it is not a priority," she said.

Priority could be determined based on the length of time they've been on the annual list, said Ms. Henriksen.

Others at the table, however, pondered why the cheaper items weren't tackled right off the bat.

"(There is an item here for) lack of signage for listening devices in the Council Chambers (for) less than \$250," said Mayor Morris. "I would like to see that done as opposed to just talking about it. Is there any reason why we just can't be doing this?"

Councillors authorized Ms. Henriksen to spend "upwards of \$10,000" on urgent issues "in the interim period between now and when this next report comes back" to make progress on the outstanding issues.



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Town Promenade study could soon be a reality

Aurora's Promenade Study might come into fruition in the waning days of this council term, councillors learned last Tuesday.

During a discussion at the General Committee meeting relating to the planned mixed commercial and residential building at Yonge and Centre Street, questions arose on the status of the Promenade Study and its steering committee.

An open house to discuss the plan for the end of June hasn't been established yet, according to Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. He said the date will be determined by the beginning of the month.

"Should that happen, the next step is to hold a statutory public meeting to consider the plan, and that has to happen. That typically doesn't happen during the summer months," he said.

"We're most likely looking at the fall, again, depending on when we schedule the open house and that could occur at the end of this June."

He said it is hoped that a draft concept plan can be presented to council or general committee next month in advance of an open house.

"Prior to council recommending adoption of the plan itself you have to go through the next steps of holding a statutory public meeting," he added. "It's a question of

timing and we're approaching the summer break."

Statutory public meetings over the summer are a rarity, said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe.

"One could be convened in the first or second week in September and then, subsequent to that, there would be a formal report (and then) to (general committee and) council," he said. "So I'm thinking the earliest would be the second GC or council in September."

Mayor Phyllis Morris said she expected an interim report to come back to council June 22.

"There could be an interim report before summer giving a status and summary of the open houses presenting the final secondary plan that

we're recommending be adopted, (but) the statutory public meeting would be difficult to accomplish in June," said Mr. Garbe.

A 20-day lead time is necessary to schedule a meeting of this nature, added Mr. Ramunno.

"I do wish we had known this before as a committee," said Mayor Morris. "We would have had a meeting in May if I had known this. I may have to call an emergency meeting just to look at some extra dates there. We could have advertised this had we known. It's a shame. I will commit to looking at this with the committee and we'll make sure we find some dates that could assist this council in bringing something forward as quickly as possible."



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Legion offers rock and roll this summer

If you're my age (a card-carrying senior citizen), you may enjoy a couple of performances coming up at the Aurora Legion this summer.

On Friday, June 4 in the lounge (main floor of the Legion) will be a Rock & Roll Revue, featuring "Randy".

I can only assume they're talking about Randy Skelcher, but I have no way of knowing unless I attend.

According to the advertising, you can "take a trip back to the fabulous 50s when rock was just beginning to roll, when hula-hoops and silly putty provided hours of entertainment and Frankie and Annette were the couple to watch and be".

The whole thing gets underway at 8 p.m. and people in charge advise you dress up in your favourite 50s gear.

Then, in July - the 10th to be exact - for 25 bucks, you can enjoy a beach party at the Legion featuring the best of the Beach Boys.

At first I thought the original Beach Boys were going to be there, but the survivors must be in their late sixties by now, so that isn't going to happen.

As of 2010, the remaining Beach Boys, Mike Love, born in 1941 and Bruce Johnston (1942), minus Brian Wilson and Al Jardine continue to tour, but it's unlikely they'll be in Aurora.

The Beach Boys, according to Wikipedia, first formed in 1961. That makes the group nearly 50 years old.

The group was initially composed of singer-musician-composer Wilson, his brothers, Carl and Dennis, their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine. This core quintet was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Class of 1988.

While the Beach Boys may not personally entertain you, their songs will. You'll hear "California Girls", "Surfer Girl", and "I Get Around", as well as most of the other Beach Boy hits.

If you're interested in this "ancient" music, you can get tickets by calling 905-727-9932.

DIDJA LOSE THIS?

My friend, Michael Seaman, dropped in Sunday afternoon and said he had a great human interest story for me.

"I found someone's wedding ring and I don't know what to do with it," he said. "I found it on Wellington Street West, across from the Board of Education building."

The people who work there call it Box 40.

Anyhow, I now have the ring in my possession and can tell you there is an inscription on it. It obviously belongs to a male.

If anyone can tell me what the inscription says, they can have the ring back.

Call me at 905-727-3300 during business hours if you believe the ring is yours.

NO FIGHT, HUH?

The cartoonist for this newspaper, Scott Johnston said last week, in a cartoon, that there doesn't appear to be a battle for the mayor's chair, like the one going on in the big smoke south of us.

Nigel Kean doesn't believe it for a minute, and neither does Roger Clowater, the two candidates who have officially declared they want to unseat current mayor Phyllis Morris.

Phyllis, while she has not officially declared, told me privately that she would seek re-election.

Frankly, people, I don't believe we have seen all the candidates for the mayor's chair yet.

I think there will be at least one more and maybe two, who are waiting in the wings for the right time to jump into the fray.

Of course, the more the merrier, must be going through Ms Morris' mind right now, because each candidate will just tend to split the vote even more.

So far, six people have declared for the eight council jobs available.

They include Jim Abram, John Abel, Milton Hart, Wendy Gaertner, already a councillor, Roy Cohen, and James Lill.

I would expect before all is said and done there will be about 20 names on the ballot seeking the eight spots.

For example controversial Evelyn Buck hasn't officially declared yet, but suggested to me she'd have to be close to death before she'd not run again.

Deputy-mayor Bob McRoberts is also being very quiet about seeking re-election although he did tell me he would not seek the mayor's chair. He wouldn't say whether he'd run for council, though.

Oh yes, I think there'll be a fight for the right to serve on council, either as a mayor or a councillor.

It's a bit like the calm before the storm...



It looks for all the world like a regular sewing machine, and it probably, in its day, was just that. Except this machine was used to sew together shoes, shoes made in Aurora by the Sisman Shoe Company. It was Sismans who pioneered the Scamper, a popular shoe during its day. Sismans manufactured shoes in Aurora for several years, and even after it stopped, was started up again by local retailer Ted Rowe in the late 1980s. The revitalized business didn't last long. In 1910, the Underhill and Sisman Shoe Manufacturing Company moved to Aurora from Markham. The partnership was dissolved and the new T. Sisman Shoe Company built a huge factory, on Berczy Street at the corner of Mosley. Part of the building, albeit a small part, may still be seen on Mosley Street. Sisman's continued in operation until 1985. This sewing machine was one of at least 90 used by workers to turn out the popular Sisman shoes and the machine is now owned by Aurora resident David Heard.

Letter to the Editor

THE AURORAN

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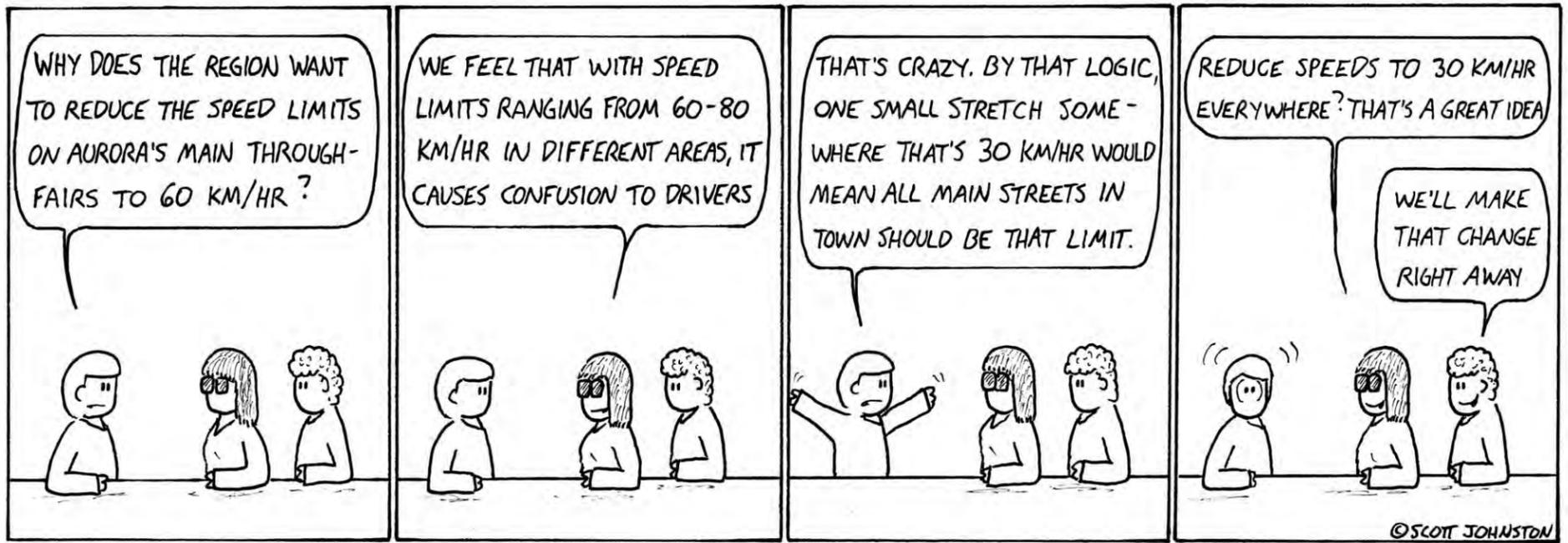
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Two weeks ago, I wrote about children's lack of physical activity and the dietary challenges that many have.

I recounted how I was walking by Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School a couple of weeks back and what I saw brought back some memories.

I saw what looked like a bunch of Grade 9 boys running around the track. They were all wearing school issue uniforms and the teacher had his stop watch and was timing the kids as they came around the track.

Some of the children finished strongly while others had a great deal of difficulty and a few of the students had stopped running and were simply walking.

Not much different than when I did the same thing 30 years ago.

But it got me thinking about something else; something that I don't see enough of now.

I don't see any kids playing street hockey any more or any kids getting together to play baseball or football in the park anymore.

I recall playing street hockey from morning until night with my buddies. We would even take on other "streets" where I grew up. First team to 20 was usually considered the winner.

Maybe it takes too much effort to get everyone together today or maybe kids just like to play in their leagues and want their free time to do other things.

But it does seem to me there are more young couch potatoes today than I was growing up.

And the federal government has tried to do something about it over the years - although I don't think enough.

According to Wikipedia, ParticipACTION is a national non-profit organization, originally launched as a Canadian government program in the 1970s, to promote healthy living and physical fitness.

It shut down due to financial cutbacks in 2001, but was revived February 19, 2007, with a grant of \$5 million from the federal government.

ParticipACTION is well known for its television public service announcements and segments such as Body Break during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

A 1973 commercial, comparing the health of a 30-year-old Canadian to a 60-year-old Swede, started a national discussion on the state of physical education in Canada.

If you are of my vintage, then you may recall one of the programs associated with ParticipACTION - the "Awards of Excellence".

I believe the government was doing this program in concert with Montreal hosting the 1976 Olympics.

The physical fitness program consisted of a number of activities which a student would be graded against an age adjusted standard.

I can't recall all of the activities that were measured, but I do remember the shuttle run, sit ups and the dreaded flexed arm hang.

If you were tops for each category, then you were awarded the Gold "Award of Excellence" patch. There was a Silver and Bronze level as well.

I still have my patches somewhere in the house.

I don't know why the program was stopped; they should resurrect it in concert with a new healthy lifestyle advertising program - have a funny celebrity like Martin Short or Jim Carey as the spokesman with some funny television commercials.

Or even go back to comparing our health against that 60-year-old Swede.

Anything that can be used to encourage and promote healthy and active lifestyles for our children needs to be undertaken.

On a different matter, a number of months ago I wrote a column regarding the Caring Crutches Campaign.

This endeavour was started by some local ladies to get Crutches to Haiti.

This is the letter that they sent out recently:

Dear Participant,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your contribution to the Caring Crutches campaign. With your help we were able to surpass our goal of collecting 500 crutches and canes.

We received contributions from areas spanning Barrie to downtown Toronto, and from Scarborough to Guelph. Crutches and canes were not the only items that were collected as a result of the campaign. A variety of rehabilitation items such as walkers, wheelchairs, slings, cast boots, prosthetic socks and sneakers are just some of the donations worth mentioning.

The following is a final count of the major items we were able to collect:

Crutches: 1,168; canes: 268; walkers: 39; wheelchairs: 13.

These items are being shipped to Haiti by the Christian Blind Mission, an organization which played a very key role in making our campaign a reality. The shipment will be going out in May 2010 and will be received by a team associated with the Christian Blind Mission in Haiti before being distributed.

Once again, thank you for making this possible and helping us move Haiti, one step at a time.

Sincerely, The Caring Crutches Team: Lindsay D'Andrade, Val Jenner, Bea D'Andrade.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Once again, I missed out on my due reward. I was at the drugstore on the weekend, and at the check-out, the cashier asked if I had my points card.

"It's right here," I replied, offering it to her.

"I can't accept this," she noted, handing it back.

"Why? Has it expired?"

"No, it's from the hardware store across the street."

"How about this one," I said hurriedly, pulling another from my wallet.

"This is for a free ice cream cone."

Well, it did look like the right one.

A further search revealed that no, I did not have with me the appropriate card, which I later found on my dresser.

That's the problem with the retail world these days, or maybe it's just my problem, but there are way too many credit and reward cards.

In the good old days, a typical wallet would contain only one or two basic credit cards, like Visa or Mastercard.

But things have gotten ridiculous.

Now, it seems you can't leave the house without a deck's worth of cards from your favourite coffee shop, department store, gas station, grocery store, office supply store, restaurant, shoe store, and pretty much anywhere else you'd ever purchase anything, including, yes, a drugstore.

Of course, you don't really need them.

A standard Amex or other credit card would do you just fine.

But the stores entrap you, because every time you purchase something with their card, you accumulate points.

And who doesn't love points? After all, it means free stuff.

There are two problems with this.

First, you probably don't use the required card every day, or even every week, so it doesn't take up permanent residence in your wallet or purse. So, as in my example above, when you need it, it's not there.

Second, while you acquire about 10 points with every purchase (when you do remember the card), you need at least 7,564,207 points to obtain anything useful.

So, even if it's one you use fairly frequently, such as for groceries, this still means you'll be collecting points until the year 2023.

Add another six years, if you forget your cards as often as I do.

I suppose if wallets were made large enough to hold all the necessary cards one uses that would be okay.

But if you have 74 different credit, rewards and gift cards vying for space in your wallet along with cash and identification, you'll never fit them all in.

Or if you do, you'll both walk with a noticeable limp,

and develop a significant lean to one side whenever you sit down.

Not having expandable accordion-type pleats in my pockets to accommodate a wallet of that size, I have to pick and choose which cards to keep with me, and they're inevitably the wrong ones.

I think that inundating us with similar-looking cards may actually be the strategy of the various stores out there.

The \$25 spent on an electronic (or whatever) shop's gift card is immediate but temporary profit for them.

If it gets lost amongst the 73 other similar ones you have, then you may never redeem it.

Not only does that store's temporary profit become permanent, but there's a good chance someone will buy you another of these gift cards in future.

Which is another card you need to keep track of.

For now, I've removed the free ice cream card, and replaced it with the one from the drugstore.

My strategy is to go back to the store to see if I can get credit for those missing points.

With my luck, I'll manage to get to the store with my points card, but will forget my receipt.

Then I won't even be able to console myself with an ice cream on the way home.

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

Pointless in Aurora

Letters to the Editor

Can Aurora promote peace on earth, she asks

To the editor,

May we all come to understand each other and respect every living thing.

I am writing to continue (see letter to editor week of May 18, "Reader awaiting boardwalk report") to address the issue of Peace on Earth and whether real peace is possible in 2010.

For the sake of all the children in the world, we must start talking about real peace. We can no longer keep our blinders on.

In order to discuss peace, a detailed definition is required to this word so often preached yet not practiced.

Peace is defined in the dictionary as "an agreement to end all hostilities and freedom from disturbing thoughts or emotions".

Real peace is further defined as no more fight-

ing, no more creation of military arsenals, no more bombs, no more guns and an immediate laying down of arms - never to be lifted again.

It means children first. It means we work together towards understanding and embracing our differences, show compassion and forgiveness for all people worldwide and learn to share and respect the resources of our planet so that the human race can survive.

In the words of the Dalai Lama and Leonard Peltier, "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the constant effort to maintain harmonious existence between all peoples, from individual to individual and between humans and all other beings on this planet."

S p i r i t u a l Consciousness is the path to survival for mankind.

Peace can only be brought about through spiritual ways...through kindness, understanding, gentleness and love.

"It is time for all people to join actively in working to stop the development of war and the use of nuclear forces."

When are we going to live by the words, "Thou shalt not Kill?"

Who is going to be the first to lay down arms and cease the manufacturing and exporting of life taking weapons?

When will civilization and world leaders stop war for fear of the "other", false protectionism and for the sake of profit. (Mind you not the soldiers profit but certainly their sacrifice).

When will we stop rapping and destroying Mother Earth's resources at the expense of future generations?

When will we say enough with death and killing and embrace life and understanding?

In addition to Canada being at war in Afghanistan, understand a 'Silent War' rages against the Indigenous People in Canada.

To date, their Sovereignty has been denied and our history books have lied. Original agreements have been seriously breached and the Natives have been royally disrespected. To date, the Natives feel Canadians don't care because they continue to be ignored by governments and suffer extreme hardships.

I believe Canadians do care and they care immensely. We just have to be educated and learn the truth as to how we've been duped. Canadians will act to do the right and decent thing to correct past wrongdoings.

According to author, Marianne Williamson, "the world will change when we change". She states in war, it is not who we are. We are one in spirit. She continues, there is so much love in the human heart, yet hatred threatens our planet. Any why, she says? Because hatred is more committed than love.

Indeed, the forces of fear in this world are more disciplined, more courageous in a perverse kind of way, than are the forces of love.

For hatred has no problem announcing itself and its intentions to the world.

She states, our response should not be that we oppose hate; our response must be that we love the world and focus on a person's innocence before a focus on their guilt. Marianne Williamson has a book called "Imagine: What America could look like in the 21st Century". This book should be taught in our high schools.

So Aurora, is Real Peace a possibility in 2010?

Is it so simple as a change in our collective thought, what is called a paradigm shift. That we want to live in Peace.

Could Aurora become a promoter of Real Peace on Earth? I believe she could as this is about all of our healing and I truly believe Aurora cares.

Towards this end, we will be approaching businesses, clubs, sporting groups, high schools, elementary schools, day-cares, churches, individuals and families to ask them if they are an instrument of peace.

Already, we have contacted local, provincial, and national members of government to ask them this question, and have yet to hear a response from any government person.

We can easily convert all military might into

humanitarian and farming efforts, so that job loss is not an issue in stopping war.

If we can only want less and love more, miracles truly can happen.

To show support for this social movement to "give 'real peace' a chance", please display publicly a simple or extravagant pink heart with "we care" in the centre, meaning we care about all humans, creatures, future generations and Mother Earth.

Any and all visible messages of Peace, Love and Hope are highly encouraged.

Heidi G. A. Stoecklin
Aurora

Welcome sign almost invisible, reader claims

To the editor,

As a relatively new resident to Aurora, I am unsure if the following is also new, or if has been a part of Aurora for some time.

Why I am unsure is because this item is quite

good at hiding and after about six months as a resident, I just noticed it the other day.

What I am alluding to is the welcome to Aurora fixture located on the banking where the 404 meets the Wellington off ramp.

I don't know exactly just yet whose domain this signage is, but I thought I'd write The Auroran first, and see if anyone else has the same thoughts.

Why is this fixture so far down towards the bottom of the slope, and set so far into the East side of the banking?

Due to the attitude of the grading for the off and on ramps and the snaking steel guardrails extending further upwards, the sign is completely obscured from view.

Further to that, the sign looks mildly neglected and a little uninspired.

It's not like we need to have the sign gilded or adorn it with some exotic flora, but I think some basic pride in execution would be in order for such a fine town.

And if somebody made a mistake on placement then let's acknowledge it, take responsibility, and get it moved over and raised up the bank.

Jimmy Mancini
Aurora

individuals in Aurora who would like to do the same as Bren Marsh.

Well done, Bren Marsh. Sher St. Kitts has resigned from the Farmers' Market because she says it does not pay.

She is now busy with the July First parade but she does not say she was not being paid for this chore.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora

St. Kitts must have short memory, he says

To the editor,

It is amusing that Sher St. Kitts called the police when Bren Marsh gave her a tongue lashing in public.

St. Kitts' memory must be very short.

Not long ago, Sher St. Kitts, with the help from her friend the mayor, Phyllis Morris, gave a tongue lashing to a sitting councillor in a council meeting.

There are a few more

This reader doesn't like Steve's column

To the editor,

In recent columns Stephen Somerville seems to be tearing himself apart.

Is he John Ibbotson or Jane Taber?

You need to find a number of Aurora residents

who can produce a weekly column.

Surely there must be some who could add lustre to this most important page.

George Hervey
Aurora

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Fees going up to accommodate HST

Fees for many Town services will increase to incorporate the incoming harmonized sales tax July 1.

The new fees studied by councillors at last Tuesday's General Committee meeting are slated to come before council this week for final approval.

"This is pretty much entirely adding the HST where applicable to the existing fee, perhaps rounding it to the nearest dollar or the nearest quarter so it is not specifically mathematics, but there is no material revenue gains intended for this report," said Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott.

Fee schedules are divided into six groups: Administration; building and by-law services; customer and legislative services; planning and development and Committee of

Play opens this Friday

The Young Company at Theatre Aurora presents their rendition of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet on the stage at Theatre Aurora this Friday, May 28th.

The show continues May 29th, 30th, and June 4th, 5th and 6th.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Actors include Joey Ferguson and Adam Suleman as Romeo and Paris; Taylor Askew and Victoria Morton as Juliet; Eliza Varobiev as Benvolio; Sabrina Suleman as Mercutio; James White and Kate Buchanan-Langlais as Friar and Tybalt; Hayley Mae Jones as Lady Capulet; Kaitlin Parker as Lady Montague; Heather Clarke as Nurse; Kaitlin Parker as Prince (ess); and Julia Varobiev as Gregory.

The Young Company is made up of youth, ages 13-18, from the Aurora-Newmarket community who have come together to gain leadership skills and become inspired through theatre.

Learning the basics of lighting design, sound design, stage management, production and acting techniques their experience culminates in the staging of a show.

Director of Romeo & Juliet, Alison Mockler, is a graduate of York University's Fine Arts program and has a Masters in Dance.

She took on this challenge as a way to gain experience teaching children for her teachers' college application.

She has since been accepted to both Western and York University for the consecutive Bachelor of Education program.

Adjustment; Infrastructure and environmental services; corporate and financial services; parks and recreation services; and legal services.

While administrative changes cover such minor changes as a five cent increase in Town photocopies, the department has eliminated charges for the Town of Aurora Business Directory.

"The economic development benefits of the widespread distribution and use of the directory outweigh the very limited revenue generated through its sale," noted the report.

Customer and Legislative Service Department changes include a 50 cent increase in providing certified photocopies and administering oaths, while Infrastructure increases include a \$1 bump in the cost of blue boxes (\$9) to an \$11 increase for water sampling.

A number of errors in the documentation, however, raised questions and caused confusion, stemming from what appeared to be missing charges, legislated or otherwise, particularly where Parks and Recreation Services were concerned.

"There are several such charges such as a vendor permit fee, a park cleanup fee and it goes along where it was not applicable in 2009 and now we're charging it," said Councillor Al Wilson. "The report says there are no increased charges and to my mind the vendor permit fee and the park cleanup fee are some pretty substantial increases."

Mr. Elliott said he was too brief in the comments in the body of the report saying there were no changes.

"There are a couple of these items where we have

been in the practice of making these charges," he said. "In the past they have not been embodied in a bylaw specifically. They ought to be, and they are now here. We've brought them together into one and we've tried to consolidate everything and get it on a schedule."

That did not satisfy Councillor Wilson.

"I'm worried about the park cleanup fee and the vendor permit fee and now I'm even more concerned because I think I just heard we have been charging them and we didn't have a bylaw to do it," he said.

He later questioned staff regarding charges to vendors at Rib Fest and for parade floats.

"These are fees we have charged in the past and did not have a bylaw," said Al Downey, Director of Leisure Services.

"We had charged a float fee for a number of years and it wasn't in the bylaw. We have charged Rib Fest vendors that amount of money and it has not been in the bylaw, as well as the art show entry fees. We are now addressing those omissions that are in the bylaw and bringing them up to our present day."

Councillors referred the report back for further comments and clarification on these matters, and a report released Friday states most of the comments that charges were laid without a bylaw were made in error and the pertinent bylaws were missed in the preparation of the bylaw

schedule.

These omissions covered by other bylaws include the vendor permit fees and park cleanup fees.

"Another clerical error was the identification of the Float Registration fees as new items, when this fee had been included in By-law 4821-06.F.," noted the report released by Laura Sheardown, Cash Flow and Investment Coordinator in the Financial Services Department.

The fee changes and the corrections to the original report have been added to this Tuesday's council agenda for further consideration and comment.

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Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

"The events of this past week have undermined the public's confidence in the OSPCA".

That's how I opened my press conference at Queen's Park where I called on the McGuinty government to step in and oversee an independent investigation into what happened at the York Region chapter of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA).

The public has the right to know what happened, who was responsible and what has to be done to ensure this never happens again.

For those who may have missed the story, the OSPCA announced that because of a outbreak of "ringworm", a decision was made to euthanize all 350 of its sheltered animals.

While I don't pretend to be an expert on ringworm, as a former pet owner I've never known of this to be a deadly disease!

I began to make calls to local veterinarians to get their opinion, and every one of them reacted in the same way.

They were shocked to hear of the OSPCA's mass euthanasia plan, they all expressed surprise that they had not been contacted to ask for help if indeed there was a crisis developing at the shelter, and to the person, said they would gladly donate their time and resources to help save the lives of these animals.

All agreed that not only is it unnecessary to euthanize an animal for ringworm, it is simply wrong.

With this information, I rose in the legislature and called on the Minister of Community Safety to immediately stop the planned euthanasia long enough to at least determine what options are available and I shared with him the offers I had received from at least six veterinarians in York

Region who were willing to become part of a rescue plan.

The minister refused, saying he had no authority to intervene.

Fortunately, the media picked up on my question in the legislature, and this story quickly made headlines across the province and the country.

Thanks to a groundswell of public outrage in response, the OSPCA agreed to put a stop to the euthanasia plan, but not until 99 cats and dogs had already been put down unnecessarily.

As you read this column, the remaining animals are being individually tested and treated, and the offers of help have been accepted from our community veterinarians.

But a huge problem remains, and that is the refusal of the OSPCA and the McGuinty government to do the right thing.

As I stated at my Queen's Park press conference, confidence will only be restored when the public is convinced that a truly independent investigation has taken place, is told the truth about what happened at the shelter and is assured that the necessary oversight is in place to ensure this can never happen again.

Given the circumstances, the investigation cannot be left up to the OSPCA to commission and oversee.

That's why I called on the government to take control of this file and appoint an independent investigator who will report back to the Minister of Community Safety and the legislature.

I am also calling for legislative changes to achieve two objectives:

First, to eliminate the inherent flaw of the current legislation which mandates the OSPCA to provide animal shelter services on the one hand, and on the other, makes the OSPCA, which is a

charitable organization, responsible for policing animal welfare.

I do not believe that a charity should have policing powers - not over itself or any other organization. The OSPCA should have to decide if it's a charity providing shelter services for ani-

mals, or if it wants to be in the business of inspection and enforcement.

Finally, we need effective provincial oversight of animal welfare agencies.

It's unacceptable for a minister of the crown to plead that he's incapable of intervening in a matter

as serious as the one playing itself out at the York Region OSPCA.

The opposition parties are willing to work with the government to achieve these objectives, and we're hopeful the government will agree to work with us to get this right.

For the full story on this issue, log on to my website at <http://www.frankklees.com>.

As always, I welcome your comments on this or any other issue.

Please feel free to contact me at fklee@frankklees.on.ca or call me at 416-509-8999.

What went wrong at the OSPCA?

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Developer would squeeze six floors into five

From page 1

"The greater number of people we can actually bring to the downtown core is a positive thing, so taking off a floor completely, it makes the economic viability of the development very, very difficult and probably not feasible. And you lose the benefit of an additional 10 to 12 units of housing which this is a prime location for."

The building's height has been compressed by reducing the height of the commercial area on the ground floor and compressing the heights of the five residential floors immediately above it.

Debate arose on the actual height of the storeys in the building - not simply in metres or feet - because of the lot dimensions.

The site at Yonge and Centre Street slopes down as it heads north. While the Centre Street frontage appears to be six storeys, looking south on Yonge Street one might see the building as seven storeys.

"There is almost a three-metre difference between the Centre Street elevation down towards Yonge," said Mr. Mac. "This building has always been considered by us to be a six-storey building. Staff and council in the Town have seen this as a seven-storey building and it really depends where you take the measure from."

Although some councillors - including Al Wilson - said the developers did what the Town asked them to do, Councillor Evelina MacEachern said approving this application to amend the official plan was getting ahead of the Town's upcoming Official Plan Review and Promenade Study.

The committee working on the plan is looking at building heights in the pertinent area, said Councillor MacEachern, while the existing official plan does not mention specific heights.

"I think this is putting the cart before the horse," she said. There is clearly a study going on and I believe it has been going on for at least 10 months and it is dealing with exactly this issue," she said. "I think it is great that the applicant has removed over 11 feet of structure, but at the end of the day, the official plan...is speaking to storeys and not height."

"It's possible that once the recommendations from the Promenade study come forward that we will be supporting a six-storey or a seven-storey or a 10-storey, or whatever the case may be, but at the same time we have a process going

on and those recommendations haven't come forward yet.

"They will be coming forward in June and here we are going to approve something that does not comply with the existing official plan and we don't know how that is going to fit in with the recommendations that have been worked on. We would be predetermining the study and I would love to see this be deferred until the Promenade report comes back."

While Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas said the developers had complied with town wishes, she noted that the lack of definition for what constitutes a storey is a problem that needs to be addressed.

"We keep talking about storeys but you haven't defined the height of a storey, so if the applicant had chosen to build a five-storey building using lofts, for example, with 15-foot high ceilings plus clearance, we could end up with a monster of a building," she said.

"To my mind, the applicant has addressed the concern. They have reduced the height of the building which is of concern to me, so I do think they have addressed council's original concerns."

She welcomed Marco Ramunno's comments during the meeting that the revised official plan will address this problem.

"I'm glad to hear that going forward you will actually define what constitutes the height of a storey because to my mind the imprecise language is the problem here."

"Once Council deals with the draft version of the promenade study, the heights, the maximum heights throughout the corridor will be established," said Mr. Ramunno. "But the Steering Committee has already indicated that the maximum heights throughout the corridor would be seven in those focused areas and within this portion of downtown, a maximum of six storeys is being recommended at this point."

The Yonge and Centre development is still an "early work in progress", said Mr. Mac. It is "a long time coming and it is very much ready to go." Once everything is in place and all the approvals are given, Mr. Mac said building could be completed within eight to ten months.

Following discussion, councillors instructed staff to come back with a report outlining the maximum building height of the development and the general height of a storey.

In a report released Friday in advance of this week's council meeting, Mr. Ramunno noted the building facade along Yonge Street is seven storeys, including commercial level, a parking level above the commercial floor, and five floors of residential units.

This facade measures 28.2 metres or 92.5 feet.

The Centre Street facade, he wrote, is five storeys including a park-

ing level and five floors of residential units, measuring in at 25.1 metres or 82.5 feet.

"A general height of 4.5 metres (15 ft.) is a common standard ground for ground floor commercial (space), however flexibility in ground floor heights are encouraged to create store front and streetscape diversity," said Mr. Ramunno. "The second storey and above residential floor to floor

heights are generally proposes 3.5 metre residential floor to floor heights." The Kaitlin development heights."

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TAYLOR COOKE

His idea thrills AMHA executives

Taylor Cooke is a 16-year-old Grade 10 student at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora. Last Wednesday night, he was honoured by the Aurora Optimist Club, because of his efforts to support Canada's troops overseas. The Optimist Club, which has a passion for supporting youth in Aurora, became aware of Taylor through the Aurora Minor Hockey Association, and publicly recognized him at the club's annual Respect for Law dinner held at St. Andrew's Golf Club Wednesday night. Taylor, in a letter written to the president and board of directors of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association, challenged players to wear ribbons of support for the troops. Optimist president Ken Banks and York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, who is a huge supporter of Canada's troops, made a presentation to the Aurora teen. The Optimist Club will also make a presentation to the Wounded Warriors Foundation

in Taylor's name, club member Steve Hinder said. "I'm pleased to announce that building on our recognition of Taylor and supporting our motto of bringing out the best in young people, next year, under the leadership of our President-Elect Glen Sharpe, we will be introducing a Youth Appreciation event," Hinder told the audience. "We will focus on all that is good with our youth by letting the community know about the amazing contribution that our young people make." Taylor, in a letter to the AMHA, said donations of a toonie or more could be made for hockey players to get the support crest. He thought he might be lucky if they raised \$2,000, but says so far the donations have topped \$9,000. A hockey player in the AMHA for the last eight years, Taylor said he got the idea last March when his parents, Paul and Paula Cooke, took him and his sister to the Highway of Heroes (401) to watch three Canadian soldiers being

returned to their final resting place. He sports the ribbon on both his goaltender helmet and sweater. "That night, I watched Hockey Night in Canada and saw Don Cherry pay tribute to the same three soldiers," he said in his letter to AMHA president Joe Bentolilla and the board of directors. "After watching this, my oldest brother told me about three of his friends who he played hockey with in the AMHA less than five years ago, who are now or will be going to Afghanistan with the Canadian Armed Forces. "That got me to thinking that maybe our players in our Association could wear the Yellow Ribbon on our jerseys in support of our own members and of others who have played in the OMHA who are now serving," Taylor wrote. "Let's show the rest of the country how proud Aurora is of its members and of the others who are serving by doing something really simple," he concluded.

Aurora minor peewee Jays dump Thornhill Reds 10-7

The Aurora Jays had their first win of the season in Thornhill's home park recently. After two innings of solid pitching and great defensive fielding by Charles Bennett the score was tied 1-1. Bennett threw four runners out at first base, while on the mound. Thomas Curley gave a strong pitching performance in the third and fourth innings with four strikeouts. Austin Skelhorn stepped in for the fifth, striking out one. Lucas Bulmer went three for three at the plate with two runs batted in from two solid hits to the outfield. Jamie Finlay was good for two RBI's on the night. Skelhorn and Curley also drove in two. Scoring one RBI each was Adam Starr and Tyler Murray. In the bottom of the fifth the Reds were threatening to tie it up with runners on the corners and the tying run at the plate. But the Jays' defense dashed their hopes. Joey Leger caught a foul pop fly at third and Adam Starr made the last out with another pop fly caught behind first base to end the game. The team's Head Coach is Don Gillespie.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2010/2011 REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-2011 HOCKEY SEASON HAS BEGUN. PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE www.auroraminorhockey.net FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

REGISTRATION FEES ARE:
\$500.00 (TYKE TO BANTAM)
\$535.00 (MINOR MIDGET & MIDGET)

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2010 THE REGISTRATION FEE WILL INCREASE TO:
\$550.00 (TYKE TO BANTAM)
\$585.00 (MINOR MIDGET & MIDGET)

OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$50.00.

THE AMHA WILL ACCEPT:
CHILDREN BORN IN 2004 FOR OUR TYKE HOCKEY PROGRAM. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THEY HAVE EITHER TAKEN SKATING LESSONS OR COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF OPTI HOCKEY. WE WILL REQUIRE A COPY OF THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND THE PARENTS DRIVERS LICENSE.

WE WILL ACCEPT PLAYERS BORN IN 1990 & 1991 FOR THE MIDGET HOUSE LEAGUE PROGRAM.

After June 1st, the AMHA office will be open by appointment only.



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The Aurora Chamber of Commerce used the facilities at the Aurora Legion last week for new members to introduce their wares. Several new chamber members, above, took advantage of the offer and displayed their wares for a couple of hours last Wednesday morning. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Selkies show well in St. Catharines

The Aurora Selkies Swim Team enjoyed more successes in the pool at Brock University in St Catharines recently, with excellent results coming from young swimmers attending their first competitive swim meet ever. Top place finishers by first time competitors included: Pedro Balzan, who was second in the 50 breaststroke and third in the 200 freestyle in the

10 years category; and David Blair, who finished second in the 200 freestyle, also in the 10 years category. Other swimmers of note were Lauren D'Andrade, third in the 50 backstroke, 12 years, Carter Derbyshire, second in the 50 freestyle, and third in the 400 freestyle, 8 years; Wilson Derbyshire, first in the 50 freestyle and the 50 but-

terfly, second in the 400 freestyle, 9 years; Kyrie Faderbauer, second in the 50 backstroke, 11 years; Andrew Goslin, third in the 50 backstroke, 12 years; Evan Holtby, first in the 50 backstroke, and second in the 50 breaststroke, 8 years; Erin Lansing, first in both the 100 breaststroke and the 50 breaststroke, and third in the 50 freestyle and the 100

backstroke, 8 years; Kyra Lansing, second in the 100 breaststroke and the 100 freestyle, and third in the 200 freestyle and the 200 breaststroke, 12 years; James Pallotto, first in the 50 backstroke and third in the 200 backstroke, 11 years; Constantin Sasarman, first in the 400 freestyle, and the 200 freestyle, second in the 200 IM, and third in the 50 freestyle, the 100 freestyle, and the 100 butterfly, 11 years; Valentin Sasarman, second in the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle and third in both the 50 butterfly and the 400 freestyle, 10 years; Christina Smid, first in the 50 freestyle, the 50 butterfly, and the 400 freestyle, 9 years; and Myko Smid, third in the 50 butterfly, 9 years.

Sledge hockey game set for Aurora June 4

According to Ivy Henriksen, the Town of Aurora Accessibility Advisor, it's "game on" Friday, June 4th at 5 p.m. when a community sledge hockey game will be held at the Stronach Aurora Leisure Complex located at 1400 Wellington Street East. Members of the Markham Islanders and Newmarket Shredders sledge teams will challenge members of the Town of Aurora "Staff" team. "Our staff are very excited to participate in this game and learn more about sledge hockey and inclusion

in sports," she said. "This game is being held as our "wrap up" event in acknowledgement of National Access Awareness Week. Posters and a press release should be available next week via email." Jerseys will be provided to both teams in appreciation of their time and energy, she said. "John Hall and Pat McIntosh have graciously offered to coach the Shredders/Islanders team and Kelvin has offered to help coach our Aurora staff team," Ivy added. The Stronach Centre has

an accessible change room with wheel-in shower if needed and there is plenty of accessible parking and accessible viewing areas, she said.

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Today, the building at left is the home of the Aurora Lions Club, but it was, years ago, the Mechanic's Hall and again this year it's on the list of Doors Open locations in Aurora. It's located at the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Once inside the building, the visitor will be greeted by a model railroad layout, for the third consecutive year, courtesy of the Scarborough Model Railroad Club. Details may be found in the story beneath the photographs.



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Mechanics Hall, railway layout, part of Doors Open this year

A stop at the Lion's Club Hall (formerly the Mechanics Hall) site at 33 Mosley Street, corner of Victoria, during Doors Open Aurora on August 21st this year will provide visitors with the opportunity to view one of Aurora's heritage buildings and experience the Scarborough Model Railroaders excellent and extremely popular HO scale railway layout.

The Mechanics Hall was constructed in 1870 and enlarged in 1888 for the Aurora Mechanics Institute and Library Association, which originated in 1855 as the Aurora Association for the Diffusion of Helpful Knowledge.

The Mechanics Institute was an organization started in England to advance the education of "mechanics" - as all craftsmen, tradesmen, and factory workers were called at that time.

Because of its educational goals, the Mechanics Institute opened Aurora's first public library as well.

Over the years the hall has hosted a variety of events, plays, concerts and lectures.

It reached a high point during the First World War, when it served as the location of a number of produc-

tions intended to increase morale on the home front and raise funds for troops.

One of these was the "Temple of Fame" a pageant of famous women, which was presented in 1918 to raise money for the overseas work of the Canadian Red Cross.

Mechanics Institute activities eventually lessened and in 1920 the town took over the hall.

During the 1930s, the cellar was dug out and central heating installed.

After the Second World War, Aurora Textiles rented the building for manufacturing knitted goods.

In 1951, the Lions Club purchased it and applied stucco over its original brick.

In 1956, the Aurora Gospel Church took over until 1981 when the Lions Club resumed occupancy.

Doors Open is privileged to have the Scarborough Model Railroaders returning for a third year to this site.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the model railway layout with steam and diesel locomotives, most equipped with realistic sound, as well as a camera-equipped rail diesel car that provides a live TV feed from the engi-

neer's perspective that will make you feel like you are part of the action.

Learn more about the Scarborough Model Railroaders through their club website at www.scarborough-model-railroaders.org or speak to one of their members during the Doors Open event.

When you leave the Mechanics Hall, after viewing the building and the railway exhibit, look for the rose window, a particular characteristic of 19th century Gothic Revival architecture found primarily on Christian churches all over the world.

Bring your children for a remarkable time at "Kids, Heritage and Art" event to take place at Victoria Hall, 27 Mosley Street.

No tickets and no pre-registration are necessary.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, visit www.e-aurora.ca/aurora/doorsopen2010 or call 905-727-3123, Ext. 4351.

Doors Open officials are looking for dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers and as a thank you, you will receive a t-shirt with the Doors Open Aurora logo.

Visit the website and complete the volunteers' application form.

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Senior Scape



By BRIAN WARBURTON

Seniors' general meeting happens Wednesday, June 2

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) takes place Wednesday, June 2nd, between 4 and 6 p.m.

The AGM is an annual event, which allows input by the membership by voting for members of the next committee, and by directing sincere, lucid questions of merit to the present directors concerning past administration of the ASA and future plans.

The attendance of members at the AGM is expected to fill the West Mackenzie Hall as year by year, members appreciate that excellent directors are more likely to produce noteworthy results of significance.

Last year saw an attempt to obtain a liquor license for the ASA fail narrowly. The board was divided on the liquor license issue and so was the membership who voted against it in a referendum.

During the Annual General meeting, anyone may ask to address the meeting, which may be granted if time permits.

This year, and in the presence of a quorum, questions may be presented in public and

motions may be made by ordinary members, which if carried by vote, will amend the constitution accordingly.

The Operating and Activities Committee (O&A) was formed in the past year to consider certain ASA administrative matters, thus lessening the load on the board.

During the last O&A committee meeting, attended by president Charles Sequeira, a request for funds was presented for gardening supplies including plants and possibly a plant pot.

This is not a weighty matter and Judy Buchanan, who chairs the Gardening Committee, was not present and unable to speak to her request.

Nevertheless, when the long established custom of discretionary funding under \$100 was used in an attempt to move the matter along, a challenge was issued by Charles Sequeira who noted that this custom is not documented.

That resulted in the funding request not proceeding and apparently, it now goes before the board.

The AGM will elect a new board early in June.

Congratulations to the Town, which has agreed to post a number of parking signs in an effort to alleviate the parking problems in and around the Seniors' Centre.

Existing parking spaces are probably adequate in the short term if visitors and employees park with consideration for seniors who need a little thoughtful concern.

The Federal Minister for Seniors, Carol LeBlanc, will visit the Centre Monday, June 14th. Madam LeBlanc is aware of some of the issues at the ASA and enquires whether a buddy system is in place to aid seniors who require transportation.

The establishment of a buddy system would likely entail a review of what is required and the feasibility of making a system work appropriately.

All of the ASA activity committees are asked to submit a written report outlining their activities to Jytte Gillies.

These reports, abridged, will be presented at the AGM, serving to illustrate what the members find interesting in their day to day hobbies and pursuits at the Seniors' Centre.



SOYRA's (Society of York Region Artists) "Award of Excellence" in the new Youth category went to Joscelyn Sevier for her "Here We Are After Dark". Joscelyn is a student at St. Maximilian Kolbe High School and the award was presented at the recent Art Aurora show held at the town hall. The Aurora Optimist Club contributed to making the new category possible.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Compostable liners mandatory next year?

The use of compostable Green Bin liners could become mandatory next year as council is poised to enact the bylaw this week.

"On December 6, 2009, York Region Council approved mandatory use of certified compostable bags in the York Region's Source Separated Organics (SSO)

program commencing May 1, 2011," according to a report by Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services.

The ban on plastic bags in the SSO program will be phased in gradually, he said.

Research will be undertaken to look at "possible barriers and misconceptions residents

may have related to using compostable bags."

The information collected from this research, he said, will be used to develop a campaign to launch in January.

"The focus of the campaign will be to educate and motivate residents to purchase compostable bag liners through the distribution of informational material, paid advertising, public events and the website."

Following the campaign, the bag use will come into effect on May 1.

While this bylaw has been forthcoming since late 2009, the continued use of plastic bags was allowed to continue

to "encourage early public acceptance and participation in the SSO program and to facilitate collection of as much of the organics stream as possible" according to the report.

"Convenience for residents has always been a key focus for York Region's SSO program," he noted. "The more convenient a program, the more likely residents will participate."

The Region has been campaigning to promote the use of compostable bags as early as August 2009, with mailings being sent to all households receiving curbside collection.

School seeks sidewalks

From page 1

Parkway have yet to be addressed. "We have a lot of people walking up (where) there is no sidewalk heading north on Industrial from Wellington on the southwest side below Centre Street. There is also no sidewalk from Centre to the opening (of the school parking lot) across the lights."

Additional sidewalks would also increase safety for students who travel to the school on foot from farther afield, he said.

"We have a lot of students who walk along Industrial from St. John's Sideroad all the way to the school. The area of concern we have is from the Leisure Complex where there is actually no sidewalk (north) on either side of Industrial.

"The school population is getting bigger, it's going to go up 50 per cent and we would just like an ounce of prevention."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, suggested that pathways instead of sidewalks might be an easier solution to the problem at this time.

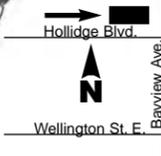
"Knowing kids, they tend to find the shortest distance between two points," she said. "Even if there isn't a walkway, they generally make a walkway for themselves. There is a pattern. Pathways would be a lot easier at this time to provide than sidewalks."

Councillors received Mr. Comeau's comments and referred them to staff to come back with a report addressing these issues at a later date.



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Stephenson Harold (Steve)
May 28, 2009

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Level 2: Jive and Tango 9 - 10 p.m.

Please call for advanced registration or pay at the door the first night

The cost is just \$85 per person for 8 weeks. Do I need special shoes? No, but dance or leather soled shoes with non marking heels are best. Do not wear rubber soled shoes.

Please call or email for more information or to register for upcoming events

Site: www.SteveMillerDance.ca Call Steve Miller at 416-587-4125
 Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca



Gay King, from the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society, waits to serve the many visitors who showed up at the Aurora Library Saturday morning for the society's annual plant sale.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

COMING EVENTS

From page 2

Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-713-9356.

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Guest speaker for the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society is Nancy Lee-Colibaba, a master gardener, from Brantford. Group meets at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. A Youth Gardening Program will begin at 6.30 p.m. for one hour. Called "A Walk in the Aurora Arboretum", you can get more information by calling Ray at 905-727-6168.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Aurora Grove Public School's 10th Anniversary Spring Fling and Reunion begins at 10.30 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. Cake cutting ceremony at 11.15 a.m. Included will be Bouncers, a Silent Auction, music with a DJ, a Kidz Play Zone, a raffle, face painting, food, prizes, and a memory lane for the reunion.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

A Glenn Marais and Friends Benefit Concert will be held this evening at the Aurora United Church. The Youthful Spirits are hosting the concert to help send Glenn Marais to Swaziland. Once in Africa, Glenn, a popular music educator in York Region schools, will share his musical talents, for the second year in a row, with children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. The concert takes place in the newly renovated Aurora United Church. A free-will offering will be collected and participants will also have a chance to win a Glenn Marais concert at home. The event begins at 7 p.m. For more information call Steve Falk at 416-525-1056 or e-mail at: sfalk@sympatico.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

The next Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting will be hosted by JackKryn France Inc. from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. They are located at 89

Wellington Street East. The event is complimentary to Chamber members.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

Launch of Artcures Art Exhibition Show and Sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, at 7 p.m. A display and sale of York Region visual artists; works in a variety of media including oil, watercolour, acrylic, pottery and more. Artcures is a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring wellness through creativity. Ongoing through to June 13th; for sale hours call the Centre at 905-713-1818 or send an e-mail to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca. There is no admission fee for this event.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Annual Aurora Street Festival on Yonge Street, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nearly 600 vendor spaces have been sold.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

The Aurora Film Circuit presents "Young at Heart", an award-winning documentary about a group of seniors living in Massachusetts who refuse to let age and ill health get them down. Instead, they join a singing group that performs rock, punk, and disco. The average age is 81; the oldest is 92. One member needs an oxygen tank; another has undergone chemotherapy; a third is recovering from a serious illness. The film is 50 per cent music and 50 per cent documentary footage. Songs include David Bowie's "Golden Years", the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive," And the Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go". Tickets, at \$10, are on sale at the library and R&R Used Books, Edward Street.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Merlin's Hollow, the English flower garden, is open, free of charge, to the public today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 181 Centre Crescent.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Hospice King-Aurora and Doane House Hospice holds their annual fundraising golf tournament at nearby Station Creek Golf Club at 8.30 a.m. To reserve your spot and for more information contact Lynn McLarnon at 905-773-0155 or Stephen Forsey at 905-726-9343.

JUNE 25 AND 26

Slippermen appears at Theatre Aurora both nights at 7.30 p.m. There is also a 1.30 p.m. matinee at the Theatre on Saturday, June 26. For tickets, call Theatre Aurora at 905-727-3669.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Merlin's Hollow, the English flower garden, is open, free of charge, to the public today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 181 Centre Crescent.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society invites you to attend its annual Aurora Garden Tour. Spend an afternoon on a self-guided tour of seven gardens where the owners and creators of these lovely landscape designs will be present to chat with you. The tour is from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine! Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aurora at Art of the Matter, 2 Orchard Heights Boulevard; Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; and R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street; and at our booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market June 19th, 26th, and July 3rd. For more information call 905-727-5926 or visit gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/5469.

Feature Videos now playing

- Aurora Farmers Market - May 22
- Youth in Action Aurora - May 22
- Second Annual Pine Tree Potters Guild Sale at Church Street School in Aurora

THE AURORAN.COM FREE DRAW

Giveaway



T.H. Oliver Heating & Cooling

TheAuroran.com Marketplace member T.H. Oliver owners, Elise and Steve Desjardins recently gave away a free 22 point residential furnace or air conditioner clean & safety check valued at \$100.00 in their FREE DRAW. T.H. Oliver Heating & Air Conditioning Inc. was established in Aurora in 1924—on the premise of providing modern technology to improve the lives of local families. This legacy continues today, with the highest efficiency heating and air conditioning products that are also environmentally friendly. They offer 24 hour emergency service by licensed, factory authorized service professionals. T.H. Oliver celebrates more than 85 years of service. Contact Elise or Steve today to find out about the Energy Star rebates available. For more information visit theauroran.com "Services" MarketPlace category or call 905-727-4258. T.H. Oliver is located at 136 Wellington St. E., unit #4.

Go to the MarketPlace for FREE DRAWS—enter to WIN!

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