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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of July 20, 2010

## May solve conflict

A compromise could be reached this week in a conflict between the Aurora Farmers' Market and Aurora Jazz Festival, after a battle over space at Town Park came to a head this week.

The Aurora Jazz Festival on July 31 is expected to overlap with the Market, creating concerns over space usage and vehicular access to the area.

"The Town and the head of Bylaw, are working out a compromise that I will be happy with and they are going to get back to me by Wednesday as to the results of that because I need some assurances that our farmers have a place to operate their business and sell their wares on a regular basis," Andre Flys, chair of the Farmers Market told The Auroran Monday. "There are other places where farmers can go if we can't offer them a safe place."

Bylaw officers were at the Market Saturday to ensure vendors were not bringing vehicles into the Town Park area. According to Mr. Flys, the move "really caused a big stink" with vendors.

"Some of the [vendors were ready to go home]," he said. "Fortunately we

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Ada Johnson, Aurora's oldest citizen, celebrated her 107th birthday with a party at her residence, Park Place Manor, Saturday. Ada, married to the late Norm Johnson, lived for years in a house on Connaught Avenue, and remembers when the sidewalks would be rolled up on Yonge Street.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Integrity Commissioner ruling may be discussed next month

A ruling by councillors on Aurora Integrity Commissioner David Tsubouchi's report calling for a council reprimand against Councillor Evelyn Buck following a complaint filed by Councillor Evelina MacEachern, has been postponed until Mr. Tsubouchi appears before council to answer questions.

Mr. Tsubouchi's recommendation was slated to be heard at Tuesday's council meeting but was referred to next month's session after the number of councillors at the table dwindled following Councillor MacEachern declaring a interest in the matter and Councillors Bob McRoberts and Alison Collins-Mrakas excusing themselves from the proceedings.

In his report, the Integrity

Commissioner evaluated a complaint made by Councillor MacEachern against Councillor Buck on April 15 that Councillor Buck did not "accurately and adequately communicate the attitudes and decisions of Council" with respect to the approval process for the Town's Master Recreation Plan.

The complaint alleged that Councillor Buck breached this with various posts written on her blog, alleging that the working group for the Master Rec plan allowed for "secrecy", among other issues.

Mr. Tsubouchi found, however, that Councillor Buck "had access to the process at several times for each stage of the recommendations of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee" and that councillors had

the opportunity to ask for more information at general committee and council meetings.

"I conclude that Councillor Evelyn Buck violated the Code of Conduct in that the Councillor... did not 'accurately and adequately communicate the attitudes and decisions of Council,' and did not 'show respect for the decision making process of Council' and did not convey accurately the procedures of this Council," said Mr. Tsubouchi in his report.

"I recommend that a reprimand be issued against the Councillor Evelyn Buck."

Mr. Tsubouchi's second report related to a further complaint brought forward by Councillor MacEachern

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## Conduct complaints to wait for election

A proposed amendment to the Town's Council Code of Conduct Complaint protocol, which would have seen a moratorium on making formal complaints to the Integrity Commissioner between August 1st and December 1st, was relaxed somewhat before receiving approval at last Tuesday's council meeting.

The proposed bylaw called for a complete moratorium on complaints, but was subsequently amended to allow for complaints to be filed but held in abeyance until the next council is fully formed.

The Complaint Protocol did not include provisions which would suspend formal complaints to the Integrity Commissioner during an election campaign, something which some candidates could have used to their advantage, said Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper in a report.

"There is no realistic basis upon which an investigation can be conducted and reported on before election day," he said, with respect to complaints lodged after an election campaign has started.

"Given this reality, and in the absence of a moratorium in the Complaint Protocol, there is a very real risk that members of council will be confronted during an election campaign with the allegation that they are the subject of a code of conduct complaint and have no effective way of defending himself or herself or securing timely vindication."

In his report, Mr. Cooper said the City of Toronto's former Integrity Commissioner concluded "that complaints brought against members of council during the period leading up to an election will often be politically motivated and brought as part of an opponent's campaign strategy

rather than out of any genuine sense of grievance".

The proposed moratorium inspired strong feelings from many quarters, including some members of the audience Tuesday, who took to the microphone for Open Forum.

"I don't know how anyone in the chamber feels, but as a citizen I can say that I think if you're going to use an integrity commissioner and rule tonight possibly [on Integrity Commissioner David Tsubouchi's report on complaints filed by Councillor Evelina MacEachern against Councillor Evelyn Buck] and then you're going to decide to have a moratorium, I kind of take that as

Please see page 11



Aurora's Citizen of the Year, Gord Barnes, shows a new skill during event at the Town Park Saturday morning.

Aurora photo by David Falconer

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## COMING EVENTS

### CONTINUING

The featured artist in the Skylight Gallery for July is Irma Gusch, whose work is on display Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on the 3rd floor at Aurora Town Hall, across from the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

\*\*\*\*

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 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 [keepsinging@rogers.com](mailto: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 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.

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Aurora resident Grace Marsh was honored last week with a pin (inset) after she donated her 100th pint of blood at a Canadian Blood Services clinic. CBS is responsible for more than 850,000 units of blood that is collected annually. There is an immediate need for O-, A- and B- type blood, she said, and during the summer holiday season blood supplies of all types, even the most common O+, can become critically short. You will need identification with your full name and signature and/or photograph and you should eat before your donation. Visit [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) for more information.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Hoedown raffle offers \$50,000

What could you buy with \$50,000? A new sports car? A backyard pool?

Aurora residents will soon get a shot at winning \$50,000 cash - the grand prize in this year's Prospector Raffle draw, a favourite feature of the Wild, Wild West Hoedown, will offer an all-cash prize package.

In addition to the grand prize of \$50,000, ticket buyers will have the chance to win a second prize of \$15,000, a third prize worth \$10,000, and a fourth prize worth \$5,000.

This year's Prospector's Raffle cash prizes are being donated by Magna International Inc., the host of the Hoedown.

Prospector's Raffle tickets can be purchased at one of the 20 local charities and community groups selected as recipients of this year's Hoedown funding as well as at Neighbourhood Network, 14988 Yonge Street in Aurora), Jonathan's Restaurant,

14845 Yonge Street in Aurora, and Persechini Fitness Centre, 77 Davis Drive in Newmarket.

For a complete listing of this year's charities, visit [www.hoedown.ca](http://www.hoedown.ca).

The 2010 Hoedown will take place on Saturday, September 18, on the Magna campus in Aurora under the largest tent in the country.

The event will run from 5 p.m. to midnight, features a Texas-style barbecue dinner, cash bar and the raffle.

The hoedown started out as a backyard barbecue fundraiser at the Stronach family farm and has become York Region's largest annual community fundraiser, generating proceeds of more than \$4 million for local community groups during its two decade plus history.



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## May solve conflict this week

From page 1

were shy some vendors so I was able to put [displaced vendors] in their place and move."

If vehicles will be prohibited from entering the park, at least three businesses "will have to look for business elsewhere" because vehicular access to load and unload product is essential, he said.

The issue came into the fore early last week after Jazz Festival organizer Sher St. Kitts attended Council to describe what she saw as "serious concerns" with the Farmers Market and Town Park use.

"I want [sharing the space] to be done in the full spirit of cooperation," she said. "We're sharing a space that has to be safe...and in the case of the festival, it could produce some unsafe situations. "[I] request that Town Staff also be available at Town Park on July 31 to ensure we have bylaws enforced to ensure that we have a smooth transition while the market vendors are leaving the park around 1 p.m. and we have a lot of people in the park."

According to information obtained by The Auroran it was only recently brought to the attention of the Town that with the new Farmers Market Bylaw, vendors have spilled onto the pathway from the frontage of Wells Street School leading into the park.

Parks and Recreation were apparently initially unaware of this, booking events in the same space as the vendors.

Mr. Flys called the whole situ-

ation "peculiar."

"Hopefully this is all for nothing," he said. "It is something we did last year. It's interesting because they have had a map since May of vendors. Bylaw has been there to issue the permits to us last week. "[Most] council members are there every Saturday without fail, so for anyone to claim they are surprised about the positioning of anybody in there is a little peculiar."

Ms. St. Kitts did not contact him personally when any problem was perceived or identified, he added.

"[She] was snooping around the market about a month ago

and had mentioned to some of my vendors that they may have to move to accommodate the Festival," he said. "She approached them individually and they came to me with their concerns. I am not going to bother contacting Sher St. Kitts as to our past history and she is not exactly a reasonable person. I contacted the Town as they are the ones who facilitate the space and have an agreement with us as to what space we do use.

"[Staff member] Judy Sherin assured me that the space that has been promised to us was ours and the jazz festival would have to work around it."



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Above is the class of Grade 9D from the Aurora District High School, better known today as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, for the school year 1958-59.. We don't know a soul. Can anyone identify everyone in the above

picture? Perhaps you're in it. We don't care when we find out who is in the picture, but whoever tells us will win something. Honest. This photo came to us from Marg Rice who got it from Aurora's Eileen MacDonald.



## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

### Letters to the Editor

# Too many running for top job, it's time to reconsider, he says

## Events coming up

There are a couple things happening in the next week or two that you should know about.

The first includes Christmas. Now, doesn't that make you feel a bit cooler?

The Aurora Legion - no, I don't owe them money - will hold a Christmas in July luncheon this Friday, July 23 from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

While the regular Friday menu will not be available, for 10 bucks you can have a traditional Christmas dinner.

It will include roasted turkey, sage dressing, gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered and lightly seasoned vegetables, baked rolls, assorted pickles, cranberry sauce and dessert.

Such a deal for a 10 spot.

If you like, you can enjoy the meal on the Legion's patio, where the temperature will probably be nowhere near what you'd expect on Christmas Day...unless you're in the south seas or somewhere like that.

As the Legion points out, there are "only 151 days left until Christmas"...the real one, that is.

If you want tickets to this event, they're at the bar at the Legion, located on Industrial Parkway North.

Meanwhile, next week, there'll be a kickoff to the two-day jazz festival slated for the Town Park.

It is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, at the Aurora Cultural Centre (better known as the Church Street School) and it's being called a "Black tie kick off party".

Obviously, the organizers know I can no longer fit into my tuxedo, so that lets me out.

Anyhow, the festivities get underway at 7 p.m. and it'll cost \$30 a ticket.

You will, however, be entertained by George St. Kitts and his Starlight Orchestra.

Friday night from 5 to 11 p.m. and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. the jazz festival takes place.

According to a press release, "this grass roots festival features great local talent in Aurora's beautiful small town setting in York Region's heartland".

For further information visit [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com).

To the editor,

Following our local elections since back in the early 1950s, this year's upcoming event reminds me of the time that Jim Murray and Dr. Henderson almost came to blows at Wells Street School trying to convince a packed meeting to choose one or the other.

Having headed up the best Parks Department in the region (Jim, our parks are still great!) and 12 years on council myself, I watch with great sorrow to see the direction our town is

heading.

We have three candidates running for the office of mayor.

I'm sure that a fourth will throw her hat in the ring soon.

After the election, three of those candidates won't be sitting around the table.

Their ideas, vision and expertise will be lost.

I respect those who have declared their intention to run for mayor, acknowledging the need for change.

To ensure powerful, fresh leadership and representation, someone, or someones, needs

to step down, run for council and become part of a new team to work to build a new Aurora.

This would take great sacrifice.

For the good and well-being

of Aurora, candidates please reconsider.

You'd have my vote!

**Norm Weller**  
Aurora

### THE AURORAN

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#### Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

## Westhill arrogant, reader maintains

To the editor,

Westhill Redevelopment Ltd., in clearing trees on its Leslie Street lands prior to OMB approval of its plan to develop, and without Town permits to remove trees, has, at the very least, demonstrated arrogance.

Apparently rules and regulations are for the little people, not Westhill.

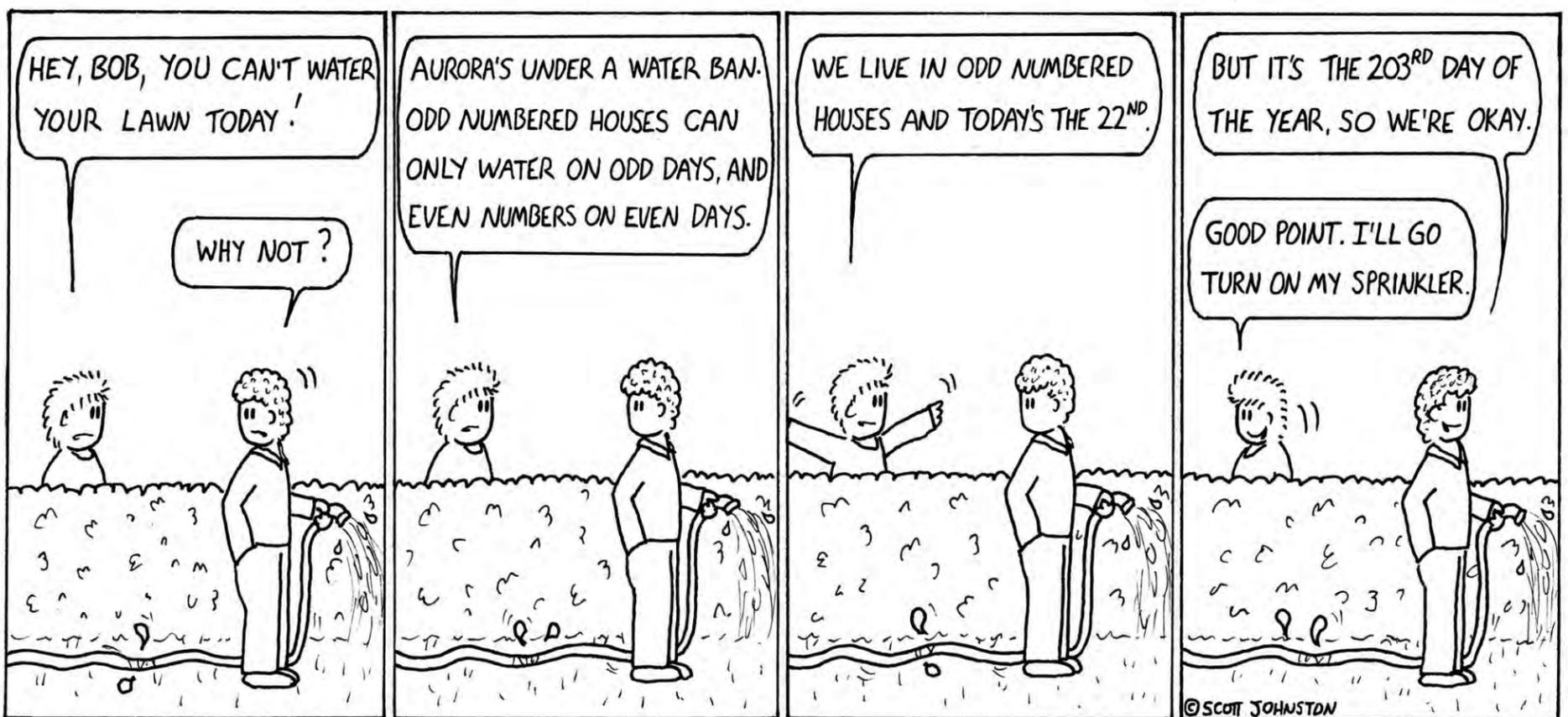
This reinforces the image of the developer as grasping and heavy-handed, arts and cultures grants

to communities notwithstanding, although little of which has been seen by Aurora since it rejected Westhill's plan of development.

If there was ever any doubt, we know now that altruism is not the motive for these grants.

Westhill should be held to account for its precipitous actions and face maximum fines.

**Sue Jones**  
Aurora



## Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

## The Eco-Fee fiasco

Just when we thought we knew how much more it would cost us to check out at the cash register because of the HST, we get whacked with another McGuinty tax in the form of the Eco Fee.

What is especially offensive about this new tax, is that there was no warning that it was scheduled to show up on your bill on the same day as the new 13 per cent HST.

Apparently we were expected not to notice the new "fee" that started to be slapped on more than 9,000 household items, on everything from matches to hand sanitizers and aerosol products such as shaving cream and asthma inhalers.

And to add to the insult, shoppers don't find out how much the fee is until their items are keyed in at the check-out counter.

Although this Eco-Fee was first conceived in 2008 as a way to fund the disposal of hazardous waste material and to keep discards out of landfill, the reason that it has caused such a firestorm of protest from the public now, is that as of July 1st, thousands of products that were not included before started to be

taxed, and for the first time, consumers started to see it on their bills for those items. Consumers have every right to be angry on a number of fronts, starting with the McGuinty government for its mishandling of this issue.

First, to allow this new tax to be imposed at a time when consumers are already reeling from having to pay the additional 13 per cent HST tax on everything from gasoline to haircuts, shows a blatant disregard for the many people in this province who are already having a hard time making ends meet.

This tax should have been cancelled, and at the very least deferred until our economy is on a more solid footing.

Second, for the McGuinty government to claim it is not responsible, and for the Minister of Environment to run for cover by slamming Stewardship Ontario, is not only disingenuous it is outright dishonest.

The minister was made aware that there were serious problems brewing at Stewardship Ontario and the administration of this program as far back as May, 2009.

At that time, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Finance pointing out that concerns had been brought to my attention regarding the lack of direction about how the eco-fees were to be assessed and how they were expected to be charged out.

That letter was referred to the Environment Minister who ignored the warning.

This week the same minister claimed he knew nothing about the mismanagement at his own agency and self-righteously demanded an audit and compliance program to police retailers.

Two senior ministers were made aware that this was a program in trouble, yet chose to do nothing.

We all care about the environment and support policies that encourage the reduction of waste, but this latest Eco-Fee fiasco is a failure and misses the mark.

In fact, I believe that if an Eco-Fee is to be assessed, it should be charged to the manufacturer who may then be motivated to use more environmentally-friendly packaging, but don't keep laying more costs on to the consumer.



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

## Mammal-mania

I was surprised to read the letter in last week's Auroran describing the problems a local resident is having with an overabundance of chipmunks on their property.

That's because I thought all the chipmunks in town lived at our place.

We've had some interesting times with wildlife over the past few years, and while we now seem to be overrun by Chippie and friends, they weren't the first mammals to enter our lives.

That would be the rabbits.

We didn't realize we had these around until several years ago when we started our first vegetable garden.

They discovered the garden, and we discovered they love peas, and beans, and cucumbers, anything else we had intended to consume ourselves.

They pretty much devoured everything we had planted, so we approached the idea of a garden the following year with some trepidation.

We were thinking that we would either have to put up a fence, or sign our normally wimpy cat up for assertiveness training lessons.

Then I had an unexpected discussion with a colleague, who identified the one thing that would keep rabbits away; fox urine.

Yes, fox urine. And no, I'm not making that up.

Apparently, and I guess quite understandably, rabbits have a natural fear of the scent of a fox.

To my surprise, they actually sell fox urine in outdoors stores - presumably to mask the smell of hunters and birdwatchers.

I don't want to know how they collect it, or what sort of reaction you'd get to having that experience in your job resume.

It must be a challenge to obtain, because it's pretty pricy stuff - almost as valuable as printer ink, the world's most expensive liquid commodity.

In any case, a quick spray on some nearby rocks every few weeks did keep the rabbits away, and we had a great harvest that Fall.

Word soon spread, and before long, I was purchasing and supplying fox urine to various friends and relatives. I felt like a drug dealer.

My success was marred the following year when I learned the hard way that fox urine has a short shelf life.

The bottle left over from the previous year must have lost its potency over the winter, and before I could resupply, the rabbits had a field day, or perhaps field season, in the vegetables that summer.

Since then, we've managed to permanently solve the problem by focusing on vegetables that the bunnies

don't seem to like, such as rhubarb and asparagus.

We still occasionally see rabbits hopping through the yard, but they don't stay as long, so I assume they're going somewhere else to indulge in their free salad bar (apologies to my vegetable-growing neighbours).

Around the time we solved the rabbit problem, we started seeing the first chipmunks.

A few years later they are firmly established, and we now have a thriving colony (or town, or warren, or whatever best describes the home of a bunch of chipmunks) on and around our property.

Although we don't feed them, they have gotten used to us, so we see them a lot.

They're cute, and we don't mind having them as neighbours, but we also initially thought that way about the rabbits.

I'm sure the "Disney factor" would deteriorate rapidly if the chipmunks started chewing through our plants, deck or phone lines, or found their way into our walls or attic.

For now we're content, at least as long as the current human-rodent detente remains in place.

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

Letters to the Editor

# An apology

To the editor,

Former Councillor Richard Isaacson has corrected me.

He served two terms on council. He also topped the poll and served as Deputy Mayor.

I stand corrected.

The point I wanted to emphasize was that former Councillor Norm Stewart who put so much heart into being a councillor and was a veteran of the Second World War and of the Canadian Peace-Keeping Force in Suez

will never have a street named after him.

I appreciate that Richard minds the town's affairs. And that the time he served and what people think about it matter to him still.

He is a kindred spirit.

I regret any hint of criticism derived from my erroneous comment that he served only one term.

**Evelyn Buck  
Aurora**

# Aurora man becomes Hall of Fame member

**ED. NOTE: The following letter was sent to us by Alan Dean.**

Dear Alan:

It was a pleasure to advise you on the telephone that you have been chosen for induction into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in recognition of your enormous contribution you have made in sports for athletes with disabilities in Canada.

You will be inducted in a special ceremony at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on Wednesday, November 10th at noon.

As part of the award, a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 will be donated to the charity of your choice. Please send us the name and address of the charity.

Any travel expenses or expenditures relating to the event will be reimbursed to you.

Also please invite three other guests to accompany you at the

luncheon.

As discussed on the telephone, a couple of frontal colour head shot photographs are needed for an artist's rendering for the Hall of Fame and for the WhyNot magazine.

If you have any write ups or newspaper articles about you, please send them at the earliest to prepare an article for our magazine, citation and press release.

We would like to have this sent to us as soon as possible by courier or email. And to facilitate our sign language interpreter, we would appreciate a copy of your acceptance speech, which should not exceed one minute nearer to November 10th.

Once again congratulations to you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

**Vim Kochhar  
Founding Chair  
Canadian Disability  
Hall of Fame**

# Reader has news about chipmunks

To the editor,

This is in response to the July 13th letter to the editor "Reader has chipmunk woes, and no one helps".

Mr. Gonsalves appears terrified of chipmunks damaging his property to the point that he is prepared to wage war on them yet he has not given any examples of chipmunks damaging his home. Although I live in a high density chipmunk zone, I have never heard of chipmunks causing damage. Chipmunks live in burrows in the ground and under decks - but not in houses.

The only 'damage' they may be involved in would be eating fruits, plants, and vegetables from your garden.

If you want to decrease the frequency of chipmunk sightings, don't leave food out that

they eat (seeds, dog and cat food etc.)

Interestingly, any negative information I have come across concerning chipmunks is almost all published by self-serving pest control companies.

A dislike for chipmunks (or any animal which dares to trespass on his property) is not sufficient reason to justify removing or killing wildlife.

We need to learn to appreciate nature not destroy it.

Shelley Wister  
Aurora

# Council "poison", reader says

To the editor,

Well council once again put on quite a show at the July 13th council meeting.

There were so many issues of concern raised that one does not know where to start.

While I remain impressed with the quality of our town staff, I'm left with the feeling that we may want to change the town we are twinned with to Salem, Mass. given the clear and apparent witch hunt that appears to be well underway under the leadership of our Mayor Phyllis Morris.

The meat of the accusations that have been re-issued under the code of conduct appear at 4.24:00 to 4.39:30 of the tape located at this link: rogerstv.com/option.asp?lid=237&rid=70&mid=52&gid=69135#38\_120\_3103

The Integrity Commissioner is paid a maximum of \$5,000 per month to a maximum of \$60,000 per year.

He is also paid a minimum monthly retainer, even when complaints are held in abeyance from August 1 to Dec 1.

He also answers questions and educates council where and when required.

John Leach agreed to send me the report that was prepared by staff when the IC was hired in order that I might be able to figure out what the monthly retainer is.

The section between 3.32:00 to 3.57:00 of the above noted meeting tape deals with two issues: the cut-off date for filing complaints in around election time moratoriums as well as the fact that council seems to only be focusing on accusations raised by Councillor Evalina MacEachern (and supported by Mayor Phyllis Morris, and Councillors Wendy Geartner and Steve Granger).

A complaint that was apparently filed against Councillor Granger seems to have fallen off the radar for some reason and amazingly no complaint has ever been submitted against Councillor MacEachern as far as I am aware, despite her less than civil e-mails to Councilors Al Wilson and Evelyn Buck a few years ago and her actions towards others at the council table.

At 3.48:50 Evelyn Buck speaks about the code of conduct. The IC's contract is a 12-month contract that can be terminated with 30 days notice.

While the Integrity Commissioner may in fact be an "independent (arms length) third

party" as noted by the mayor, he can also apparently be fired if he does not rule to the mayor's favour.

The fate of the previous IC can't escape the notice of the current IC who is currently responsible for inspiring the current council to new levels of integrity.

The jury is out as to how successful he has been and how much money is too much money when witnessing the games that we continue to see being played, which games do in fact appear to be highly politically motivated.

Councillor Buck states that the previous council "extorted" money and her statement was like throwing blood into a shark tank.

Start the tape at 4.07:50 onwards...to 4.13:00. Buck marches out at 4.10:00

Extortion (according to Wikipedia): "The term extortion is often used metaphorically to refer to usury or to price-gouging, though neither is legally considered extortion. It is also often used loosely to refer to everyday situations where one person feels indebted against their will, to another, in order to receive an essential service or avoid legal consequences. For example, certain lawsuits, fees for services such as banking, automobile insurance, gasoline prices, and even taxation, have all been labeled "legalized extortion" by people with various social or political beliefs."

Even if I may disagree with Councillor Buck on any number of issues and/or her choice of language, I still don't think that the code of conduct and the \$50,000 plus that has been spent to date in dealing with Councillor Buck is money well spent when we have given not one thin dime to the food bank.

This is a poisoned council and it very largely the mayor's

doing as a result of her approach to public dialog and her clear and apparent manipulation of process.

She tries to paint a picture that only a small number of people do all the work, as per her attempt with Councillor MacEachern to get attendance records for in-camera CLOSED meetings (see 4.17:00 to 4.24:00) and despite the fact that the mayor often ignores the input of at least three councillors constantly and she has thwarted their efforts to join committees and advisory groups.

I trust that we don't have to remind anyone that one Councilor (Grace Marsh) felt compelled to resign in frustration.

Look at the town's senior staff employment record for an inkling of how staff must feel under this business culture.

This is a vindictive and

manipulative council beyond all compare.

There were other issues of note at the meeting.

I had to shake my head when Councillor Buck criticized the \$25 million deck-parking lot infrastructure that GO built at the train station.

Most towns would be thrilled with that kind of commitment from GO, especially given our commuting and environmental issues, but apparently not Councillor Buck.

In the same discussion Mayor Morris felt compelled to note that while GO spent \$25 million on the parking lot the Town of Aurora paid for a bench!

I'm not sure how that was relevant to the conversation but I thought it was hilarious nonetheless.

**Richard Johnson  
Aurora**



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Many of the residents of Aurora share this vision of community. They recognize that we are all owner-operators of the "business" that is Aurora!

There are exciting times in store for us in Aurora, as together we develop a shared vision for our community based on respect and collaboration.

*Geoff*

**WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY**

Geoff backs up, encourages and celebrates the people who go into action. If there's a mistake, he recognizes effort, and avoids the blame game by focusing on new actions that follow the policies and history of the organization.

— Elizabeth Bishenden: Resident, Community Organizer

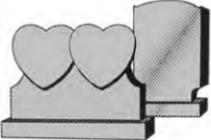
As a long time board member, Geoff has always demonstrated respect for fellow members, integrity and perceptive insights about the issues that concern Aurora business.

— Rosalyn Gonsalves: former General Manager, Aurora Chamber of Commerce

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# Pamela, where are you?

To the editor,

Is Mr. Gonsalves really upset about chipmunks cavorting around his deck; or is he just threatening to trap them in the hope that Pamela Anderson will come out to protest?

**John Ecclestone  
Aurora**

Letter to the Editor

# They replaced his water heater with a smaller one, but he fixed it

To the editor,

Many of your readers will be aware from reports in the press, on TV and on the Internet of some questionable practices being adopted by some companies that rent natural gas hot water heaters. Last week, I was not, this week I am!!

Last Friday a knock on the door revealed a representative from one such company. "Would I be interested in saving \$10 a month on my water heating costs at no charge to me?"

I replied that I could be.

He requested permission to enter and look at my current heater.

He looked at it and declared it was 12 years old and eligible for their program.

We signed the contract for a replacement 50-gallon unit, called their call centre, gave them all the relevant details and I confirmed with them I had signed the contract.

A Wednesday morning date was arranged for the installation.

My wife came home and was appalled!! Have you not read/heard about scams, she says? No, I said. Well, let's wait and see, says she.

Wednesday morning the installers turned up and installed a new heater.

I have a home office and was not monitoring the installation as I had business to conduct on the phone.

Later they called to say I would have hot water in 30 minutes and asked me to sign a document confirming they had installed a new heater. I did so.

The installer told me my unit was only six years old, was very heavy due to deposits and I should consider a water softener. They then left.

Thirty minutes later I went downstairs to look at our new water heater.

It was pretty obvious that it was quite a bit smaller than my old one and upon inspection I saw it had a 40-gallon capacity. Hmm!

I phoned the company's call centre and spoke with a very pleasant representative who kept reiterating the company position in many different ways.

Of course, he said they had installed a 50-gallon unit. He failed to tell me it was 50 US gallons and not imperial gallons.

I said he had one question to answer "were they or were they not going to replace the one

that they installed with a 50-gallon, 221 litre unit - yes or no?".

I explained my options if the answer was no.

Write a registered letter to them, using the 10-day cooling off period in Ontario for "front door" purchases to cancel the contract and/or filing a small claims court action in Newmarket.

After 28 minutes of discussion it was confirmed they would replace the heater with a larger unit on Friday.

They did replace the unit on Friday and I do have hot water.

In addition to the installation confirmation they asked me to sign an agency appointment notice to return my old unit to Direct Energy.

I changed the document to reflect I was told by their agent the old unit was 12 years old.

I wait to see if Direct Energy will react in any way.

Lessons learned. Make sure;

1. you get an equivalent unit.

2. there are no charges from your current supplier.

3. you will see some savings (do you have an old inefficient unit).

4. you ask about the length of the contract and termination fees

5. you don't forget the 10-day cooling off period

As my wife said to me "let the buyer beware"!!!

Frank Snape  
Aurora

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## Customer Alert!

### Things you need to know before you use electricity this summer (York Region Service Area)

PowerStream's distribution rates, the portion of the electricity bill that is related to PowerStream and which represents 21 percent of the total charges found on the bill, are amongst the lowest in Ontario. Over the past three years, PowerStream has been able to lower distribution rates for York Region customers by 5%. However, there are several factors, beyond PowerStream's control, which are expected to increase the total bill for customers going forward, especially during the summer period.

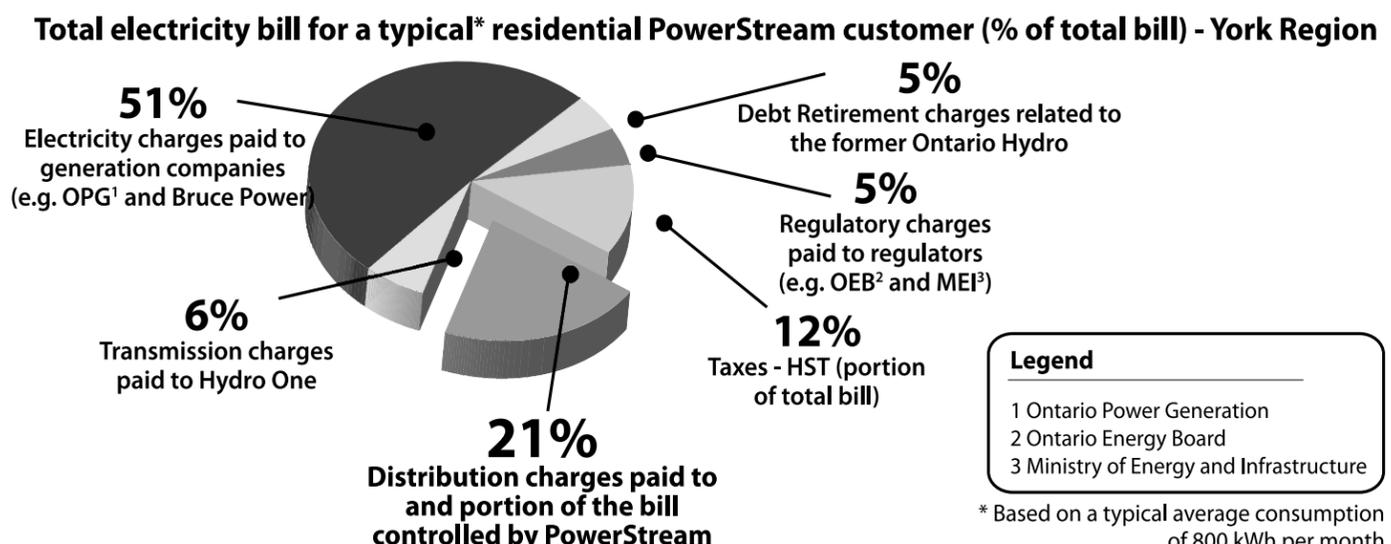
#### Take charge of your electricity bill now!

The factors that are impacting your electricity bill are:

- The Ontario Energy Board increasing electricity prices for all Ontario residential and small business customers, coupled with the seasonal change in the pricing structure, which will add 6% to PowerStream bills.
- The recently implemented Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) will add another 8% to all customer utility bills across the province.
- A small 'Regulatory' charge that has been added as required by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure to cover the cost of provincial conservation initiatives.
- Increases in water and wastewater rates charged by municipalities (where applicable, e.g. Town of Markham and the City of Vaughan) and collected by PowerStream on their behalf.
- A projected hotter than average summer.

PowerStream, a municipally-owned local electricity distribution company, continues to look for efficiencies in its operations in order to reduce the upward pressure on customer distribution rates (embedded in the 'Delivery' line found on customer bills).

The chart below shows the percentage breakdown of the related electricity charges found on PowerStream's York Region customer bills. Only 21% is controlled by PowerStream.



#### For more information on what you can do now

In order to minimize the impact these factors will have on summer electricity bills, PowerStream encourages customers to take advantage of various conservation initiatives and programs. What you do now can save you money when your bill arrives. For more information and how to Power Down Your Summer Electricity Costs, visit [www.powerstream.ca/powerdown](http://www.powerstream.ca/powerdown).



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(Howard Johnson)



Some helpful tips from PowerStream on how you can better manage your electricity costs this summer



- Keep the temperature in your home 4-5° C below the outside air temperature
- Use a programmable thermostat to keep your home's temperature regulated throughout the day
- Clean or replace your air conditioning filter monthly
- When away from home, turn off your air conditioner or program the thermostat to turn on just before you get home
- Close blinds and curtains during the day
- Use a clothesline when possible. Let the sun and outside air naturally dry your clothes
- Use ceiling fans in conjunction with your air conditioning
- Use the microwave or gas barbecue to avoid heating up your home by using the oven or stove to cook

To learn more tips on how to Power Down Your Summer Electricity Costs, visit: [www.powerstream.ca/powerdown](http://www.powerstream.ca/powerdown)

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## Ducks win six golds at Provincials

Nine swimmers from Aurora's Ducks Swimming traveled to the Ottawa area to take part in the Ontario Junior Provincial Championships recently.

They placed 20th among

78 swim clubs with the Oakville Swim Club taking top spot.

A total of 865 swimmers from across Ontario attended the four-day event at the Nepean Sportsplex.

In the Senior men's category, the Ducks Ben Stubbs won four gold medals in convincing fashion.

He splashed to victory in the 200-metre backstroke,

2:10:89 minutes; the 200-metre butterfly, 2:07:08 minutes, and added to his gold medal tally winning the 200 and 400-metre Individual races in times of 2:13:73 and 4:40:25 min-

utes respectively.

Ben added a silver medal performance in the 100-metre backstroke.

The other gold medalist for the Ducks was Kimberly Phan who sped to the top of the podium in the 100-metre backstroke, 1:10:17 minutes, and the 50-metre freestyle, 28:02 seconds.

Kimberly won silver medals in the 100-metre freestyle and 100-metre butterfly events.

Victoria Wicks flew the Stouffville Ducks flag high with two silver medal per-

formances in the breast-stroke events swimming to very fast times of 1:18:39 and 2:45:93 in the 100 and 200-metre events respectively.

Alexandra Gunn was third in the 200-metre breaststroke in 2:45:88 and Sam Kaczor with two fourth place finishes in the 100 Back and 100 Fly.

The next event for these swimmers is the National Age Group Championships in Winnipeg and National Open Championships in Victoria, later this month.

## Swimmer, 17, qualifies for world championship

Summer Mortimer in preparation for the World International Paralympic Championships at the Peter Van den Hoogenband Swimming Pool, Eindhoven,

Netherlands in August, qualified for the Senior National Time Standard for able body swimmers last weekend in the 100 Back with a time of 1:06:90 Long

Course.

The time is 1.6 seconds faster than her world record for S10 swimmers on the paralympic swimming.

This is a huge accomplishment and shows the toughness and talent of Summer given her disability regarding the very limited function of her feet, said coach Reg Costello

"Her ability to start the race, compete and turn with the able body swimmers, places her at a disadvan-

tage, he said. "Her training schedule is continually modified given the day to day status of the condition of her feet. By making the national standard, Summer can compete at any Senior Nationals and Olympic trials in both the able body and para swimming. Having a swimmer do this is quite rare."

Summer's time ranks her in the top ten in Canada for able body swimming in the women's 17-year-old division.

## Senior Bridge results

Monday, July 12 - North-South: Carole Bell and Nan McLean; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Anna Kennedy and Lynn Gowan. East-West: Don Strupat and

Bernie O'Brien tied with Shirley Laurin and Frank Henriques; Cecily Wilson and Barbara Jacobs tied with Carole Watkins and Carol Mather; Audrey Robertson and Ev Dickie.

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This group of performers, paying tribute to the Blues Brothers, were obviously having a good time last Wednesday night in the Town Park as the Town of Aurora held its annual Concerts in the Park show. The Park, which was full, will be the

scene of several musical acts for the rest of the summer. List of entertainers may be found in The Auroran's regular Coming Events feature, which begins on Page 2.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Complaints to wait for election

**From page 1**  
you're going to use the galleys and then shut them up as soon as they are used," said Aurora resident David Heard. "Why should [the Integrity Commissioner] not continue to take potential complaints from potential citizens? There may be some in this chamber tonight that might want to file some papers. I think we should have that opportunity."

Although he admitted to having been "all over the map" in his thoughts earlier, Councillor Bob McRoberts said he would support the motion for the moratorium.

But he had many questions along the way, he said, including why the date suggested was August 1, since an election campaign could theoretically start the first of January.

"Stopping the complaint process as early as August 1 and for as long as four months might be seen as a disservice to our residents," he said. "Why would the majority of us have voted to hire an integrity commissioner for a full year, pay him at least \$3,000 a month, and then vote not to allow him to do his job for four of those 12 months?"

For Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, however, it was a matter of the nature of Mr. Tsubouchi's contract.

"It is my understanding that the contract with Mr. Tsubouchi is on a month by month basis," she said. "Are we also ending the contract of Mr. Tsubouchi given that he will no longer be hearing any complaints and that it would be at the discretion of the new council as to whether he proceeds in his capacity as integrity commissioner? The language is just not

clear and that, in my opinion, would be a natural eventuality based on what is before us."

Mr. Cooper, however, said the contract does not lapse with the moratorium as Mr. Tsubouchi is contracted to do more than simply take complaints.

"He was hired for multiple purposes," said Mr. Cooper. "One of those purposes, of course, is to field complaints and report to council. Another one of the purposes he was hired for is to provide advice to council with regards to any particular matter that could come up in terms of an ethics question or a similar matter."

"From that perspective, during a period of moratorium, he would be available to council to answer those questions and pro-

vide advice."

It was the suggestion of Councillor MacEachern, however, that lessened the severity of the proposed amendment.

"Would it be appropriate to instead of prohibiting any complaints from being filed that the amendment reflects the integrity commissioner holds the complaints in abeyance until whatever the date might be?" she asked her colleagues. "That way, members of the community and members of council can file a complaint as a proceeding violation occurs and held in abeyance and he's not going to do anything with it until after the election is over."

"If there is any political motivation to it, it will be handled after the fact. If it is for political purposes it

won't really achieve what it set to achieve."

The amendment was made to the proposed bylaw and carried 7-1, with Councillor Buck voting against it. Councillor John Gallo was not present for the meeting.

The amendment comes into effect on August 1.

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/suggestions from many of her clients who share her philosophy. Essential Oil Aromatherapy, Bach Flower Remedies and soothing instrumental music provide a peaceful, relaxing backdrop to what can be for many a very stressful experience. But rest assured this is every bit a professional office with stringent infection control protocols and a monitoring system that is up to hospital standards.

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Aspen Ridge Homes 12

# Ruling delayed for a month

**From page 1**  
forward by Councillor MacEachern against Councillor Buck on an alleged breach in confidentiality in discussing legal matters that were dealt with in closed session last year.

While Councillor Buck's lawyers said "political motives" were behind this complaint, Mr. Tsubouchi noted "political motives alone are not enough for the filing of a complaint nor are they sufficient to dismiss a complaint."

"Almost every matter touching decisions of municipal council could be considered as 'political', however there must be a real violation of the Code of Conduct at the root of any complaint," he said.

"There appeared to be some confusion as to what confidential information was public information as it related to the same subject matter," he continued. "The June 16, 2009 letter was not released by Council while the information in the July 16, 2009 letter was released by Council."

"I conclude that Councillor Evelyn Buck violated the Code of Conduct Rule 2 in that confidential information of Council was disclosed and released by Councillor Buck. The confusion surrounding the circumstances of the two legal opinion letters and the public statements and release of information give me reason to find that Councillor Evelyn Buck had made an error of judgement in good faith."

Mr. Tsubouchi's reports were the primary issues at last Tuesday's meeting right out of the starting gate, with debate over whether or not the reports could have or should have been removed from the agenda lasting well over 30 minutes.

Councillor McRoberts was first to voice his "strong objections" to the items being included on the evening's agenda as the reports, he argued, pertained to an "identifiable individual" which should be dealt with in closed session.

"[It] should, therefore, be a closed session item, especially given the recommendation by the Integrity Commissioner that a reprimand be issued," he said. "I would also mention that I would have the same opinion regardless of which of us might be the subject of the complaint."

Councillor McRoberts also said he wanted the opportunity to pose questions to the relevant parties.

"I think it would be much more appropriate for the Integrity Commissioner to present his findings to us in closed session and allow us to ask questions and give input," he continued. "All pertinent information that is dealt with in closed session is always made public. To me, a critical step is missing."

Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper, however, said there isn't a provision within either the Municipal Act or the Code of Conduct that states a report from an Integrity Commissioner "should or ought to go into closed session."

The act is "silent" as to when an Integrity Commissioner's report should be made public, countered Councillor Collins-Mrakas.

"If we're going to have a discussion about an individual we would have it in closed session in the normal course of action, as do other municipalities," she said. "Personally, I think one should err on the side of caution and have that type of discussion in closed session for the benefit of the complainant and the respondent."

"My more serious concern is the fact that Mr. Tsubouchi is not here to speak to his report. This is a very serious matter and I for one have some very serious questions to ask and there is no one to whom I can address them. Here we are presented with two reports and the person who has authored the reports is not here to answer questions."

"I think if we're going to pepper staff with questions about whether to put public washrooms in a park, I think we should demonstrate the same level of due diligence when it is speaking to someone's reputation."

"At the very least, I think the two reports should be deferred until such time as Mr. Tsubouchi can make himself available to council to answer questions."

The items, along with additional correspondence from Councillor Buck's solicitor, were included in the agenda for later discussion.

The matter continued to raise eyebrows, however, in

Open Forum.

Aurora resident Robert Hayes took to the podium to question the motives of having Mr. Tsubouchi's reports on the agenda, setting his sights on Mayor Phyllis Morris.

"Surely there must be something that is favourable to you in that report because the previous Integrity Commissioner, [David] Nitkin, you did not like his report and he was fired the next day," he said.

Mayor Morris countered Mr. Hayes statement, and said that while Mr. Nitkin's contract was terminated, the Town has "no knowledge of what was in his report".

"The linkage and the speculation, the assumption that he was terminated because of the content of that report is simply incorrect and wrong," she said. "Sometimes if we were to rebut every myth and every cruel commentary we wouldn't be getting the work done that we've managed to get done."

"It's very hard to keep up with the myths, innuendo, and, quite frankly, nonsense."

Mr. Hayes, however, was undeterred.

"It's a damned disgrace," he continued. "I have sat tonight and listened to this and I said, 'No wonder we are so far down the tubes'. I can only say, Madame Mayor, that you got the report you wanted at the expense of the Aurora taxpayers at \$60,000."

After tending to other matters, Mr. Tsubouchi's two reports came back to the table for further consideration. As promised, Councillors McRoberts and Collins-Mrakas excused themselves from the table and quorum was lost.

"It is my opinion that Council can't continue, irrespective of the conflict declared by Councillor MacEachern," Mr. Cooper told Mayor Morris.

"It is unfortunate the way this has played out this evening," said Mayor Morris. "I think we need to be very clear this is no different than the other process that was followed."

Mayor Morris said the town is leading the way in accountability and transparency "along with a few other brave pioneers."

"We knew this would not be an easy route," she said noting the evolution of the Code of Conduct leading to the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner.

"Nobody enters politics to be constantly attacked, vilified, undermined, and that includes every member of this council. All nine members deserve to be free from allegations of wrongdoing, but when it comes to our staff, it is imperative that we have a safe working environment."

Mr. Tsubouchi has been invited to appear before council at its next session, which is likely to be held August 10.

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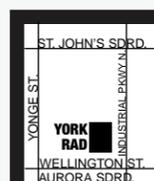
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# Properties on Yonge Street part of Doors Open this year

By **MATTHEW DUMONT**

**Based on research by:  
Aurora Heritage  
Advisory Committee  
and the Town of Aurora**

Right at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets you will find Vic's Shoe Repair in the block located at the southeast corner.

A delightful smell of leather surrounds Vic's store.

Here, skates both new and used, stitching shoes, and soccer cleats fill the shelves.

On August 21st, Doors Open will give visitors the opportunity to view the radiating brick arches and stone still that have been a landmark and the centre of Aurora as a historical business, and to meet both former and new owners of this unique store.

In 1973, Vic Parainfo launched his own shoe repair establishment at this location in the historical commercial core of Aurora, and in one of its most historical commercial buildings.

The store located in what was formerly known "Mulock Block", was built about 1885. In the late 19th century.

Sir William Mulock was the owner of the property.

For several years, this small building fostered the home of a music store as well as Marshall Forsyth's stationary.

During the mid 20th century, Rowland's Shoe Store operated there. At the time shoe manufacturing was seen as a successful and thriving business in the Town of Aurora.

Vic was born in the City of Delia, Sicily. In 1943, at the age of six and during the Second World War, he first experienced working with shoes.

In 1956, Vic decided to leave his small town in southern Italy and come to Canada on the Greek registered ship The Queen Frederica.

His ship arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax and from Halifax, Vic made his way to Toronto where he worked as a barber and baker before going back to his true passion; repairing shoes.

Vic has been operating his shoe repair business in the same location in Aurora since 1973.

Since that time, he has played a prominent role in the Town of Aurora, including his

participation and engagement with charitable activities such as "Vic's Day in Aurora".

Every February he donates skates to the Aurora branch of the Canadian Arthritis society.

In addition, his dedication, generosity, and hard work throughout the years such as raising money for charities or launching activities for the community has been greatly appreciated by the town.

For his efforts, Vic was named Aurora Citizen of the year in 1983.

In 2009, Vic hung up his pliers and his French hammer, and handed over the business to Reza Haghiri who had joined him at the store in 2008.

Reza, a native of Iran, came to Canada in 1997 seeking a better future for his family.

Upon his arrival, Reza settled in Toronto, and from 1997 to 2008, he worked at three different shoe repair businesses (Loblaw's, Superstore, and The Bay).

It total, Reza has more than 25 years' experience in the shoe repair business and in 2009, he became the new owner of Vic's Shoe Repair.

There, he continues the legacy that Vic has left behind.

To this day, Vic continues to keep in touch and make regular visits to the business to see Reza. Since 2009, Reza has added a few new services that include changing batteries for watches, and key cutting.

Vic's Shoe Repair Store has been part of Doors Open Aurora since its start in 2006.

As you leave Vic's Shoe Repair, take a left and enjoy a short walk on Yonge Street, south to the Aurora Public Library.

Once you reach the library make your way to the Pine Tree Potters Guild located in the building.

Here, visitors are given the opportunity to experience unique and authentic pieces of ceramic art that are designed in a fully-equipped studio.

You will be able to witness Guild members creating pieces of art using the wheels or simply hand crafting pottery.

The Guild has demonstrations throughout the community, educational programs (hand building, wheel work, and sculptures), monthly meetings and newsletters, and a reference library.

The Pine Tree Potters Guild is truly an exclusive non-profit organization in

Aurora, and is of tremendous significance.

This organization was founded in 1979, whose members have a range of experience from novice to advanced potters.

The complete working studio has 75 members from Aurora and the surrounding areas, and is financially sustained through its membership fees, classes, grants, and the support of the Town of Aurora.

As of 1999, The Guild has contributed 100 per cent of their proceeds from charity sales to a wide range of community groups.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit both Vic's Shoe Repair and the Pine Tree Potters Guild on Doors Open Aurora on Saturday, August 21.

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, extension 4351.

If you are interested in volunteering at Doors Open Aurora to help make it a success, visit the website and fill the volunteers' application form or call the number above.

As a thank you, you will receive a t-shirt with Doors Open Aurora logo on it.



**Vic's Shoe Repair and Pine Tree Potters (inset), both on Yonge Street, are part of this year's Doors Open Tour.**

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