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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of July 6, 2010

## EDAC chairperson seeks council seat

Aurora's chairperson of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), Chris Ballard has registered to run for town council.

The owner of Aurora based CSB Communications – a communications company - Chris is a resident of Fairway Drive.

He is also a former reporter for the Aurora Banner, having worked there in the early 80s.

Chris told The Auroran he wants to attract business to Aurora.

A four-year member of EDAC, he said once he joined the committee he got caught up in it.

According to a comment on the Aurora Citizen blog, there would be a conflict of interest in having Chris run for

council, but EDAC is an appointed position.

"This will raise an interesting quandary when it comes to declaring conflicts. How would sitting on council impact his ability to work for the same town he is a councillor for?" the blog asked. "No doubt he will have an interesting response to the question. We'd certainly be interested in hearing what his response is."

Ballard, using his own name, did respond.

"To be clear, our firm is not currently working for the Town of Aurora, nor has it since the 1990s when we sub-contracted to WorldWide Online (whose President, Romeo Colacitti was also

**Please see page 12**

## Aurora firm gets grant

An Aurora firm will benefit to the tune of half a million dollars to support skills training in Ontario's Green Economy, The Auroran has learned.

Windfall Ecology, which operates from the Sheppard home in Sheppard's Bush, received the grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in a ceremony in downtown Toronto this week.

Three others will share the remainder of the \$2 million grant.

Organizations will use the funds to create green jobs and promote systematic change in green jobs skills development and training.

Ontario Culture Minister Michael Chan and Minister of Environment John Gerretsen were on hand for the event.



Capping a very successful 41st July First celebrations in Aurora was a huge display of fireworks Thursday night at Lambert Willson park. Thousands of people crammed into the area to watch the display, many of those still celebrating festivities which started that morning with a successful parade. The Auroran has more pictures on Page 9.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Parade draws thousands to Yonge Street in Aurora

Sher got her wish Thursday. Under perfect weather conditions, the "Red Hot Canadian" organized another successful July First parade.

This one had Olympic overtones, considering Canada's incredible showing at the Olympics in and around Vancouver earlier this year.

Highlight was the appearance of two Olympian skaters, Aurora's Vanessa Crone and Paul Poirier.

Volunteers were able to put an Olympic spin on the Town's Canada Day Celebrations.

"The Town is very excited to recreate what they can of the fervour and love of Canada," said Ms. St. Kitts at a recent council meeting. "Our national pride has been brought to a new level. On July 1st at 10 a.m., be out on the street, wear your red and white, and get ready for some really big surprises."

Thousands of people obliged as Yonge Street was crowded from Orchard Heights Drive, where the parade started, to Murray Drive, where it ended.

"We have a few things we haven't announced. We do have five official torch bearers in the parade; we have First Nations coming from Georgina Island in full regalia to help recreate our wonderful country from its

**Please see page 10**

### Briefly

#### Cup in Nobleton

The Stanley Cup has never been to Aurora but it's coming to the area this week. Chicago Blackhawks' Nick Boynton (number 24) will bring the cup to Nobleton this Friday, July 9.

He and the cup will join King Mayor Margaret Black and her council at 2 p.m. at the Dr. William Lacey Nobleton Arena, 15 Old King Road in Nobleton.

Also included in the three-hour event is a free barbecue.

#### 107th birthday

Ada Johnson, a resident of Park Place Manor, will celebrate her 107th birthday Saturday, July 17th.

She was born Ada Viola Kerr in Purpleville, just east of Kleinberg, in 1903.

Ada is Aurora's oldest citizen.

#### Retires

Thomas McPherson, once the solicitor for the Town of Aurora, retired June 30.

All of his on-going files have been transferred to Brad Lewis and his staff at 15220 Yonge Street.



15105 Yonge St., Suite 100, Aurora  
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# COMING EVENTS

**CONTINUING**

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](http://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. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.  
\*\*\*\*\*

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, 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 capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or Vikki at [information@yorkhighlands.com](mailto: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 Fire Hall, 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.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora, is now closed for the summer and will start up again Thursday, September 2.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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 [keepingsing@rogers.com](mailto:keepingsing@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 at [jhoffmann@sympatico.ca](mailto: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 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, JULY 7**

Mary Lambert, winner of two Canadian Juno awards, the U.S. Parents Choice Award and others, is special guest at the Aurora Concert in the Park, tonight at 7 p.m. in the Aurora Town Park. Bring chairs or blankets.

**JULY 12-16**

Aurora United Church presents "A Veggie Tales Celebration!" camp from 9 a.m. to noon for children 5-12 years of age. Cost is \$25 per child. For more information call the church office at 905-727-1935.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 14**

A tribute to the Blues Brothers will be presented tonight by five performers, accompanied by a four-piece band, will entertain tonight at the Aurora Concert in the Park at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Town Park.

**SUNDAY, JULY 18**

Championship and Household Pet Cat Show at the Aurora Community Centre beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 5 p.m.

For more information contact Terry at [terry@greentiger.ca](mailto:terry@greentiger.ca) or visit [www.cca-afc.com](http://www.cca-afc.com) or [meow-wow.ca](http://meow-wow.ca).

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 21**

Canada's most accomplished Latin jazz guitarist and Juno award winner Robert Michaels entertains tonight at the Aurora Concert in the Park at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Town Park.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Sing your favourite hymns at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 2 to 4 p.m. All welcome. The building is wheelchair accessible at the north entrance. Donations are accepted in support of the Centre. Church Street School, 22 Church Street, Aurora. For further information call 905-713-1818.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**

The 37th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show takes place at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as exhibitors from across southern Ontario display antique and classic cars. Rain date is August 15th. Admission is \$6 (children under seven free); or \$15 per family of up to four. For more information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337. The museum is on Woodbine Avenue in Vandonr.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25**

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents Everything you wanted to know about Growing Bulbs by Jeff Mason of Mason House Gardens at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial

Parkway North. Visitors are welcome, only \$2. For further information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

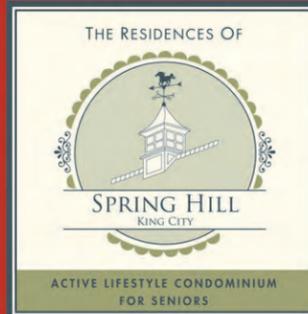
Annual flower show will be held at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street. from noon to 4 p.m. Call Ray for more info 905-727-6168.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

The Reverend David Chisling will talk about Garden Therapy at the regular meeting of the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society meeting at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

Aurora's Pine Tree Potters' Guild will host an "Empty Bowls" fund-raising event to benefit the York Region Food Network and Welcoming Arms. The event will take place at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) with lunch from noon to 2 p.m. and dinner from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets will be available after September 8. For the price of a ticket, guests may choose from hundreds of handmade pottery bowls. Chefs from various Aurora restaurants will be on hand to serve their signature gourmet soups and artisan breads. For further information, click on [www.pinetreepotters.ca](http://www.pinetreepotters.ca)



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Belinda Stronach, former Member of Parliament, was the hostess at Belinda's Barbecue, held last week at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The place was packed for the annual event. Here, she and Bill Higgins prepare a meal.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Town reports \$million surplus

The Town of Aurora operated at a surplus of \$1.21 million for the year ending 2009, according to the 2009 Audit Report presented to council recently.

Favourable variances from the 2009 operating budget included \$800,000 in staff salaries and benefits, \$127,000 in net investment income, \$610,000 in supplementary tax revenue, \$584,000 in building permit fee revenues, \$160,000 in facilities operational savings, and \$60,000 in "unfulfilled economic development activities".

Unfavourable variances occurred in engineering fees revenue to the tune of \$181,000, \$95,000 in planning applications, and \$628,700 for contributions to the Building Fees Reserve.

Combined, these factors resulted in a 2009 operating surplus of \$1,211,000.

"[The surplus was] up from an estimate as at August 31, 2009, of \$963,700," said Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott in a report to Council. "The approved budget for 2009 included \$41,884,000 of expenditures, together with other revenues including user fees, charges, and investment income, and a total 'town purposes' tax levy for the year of \$25,913,300."

Following allocations carried into the 2010 budget, this surplus is reduced to \$57,500 with \$83,427 being transferred to the winter snow reserve, \$600,000 returned to the Hydro reserve, a \$26,000 transfer to the tax rate stabilization reserve, and \$205,080 to the Municipal Capital Reserve, according to Mr. Elliott's report.

At the meeting, Councillor Wendy Gaertner asked for the "key drivers" relating to this surplus.

"\$800,000 of that arise from salaries and benefits in all departments and we know that comes from natural gapping, but it also comes from the approval of a full year of salary for senior positions that came online in 2009, so

there was some natural gapping," explained Mr. Elliott.

"There were a number of fee revenues that were below expectations...however, despite our economy, our investment income did outperform its budget and there is an explanation in the report," he continued. "It is next to high returns that we're still earning from our longer term investments coupled with a very low bank rate that we pay our reserves.

"We are glad to see the facilities operations are showing some savings, primarily in utilities work, and that is because some of the retrofits we have seen through our capital program in the last couple of years gained some footing and show the payoff those investments are making."

Auditor Kirk VanBlarcom, representing municipal auditor Grant Thornton, LLP was on hand at the meeting to speak to his team's findings.

"This has been a challenging year for all municipalities, including my own here in Aurora," he said. "As a taxpayer and resident of Aurora I am very pleased to report that the town has a strong cash position. We do not issue any new debt this year and there is upwards of \$47 million in reserves.

"I would point out that the allocation of reserves towards maintaining infrastructure is an issue that is going to need to be dealt with as part of the capital budgeting process going forward.

"All municipalities need to deal with the infrastructure maintenance issue and not all municipalities are in as strong a position as the Town of Aurora."

## Bridge results

**Monday, June 28:** N/S - Pat Spear and Don Strupat; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin. E/W - Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden; Jan Armstrong and Paula Stafford; Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton.

## Judges noted for work in anti-litter contest

Back in late May, the Town of Aurora honoured 10 Grade 4 students who were named finalists in the annual Grade 4 Anti-Litter Day Poster Contest.

A recent council meeting, however, provided the stage for the adults' turn in the spotlight.

Mayor Phyllis Morris and councillors presented plaques of appreciation to judges and helpers who helped make the poster contest event possible.

"We always need a little bit of extra help in the Spring after the winter thaw is gone and we're looking forward to see what's happening in our town," said Mayor Morris on Anti-Litter Day. "What's great is when schools get behind this, the teachers who are dedicated, the parents who are supporting their children, and the little ones in Grade 4 who have the talent to put out a poster.

"To select from those 250 entries, we need judges and tonight we are pleased to hand out thank-yous to the people that helped us with the anti-litter posters."

The first plaque went to Catherine Marshall, a former member of Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee.

"It's always a pleasure to do things with kids and art and [hear] their thoughts," said Ms. Marshall. "It's always an inspiration to the adults involved to see what they have to say."

Next up was Bud Switzer.

"We see an awful lot of potential commercial artists out there," said Mr. Switzer after receiving his plaque. "Some of the thought and ideas were just unbelievable. We thought some of them looked like college students [work]. Thank you for this honour."

Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure was also honoured with a plaque. Although Ms. Clark McClure was unable to attend the presentation, Susan Walmer accepted the plaque on her behalf.

"Over the years, she has taken great pleasure in helping," said Mayor Morris of Ms. Clark McClure, the wife of the late Dick Illingworth. "We have certainly enjoyed having Dorothy as one of the judges and with her keen eye and appreciation

for art, she spotted a few talented artists. This is presented to Dorothy Clark McClure with our grateful thanks and appreciation."

Other honourees included Andy McClure, Pastor Ian Ardill of Community Bible Church, Greg Foster of M&M Meats, and Louis Anagnostakos of Turtle Island Recycling.

The ten Aurora Grade 4 students - along with their teachers - were saluted for their achievements at Council on May 27.

The overall winner, Alessia Bomben of the Aurora Montessori School, will see her winning design featured in promotions in the lead-up to the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day next year.

"We agreed [Alessia's] poster would be very visible from a distance and had a pretty clear message - Keep Aurora Clean," said Catherine Marshall at last month's meeting.

Contest finalists included Eden Albertyne of Foundations Private School; Thomas Alkhoury of Ecole Saint-Jean; Mariah Cohen and Ashley Feather, both of Aurora Montessori; Lester B. Pearson Public School Students Natalia Manjarres and Frances Pocock; Jean-Luc Pullano of Holy Spirit Catholic School; Valentin Sasarman of Ecole Saint-Jean; and Samantha Vernon of Aurora Montessori.

"This year we had 10 elementary schools participating and 230 students, which was up by a third from last year, so I think our young people are getting on board about anti-litter and environment," said Ms. Marshall.

"As everyone knows, we run this contest every year to promote the idea that litter is not acceptable in the Town of Aurora and we do an anti-litter campaign in many of the schools, help the children come up with a poster contest, and then we have five judges who spend a lot of time looking at every single design that is put forward by the school children," added Mayor Morris.

The winners were also applauded by Aurora's outside workers, who came in from their information picket outside the Town Hall to attend the meeting.



Patti Skelton is the street festival "key" winner. She is holding the magic key which opened a lock for the prize of a year's hair colour treatments from Yellow/Orange Spa located at 15117 Yonge Street. 905-726-8141. Sponsored by L'Oréal Professionals.



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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

### July First parade was a good one

While I was watching the parade on July 1st (and a good one, it was, too) I couldn't help but remember the way it used to be when Aurora became Canada's Birthday Town in 1969.

The first event of its kind was held then, spurred on by the likes of the late Bob Buchanan, Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth and resident Jack Moore.

Ernie Batson, then manager of the Aurora Community Centre, and after whom Batson Drive is named today, was also in on it.

So was Fred Bolsby, then a volunteer with the Aurora Fire Department, who, before he died, became Aurora's first fire prevention officer.

For the late Mayor Illingworth, it was a great event, designed to unite the south town (Regency Acres) with the north town (Aurora Heights) and the central (old) town.

He did it by leading a snake dance around the community centre, that, it seemed, everyone was attached to.

Today, the south town, or Regency Acres, is practically in the centre part of town, as Aurora continues to grow and grow... and grow.

In those days, however, the reason for Regency Acres in the first place was Sterling Drug, and that was the location of the marshalling of the parade.

The huge factory was located at the corner of Yonge Street and Murray Drive and its parking lot was the perfect place to marshall a parade.

The parade then left the factory parking lot, and headed north to the Aurora Community Centre, where prizes were awarded and people prepared for an afternoon of merriment inside the centre as the committee presented a German beer garden.

The place was packed, and a good time was had by all (I can't believe I just wrote that...)

Today, there is no beer garden, but there are other activities at the Lambert Willson Park that attract a big crowd.

So, maybe the organizers today know what they're doing, but I still think it would be better if all the activity was at the Aurora Community Centre.

On the night of July First, there would be another party inside the Centre, and I remember the first one when the late Bobby Gimby appeared in Aurora singing his famous Canada song, and putting to rest, once and for all, the old motto that Aurora wore, which was "The Chicken Capital of the World". It developed that name because of the Cut-Up Chicken factory that was located in Aurora's north end.

Suddenly, Aurora became known as "Canada's Birthday Town", a motto that appears on the July First flag that was designed by cartoonist Lyle Glover.

And I thought I owned every copy of that flag, until I saw granddaughter Mikala Stade carrying one in Thursday's parade. I believe I own five copies of the flag.

"There are probably lots of them in people's basements," offered my wife, Patricia.

If that's true, I'd like to know about it. Send me a note or an e-mail (ron@auroran.com) and tell me you own one.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the late Norm Stewart, who was the chief chef at St. Andrew's College at the time and was an Aurora councillor. He was responsible for baking the huge cake that was wheeled out onto the concrete floor at the Community Centre that night.

Why, I'll ask again, is there no street in Aurora named after this man?

Everyone else who was on council at the time has a street named after them, but not Norm. Wonder why.

At any rate, July First is now 41 years old (is it really?) and I can only hope it continues for another four decades or so...



**Yours truly, right, and Fred Bolsby of the Aurora Fire Department, handled the organization of the children's section in the July First parade at the Sterling Drug parking lot about four decades ago.**



**Members of the Aurora High School (today it's known as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School) senior football team are shown here in 1961. They are, front row, left to right, Keith Scott, Robert Wright, Andy Peterson, Allan Hutchins, Bob McBurney, Clare Doolittle, Barry Wallace, and Richard Asbury. In the second row, left to right, are Jackie Wray, Bill Jessop, Greg Gater, Jim Hadcock, Stephen Bernardo, Denis Symons, Larry Rose, and John Parry. In the third row, left to right, are, Paul Sisman, Frank Holt, Gary McLaughlin, Larry Wall, Dud Dunlop, Ivan Anderson and Terry Anderson. In the top row, left to right, are, D.F. Knight, the coach, Wolfe Bucholtz, Don Graham, Ken Dion, Brian Robertson, and Don Gordon, the manager. John Onnapuu was absent when this photo was taken. See anyone you know? In 1961 there was no junior football team. It was combined with the seniors to form a single squad. That year, the team won three games and lost four "an improvement from previous years", according to the school yearbook "the Atom".**

### Letter to the Editor

## Passenger says goodbye to GO Transit "B" service

To the editor,

Farewell to the GO Transit "B" Service buses on Yonge Street

I am a long time GO "B" Service commuter, travelling daily into the city from my bus stop at St Andrews College in Aurora.

Alas, I now find that from now on (as of July, 2010), I am faced with having to "hike or bike" to reach the nearest VIVA stop.

Failing that I will have to take two buses, or, like many of my fellow GO travellers, the chosen solution is to forget about transit altogether and take the car.

The "hike or bike" option puts you out there at the mercy of any kind of weather conditions.

The two bus option is an unwelcome inconvenience.

The car option is simply not what transit is about.

Originally we were told that YRT/VIVA would be offering a service equally as good as the "B" service.

Now, this is the "B" Service that has earned GO Transit such a good reputation over the years, and it may not be so easy to match.

VIVA stop locations: The VIVA buses come down to Aurora from the stop at Savage Road in Newmarket, then make five stops on their way through Aurora; at Orchard Heights, Wellington, Golf Links, Henderson and Bloomington.

The VIVA buses bypass ten stops; at St John's, St Andrews, Valhalla, Aurora Heights, Church St., Kennedy, Murray Drive, Gilbert, Ridge Rd and Hunters Glen.

This is one aspect of VIVA that does not seem to be an equivalent service.

How about service frequency?

I happened to be home on the last day of the GO "B" Service operation.

That day was Friday June 25th.

As I watched for the final "B" buses to go by, I

took note of the times of all northbound rush hour buses between 5.15 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

My interest as well was to see if any YRT buses connected with the VIVA times.

Quite noticeably the VIVA buses arrived in clusters, although admittedly I couldn't tell if some buses were out of service.

Here is my "sighting" of these northbound rush hour buses and times for June 25th: 5.15 p.m. GO; 5.25 p.m. YRT; 5.30 p.m. GO; 5.32 p.m. YRT; 5.35

p.m. VIVA; 5.36 p.m. VIVA; 5.40 p.m. VIVA; 5.41 p.m. VIVA; 5.49 p.m. VIVA; 5.50 p.m. GO; 5.58 p.m. YRT; 6.02 p.m. YRT; 6.05 p.m. VIVA; 6.09 p.m. VIVA; 6.12 p.m. VIVA; 6.20 p.m. VIVA; 6.25 p.m. YRT; 6.26 p.m. GO.

It was sad to watch the trusty GO "B" Service buses making their last trip.

Our daily commute, complete with service and comfort, won't be the same any more.

**A.N.  
Aurora**

### —THE AURORAN—

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**Advertising**  
Bob Ince  
bob@auroran.com

**Diane Buchanan**  
diane@auroran.com

**Trish Miller-Kostin**  
trish@auroran.com

**Publisher Emeritus**  
Rosemary Schumaker

**Editorial**  
Ron Wallace

**Main Number**  
905-727-3300

**Classifieds**  
905-727-7128

**Facsimile Machine**  
905-727-7262

**Production**  
Cynthia Proctor  
cynthia@auroran.com

**Photography**  
David Falconer  
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

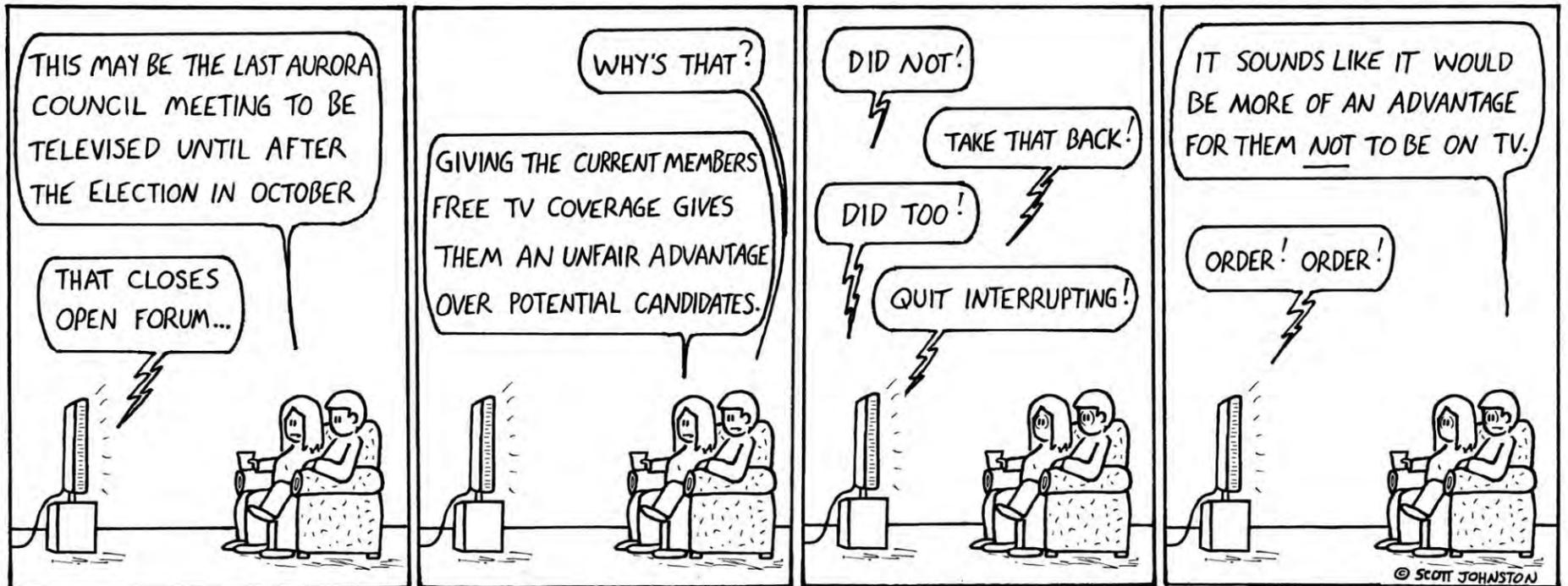
**Editorial Department**  
rwall9999@aol.com

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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## Top 10

About four years ago I produced a column entitled, "The top ten reasons why I love Aurora".

About a year after this, I produced a follow-up column listing my top nine pet peeves.

I think it is appropriate to refresh my two lists.

The Top 10 reasons why I love Aurora;

10) Aurora has an abundance of parks and green spaces.

9) The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival - purported to be the world's longest.

8) Our family is blessed with having fantastic neighbors (even after accounting for the fact that my mother-in-law happens to be one of them).

7) The size of Aurora and its proximity to other communities is just about right. We are close enough to Toronto for those of us who travel to work but also far enough away to maintain that "small town" feel.

6) Volunteers - I am struck by the impressive nature of volunteerism that goes on around us here in Aurora. My son is so lucky to have such wonderful baseball and soccer coaches!

5) The Auroran - It is important that we have a newspaper that is dedicated to our community by dealing with only local issues. I also like the fact that a lot of editorial space is reserved for reader feedback; this is one of the key reasons for the success of the newspaper. I have changed my mind on some issues as a result of various letters to the editor.

4) The mural on the wall of the building located at the corner of Yonge and Wellington is something entirely unique to our community.

3) War Memorial - for me, the cenotaph is a place of

reflection, solitude and introspection. The valor and selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling. In its entirety, the two structures are a simple and regal monument to the fallen.

2) The Santa Claus parade is for me symbolic of our small town nature. It is an absolute joy seeing all the families lined up along Yonge Street waiting patiently for Santa. It is a "must attend" event for our family.

And the number one reason why I love Aurora is... (still) my wife Julie. She was raised and has lived most of her life in Aurora. And besides, if I don't continue to install Julie as the number one reason, I will never hear the end of it!

Additionally, I would have to equip the tool shed in the backyard (which would henceforth become known as my new sleeping quarters) with carpeting, cable television (including the Golf Channel and CPAC) bar fridge and a shower!

Since the time the column was originally published I have had to expand the list to lucky 13 so as to include the Canada Day Parade (and related activities), the Aurora RibFest and the Easter Egg hunt.

Although Aurora is a wonderful community in which to raise a family, I do have a list of things that drive me to distraction. I have pared down my initial published list from nine to five items and also modified it somewhat.

So, with the appropriate apologies to David Letterman, my top five pet peeves are:

5) The traffic at the intersection of Yonge & Wellington. I'll bet the amount of green house gases spewing from the idled cars during the rush hour period is just about as much as that emanating from the Town Council Chamber on a

typical Tuesday evening. The only good thing is that driving southbound along Yonge Street we get to look at the mural while we wait to turn eastbound.

4) Those of you speeding through the various back streets of Aurora - slow down, as there are lots of small children around. And while you are at it, please turn down the music - especially after 11 on a weeknight.

3) Teenagers having multiple night parties while their parents are away - tone it down a little or better yet, invite my brother-in-law and I.

2) My mother-in-law lives 78 feet, three and one-quarter inches directly across the street from me. I was having trouble sleeping a while back so I watched television until 2 a.m. The next day my mother-in-law said "I saw your lights on very late last night, doesn't anyone sleep over there?" Our home may be on the market very soon!

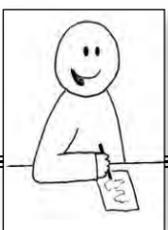
And my number one pet peeve is... that only 38 per cent of us voted in the last municipal election. The next municipal election takes place October 25th. Let's show that we can do better!

On a different note, a couple of weeks ago I boldly and without a hint of hesitation predicted that England would clinch the 2010 World Cup with a 2-0 victory over Spain in the final July 11th in South Africa.

As with most of my predictions, it is, well, slightly off. I am now sure that Argentina will defeat Brazil 3-2 in the final. You are most welcome!

Happy Canada Day!

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

## Sidewalk musings

What do Aurora's kids think about when they envision Canada?

Mounties? Moose? Hockey? Donuts?

All of them make sense, but to my surprise, none of those themes appeared in this year's Canada Day sidewalk chalk event.

Every year before the July 1st parade on Yonge Street, Aurora's kids (and their parents) gather in front of the library.

Armed with a variety of colours of chalk, and a ton of enthusiasm, they are provided with their own slab of freshly-swept sidewalk, and tasked with creating a drawing with a suitably nationalistic theme.

In previous years virtually everything that could be construed as being Canadian was included on these concrete canvasses - sometimes all in one drawing.

From igloos to canoes, loons to loonies, and ice skates to snow shoes, I think we've seen it all. One year, a youngster even did a passable John A. Macdonald.

This year started out the same. The weather was wonderful, the town's student volunteers were enthusiastic, and kids of all ages (the youngest one was 18 months) came out in force.

And as always, many of the parents, initially offering suggestions from the sidelines, were soon right down on the

sidewalk with their kids, chalking away.

But before long it became apparent this year something was different.

Instead of the usual variety of topics, including all things imaginable from the Great White North, most of the children stuck with a similar theme.

This included any or all of the following four concepts: happy people, fireworks, the words "Happy Birthday, Canada", and a Canadian flag or maple leaf (always the most popular subject, and why the organizers have to ensure an extra large supply of red and white chalk).

Of course, there were some minor variations. The World Cup was represented in the corner of slab 14, by a soccer ball.

One girl drew a terrific cartoon beaver, but I think hers was the only one of that particular animal represented. I loved the one with the birthday cake, and with the theme of the 2010 parade being the Winter Olympics, we did see a couple of the Vancouver inuksuk logos.

But there were no pine trees, polar bears, bottles of maple syrup, or even maps of the country that were so prevalent in previous years.

Don't get me wrong; all of this year's drawings were wonderful depictions suitable for Canada's birthday.

Chalk isn't the easiest medium to work in, but even so, it

was obvious that some of the kids are skilled artists. And all of the children (and some parents) put a lot of effort into their work. I wish there could have been more prizes.

I was just surprised that this year for the first time, there was a similar focus.

I'm not sure why this is. Perhaps this year's children were really fixated on the town's fireworks to be held that night. Possibly they were rushing to get their creations done before the parade, and sneaking glances at other drawings for inspiration. Or maybe their parents were providing too much direction.

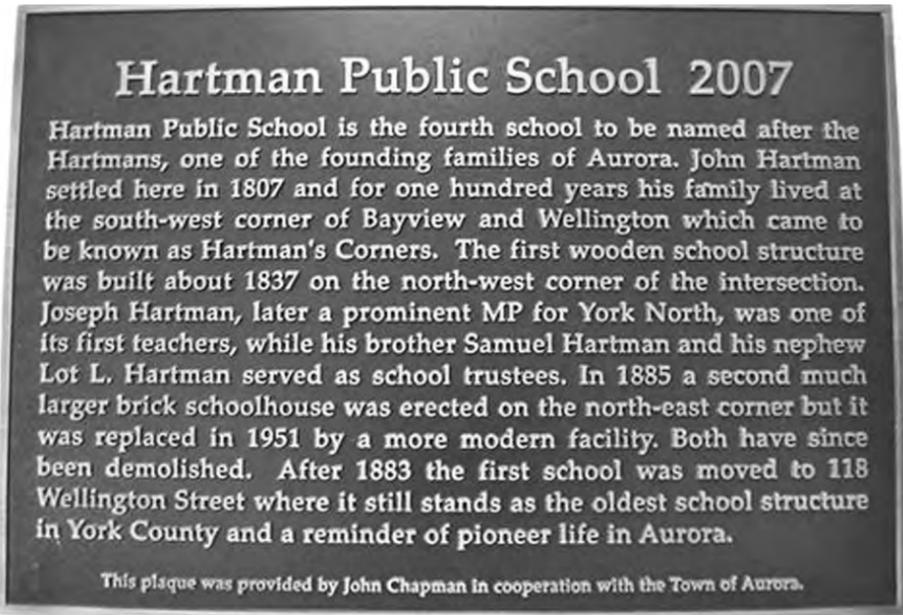
I really hope the lack of variety was not because they're de-emphasizing Canadian history, geography and social studies in the school curriculum, or making the teaching of these topics less interesting. That would be a shame.

In any case, the sidewalk chalk event is always a fun family time for everyone, so I'm already looking forward to next July 1st.

And while I'm curious to see if this trend continues, or whether there will be a little more variety in 2011, I do know that no matter what the kids draw, I'll continue to be impressed.

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

Letters to the Editor



The above plaque has been erected outside Aurora's new Hartman Public School, located just east of Bayview Avenue. It tells the story of the area once known as Hartman's Corners.

# Plaque tells the story of Hartman's Corners

To the editor,

I am pleased to say that two official plaques have been mounted relating to Hartman

history.

One is just inside the front door at the school and one is in John Chapman's office.

The latter I have not seen yet

but it tells the story of the Hartman Homestead and has as part of the engraving a drawing by George Duncan which is really lovely.

Of course, I am disappointed that both plaques are not outside but that was not part of the site plan agreement with Mr. Chapman who donated the plaques.

I would appreciate any assistance you could give that would publicize these plaques.

The other plaque is near and dear to my heart given that's all that is left to tell anyone about what used to be there.

Mr. Chapman was away when I visited two weeks ago.

All the best and thanks for your continuing interest in all things about Aurora.

Pat Hartman  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

# Parade was great, Citizen of Year says

To the editor,

Marie and I have enjoyed many Canada Day parades in Aurora, but none more than this one - I being honoured as Citizen of the Year and she celebrating her 84th birthday.

those happy people on Yonge Street.

We were particularly impressed by the parents who brought chalk that became Art on the Asphalt. What a wonderful chance for creative, non-destructive expression.

Happy Canada Day.

Marie & Gordon Barnes  
Aurora

# Send us your response

From the editor,

Last week in the Poor Ronnie column, The Auroran introduced a feature that we hoped would temporarily fill the space used by the popular column, Bouquets And Brickbats, written by the late Dick Illingworth.

We got one reply.

It came from Mark Holmes, who did everything we asked except instead of telling us one thing he would do if elected to Aurora council, he told us three.

But he did, to the word, stay within his 50-word limit.

Since we only introduced the concept last week, we'll

hang on to his letter until the rest of you respond.

We planned to put the column exactly in the spot where Bouquets and Brickbats had been, but we certainly expected more reaction.

So, here's what we asked you. Finish this sentence... "If I were elected mayor or councillor, the first thing I would do would be..." Personal references, support for or criticisms of any specific person will not be printed. Submissions will be printed as space permits and at the sole discretion of the editor...that's me.

It's your chance to have your say without drafting a letter to the editor.

A daunting task for some people, no doubt.

Send your response to theauroran@gmail.com and please don't forget. You don't have to be a candidate to participate.

Ron Wallace  
Editor  
The Auroran

# Reader longs for Wardair service

To the editor,

Do you believe that a British airline is actually contemplating a future "standing room only" offered feature to provide some customers a real economy fare?

And as an added bonus they will be charging for their bathroom facilities.

I don't know about you but visions of the "tiltawheel" at Wonderland come to mind - strapped in while centrifugal force keeps you in an upright position.

This alone would cost me greatly in the bathroom department probably offsetting the difference in cost for an economy seat.

But in all fairness, having traveled in economy, the cramped seating (God forbid you have any extra poundage) somewhat like sardines and don't get me started on meals or snacks making standing upright seem almost desirable.

Oh, how I long for the days of "Wardair" of comfortable seating, a lounge, china plates and silverware, real food (filet mignon, salmon etc.), real drinks (you were allowed to keep the can), friendly stewardesses neatly dressed in blue and best of all a package of two cigarettes for after dinner (I have quit for five years now but I still think that this was special).

All of this was included in, for the times, a very fair price.

I guess that is why Wardair is not around anymore. Times have changed!

Don't get me started on the proposed toll on 400 series highways - especially from Toronto to Barrie!!!

By the way, if my reader is interested, I ignored the weatherman two weekends ago - it rained. However, I took enough supplies that I didn't care!

Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges

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# The way it was in Aurora in 1968

The Aurora Winter Carnival on January 6 wound up the Centennial Year with more than 1,000 citizens in attendance. Mayor Clarence Davis ignited the mammoth Christmas tree bonfire. There was also a beauty competition, an ice sculpture contest and a torchlight parade.

Elsie Duffield was awarded the Centennial Medal for her work with the Aurora Legion Ladies Auxiliary along with Aurora Librarian Marj Andrews and Councillor Dick Illingworth.

On February 21, it was Marj Andrews Night at the Aurora Library as library board members, past and present, paid tribute to the Aurora librarian who had worked since 1934 to bring books into the lives of Aurora's young people.

Del Babcock, chairman of the board, reviewed the years and the ups and down of the library. He retired from the library board in 1983 after 42 years, many of them as chairman.

Jim Spragg, a 15-year-old Aurora trumpeter, was guest artist at the Aurora United Church 150th anniversary celebrations. Later he played first trumpet with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

The Aurora Town Band entertained the residents of Greenacres Home for the Aged in Newmarket.

Aurora council was caught up in another hot issue and had difficulty making a decision if a group opposing the war in

Vietnam should be allowed a tag day in Aurora, with all hell breaking loose, both for and against. Council adopted its first \$2 million budget with a 6.3 mill tax increase.

By a 5-4 vote council rejected a proposal to pay for an accumulating pile of claims for flooding in the south end of town in 1967 as the town's insurance company denied any liability.

Councillor Evelyn Buck failed to get Reeve Jim Murray removed from the chair while Mayor Clarence Davis presented reports. She said the Reeve couldn't control meetings without resorting to police action.

At a previous meeting Murray warned Buck he would call police to have her removed from the building. She also started to write her "Buckshot" column for the local media.

Council decided to streamline council meetings by eliminating the reading of correspondence at council meetings and copies were made available to council members and the press.

Council also considered a centralized phone system for all town departments. Bell recommended a 21-phone system with inter-communications and a Toronto line.

A high point for council was the adoption of the town's first zoning bylaw ending nine years of controversy to gain effective control of planning within its boundaries.

Council gave approval to the Lions Club's proposal for a washroom and storage facility in Fleury Park. It was one of many community projects the Lions Club had built over the years

including the George Street outdoor swimming pool and the original band shell in the Town Park.

Council also agreed to help the Aurora and District Cenotaph Memorial Board to replace 71 blighted Dutch Elm trees at the war memorial, one tree for each of the fallen.

Aurora council sought industrial aid designation to attract industry and considered one hour parking on Yonge Street. Aurora offered \$3,600 for a 1.4-acre strip of land on Industry Street North for new factory sites.

George Gathercole, Chairman of Ontario Hydro officially opened Aurora Hydro's new building on Mosley Street. At that time the cost of hydro for one day was less than the price of a quart of milk.

Dick Buchanan resigned from the recreation committee after 20 years and became an honorary member.

The town-owned 14-acre Petlovany property on Industry Street north was sold for industrial development.

Former York County Warden and newly elected MPP for York North Bill Hodgson told County council that he would back any county effort to keep its identity under any form of regional government.

County planner Conroy Dowson in his "Blueprint for Local Government Reorganization" for the county suggested the name of warden be replaced by county chairman and the office holder should be elected at large, rather than by members of council. Today, the chairman of York Regional Council is still elected by members of council.

The cost of campaigning for the October 1967 provincial figures were released with winner Tory Bill Hodgson spending \$4,192, Liberal Tom Taylor \$7,877 and NDP Merlyn Baker \$2,136.

Aurora council erupts over the jurisdiction of council's planning committee and the town's planning board. The planning committee won on a 5-4 vote.

Council objected to the move of the provincial health unit from Aurora to Newmarket. They also objected to CN's plans to close the Aurora station and the transfer of the express service to Concord and Bell Canada increased private line rate from \$4.40 to \$4.95 per month..

Winter slams the area hard

with worst cold spell of the year, 19 degrees below zero, by the old-fashioned thermometer. It was the worst ice and sleet storm in 20 years.

Many students were unable to get to school as school buses were unable to operate and the town's work department carted away 218 truckloads of snow.

The works department was called out to fix a water break at Murray and Richardson Drives. Town staff was required to work 14-hour shifts to plow and clear snow from major routes as foot-deep melting snow was hit with falling temperatures and another heavy snowfall.

Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake laid the cornerstone of the York County Humane Society animal shelter at Mary and Industry Streets. Humane Society manager Tom Hughes said the shelter would be finished by spring.

Rev. John Speers announced he would be leaving Trinity Anglican for a Toronto parish.

Lloyd White was named principal of the Aurora Senior Public School scheduled for opening later in the year. Approval was given for a general purpose room for the George Street Public School at a cost of \$85,000.

The senior public school continued to be built in spite of the wintry weather. The 20-room school cost was estimated to cost \$1 million.

More than 800 students from Aurora, King City and Newmarket high schools walked

out of classes in an effort to convince Education Minister Bill Davis to change his mind about extending the school year by 10 days.

The Aurora Optimist Club with 44 members received its charter at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club with Eric Cullough as president and Bob Blick as secretary. The club later relinquished its charter and it was later re-activated by today's Optimist Club of Aurora.

The Aurora Rotary Club announced plans for a three-day trade show later in the year.

The Aurora Lions Club celebrated their 24th birthday. The guest speaker was Ray Marshall, a past president.

Aurora barber Carmen Minichiello was featured in Maclean's magazine as a successful Metro speculator.

Property developer Martio Priola was granted permission to erect a high-rise apartment building on Wellington Street West. The Del Zotto brothers later built the Wellington Street Towers at MacDonald (now Murray) Drive.

Council approved in principle an application from J. H. Lambert for an 11-storey apartment building on Gurnett Street on the east-end of the former Aurora Memorial Arena property.

Construction started on a six-storey, 60-suite apartment building on Brookland Avenue at the entrance to the Golf Glen subdi-

vision. A new secondary school was proposed for Aurora to handle the expected high school population by 1970.

In a colourful Change of Command parade at the Aurora Armouries, Major Ken Reid took over "A" Squadron of the Queen's York Rangers from Major Bert Graves and the Aurora Ceremonial Sword changed hands.

The federal government announced that the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force would be unified as the Canadian Armed Forces. Pierre Trudeau became the 15th Prime Minister and Liberal MP John Addison announced he would not be a candidate in the June 25th federal election. John Roberts won the Liberal nomination and election.

The Ontario Housing Corporation submitted plans to build 136 houses between Golf Glen and Regency Acres, but council was not impressed, as they didn't meet town standards. Work started on a 67-unit apartment building on Temperance Street.

The Community Centre's revenue exceeded expenditures by almost \$6,000. After almost a year of frustration searching for a new recreation director, council reversed an earlier decision to split the job from the operation of the community centre and Ernie Batson continued to wear two hats.



The latest candidate for the position of mayor of Aurora, Geoffrey Dawe, addressed more than 100 supporters last week as he made his announcement to seek the position. Dawe, formerly president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, is the third candidate to declare intentions to seek the post. He is running against former councillor Nigel Kean and Aurora resident Roger Clowater. Current mayor Phyllis Morris has not declared whether she will seek another term.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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# Two and a half years to go before he's cancer-free

By **BROCK WEIR**  
Auroran Staff Writer

Aurora resident Peter Chatterton marks his birthday on November 11.

It's not the day he actually came into this world, but the day he left the hospital two and a half years ago.

Mr. Chatterton, 47, left hospital on November 11, 2007, following gruelling treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which included not only chemotherapy and radiation treatment but a stem cell transplant as well.

"This is like something you would watch on the Discovery Channel," Mr. Chatterton recalls thinking during his stem cell treatment. "I was sitting there while they were taking stem cells out of my body and I was just thinking, 'This is incredible!' If they weren't doing this to me, this would be something I would watch on TV."

Mr. Chatterton was selected earlier this month to be the Honourary Survivor by the Canadian Cancer Society at Aurora's Relay For Life Event.

For Mr. Chatterton, the prospect of being the honourary survivor brought out mixed emotions.

"I had a hard time calling myself a survivor," he told The Auroran while preparing for the Relay.

"It took me up until this year to look in the mirror and say, 'You know what? You're a survivor.' I don't feel it because my five years isn't up. I didn't feel I could call myself (a survivor) but I've gotten to the point where I can use the word.

"Every year. I get this little pin that says 'Cancer Survivor' on it and I realized that when I get five of these pins, my five years is up. It may be a little bit selfish, but to get to this pin saying 'I'm a Survivor' and when I've got five pins that means I've beat it. I've done it."

Mr. Chatterton has been in remission for 2.5 years now. Doctors will not say he is com-

pletely cancer free until he hits the five year mark.

"Five years is the magic number for us!"

The Chatterton family's journey with cancer started not with Peter's diagnosis, but with his father-in-law's lung cancer diagnosis in 2006.

When he died in 2007, his wife and her family took his remains back to Ireland for the funeral and when Mr. Chatterton was home with his sons, he found a lump on his neck.

"Being a guy, I thought if it came by itself, it would disappear by itself," he said.

When his elder son came home one day with a sore throat, he took him to the walk-in clinic and while there he had the doctor look at his throat as well.

The doctor, he said, diagnosed both of them with infections and after a week, while his son fully recovered from his infection, Peter's throat still hurt. Upon visiting his own doctor, he was ordered a series of tests on his ailment.

"When I look back, there were all these things that should have been red flags," he said. "When you think back, you wonder, 'Why didn't I see something?' Why didn't I notice something?"

His doctor sent him to an ear, nose, and throat specialist where they performed a needle biopsy, x-rays, and various other tests and scans.

The tests came back positive.

"My three grandparents all died from heart disease," he said. "I'm English, so if it ain't fried it ain't cooked! We've always looked at being healthy and being active and (I told my wife) it is your family that has cancer. It wasn't what we've been looking out for, it was stunning."

In the meantime, Mr. Chatterton had to undergo more tests and did, what he said, was the one thing you're not supposed to do: go on the

internet to see what to expect.

"The doctor said it was 90 per cent that I had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, so I went on the Canadian Cancer Society website to look up what this meant and within three or four days I was 'dead', I had killed myself off and I was going to die and the worst of everything!" he said. "I worried about that and pondered that for two weeks and said, 'I don't know what I have. I'm driving myself nuts.'"

When his oncologist diagnosed him with lymphoma, she told him if one has to get cancer that was the cancer to get. She prescribed three shots of chemotherapy and three weeks of radiation therapy, telling him he would be as good as new.

"I had a bone marrow biopsy, which was just a ton of fun!" he recalled with a chuckle. "I started doing the chemo and had a joyous time with that."

Analogies imparted by the nurses during his treatments helped him get through, he said.

"(One nurse) said 'Think of chemo as being in the ring with a heavyweight fighter and the bell rings and this guy just pounds you and you're out. That's week one. Week two, the referee and the coach come over and bring you around and you're sort of dazed and confused. That's week two."

"Then you get the standing eight count and that's week number three, but the referee only gets to eight and then this guy hits you again.' She was dead on. You never actually get back up before you're knocked down again."

Mr. Chatterton said the lump eventually disappeared during the chemo sessions, but he could feel it again after a very short interval.

Doctors and nurses repeatedly told him that was "not good" and he had another biopsy that week and the result three weeks later.

Often when cancer comes back it mutates into something else, his doctor told him. Mr. Chatterton's tests, however, showed the cancer had come back in the same form but they had to follow different courses of action to tackle the new tumour - participating in a clinical trial for a stem cell transplant at Princess Margaret Hospital.

"I went from a six-hour chemo treatment to a 72-hour constant drip," he said. "This is the 'Hurry up and wait!' disease. You hurry up and do blood work and then you go away. Or you hurry up and do this and then you wait. It's scary when you're thinking Princess Margaret Hospital is one hospital with eight floors of the same disease."

Soon after his new treatment started, he remembers sitting in Southlake awaiting chemo sipping a coffee in a La-Z-Boy wearing a t-shirt and jeans when a nurse came in a full mask, headgear, and double gloves which were taped over.

"I was thinking, 'What are you doing?' and she said 'Chemo burns and I got one and it is a third degree burn and it hurts,'" he recalled. "I was thinking I understand you don't want to get hurt, you don't want to get splashed because you don't want to get seriously burned, but I'm here in a T-shirt and you're putting that crap into my veins?"

"If you're worried about what it is going to do to the outside of your body, just think about how I feel about what it's doing inside mine. If you could put a little smile on your face or a little red nose to cheer me up...."

Mr. Chatterton went into hospital on October 24, 2007, for treatment where doctors

readied to "blast his body with chemo" and undergo the stem cell transplant. When November 11 rolled around, he simply wanted to go home.

Despite doctors telling him he couldn't walk out of the hospital on that particular day, he got into a wheelchair and was brought home by his wife, parents, and children. Arriving home, he just wanted to go to bed and stayed there for a week.

On a Saturday, he took a hot bath because not only did he say he "stank", but he needed to warm up.

"I laid down in the bath for an hour and then I stood up," he said. "My wife started towelling me off and that's the last thing I remember. The next thing was waking up with two EMS guys looking over me. They asked me if I was okay, and I said, 'I've had nightmares of waking up in my bathtub with two guys looking down at me going, 'Are you

okay?' so this is not very comfortable."

The EMS workers told him that what had happened was normal and "I said that is all I need to hear!"

Mr. Chatterton still absent-mindedly checks his neck, but is focused not just on getting that fifth pin, but doing his part to raise money for cancer research.

"I figure that if these people can rally around me and collect money, because my survival is based in a large part for what these people do collecting money," he said. "It's all research money, but I can honestly say I was a clinical trial and clinical trials are run on research money that people collect."

"Without them I wouldn't be alive. It's that simple. To show up to and speak and say thank you is not much on my part. The fact I can show up is largely in part for what they do and have done."

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## Free children's programs for area's needy expands

Operation Sparrow announced recently the addition of art classes to its roster of year round choices for Aurora and Newmarket children.

The organization has also agreed to distribute 10 environmental camp spots courtesy of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Operation Sparrow is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and providing physical and cultural activities to Newmarket and Aurora youths ages 3 to 18 years who are otherwise unable to afford to do so.

Transportation to and from activities is also provided in some cases.

Operation Sparrow has been distributing programs and services to local youths - additionally including karate, theatre and dance schools since 2007.

They hope to attract other local service providers to the fold in the near future.

"The demand for programs has been overwhelming," said Sparrow Chair Tom Pearson. "Operation Sparrow enables kids to access top notch organizations alongside their peers without prejudice

- boosting self-esteem of both parents and children in the making.

"These are often kids and youths who would not otherwise be participants in organized (after-school) activities and is having a tremendous impact - based on the calls we receive back from parents and providers."

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### LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP is a term widely used but not widely understood. It is used by almost every candidate without ever really defining what it is.

I believe leadership is a process of influence between leaders and followers with a shared sense of purpose. Leaders need to show a commitment to collaboration, engagement and dialogue. Personally, they must exhibit humility, transparency, and a passion for learning. And, they need to create a safe environment in which others can lead.

An effective leader has an honest understanding of their knowledge, ability and self. Equally important, they are fully aware that today's issues are so complex that they can't possibly know all the answers, or do everything. Most importantly, they recognize that it is the followers that determine if the leader is successful - not the leader. If the followers do not trust or have confidence in the leader, then it is the leader that has failed.

*Geoff*

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

A successful entrepreneur, Geoff brings out the very best in others. He will provide the vision, leadership and collaborative atmosphere the Aurora community wants and deserves — Dennis Collins: Resident, former Separate School Trustee.

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— Peter Dickens: Resident, Leadership Expert.

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# Weather smiles on Aurora's July 1st



Auroran photos  
by David Falconer



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# THE AURORAN

## SPORTS



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### Canada Day Parade winners

**Best Overall Float**  
Big Brothers and Sisters

**Best Demonstration of 2010 Parade Theme:**  
"Olympics in Canada's Birthday Town"  
Safehaven

**Spirit of Canada Attendee**  
5 Famous Women

**Best Red Hot Canadian Child**  
Momstown

**Best Red Hot Canadian Adult**  
Lyla Big Canoe

**Best Red Hot Canadian Family**  
Chin Family – Robert, Karn, Olivia, Kyla  
(Walking Clowns)

**Best Red Hot Canadian Pet**  
Chukker Hill Farms - Alfalfa ridden by Georgia

**Best Red Hot Canadian Wheels**  
Caribana

**Best Red Hot Canadian Sports Club**  
Villarlis Karate

**Best Red Hot Canadian Street**  
N/A

**Best Red Hot Canadian School**  
Chippewa Georgina Island Youth  
– First Nations Vive La Francophonie

**Best Red Hot Canadian Display of our Multi-Cultural Mosaic**  
Matsuri Japanese Family

**Best Red Hot Canadian Entertainment/Music Entry (judged during Parade)**  
Zumba

**Best Red Hot Canadian Marching Band (judged during Parade)**  
Governor General Horse Guards

**Best Red Hot Canadian Service Club**  
Rotary Club

### Peewee Jays eliminated from Father's Day tourney

The Aurora Peewee Jays traveled to Whitby recently to participate in the annual Father's Day classic baseball tournament and managed to get to the semi-finals before being eliminated.

There were some fine teams from all over southern Ontario including Vaughan, Oakville and Ajax. After some

solid outfield play from Emerson Cepelak, Grayson Lloyd and Michael Dilosa, the Jays placed fourth heading into the elimination round without the speedy Mathew Leroy who was out of the competition with a fractured wrist.

Thanks to a total team effort and clutch hitting by Michael Imseis,

Mathew Niece and Jack Pecora the Jays knocked off first seeded Port Hope 11-9 to advance to the semi finals against rival Royal York.

After a hard fought battle, Royal York eventually advanced with a 6-2 win against the Jays.

There were some notable moments for the Jays as each game yield-

ed a game MVP as voted by the opposing team.

Those included Alexander MacKinnon and Kyle Hauck for pitching, Aaron Hauck at third base, outfield and hitting from Alessandro Bitondo and catcher Ryan Donovan.

Next up is the Woodstock Wranglers Peewee Tournament.

### Selkies finish swim meets for the rest of the season

The Aurora Selkies Swim Club's results from its final swim meet of the season were announced last week.

Twelve swimmers took

part in the meet but only the names of those who placed in the top three of a tough field of competition are included here:

Brock Derbyshire, 1st,

boys 11 years, 50 metres backstroke, 39.53.

Carter Derbyshire, 2nd, boys 8 years, 50 metres backstroke, 46.34; 3rd, 100 m freestyle, 1.25.03;

3rd, 100 Individual Medley, 1.43.43.

Wilson Derbyshire, 2nd, boys 10 years, 50 metres breaststroke, 46.82.

### Sam Spade plans a visit to Aurora

Sam Spade is alive and well and living in York Region. And he's a cat visible to Aurora residents this month.

But Sam is no ordinary cat. He's a Maine Coon cat who was named Canada's Grand Champion for 2009-2010, in the Canadian Cat Association awards. He'll be making a per-

sonal appearance at the Great Canadian Cat Show in Aurora on July 18.

Sam was born and raised in Mount Albert, where Sharon and Manny Strauch breed Maine Coon cats at their Sharmani cattery. This is their second consecutive year to win the top award – their Rhett Butler took

the prize in 2008-2009 and their felines consistently turn up in the winners' circles.

True to his breed, Sam has long silky fur and a magnificent fluffy tail. His fur is red with white markings.

Although they are big cats, reaching 20 pounds or more at maturity, they are intelligent and

friendly and make great pets.

Visitors may pay homage to Sharmani Sam Spade at the show at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For show details, visit [meow-wow.ca](http://meow-wow.ca) or contact Terry Farrell at 905-853-9891 or [terry@greentiger.ca](mailto:terry@greentiger.ca).

## July 1st Parade attracts thousands

from page 1  
beginning, which is our First Nations, through its multicultural colours to where we are today - one of the greatest, most wonderful free nations," she said.

In reality, there were nine official torch bearers

in the parade: Kaitlyn Lenchak, Krysta Sutton, Mitch Klinger, Teagan Iverson, Fran & Cody Mulhern, Deb Baile, Ann Dreger and Grace Diffey.

Highlight of the parade was the appearance of a number of war veterans, who were greeted by

applause, saluting and standing ovations as they passed by.

Canada Day celebrations actually kicked off recently at the Town Park with a multicultural celebration.

Guests had the opportunity to take part in a

group photo in front of the band shell to "show the real and true flavour of all Aurora", said Ms. St. Kitts.

The Canada Day Parade was preceded for the first time this year by the "Aurora Miler", a run from Aurora Heights Drive to Dunning Avenue to raise

money for Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Celebrations were followed by a show performed by First Nations at the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

Mayor Phyllis Morris wished Ms. St. Kitts - and several "parade ladies"

also in attendance - well with the events.

"This is one happening town and the birthday is really getting underway," said Mayor Morris. "Good work to everyone who is doing this. If you're not in Town, you are missing a fabulous event."

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# Teen Idol contestants



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## Aurora Baseball

Scores for week of June 14 to 21

### Junior Rookie Division

Murray Parish Home Inspections 23  
 Pro-Cut Concrete Cutting 18

### Senior Rookie Division

Kwik Kopy Printing 14  
 Darrin V. Gruenig Law Office 12

Jenmark Digital Media 10  
 L.H. Lind Realty 8

Mastercut Property Services 20  
 L.H. Lind Realty 11

Jenmark Digital Media 21  
 Michelberger Orthodontics 5

### Mosquito Division

Dr. Mark Weeden 10  
 Dr. Orschel's Drillers 9

Aspen Ridge Homes 8  
 Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League 6

Aspen Ridge Homes 9  
 Aurora Home Hardware 9

Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League 18  
 The Restorer's Group 9

### Peewee Division

Aurora Toyota 11  
 Aurora Home Hardware 11

McAlpine Ford 11  
 East Side Mario's 7

McAlpine Ford 8  
 PowerStream Inc. 7

East Side Mario's 10  
 Aurora Home Hardware 6

### Bantam Division

Rotary Club of Aurora 11  
 Aspen Ridge Homes 7

Royal Wood Shop 8  
 The Restorer's Group 0

Scotiabank 14  
 Rotary Club of Aurora 3

Royal LePage - Larry Willert 3  
 Aspen Ridge Homes 0

### Select Bantam

Aurora Team#1 7  
 Vaughan 4

## The winner



The group shown in the top photo was pared down to eight finalists recently, and the winner was, in the bottom photo, Sarah Carmosino, who became Aurora's Teen Idol for this year. She beat out first runner-up Bianca Corrado and second runner-up Braedyn Ellis. The finalists were required to perform two songs each, which resulted in the top three being chosen.

*Auroran photos by David Falconer*

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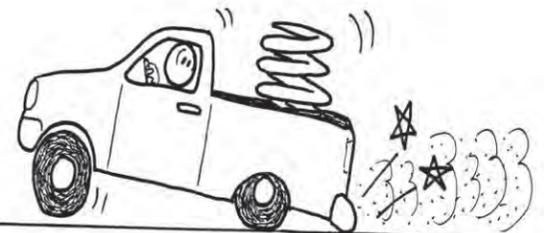
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# Candidate for mayor releases his position

Nigel Kean, who declared in January that he would seek the mayor's seat, answered his critics this week by releasing his platform.

Several people have commented on area blogs that Kean has no idea of what he wants to do if he is elected mayor of Aurora.

"When I was on Aurora council I was always proud of what we accomplished in the six years that I served. Many great things happened that will forever be part of Aurora. We approved and built a new Senior's Centre, a new recreation centre with new ice rinks and a new pool, a new fire station needed due to Aurora's growth plus many other facilities including the approval of the Church Street Heritage Centre," he said in a statement.

"I worked hard to move the Town ahead while protecting the environment. I put forward Aurora's first tree bylaw that did pass through council. I voted with four other councillors to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine despite the fact that the mayor of the day voted against such a measure. I always felt that I voted the way that the majority of residents wanted. I know that you cannot always please everyone, but if you truly feel that the way you vote is best for the town then you must do so regardless of the consequences."

For Mr. Kean, this is his third attempt to become mayor of Aurora.

"I remember the first time I decided to run for office I chose to run for mayor. When I did that in the 90's many people said that I should run for council first rather than trying to start at the top. One of these persons was



**NIGEL KEAN**

Tim Jones who, along with Evelyn Buck and Betty Pederson were very vocal about running for council first.

"When I lost that election I took their advice and the rest is history.

Instead of releasing his platform when he registered for the job January 4, he elected to meet people at such places as the farmers' market, the street festival, in grocery stores and on the street.

"I went to homes to find out what the residents of Aurora want from their next mayor. I met with current and past politicians at different levels of governments to get advice," he said. "I am now ready to release, what I believe from these conversations, to be a platform that will take Aurora on a positive jour-

ney. The first order of business will be to unite council and staff for the betterment of Aurorans. I will ask the CAO and Town Clerk be part of the council table rather than the current, us against them situation.

"Town staff at all levels must be respected and be part of the team with the mayor and council. We cannot continue to lose department heads to other towns and cities. This might seem like a small issue to some but it is important in any business that all levels of management work together for the betterment of the business.

"As I did when I was on council, I will always work towards protecting the environment, especially the Oak Ridges Moraine. During my last term of council I, along with four other councillors, voted to protect the Moraine and were chastised by the mayor of the day for doing so. I will always work to protect the Moraine plus other environmental issues.

"I, with council, will set up a committee to meet with YRT to improve the current transit situation in Aurora. Local workers, students and seniors use public transit to get to and from their destinations. We need a system that includes better east/west and north/south routes.

"I, with council, will investigate what we can do to help the

owners of Aurora's downtown core to make their buildings more appealing. I believe that if this is done we will make the area more vibrant, thus attracting more shoppers and retailers.

"I, with council, will ask staff to determine which lands and empty buildings owned by the town should be sold. The revenue received will be used to improve town owned facilities in need of repair. One such building is the old Aurora Hydro building.

Mr. Kean said he would also investigate what could be done to provide more affordable housing in Aurora, investigate all Town Hall expenditures, and "to start the ball rolling I will, as mayor, take a 10 per cent cut in my mayor's salary".

"I will also suggest that Aurora council be decreased in size for the 2014 election. I will suggest that council be cut from eight councillors to six thus saving approximately \$60,000 a year. I will also push the Region to increase Aurora's representation on Regional Council to two from one.

"I, with council, will reinstate the Aurora Ambassador program to help attract new business to Aurora. These five or six local business leaders who travel throughout the world will broadcast the virtues of setting up business in Aurora. There are many great business ambassadors in Aurora who I am sure would love to help Aurora's business base grow.

Mr. Kean said he would meet with local business leaders on a regular basis to inquire what Aurora can do to help them to maintain or improve their advantage in the business environment and he would suggest that the Town hold special events in different parks throughout Aurora to ensure that all residents in Aurora "know that we are one town regardless of which quadrant we live in".

"My six years on council and my more than 30 years of business management will help me be in tune with your needs to grow and prosper. Experience counts," he said. "Finally, I will as mayor, welcome the residents of Aurora to come forward with their ideas and suggestions to improve the Town during and after the election."



The new president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Robin Taylor-Smith, above, was sworn in at a recent meeting. Also on the board are past-president Kathy van Nostrand; first vice-president Bob Ince; second vice-president Paul Smith; treasurer Thomas Beck; secretary Barbara Dawson; and board members Peter Dickens, Susie Strom, Stephen Beaumont, Laurie McDonald, Charles MacLennan and Andy Hewitson.

## Ballard seeking council seat

From page 1  
from Aurora and an active Chamber member), to help create the Town's first (pre "e-aurora") website. Our website clearly states that the list of clients displayed contains both past and current," he said.

"Because it might be perceived as a conflict, our company has not sought any Town of Aurora work since I became a member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, and that policy will remain in place when elected."

Ballard's entry on council brings to seven, the number of people interested in the posi-

tion.  
Only one, Wendy Gaertner, is an incumbent.

Three people are seeking the mayor's chair, and the sitting mayor, Phyllis Morris, has yet to declare her intentions although she did tell The Auroran she would seek re-election.

She is challenged by former councillor Nigel Kean, former president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Geoffrey Dawe and former police officer Roger Clowater.

"This election is shaping up to be the most interesting in recent history," said the Aurora Citizen blog.

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# Historic school on tour

By LAURA SCHEMBRI

Researched by  
SUSAN MORTON LEONARD  
and JACQUELINE STUART

The Aurora Cultural Centre, better known as the Church Street School in downtown Aurora began its new life as the Aurora Cultural Centre on January 27, 2010 with the opening of Ann Mortimer's Great Umbrella Caper exhibition.

The school has been transformed from the 1886 public school it was originally created to be, to a state-of-the-art cultural centre boasting original floors, tin ceilings, many exterior windows and wainscoting.

Juxtaposed to the heritage features is the contemporary flare of glass, stainless steel and polished birch.

A delectable palate of sunny greens, taupes, dramatic power walls of red and blue, modern gallery lighting and "green" climate control bring this building right into the 21st century.

Architect Thomas Kennedy created an eight-room, centre hall plan schoolhouse influenced by the Indian architecture pop-

ular in the Victorian era.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque located on the east side of the school's front lawn, states this school is "Ontario's finest and rarest example of a public school designed in the high Victorian manner".

This substantial schoolhouse was in operation from 1886 to 1952. In 1953 the school was acquired by the Town of Aurora. The building then served many purposes and housed numerous community groups for several years.

In 1979 Dr. John McIntyre, President of the Aurora Historical Society, with strong citizen backing, led a fight to fully preserve the school.

Dr. McIntyre documented the full architectural importance of the building and his report was sent to the Ontario government.

Aurora Council clearly understood the significance of the building; and in 1980, a heritage designation by-law was passed under the Ontario Heritage Act designating the school as a being of Architectural and/or Historical Value of Interest.

From 1981 to 2000 The Aurora Historical Society

housed their museum and office space on the top floor of the schoolhouse.

In 2000 the Town of Aurora received a SuperBuild federal/provincial capital works grant to make improvements to the building and in 2003 the architectural firm of Lynch & Comisso was engaged to fully restore and modernize the building.

With support of individuals, the Aurora Historical Society and all three levels of Government, Church Street School now houses the Aurora Cultural Centre and is once again recognized as one of the finest structures in Ontario.

A dedicated volunteer Board of Directors and staff of Executive Director, Program Coordinator and Administration, are working together with volunteers and partners to create and support diverse cultural experiences.

The Aurora Historical Society's archival and artifact holdings are now housed in modern climate controlled storage and members are working to make the collections (much of which has been in storage for several years) accessible.

While the schoolhouse is no longer a museum, staff of the Cultural Centre and Historical Society will work together to create a heritage component to future programs and displays.

The York Region Arts Council has office space in the building and will bring a regional arts perspective to the Cultural Centre.

The Aurora Cultural Centre is on the Doors Open Aurora tour, Saturday August 21.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the public is invited to cross the threshold and come "back to school" for the day, meet future program facilitators, working artists, musicians and tour the facility.

Staff, board members and volunteers will be also on hand to answer questions.

The event is free, no tickets or reservation needed.

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



## Program would assist seniors who can't drive

Societies need to step up and take the wheel to help aid in "driver retirement programs" to maintain safety on the roads, according to an editorial published earlier this year by the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

"Just as planning for job retirement is the social norm, we should be planning for driving retirement by creating programs to help seniors drive safely for as long as possible and, when they can't, to help them get around," said the editorial. "Our urban environment generally centres on the car for transportation. In suburban and rural settings, where many seniors live, public transit is often limited and taxis are expensive or nonexistent. Not being able to drive may lead to social isolation, a loss of independence, and even deterioration in health."

The editorial recommended a number of steps to combat the issue, including tax incentives for carpooling for social activities including grocery shopping, providing greater consideration for seniors' needs in urban planning, "subsidized shuttle van services", and having local businesses implement programs to help pick up the slack.

In this last recommendation, Aurora appears to be ahead of the game.

"I sit on an a Healthy Aging workgroup with (York) Region, they meet about four times a year and one of the topics that they were actually addressing when I met with them [in February] was exactly this issue," said

Neighbourhood Network's John Crowell.

"I think it's a perfect fit for Neighbourhood Network to do its best to try to address this issue in any way we can," he said. "Just to even identify where the need is, who the seniors are that need assistance with this, and us trying to recruit volunteers for that purpose makes a lot of sense."

"That is something we will probably look to do in the coming year and make more of a concerted effort in that regard."

Providing transportation assistance for seniors has long been part of the Aurora-based Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) organization.

According to Suzanne Whitehurst, CHATS' Transportation Supervisor, the group has a number of volunteers available to assist in their transportation program.

To qualify for their services, a client needs to be over the age of 55.

Potential clients must also be willing to participate in a telephone assessment, reside in a residence or retirement home (as opposed to long-term care or hospitals), be eligible for OHIP "or meet the legislative requirements for the same," according to Ms. Whitehurst.

"We're meeting about 97 per cent of the requests we get and we do about 40,000 - 50,000 drives per year," she said.

However, there are limitations to their program, she said.

The remarkable, historic Church Street School, is once again on the list of buildings available for touring during Aurora's Fifth Annual Doors Open event scheduled for Saturday August 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Today, the building is known as the Aurora Cultural Centre and a tour of the premises is certainly a must. Several hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in the structure, which hasn't been used as a school for about five decades. Over the years, the building has served a number of purposes, from the headquarters of the York Region Board of Education to a home for senior citizens.

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RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

## ANNOUNCEMENT

We announce the retirement of Thomas McPherson as of June 30. All of the on-going files have been transferred to Brad Lewis and his staff. Any Wills and Powers of Attorney held in safekeeping will be in the vault at 15220 Yonge Street and will continue to be held in safekeeping by Brad Lewis. McPHERSON & LEWIS BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS 15220 YONGE STREET AURORA, ONTARIO L4G 1L9

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 Location: **Royal Canadian Legion** in Aurora, 105 Industrial Parkway North (Please park around back and enter through that door)

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 Email: [Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca](mailto:Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca)



Special guest at the Aurora Seniors' Centre last week was the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Seniors), centre. Here, she confers with Aurora-Newmarket Member of Parliament Lois Brown and seniors' president Charles Sequeira.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



## Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

# Best of Broadway show was big hit with seniors

The Best of Broadway show presented by the Silver Stars Drama Club of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA), provided an excellent Friday evening of entertainment and left a yearning for more.

First, the choice of popular and powerful music mixed with beautiful melodies, provided a foundation that enabled the passionate entertainers to express their feelings for love and romance, tenderness and sympathy.

Judy Buchanan was the producer, director, choreographer and performer in this show, and appeared to enjoy the production as much as the audience did.

Bud Switzer, Harry Foster, Sylvia Neal, Lorraine Worrall and Bill Reid all played superb parts as did so many of the enjoyable cast, which were 26 strong and sent the audience home with beautiful music.

MP Lois Brown hosted a round table discussion at the ASA last week with the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State, in attendance with members of the ASA, and several invited guests.

The subjects included encouraging volunteerism and topics touching on seniors' income, housing and elder abuse.

Lois estimated that volunteerism is valued at \$18 billion annually and seniors everywhere shoulder substantial volunteer responsibilities.

She also indicated that seniors would soon outnumber younger people, which is not surprising to me, considering ever-improving medical expertise resulting in a demographic, which will have profound implications on future generations.

Minister Diane Ablonczy listened attentively to views, issues and concerns and estimated poverty in Canada at less than five per cent.

The minister noted that women who do not work earn little or nothing, consequently save little and receive small pensions when they become eligible.

Lois invited members of the discussion group to contact her if any follow up thoughts or issues surfaced.

Belinda's Barbecue with Belinda Stronach in attendance saw an excellent turnout of seniors and guests who enjoyed a cool bright day.

Well known local dignitaries attended the

function and with an atmosphere of good food, entertainment and everybody in good humour, the day passed pleasantly and much too quickly.

Belinda generously funds all of the barbecue expenses and the proceeds go to the ASA, which always has something in need of replacement.

This time the never-ending advance of computer technology requires the ASA to upgrade hardware and software.

Belinda looked radiant and appeared intent on enjoying her day as much as anyone present and I believe she accomplished that purpose.

Following the barbecue, a group of members visited nearby Hollandview Trails Retirement Home where Mamie Yane, a long serving and devoted volunteer received the Senior of the Year Award from Ontario Governor Aileen Carroll, presented on this occasion by Mayor Phyllis Morris.

Mamie recently underwent heart surgery and now looks very well.

Mamie, in her days as a volunteer, was the one who got the early morning coffee going. She staffed the important station at the front counter, greeted, and assisted countless visitors to the ASA, both in the old centre and in the new.

The Canada Day Parade marched and danced along Yonge Street through the heart of Aurora on a full tide of patriotic enthusiasm last week.

Beguiling is a word that describes the parade, attracting the attention and interest of countless spectators lining the street to see the fascinating and colourful floats pass by.

Passionate crowds on either side of this historic Canadian roadway expressed undeniable vocal expressions of support and encouragement and the pageant bodes well for a prosperous and tolerant, rich Canadian culture.

The ASA float with its contingent of colourful seniors looked splendid, serene and yet powerfully aware of the spectacle of which they were a part.

They included Judy Buchanan, Grace Rock, Christa Caister, Donna Chianelli, Rozlin Laber, Doug Jarvie, Marianne Urbach and Ron Coe.

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