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Vol. 10 No. 50

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Week of October 19, 2010



President of the Aurora Historical Society Suzanne Reiner, left, teams up with Wayne Keilty as they prepare for the society's first fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) at the end of this month. Titled, *A Night in Old Hollywood*, the event will feature a dance and silent auction. Participants are expected to dress up in costume representing Old-Time Hollywood. The dance is scheduled for Saturday, October 30 and tickets - at \$30 for members \$35 for non-members and \$40 for a ticket and a membership - are on sale at Hillary House, the Aurora Cultural Centre and the R & R Used Bookstore. Proceeds from the event will go toward the restoration of the second floor of the historically famous Hillary House.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Henderson coming to Aurora breakfast

The person who scored the winning goal in the Canada-Russia series in 1972, is coming to Aurora.

Paul Henderson, today a member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, will be the guest speaker at the 2nd annual Aurora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast next month.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, at DiNardo's Banquet Hall, and the \$25 ticket includes a hot breakfast.

Officials are again expecting the

event will sell out, as it did last year.

Even though Henderson scored that winning goal with only 34 seconds remaining in the final game, he had the winner in the two games that preceded it.

In 1997, on the 25th anniversary of the goal, Henderson was immortalized on a postage stamp and a silver coin.

If you want a ticket, phone 905-506-0566.

Taxpayers pick up tab for \$6 million lawsuit

Aurora taxpayers will be on the hook for legal costs incurred in a \$6 million lawsuit launched last week by Mayor Phyllis Morris - with council approval - against three Aurora residents accused of defamation: Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson, and Elizabeth Bishenden.

Mr. Hogg, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Bishenden released a statement on October 15 which said they are filing a motion seeking the dismissal of the suit "filed against them by Phyllis Morris, in her capacity as Mayor of the Town of Aurora."

"The lawsuit alleges that the Mayor was defamed by un-named bloggers in comments posted on the Aurora Citizen blog between August 24, 2010 and October 2, 2010," the statement reads. "Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hogg, and Ms. Bishenden are not alleged to be the authors of the defamatory posts, but instead are allegedly moderators with the ability to 'publish, republish encourage or delete postings.'"

"The specific comments that allegedly defame the Mayor have not been particularized."

The three defendants said they believed that comments regarding government are entitled to protection under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

There is no rule in law that allows a government to sue a citizen," Mr. Hogg told The Auroran Friday. "It is our right; it is a charter right to criticize the government."

According to the statement, Ms. Bishenden, Mr. Hogg, and Mr. Johnson view Mayor Morris' lawsuit as a "tactic to silence critics of the government" in a SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) Lawsuit.

"A SLAPP is a lawsuit that is intended to censor, intimidate and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defence until they abandon their criticism or opposition," they said. "A SLAPP also acts as a warning to other potential critics. The effect of SLAPP suits is to discourage public debate."

Mayor Phyllis Morris denied this was a SLAPP.

"I know about SLAPP lawsuits," she said. "I'm the one who brought it forward when someone tried to gag freedom of expression in this Town many years ago when I was protecting the Moraine. This is not a SLAPP lawsuit. This is an action for defamation leveled

against the Mayor of Aurora acting in her capacity as the mayor."

While the Notice of Action, provided to The Auroran by Toronto's Aird Berlis, the firm of the Town's external counsel Harold Winkler, indicates the suit is also calling for legal costs to be met by the defendants if the Mayor's suit is

Please see page 14

Here's who got sued

The lawsuit against Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson, and Elizabeth Bishenden - which also names Aurora Citizen users John Doe ("a.k.a. 'auroracitizen.ca'"), Jane Doe ("a.k.a. 'for a fistful of dollars'") and James Doe ("a.k.a. 'for a few dollars more'") and the Aurora Citizen's webhost - by Phyllis Morris, "in her capacity as Mayor of the Corporation of the Town in Aurora", was filed October 8 in Toronto.

The suit calls for general damages

for defamation of \$5 million payable to Mayor Morris against Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hogg, Ms. Bishenden, and the anonymous users "jointly and severally."

In addition to this, the suit seeks an additional \$1 million in punitive, aggravated and exemplary damages specifically from the three identified, and "costs of this action on the substantial indemnity scale."

It is alleged in the claim that the

Please see page 20

Mayoralty candidates clash in hotel debate

Finding common goals at the council table and boosting the morale of Town Staff were two internal Town issues tackled by four of the five mayoral candidates at last Wednesday's All-Candidates meeting held before a standing-room only crowd at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Aurora.

Roger Clowater, Geoff Dawe, Nigel Kean, and Miloslav Prikyr were also asked how they would handle the contentious issues of the Town's Integrity Commissioner and the Council Code of Conduct.

Existing mayor Phyllis Morris was in England, attending the funeral of her father-in-law.

First, the candidates were asked how they, as head of council, would "foster lots of different opinions and come together in a common direction".

It was Mr. Dawe's turn to take the first stab at this question and he said he believed it was the duty of all councillors to participate in "rigorous and respectful debate".

"I believe there has been a lot of the former, but I don't believe there has been a lot of the latter," he said. "I think you restore that Culture by respecting the rules that are there by enforcing those rules equally and ensuring that every-

Please see page 18

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COMING EVENTS

MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18-20

Advance voting poll at the Aurora Seniors' Centre; 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

The next in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfasts, will be held today at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail, Aurora from 7.30 to 9 a.m. The meeting is sponsored by PowerStream. Cost is \$20 for members, and \$30 for guests. St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club will present a special offer to Chamber members following the morning's networking breakfast. Play 18 holes of golf, including power cart, for \$54 plus HST. Register online for the breakfast and call St. Andrew's at 905-727-7888 to book a tee time.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Aurora United Church will once again host its fall rummage sale from 1 to 8 p.m. followed by a bag sale Saturday, October 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yonge Street church. Items in the sale include gently used clothes, garage sale items, books, toys, and linen. For more information, call 905-727-1935.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Haunted Forest presented by the Town of Aurora takes place today from 6 to 9 p.m. in Sheppard's Bush. Tickets sold in advance from either the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex starting October 8 for residents and from October 15 until sold out for residents and non-residents.

A chance for children to learn local history will happen today at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 14732 Woodbine Avenue in Vondorf. Admission is free to this History Hands-On event. For further information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337.

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will host its 16th Annual Art Show and Sale today. The show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Admission, parking, and refreshments are free. For more information, contact the Seniors' Centre at 905-726-4767 or visit www.auroraseniors.ca.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

Municipal Election Day in Aurora.

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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

The Nightmare for Christmas Hallowe'en Bash happens tonight at DiNardo's "Haunted" Mansion, Industrial Parkway South. Activities get underway at 9 p.m. For tickets or to donate to the event, call Tracey Mead at 905-841-6656. Event features dancing, cash bar, raffles, prizes and a late night buffet.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Today is the last day to catch the exhibit Distinctly Canadian: Celebrating the Fine Art of Members of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School). The exhibit features sculpture and paintings from artists, including local talent. Admission is free.

The Aurora Historical Society is hosting "A Night in Old Hollywood", a fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre. All proceeds from the event will go towards the restoration of Hillary House National Historic Site. Tickets can be purchased in person at Hillary House, the R & R Used Books location on Edward Street, over the phone at 905-727-8991, or at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School). The event runs from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., and features a silent auction and entertainment by the Thursday Night Jam Band.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

As part of Holocaust Education Week, you are invited to Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street to view a screening of the short film, Pigeon. The event begins at 7 p.m. Following the film, Holocaust survivor, Roman Ziegler, will share his personal testimony. Pigeon recounts a rare and startling act of humanity. Roman Ziegler is the youngest of eight children and the sole survivor of his family. He spent 31 months in four slave labour and concentration camps before being liberated in May, 1945. He has lived in Canada since 1958 and is the co-author of Voice From the Heart. This event is suitable for youth as

well as adults. For more information call 905-727-1935.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

The annual Hadley Grange Crafters Craft and Gift Sale takes place at 16105 Yonge St, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entrance is the first driveway north of St. John's Sideroad)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Rooms with a View Décor and Photography Show and Sale at The Aurora Cultural Centre today. Each room in the Centre will be decorated local interior decorators, and enhanced with photographs from professional photographers. Tickets are \$10, in advance at the Centre, or at the door. The event starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. For further information, phone 905-713-1818 or info@aurora-culturalcentre.ca.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Paul Henderson will be guest speaker at the 2nd annual Aurora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast today at DiNardo's Banquet Hall, and the \$25 ticket includes a hot breakfast. If you want a ticket, phone 905-506-0566.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Join artist Bill Lewochko to learn about the art of cartooning, and develop your own cartoon characters and style at the Aurora Public Library today from 10 a.m. to noon. This event is for children aged 9 to 14 and the cost of \$10 includes all materials.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League holds their 15th annual Christmas Fair and Artisans Craft Sale today in the Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue. Events begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus will host their 18th Annual "In Harmony With The Community" fundraising concert at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 17955 Leslie St., Newmarket. The concert which starts at 7.30 p.m. will feature the new York Regional Police Youth Band, the Waterloo Regional Police Male Chorus, the Halton Regional Police Chorus and the York Regional Police Male Chorus. Funds will be shared between community non-profit organizations and the York Regional Police Male Chorus. Tickets remain at \$10 per person and can be purchased from any chorus member or by calling 905-737-9676 or emailing mcclenny349@rogers.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Aurora's own jazz pianist Paul Neufeld in a series of Sunday Sessions. "Eclectic Jazz" features an intimate afternoon of the Juno award winning Neufeld on the Centre's spectacular Yamaha C7 piano with special guest Michael Occhipinti on guitar. Tickets are \$15 in advance at the Centre, or at the door. Event begins at 2 p.m. Call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca for further information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Aurora's Pine Tree Potters' Guild will host an "Empty Bowls" fundraising 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 now available at R & R Used Books, 95 Edward Street. 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.

Please see page 22

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NIGEL KEAN FOR MAYOR

Dear Aurora Residents,

I would like to thank all of you for your supportive words that I have heard at the thousands of doors that I have knocked on. If I did not get to your door, I apologize, and I want you to know that everyone in Aurora is important. Unfortunately, with more than 18,000 homes in Aurora it was impossible to personally knock on them all. If I did not get to your door please check my website at nigelkean.ca to review my platform or if you prefer, you can call me at 416-888-0173.

There is a really good chance that more than 50% of the new council will consist of new councillors. With this possibility it makes sense that you would want a Mayor with previous Aurora council experience. If you are looking for change, I am the only challenger for the Mayor's position who has this qualification as well as 35 years of senior business management experience.

As Albert Einstein said;

"The only source of knowledge is experience".

When I served on council from 2000 through 2006, I always put you, the residents, first. I started the Farmers' Market to help the downtown core. I voted in favour of building the new Aurora Seniors' Centre, I voted to build the new Rec Centre on Wellington near Leslie, I voted to build the new fire hall, I voted to turn the old Church Street School into the Aurora Heritage Centre and Museum and I am very proud to say that I led the vote to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

If I am elected Mayor I will always put you, the residents, first. I will look for ways to cut the waste at the Town Hall. I will push to have the Seniors' Centre enlarged, I will work towards a youth centre, I will find a location for Habitat for Humanity to build and I will, through tax incentives, get the downtown improved. I will also personally contact all businesses in Aurora for ideas to attract a broader commercial business base to help our tax base. There are many other parts to my platform that you can read at nigelkean.ca.

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Church St. School could house museum: Kean

In addition to balancing environmentalism with anticipated town growth, on the flipside of the coin, mayoral candidates were quizzed at the Howard Johnson hotel in Aurora Wednesday night on how they would find a balance between Aurora's arts and culture projects and heritage preservation.

Nigel Kean said that during his time of council improvement plans called for the Church Street School to be a museum.

"It's an Arts and Cultural Centre as well and I think you can combine them, but we have to get Aurora's history out of the boxes at the Hillary House and on display," he said. "It is so important that kids today...see the photos, the artifacts and I think we can combine them both."

For Geoff Dawe, however, heritage programs need to have secure funding sources.

In speaking with a board member for the Aurora Historical Society, one of the issues the member identified to him was the fact they were on a year-to-year grant system.

"[It] does not lead to a lot of stability going forward on a yearly basis, and I would like to see some kind of methodology where they can develop a grant system that is a little bit more consistent so that they can start put-

ting plans in place.

"Right now they have one curator who is responsible for Hillary House and also responsible for getting the artifacts which are in the Church Street School organized. I believe that in bringing some consistency to the way they are able to run their operations that we can see some advancement in terms of bringing back that heritage component of the Cultural Centre, which is a terrific building."

An opportunity exists in the Wells Street School as well, added Miloslav Prikryl.

"It's a beautiful building downtown and we should create a theatre there and extend the Cultural Centre, maybe we can have two or three rooms there for the museum as well."

In addition to heritage, the arts community had another shout-out at the debate as well when a question from the audience asked each candidate whether they supported the revival of the Canada Day Parade.

First to answer was Mr. Clowater who said he was supportive of the Canada Day Parade and added that Aurora should be proud to have an opportunity to "go out and celebrate Canada, celebrate Aurora's place in Canada."

Mr. Kean said when the Canada Day Parade was cancelled a few years ago, he went out on Yonge Street and joined others in walking up and down waving the maple leaf.

"I think what we should be doing is perhaps looking at an events coordinator for the Santa Claus Parade and the Canada Day Parade and I think this should be opened up to other people to run these," he said. "I think it is important and my understanding is there

are some very capable people in Aurora that can do it."

While Mr. Dawe said he was in support of the parade, he said there was already a prime candidate for the job.

"I think we have a very good event coordinator in Town, Shelley Ware, and I think that she would be an ideal candidate to oversee the direction of that."

Mr. Prikryl argued, however, in favour of the status quo.

"I think they are run-

ning it very well, whatever their relations to somebody are," he said. "I think we should not try to find other people when they are doing a good job."



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Let's Put the Aura Back in Aurora

Earning a position of leadership is about integrity – abiding by principles that are easily understood, that people can rely on. They must also be concrete so people can hold you accountable to those principles.

As Mayor, I will direct Council's energies in the following 3 key areas:

LEADERSHIP

Integrity: Integrity cannot be legislated. The Code of Conduct has been an unacceptable use of resources and counterproductive to a collaborative team environment. I commit to initiating the immediate suspension of the Integrity Commissioner contract and a public review of the need for a Code of Conduct/Integrity Commissioner within the first year.

Freedom of Information: It is troubling when residents must resort to Freedom of Information requests to find out how Council is spending their time and our money. I commit to full public disclosure of Town of Aurora business – including legal fees (internal and external) – unless this information is restricted by an order of the Court.

Strong Regional Representation: Aurora needs a stronger voice at the Region. I commit to improving our attendance and participation record and will work with fellow Regional Councillors to secure a second seat on Regional Council for Aurora.

Focus on Policy, Not Implementation: I will work with Council to re-focus our efforts on policy – and then hold staff experts accountable to implement those policies to the highest possible standards.

COMMUNITY

Community Input: Council decisions must be made with input from all community interests – unlike the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was re-written by a small group of individuals with no accountability to the citizens. I commit that consultant reports will be presented to Council, in their original form, so that Council may make the decisions they were duly elected to make based on complete unfiltered information.

Committee Membership: This term, a small group populates a disproportionate share of committees. The Town is not leveraging the diverse population to get the broadest input. I commit to encouraging diverse participation and will not support the selection of any of my key campaign team to any town committee.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Town Facilities: Town owned facilities continue to sit empty or underused. These facilities cost taxpayers' money and provide no value in return. I commit to review the inventory and develop a plan for utilization within the first year of my term.

Planning: Developing an Official Plan is mandated by the Province. Council has overridden expert staff and consultant advice and not met their deadlines. Resultant decision-making has been stripped from this Council and is now in the hands of the OMB. I commit to leveraging internal and external resources to ensure that complex processes, such as the Official Plan Review and long term financial planning, will be completed in a timely manner.

Strategic Plan: Developing a Strategic Plan for our community will be a first order of business for this Town.

I am committed to a culture of Collaboration, not Confrontation; of Productivity, not Profile.

P.S. Visit my website for more details.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Geoff

CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: Geoff@GeoffDawe.com WEBSITE: www.GeoffDawe.com

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ON OCTOBER 25TH MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

TD manager is gone again

It was just over a year ago when Lisa Knappett, who had served 10 years as manager of the Toronto Dominion Canada Trust branch at Yonge and Wellington Streets, returned to that post.

Lisa had spent five years as manager of a branch on Davis Drive in Newmarket, but officials elected to close that location.

Now, she's leaving Aurora again.

Lisa spent most of Saturday morning packing up papers and notes in her Yonge-Wellington office and will head back to Newmarket next week.

She'll be replaced here by Jane Martone from Mount Albert.

Fascinating letter in The Auroran a couple of weeks ago from Frances Neale, who, in case you didn't know, is the other half of John West, former mayor, councillor and school board trustee in Aurora.

She maintains that the current Church Street School doesn't have a museum included, and, guess what, she's partly right.

When the Aurora Historical Board decided it was time to renovate Church Street School, it stored all its museum pieces in space on Industrial Parkway South.

Then all that stuff got moved and it was stored in climate controlled rooms on each floor of the Church Street School.

But the planned museum never happened, and Aurora's oldest school suddenly became the town's Cultural Centre.

Only a single room, on the second floor, I understand, has been designated as the Aurora room, but I'm told it won't be the museum.

There is, according to a spokesman, a designated area on the first floor for Aurora's historical stuff, but I don't know where it is.

Perhaps, I have a solution, but I need to have a meeting with the historical society first.

That meeting takes place at the Aurora Cultural Centre Wednesday, October 20.

I'll tell you about the outcome next week.

Letter to the Editor

Use Petch House in Wildlife Park, reader suggests

To the editor,

My original proposal for the creation of a Wildlife Park in Aurora, presented to council in 1999, was based on the provincially important East Aurora Wetland Complex and was designed on the principles of U.K. nature reserves.

An interpretative and volunteer centre was included in the design to educate both children and adults to better understand the ecology of the natural environment and the importance of local wildlife conservation.

Rather than erecting a new building, I proposed that it would be more economic and environmentally friendly to convert an existing old farmhouse in the southeast corner of the site to accommodate this use.

Unfortunately, the farmhouse was demolished in 2004.

This brings me to the Petch House.

An interesting economic and viable propos-

al to move and renovate this building was presented to council September 28 by a master carpenter who outlined his experience in the field.

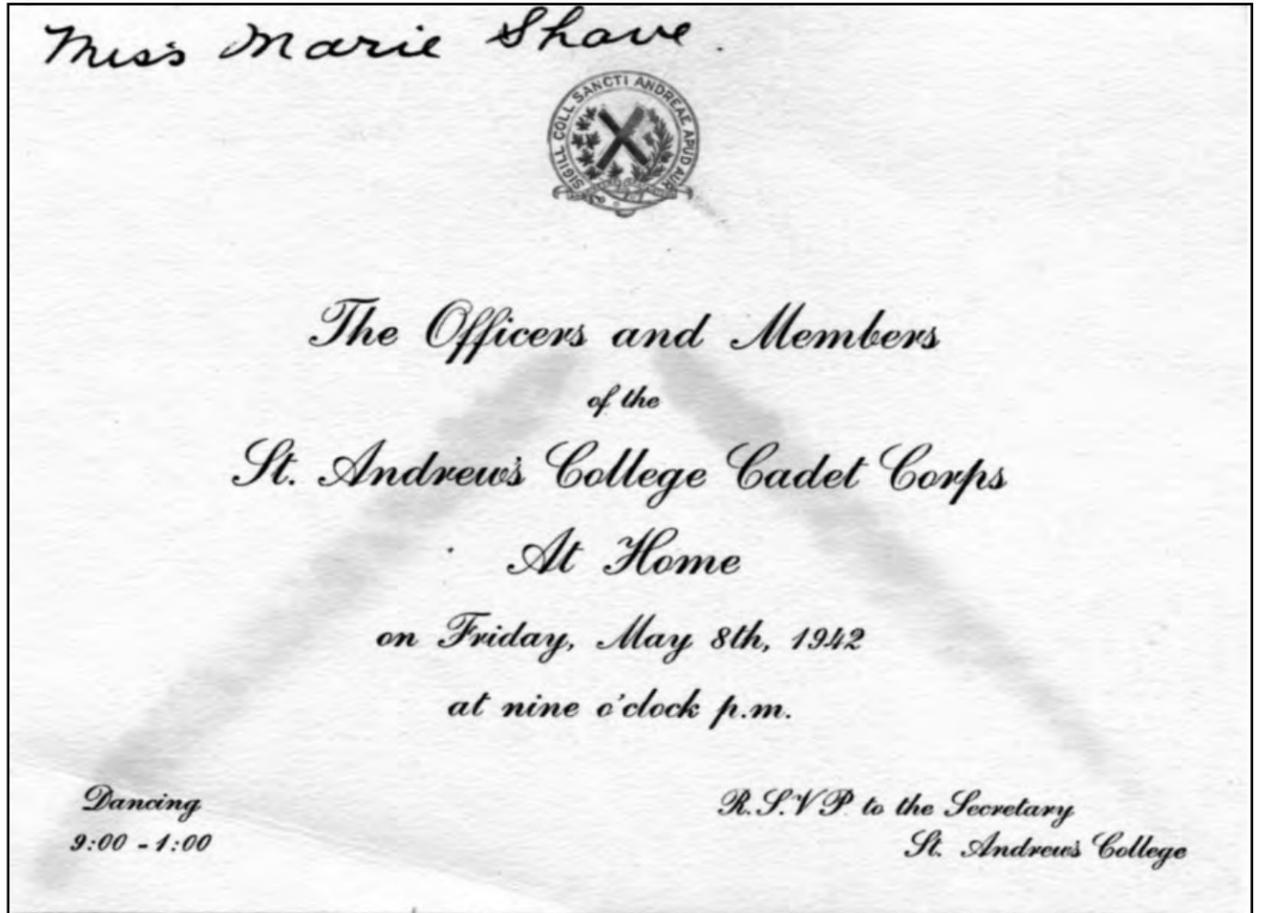
Many of the nature reserves in the U.K. have modest visitor centres that provide educational displays and volunteer facilities.

I see no reason why this building after renovation could not be suitably located in the Wildlife Park and be used for this purpose.

Perhaps this council, before its term ends or the new council when it is elected, could ask staff to investigate the possibility of using this much maligned building in much the same way as the old log cabin was used as a special event visitor centre in Sheppard's Bush.

It may be easier to find an individual, a community group, corporation or business to sponsor this if a definite and useful purpose was found for this old building.

David Tomlinson
Aurora



This invitation was sent to Miss Marie Shave from the officers and members of the St. Andrew's College Cadet Corps to attend a party at the school Friday, May 8, 1942. The invitation was given to The Auroran by Aurora's Vicki Dykstra and is reprinted here. No one knows if Miss Shave attended the festivities.

Letters to the Editor

Mayor used effective political strategies over her term, he says

To the editor,

One must credit Mayor Phyllis Morris's effective usage of political technique and compliment her personal successes over the last four years.

As any learned citizen would agree, Ms. Morris has made use of some of the most effective political strategies available in order to further her quest to support our community.

One surely cannot forget that Ms. Morris's dedication to the political philosophy of "divide and conquer" in combination with the ever-effective "with us or against us" principle, has allowed her to cripple the political process to such an extent that municipal accomplishments can be credited to our Dear Leader, and failures can be justly blamed on incompetent town staff and stubborn councillors. As has been demonstrated over the last four years, a striking lack of political accomplishment can obviously be blamed on incompetent department heads.

We need Dawe as mayor: reader

To the editor,

After watching the mayoral debate Sunday at the Town Hall, I feel even better about Geoff Dawe running for the office of mayor.

To see someone who carries no baggage from the current council was refreshing.

His obvious professional demeanour, integrity, fair play and conciliatory tone in

One cannot expect Ms. Morris to be accountable for civil and procedural dysfunction when she has only just recently been able to purge uncooperative town staff (because clearly our department heads are severely lacking in qualifications or experience).

We commoners cannot be expected to appreciate the need for Ms. Morris to utilize legal intimidation to solve problems; after all, it is far easier to "encourage" people to meet your every need with the stamp of a notarized letter and the threat of litigation at the ready.

Who cares about astronomical legal bills when we can rest assured that while operating under the auspices of "town business" our Dear Leader will have the benefit of legal defense funded by taxpayers to protect her from any form of public accountability.

Finally, one cannot help but feel inspired by our Dear Leader's utilization of bylaws to silence those who would seem to contradict her lead-

ership and threaten her autocratic rule over the "chosen" councillors.

When faced with information that does not suit her needs, our Dear Leader must make the right decision and dispose of ignorant experts, and replace them with those who will deliver results that compliment our Dear Leader's ongoing quest to quickly and indiscriminately eliminate unproductive dissent among civil servants and town council.

In the end it is obvious that we must ensure that our Dear Leader remains in

power.

Remember, to all those that would say our Enlightened One lacks leadership skills, integrity, clout and above all, maturity, I would say: Actions speak louder than words.

If you doubt our Dear Leader, simply review the way in which she has led our community over the last four years.

Don't forget - you're either with us, or against us.

Hail!

Stewart Powell
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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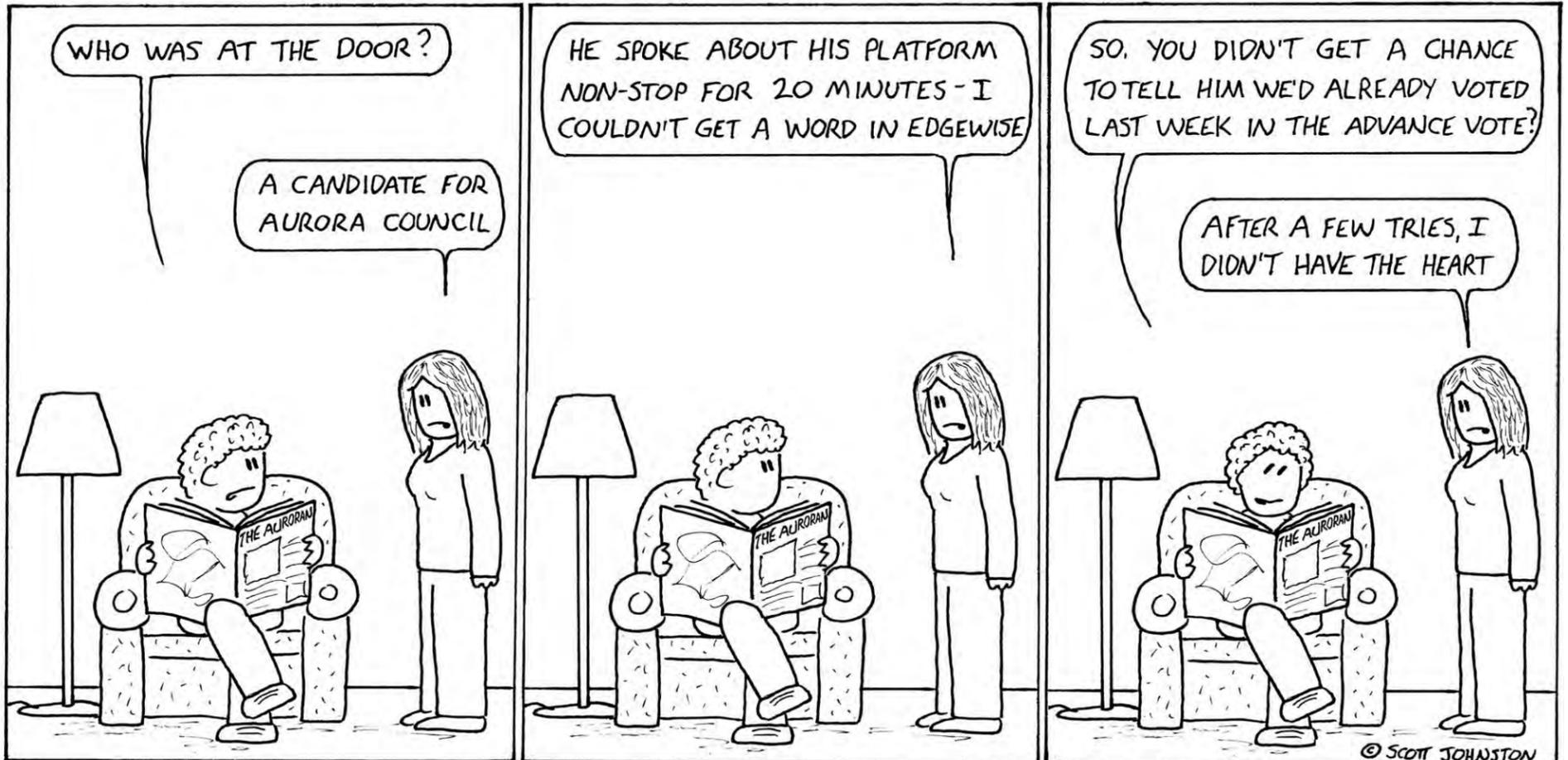
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Council candidates

The October 25th municipal election is almost upon us. Part of this electoral process has involved public forums. I attended the first of these two weeks ago and I was very impressed by the crop of council candidates.

There are eight councillor slots up for grabs. Six of the eight incumbents are trying to retain their seats, and are joined by another 12 of our fellow citizens.

Who says democracy isn't alive and well in Aurora!

We had 20 people seek council seats in 2006 and this time we have 18 - which is still great news. No acclamations in this town!

I just hope that we get more than 38 per cent of eligible voters going to the polls this time.

During the public forum sponsored by the Aurora Public Library, each of the council candidates was given three minutes to address the audience.

I was impressed by the speaking ability of everyone and also intrigued by the variety of backgrounds and experiences that each of the respective candidates had to offer.

We have teachers, business people, engineers, a retired army officer, and a lot of them have extensive community and volunteer backgrounds.

The one thing that surprised me, however, was that a couple of the candidates said that in order to save the envi-

ronment, they would not be using lawn signs.

In my estimation this is a huge mistake.

Let's go back and have a look at the 2006 municipal election results.

The official 2006 Town of Aurora municipal election results indicated voter turnout was 38 per cent, an increase of five per cent from the election in 2003.

Then former Councillor Phyllis Morris was elected mayor with 5,208 votes, ousting four-term mayor Tim Jones by more than 400 votes. Third place went to former councillor Nigel Kean who got 2,364 votes.

The eight elected councilors included two incumbents and six newcomers.

Official numbers showed Bob McRoberts leading the vote with 7,361 ballots cast; followed, in order by Evelina MacEachern, 5,426; Wendy Gaertner, 4,896; Stephen Granger, 4,611; Grace L. Marsh, 4,441; Alison M. Collins-Mrakas, 4,133; Evelyn Buck, 4,089; and Al Wilson, 3,806.

Finishing out of the money were John Gallo, 3,496; Eric McCartney, 3,384; Norm Weller, 3,328; Bryan Moir, 3,298; Aimé Martin, 2,934; Glyn Jones, 2,892; Alan Dean, 2,780; Keith Munro, 2,348; Michael Thompson, 2,250; Stan Rycombel, 1,723; Kam Q. Sadiq, 1,426; and Miloslav Prikryl, 1,239.

You may further recall that Grace Marsh resigned part way through her term and was replaced by the ninth place finisher, John Gallo.

Although we know that the population has grown since 2006, and even if voter turnout is somewhat less than the 38 per cent recorded last time, it is still going to take more than 3,000 votes to get elected.

And 3,000 is a lot of votes.

Unless you have a couple of thousand close friends, a council candidate needs to reach out beyond their normal sphere of influence.

Apart from the reasons for seeking public office, the other important aspect of campaigning is name recognition; I would kindly suggest to those that have not done any advertising, to either get some brochures printed and then distribute them around town or get some signs done, pronto!

I will prepare my next column a few days before the election; it will be published the day after voting has taken place.

This will be one of my world renowned "election prediction" columns - renowned the world over that is, for my continuing ability to get it absolutely wrong!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Letter to the Editor

Rally for Dalai Lama in Aurora Saturday

To the editor,

We write to you today to continue addressing the issue of peace and whether real world peace and truth are possible in 2010 (see our letter in The Auroran, week of May 25, 2010, "Can Aurora promote peace on earth, she asks"), to promote our Facebook group, "who are you? Aurorans for world peace" and to invite you to our consciousness raising event.

Please join us, People of Peace Action, in hosting an "Aurora's Got Spirit" rally and welcoming peace jam, in honour of his holiness the Dalai Lama's arrival in Toronto, to let him know we are listening.

We will be gathering to

give the Dalai Lama the heads up that "we care" and our hearts and ears are wide open.

We confidently believe we can publically say "Aurora wants real peace" and Canada must remove its military from Afghanistan for Aurora's youth, seniors and citizens are telling us so and the present mayor and council aren't objecting to our efforts.

Our rally will begin at 11.11 a.m., Saturday Oct. 23rd at Billings Well on Yonge Street in Aurora.

For those unknowing about his holiness the Dalai Lama and his supporters beliefs and efforts, know he has written numerous books and speaks internationally

about where we (the global family) are at, where we've been and how great our future will be once we embrace peace.

We support his appeal to leaders of nuclear powers, to scientists and technicians who create these awesome weapons of destruction and to all people at large to exercise sanity and to disarm.

The Dalai Lama, like ourselves, believes that "all beings cherish happiness and do not want suffering and they respect all forms of life for they believe we are all one."

In our opinion the Dalai Lama is one of the few leaders in the world who "has an immediate plan, an idea on how we can bring real peace

to our children's future"; so frankly speaking, we believe we Aurorans should really listen to what he teaches en masse.

Time will tell and ultimately it will be up to parents, youth and individuals to decide what will get us through this chaos mankind has created.

As two true-hearted Canadians we wish for the messages of the Dalai Lama of inner and outer Peace and his solutions to our global crisis's be immediately taught in our schools to the youth of our community.

Furthermore, at the national level, we support the Federation des Femmes du Quebec and their president Alexa Conradi in their hon-

ourable calling to remove military recruitment out of Canadian schools and universities and immediately removing Canadian military from Afghanistan.

In addition to rallying together for global issues as World Peace and Truth for the Indigenous People in Canada and Worldwide, we also gather for local issues which the people of Aurora are being forced to accept; specifically closing Wells Street School and disturbing the 27 per cent Aurora owned portion of the McKenzie Marsh.

Let it be known we are also shouting out to enterpreneur Belinda Stronach and realtor Jim Barron for them to donate 'the house' they use as an office to

Aurora's homeless and needy.

We are sorry sounding so forthright but winter is coming these people needing our help and temporary shelter can't wait any longer.

So, come on people...let's give his holiness the Dalai Lama a great big welcome to Toronto. Let's show him and the world we have spirit. Join us at our rally/peace jam.

The choice is up to each one of us as individuals to decide how you wish to act for your future. Together we can create a legend here. Children first, no more guns, no more bombs.

Heidi G. A. Stoecklin
David Philp
Aurora

Letters to the Editor

Despite councillor, Town Council worked well

To the editor,

Thank you, David Tomlinson, for your thoughtful letter concerning the achieve-

Mayor has lost her NAFAR way

To the editor,

In the Rogers debate, Phyllis Morris stated she "set the gold standard for democracy".

Need I remind people that during her watch, one councilor quit (Grace Marsh), two of the most educated and professional councillors, who I had hoped would make a career of public service, will not run again (Bob McRoberts and Alison Collins-Mrakas) and one has sued the mayor and her followers (Evelyn Buck).

I will suggest this all occurred because of her autocratic approach to her position.

It's not about Aurora, it's all about her.

She fired an Integrity Commissioner that she hired when he returned his first report that was not supportive of the direction the mayor wanted to see.

This has nothing to do with democracy as I learned some time ago as a volunteer. Far from it. Make no mistake about it the mayor has lost her NAFAR way.

John Mills
Aurora

ments of the present Town Council.

I totally agree that, with the exception of one "dysfunctional" councillor, the present council has worked hard and effectively to promote the quality of life for present and future Aurorans.

I do, however, believe the councillor in question should be named, the reason being she is seeking re-election.

One indication that Councillor Evelyn Buck has not been a co-operative member of the Aurora Town Council is her voting record at council meetings.

The recorded votes of the members of the present council clearly show wide general agreement on very many issues.

Of the motions, 30 per cent were carried/defeated unanimously and 88 per cent by two thirds.

Nigel is hands-on gentleman: reader

To the editor,

Re: Nigel Kean

I am writing this letter because I have known Nigel for several years and I think some of the newer residents haven't had a chance to get to know Nigel or have a true insight into what he has done and still does for the community

I first met Nigel when I was working for a second hand store in Aurora and he

What is even more persuasive, 65 per cent of motions were carried/defeated by 80 per cent or more of the councillors present.

For a vote to amount to 80 per cent carried/defeated, all, or all except one, of the councillors present must have voted the same way.

This clearly suggests that the large bulk of the councillors frequently agreed, or came to agreement, in promoting the business of our Town.

In stark contrast, on 79 per cent (50/63) of the occasions, in which just one councillor voted against all of the others, it was Councillor Buck.

The explanation for Councillor Buck's uncompromising dissent is made quite clear in Councillor Buck's writings, especially in her

had just started the Farmer's Market in behind Thompson's Furniture store off of Temperance Street.

Nigel would be there first thing in the morning with his two daughters, one of them manned the stall for Hurst Bakery.

He would help the vendors set up their stalls as well. He was well liked by the sales people and the customers, he was ready to give a hand whenever and wherever he could.

political blog.

In fact, in stating her hostility to members of the Aurora Town Council, she even resorts to personal insults.

Until I'd read Councillor Buck's political blog, I would not have believed a local politician would feel comfortable referring, in writing, to other people working for Aurora as "lackeys, sycophants and lesser stars" (blog entry of July 25, 2009).

In the same blog entry, Councillor Buck even likens a fellow council member to the wicked queen and step-mother of Snow White.

The pique in the latter case actually seems childish.

In her writings, Councillor Buck has said the only people she is responsible to are the people who elected her.

She seems oblivious to

the fact that presumably many voters in Aurora did not vote for her, but voted for other members of the Town Council, or for candidates who were not elected.

Surely elected officials are expected to work cooperatively with other elected officials, whoever voted for whom.

Again, thank you, Mr. Tomlinson, for trying to set

the record straight.

It's a tribute to the conscientiousness of all of the other members of the Aurora Town Council that they did not allow Councillor Buck's belligerent and destructive antics from sabotaging the business and interests of Aurora.

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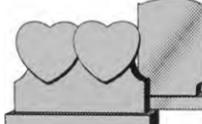
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Letters to the Editor

Evelyn Buck wins this reader's vote

The following letters were sent to candidates in the upcoming municipal election:

Dear Candidates,

I have to thank Aurora's Kathy Constable for this idea, that was contained in her letter to The Auroran last week.

I've done much research on each of you and now is your chance to answer one simple question (each of you as candidates for a council position in Aurora, with the exception of

Helen Power, who seems to be like an ostrich since filing her papers).

So, if you would be so kind as to answer this one question, I'm sure I can tally the results myself.

If elected to an Aurora Town Council position, WHO would YOU like to see in the Mayor's chair?

All you have to do is respond to this email by hitting the Reply button and tell me YOUR choice for Mayor.

I'm looking forward to all of your responses, except Helen

Power's, 'cause I can't find her. October 25th is just around the corner.

Mark Holmes,
Aurora

Hello again,

If you remember, on October 12th, I sent an email to all the council candidates running in the Municipal Election this fall (all except Helen Power as she is still MIA).

In that email, there was a

simple question for you, BUT I wasn't so much interested in your answer...I just wanted to see if you would respond!

So, congratulations go out to Roy Cohen, John Abel, Darryl Moore, Jim Abram, Paul Pirri, Keith Munro and Brian Duff for taking the time to respond.

Most answered with "I choose not to back any particular candidate for mayor in the middle of an election campaign", or something like that.

Very understandable and I appreciate that answer.

Your response to me makes you all eligible for a vote on October 25th.

As far as the six incumbents running this year, only ONE answered my email, and before that reply came, I could almost tell you who it would come from.

Evelyn Buck!

Congrats, Ev, on being the only incumbent running in this election to have enough decency to even acknowledge my email as well as answer my question. You surely will have my vote on election day.

For those of you who did NOT respond...(you know who you are because you're reading this now)...this was a "test", and you all failed horribly.

The funny thing is that most of you are campaigning on easier accessibility to YOU who want to represent ME!

You will NOT be receiving my vote on election day.

For those of you who did respond...congratulations and best of luck on the 25th!

Mark Holmes,
Aurora



ELECT ^{GEOFF} DAWE MAYOR

LEADERSHIP • COMMUNITY • ACCOUNTABILITY

Where Are Your Tax Dollars Going?

Your taxes have risen 13.71% during the worst recession in 75 years when the average yearly rate of inflation was 1.6%.

Aurora Council saw fit to raise taxes when most Canadians have had to tighten their belts and do without. Would you run your household finances like this? In the past 4 years, this Council has gone shopping with your wallet.

- When most organizations cut or froze staff increases, Council **increased town staff by 20%** – including a new full time personal assistant for the Mayor
- **\$2,100,000** in increased annual salaries when staff complement rose from 160 in 2006 to 191 in 2009
- **\$360,000** to implement staff reorganization after thousands spent on consulting fees
- **Over \$200,000** spent on 2 integrity commissioners, legal fees and consulting fees to silence the voice of 1 Councillor
- **Over \$500,000** in legal fees on battles that have little or nothing to do with town business
- **Over \$200,000** to challenge and lose 5 times at the OMB, Divisional Court and Court of Appeal in the quest for a consolidated Board Hearing
- **\$100,000** in a witch hunt investigating a former member of Council
- **\$100,000** on studies to save the Petch House – a house of limited historical significance (it's not even from Aurora) that they can't give away
- **\$60,000** in renovations for the Mayor's office and Councillors office – space that is so underused by Councillors that it is now used by staff instead
- **\$500,000** over budget for the Nokiidaa trail project
- **\$220,000** for traffic calming in one neighbourhood, more than double the approved budget
- **\$53,000** for a consultant's report on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan that was shelved in favour of a plan written by a small group with no accountability to Council or taxpayers

It's time to Get Council's Hands out of your pocket!

As Mayor, I will insist on **Accountability to the taxpayer**. I will focus Council's energies in the following areas:

- Re-establishing a year round Budget & Finance Committee and enhancing the long-term financial planning initiatives
- Re-establishing budget forecasting
- Realistically funding our Reserve Funds to support current and planned capital infrastructure expenditures -- and finding innovative ways to minimize the tax impact on residents
- Identifying opportunities for greater operating efficiencies to minimize taxes
- Stop wasting our tax dollars on needless legal battles and consultant fees that bring no value to taxpayers.
- Stop wasting tax dollars on pet projects that have limited benefit to the majority of Aurorans

It's time to Get Council's Hands out of your pocket!

It's time for **leadership** that listens and returns respect and civility to the Council table. It's time to rebuild our sense of **community** where we work together not against each other. It's time for renewed financial **accountability** to Aurora's taxpayers.

On October 25th I respectfully ask for your vote.

P.S. Visit my website for more details: www.geoffdawe.com.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Geoff: **CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: Geoff@GeoffDawe.com WEBSITE: www.GeoffDawe.com**

With your vote, we can put the Aura back in Aurora.

Letters to the Editor

Jones appalled by action of current mayor

To the editor,

Having spent 31 years of my working life in government in Montreal and Toronto and 28 years being in government in Aurora and York Region, I am absolutely appalled and outraged at the latest actions by our current mayor and those councillors on a string

who, in their role as my representatives in the governing of our Town, feel they have spoken on my behalf in this manner by committing more of my tax dollars to retaining additional external legal counsel for the people of Aurora to control what is said on the Aurora Citizen blog.

What happened to free

speech?

You are NOT speaking for me when it comes to controlling this blog or any other.

You are not authorized by me to spend my tax dollars to bully the people associated with this blog with \$6 million dollar lawsuits and external lawyers.

Everyone has a right to an

opinion - an opportunity to say what they think.

And for balance, many associated with this blog have implored the mayor and members of council to participate to hear their views - to my knowledge, they have not.

I read where this type of claim is described as a SLAPP lawsuit - Strategic Litigation

Against Public Participation - "an action intended to censor, intimidate and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition".

I have never seen more lawsuits and integrity complaints and Commissioners in the history of our Town!

Whatever happened to leaders who had the ability to provide leadership, and resolve matters person to person?

Government and the people who comprise it cannot be allowed to take irresponsible actions such as this, without any personal liability.

I recall how John West and I were taken to task in a similar

manner by a web site called "S.W.A.T." We may not have liked it, but we considered the source and we toughened to it - and it disappeared. It has become part of what to expect in this type of job.

In today's situation, perhaps the source is getting too close to the truth - and a SLAPP lawsuit at taxpayers' expense is the only way Morris and her gang can use to minimize it.

I'll be interested in how the taxpaying residents of Aurora will react to this irresponsible action October 25th.

Tim Jones
Former mayor
and councillor
1978-2006
Town of Aurora

Return the present council to office, he recommends

To the editor,

The Aurora Council, led by Mayor Phyllis Morris, has shown a better understanding of environmental matters than any previous council.

The handling of Westhill lands is a case in point.

The developer, Mr. Lebovic, is challenging Aurora's official plan at a hearing before the OMB.

He wants to build a golf course and houses on these lands.

These homes will be supplied with water from wells.

His application was submitted before the Oak Ridges Moraine protection act was passed.

The act prohibits what he

wants to do.

Because he applied before the act became effective, his hearing will be heard under the pre-act regulations.

This does not mean that the town must approve his application when the use of wells to supply water for the golf course and homes is not in the best interest of surrounding residents and has a detrimental effect on the adjacent provincially significant wetlands.

Geoff Dawe does not understand: he thinks it is a waste of money to fight this issue before the OMB.

However, Aurora must show developers that when their plans are not in the

best interests of the environment and the residents of Aurora, that they do not have a free ride.

Arterial roads across the C2 lands are another issue that the present council understands.

Do residents along these roads want to have to cope with heavy speeding traffic through their neighbourhood?

The wildlife park will not be improved with roads cutting across it.

This election campaign is largely about who will do the best job of defending the environment for the benefit of all.

The present council has a proven record for doing so

and the new contenders for office either do not understand or have not shown that they have any new progressive ideas.

I hear many complaints that the present council does not consult. This council has consulted more widely than any other previous council.

Many of the complainers are those who found that their views were not accepted as being in the public interest.

I hope that the present council, except for one councillor, will be returned to office.

Harry Lumsden
Aurora

So, who removed Geoff's signs?

To the editor,

Having just returned from being away on vacation, I thought I'd take advantage of the beautiful Thanksgiving weekend weather to get out around town.

While away though, I'd been checking in on the Aurora blogs and websites to try and keep up on the election news.

One of the items that caught my attention was the "sign war" issue; I had read where some election signs were being destroyed and/or removed.

But it wasn't until I made my way around the streets this past Sunday where things really came to light.

Before I left on holiday, I'd seen many campaign signs around town, both on resi-

dential lawn locations, and in the large clusters on major street corners and intersections.

But while out and about on Sunday, it was those large clusters that really caught my attention.

There were many signs installed, but for one glaring omission; in many locations, the signs for Geoff Dawe were not there.

You could suppose this was just an oversight on the part of Geoff's campaign team, but this was just not the case, as I know they were there before I went away.

In fact, Geoff was one of the first to plant his signs in these key locations.

I saw many other candidates signs untouched and in place.

With the professional campaign that Geoff and his team have been running,

there's no reason to expect he wouldn't have had his signs right there alongside those of his competitors.

I believe they were there, and have now been removed.

There's little doubt in my mind that this sign removal is some sort of attempt, however ineffectual, to boost the campaign of others over that of Geoff Dawe's.

It's a shame that some would choose to act in such a childish and vandalistic manner.

This only serves to reinforce my support of Geoff Dawe for mayor.

His professionalism, integrity, proven business experience, and his goal to bring good government back to Aurora, are the main reasons why he has my vote.

Matt Maddocks
Aurora

Police officer saved dog's life

To the editor,

On Wednesday September 15, a female York Region Police Officer was flagged down by a young man whose dog had been hit by a truck on the Aurora Sideroad.

The dog was suffering from internal bleeding and the officer escorted the young man to our hospital. Her quick actions provided the dog with the extra few

minutes required to save his life.

The officer left shortly after the dog arrived at our clinic and because our attention was focused upon saving the dog's life, we did not have time to thank her.

So, whoever you are, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dr. Don McLean
Aurora Animal Clinic
Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

He agrees with Tomlinson, return present council

To the editor,

RE Tomlinson Letter, The Auroran, October 12

What do we expect from council?

Is there water in the pipes, voltage in the wires and regular waste removal?

Those are the basics.

David Tomlinson makes a strong case to return council for a second term – all but one. I concur.

However, this council

has not been perfect.

A major failing has been the lack of a spokesperson to report and analyze the actions of this council. There are no new feet in Dick Illingworth's shoes.

Therefore the charges of "dysfunctional" were largely unanswered.

As Tomlinson points out, judge on the votes (A three-year list of recorded votes is available) and evaluate the accomplishments he listed.

Additional progress was

outlined by Mayor Phyllis Morris at the first All-Candidates Meeting.

Not long ago council gave a nod to a height-challenged development at Yonge and Centre.

The first drawings were dated February 22, 1996.

Over the years, the project has appeared at several planning meetings seeking by-law amendments. The Promenade section of the just-passed Official Plan would allow the developer

to earn those by-law changes with social and/or environmental contributions.

I understand that a majority of council was impatient for the project to begin contributing to downtown business activity and taxation revenues.

Now the extras are granted, but no benefits are received.

However, on the issue of the future of Hartwell Way, planners explained that this collector road, connecting Bayview and Leslie, had been on the books of many years.

The planners also said that speeding on Conover Ave. (more than 100 km in a 40 km zone) was an enforcement problem, not a planning problem.

Build a racetrack and they will come.

In the Northeast Quadrant traffic-calming

debate, the traffic engineers reported that 60 per cent of the rush hour traffic exceeded the speed limits or failed to stop – or both.

They advised physical calming measures with the warning that the residents would have to live with them every day.

As demanded by the last council, residents agreed with a super-majority. It works.

If Hartwell Way followed the plan, it too, would become a Conover Speedway, cutting through the greenland corridor and passing the two new schools scheduled in the 2C lands.

Some detractors have attacked council for decisions against staff or consultant advice.

There is value in getting a second opinion.

Rewind a few years.

The Spadina

Expressway was part of the Toronto 1959 Official Plan.

The 24-bridge exchange on Highway 401 at Yorkdale, "Spaghetti Junction," was completed in 1968. The people of Toronto spoke.

Conservative Premier William Davis answered in 1971, "If we are building a transportation system to serve the automobile, the Spadina Expressway would be a good place to start. But if we are building a transportation system to serve the people, the Spadina Expressway is a good place to stop."

That monument to car-centred planning stands today, reminding us about people-centred planning.

I urge support of the current team (less one, plus three new voices) to continue their good work.

**Gordon Barnes
Aurora**

Reader voting for Dawe

To the editor,

In late September, Mr. Geoff Dawe spoke to tenants of our seniors' building.

These people were anxious to ask questions and hopefully get some answers.

He is a person that

made us all feel quite relaxed and answered questions that were put to him, in a meaningful way.

Last Friday, I attended at the Aurora Seniors to hear Mr. Dawe again, and since I am a member of that organization, I wanted to hear how he would answer their questions.

I commend Mr. Dawe on his ability to speak calmly and in answering the questions in a very knowledgeable way.

His leadership abilities are excellent and I believe he will be able to control any meeting he chairs.

It is imperative for us, not only as seniors, but the people who live and work in our Town, to be able to feel comfortable to ask questions that might be bothersome to some, and are given an answer that they can accept and understand.

Some time ago, I became a member of International Training in Communication, which certainly helped me with my involvement in various organizations.

One of the things we did when someone gave a speech, was to evaluate their speech.

I evaluated Mr. Dawe's answers and must say he passed with flying colours.

He will make an excellent mayor and definitely has my vote.

**Toni Worrall
Aurora**

This reader likes Kean as mayor

To the editor,

I would like to respond to the letter in The Auroran last week from L. Hudson.

To highlight some of the things that she said, Nigel has done a ton of things for Aurora, including being a council member for two terms 2000 - 2006, started and worked at the Farmers' Market for more than four years.

I am also aware that he has been involved with many charities including Heart and Stroke Big Bike Ride, Big Brothers Bowlathon, Terry Fox and Bob Hartwell runs, many charity golf tournaments and much more.

On a personal note, because I have known him for many years, I can attest to his character, which includes many of the character traits that

This reader collects sand

To the editor,

In The Auroran, the week of September 28, you asked if anyone had a special collection of anything interesting

I have a collection. I don't know how interesting it is, but I collect sand.

I probably have at least 150 bottles of sand I have collected.

Maybe you would be interested.

**V. Smitten
Aurora**

our town strives for, including using fairness, treating people with respect, following through with things that he has started showing responsibility, integrity, honesty and initiative.

I am sure that by now most informed people of Aurora know that other than the current mayor he is the only person with council experience running for the position of mayor.

To me this makes it a pretty simple choice; experience and competence verse no experience.

Need I say more?

**Margaret Burns
Aurora**



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Disgraceful and outrageous misuse of taxpayer money, councillor says

An Open Letter to the Residents of Aurora

Recently, in various media, it was reported that Aurora Town Council voted "unanimously" to support a motion that provided Phyllis Morris, in her capacity as mayor, with the means to

use taxpayer dollars to sue three private citizens of our municipality for \$6,000,000.

This has caused considerable concern and outrage.

I have been contacted by a number of residents who have expressed their disgust at the actions of

council.

However, there appears to be some confusion as to who supported the motion as media reports have repeatedly stated that the motion was passed "unanimously".

It was not.

Neither I nor Councillor

Eveyn Buck participated in the discussion, debate or vote on this motion. Speaking only for myself, I felt that the matter was not Town business and thus I did not participate. In my opinion, the matter is clearly a personal one and had no business being on a

council agenda.

Further, when the minutes of the meeting of September 14th (the meeting at which the motion was passed), were brought forward for ratification on September 28th, Councillors McRoberts, Buck and I all voted against

them to demonstrate our disavowal of the motion.

To be clear, Evelina MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger, Al Wilson, and John Gallo supported the motion that provided the means to allow Phyllis Morris, in her capacity as mayor, to use taxpayer dollars to sue three private citizens for \$6,000,000.

In my opinion, this is an outrageous and disgraceful misuse of taxpayer dollars.

I have no issue with a person defending his or her reputation.

I do take issue with the use of public money to do so.

It is my opinion that if Phyllis Morris feels that someone has said something that she does not like or made a statement that allegedly harms her "reputation", then, by all means Ms. Morris should go to court, if that is her choice.

However, she should do so with her own money - not the taxpayers'.

Alison Collins-Mrakas
Aurora

Smitherman's speech on homecare claimed, "We know that it costs less to support seniors in their own home than in hospitals or in long-term care. And far more importantly than that, we know well because we listen well to seniors, that they are happier at home, the place they know and love."

Because systemic issues of neglect and abuse continues in long-term institutions, and seniors have still not been provided with essential homecare assistance, the claim that government listened well to seniors, clearly, was nothing more than political speech-making.

Ellen Watson
Aurora

Government claim "speech-making": reader

To the editor,

With near regular frequency there are news stories about families expressing the dread of having to place a loved one with dementia, or for

other reasons, in a nursing home.

Their concerns are more than justified given the countless stories by media and grieving families about the sub-standard care and neglect in

long-term facilities and the disturbing details revealed in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's own inspection reports.

When families are left with no option than nursing home

placement because of financial strain, the failed promises to keep their family members at home brings lifelong regret.

Providing families with a fair share of the billions of tax dollars the province pays to the lucrative business of institutionalizing people would provide families with much needed support to assist them with keeping their loved ones at home.

The promise made to Ontarians in 2003 by then newly elected premier Dalton McGuinty stated, "If the care (at home) costs less than sending you to a hospital or a nursing home, we will make sure you get it."

Five years later, former health minister George

strengthened the volunteer resources on which much of the work in community development depends.

She has brought to the mayor's office an unusual ability to seek out and harness the intellectual and human resources of our community, an important prerequisite to municipal development, rediscovering the essential wealth of places.

Leslie Oliver
Aurora

encouraging economic development, in the larger framework of social and cultural community building and public well-being.

Among other things she has championed: an open, public planning process; the conservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine; neighborhood redevelopment; urban renewal studies; and the establishment of the Aurora Cultural Centre in the historic Church Street School.

As well she has greatly

Reader hopes mayor wins election

To the editor,

My wife and I, long time Aurora residents, and active in the life of the community, look forward to the return of Phyllis Morris to the mayor's office for a second term.

Phyllis has brought to the office a perspective on community social and cultural development unique to the position.

She sees the traditional political rhetoric of taking care of pot-holes, reducing taxes, balancing the budget and

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Let's Put The Aura Back in Aurora

It's time for a positive change

It's time for **leadership** that listens and returns respect and civility to the Council table • It's time to rebuild our sense of **community** where we work with each not against each other • It's time to restore financial **accountability** to Aurora's taxpayers.



As both a member of the current Aurora Town Council and Aurora Public Library Board, I have had firsthand experience with two very different leadership styles. In contrast to the kind of leadership I witnessed at the Council table, I have found that Geoff Dawe, as Chair and member of Aurora's Public Library Board has demonstrated that he has the key skills necessary for a leader – respect for and acknowledgement of the opinions of those at the table, respect for and reliance on the skills and expertise of staff, and respect for and experience with the necessary rules and procedures; roles and responsibilities that make both a Council and a municipality run efficiently and effectively. I support Geoff Dawe as Mayor of the Town of Aurora, because he is the leader this Town needs to meet the challenges and pursue the opportunities with which our community will be presented both now and in the future.

Alison Collins-Mrakas, Resident, Aurora Councillor



As a successful businessman – President of Quality Integrators Corporation and Past President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce – Geoff's business and financial acumen would be a huge plus for the Town. Geoff knows to put Town business first, and he can ensure that every tax dollar spent will be to the benefit of the citizens of Aurora.

Peter Blakely, President, Blakely & Associates

I have known Geoff as a highly respected community partner in the co-op education program at Aurora High. Geoff exemplifies leadership, has extensive involvement in community events and holds solid experience within our town. Geoff has a particular talent to draw out people's natural strengths and abilities and consistently amazes me with his ability to work with people in diverse situations. *Carol Nerling, Resident, Head of Community Based Education - Aurora High School*



As a person who lives and works in Aurora, I am enthusiastic about having a Mayor who listens to the needs and concerns of our community and Geoff is certainly the man to bring people together for our collective good. His leadership invites collaboration and consultation with all members of the community. As a long-time resident, I have chosen to campaign for Geoff as I believe whole-heartedly in his ability to lead our community into the future with vision, integrity, strength and compassion. *Helen Anderson, Resident*

Of all the candidates, Geoff is superbly qualified – his years of proven, relevant and translatable leadership experience overshadows any other candidate. People and business have a choice of where they work and live -- and they expect exceptional value for their tax dollars. Geoff has the experience, wisdom and dedication to exceed those expectations and make Aurora a place we can all be proud of. *Eric Goulden: Resident, Neighbour, Business Associate, President Telonix Communications*



As a long time volunteer in the Aurora community, I have known Geoff as a person of good character, with a strong sense of values. This is particularly evident in the way he interacts with other volunteers and works towards building consensus that benefits the overall goals ahead of his personal goals. That together with his business savvy and passion for our Town makes him an ideal candidate to lead our community. *Steve Hinder, Resident, former Aurora Councillor*

May 2008: The Auroran

Local columnist Dick Illingworth and former supporter of Phyllis Morris – stated that in almost 50 years of observing council meetings; "I have never seen a more fractious council than the current Aurora Council. It's an embarrassment and a disgrace!"

Many people believe that good men shun politics and refuse to run for public office. This year in Aurora we have a delightful exception to that belief. Geoff Dawe is a man of integrity with a wealth of experience in capable management. He is a breath of fresh air for townspeople suffering from malaise and discontent in most of their elected town officials. Geoff as Mayor is the person who can make Aurora proud again.

Flo Murray, Long time Board member and Director of Fundraising for the new Aurora Seniors Centre



As I grow older, I pay less attention to what politicians say and just watch what they do. When one reviews the actions of the outgoing mayor, compared with the hyperbole espoused at the start of the term, one can only come to the conclusion that we can and deserve to be better served. I believe you are the person to do that.

Chris Sorley, Resident, former Aurora Councillor, Lawyer, Sorley & Still

Geoff exemplifies the qualities of service and integrity that are vital to leadership today. He does not try to force his vision or priorities but engages with the whole team to co-create a vision to which we can all be committed.

–Peter Dickens: Resident, Leadership Expert



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 focussing on new actions that follow the policies and history of the organization.

Elizabeth Bishenden: Resident, Community Organizer



I have known Geoff for 10 years in a number of different capacities – as a dedicated volunteer, a respected community leader and a person of integrity. I am confident his proven ability to quickly make people feel at ease in order to understand the key issues will be put to good use as Mayor of Aurora. *Steve Forsey, Resident, Business Owner*

Geoff has fostered a welcoming collaborative environment even when others opinions differ from his. He has taught me that hard work and persistence does pay off and values never need to be sacrificed. *Todd Graff, Professional Colleague*



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: Resident, former General Manager of Aurora Chamber of Commerce

I have known Geoff Dawe for more than 15 years and witnessed first-hand Geoff's ability to get the job done with integrity – without confrontation or anger. He's a person with no hidden agenda who believes strongly that transparency is a sign of character and strength. *Jim McAlpine: Resident, President - McAlpine Capital Advisors Inc.*



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

As a former Councillor for the Town of Aurora, I know how important it is to have a Council that works with staff and each other in a respectful way. Geoff Dawe understands that respect is earned not granted. That one must give respect to get it in return. I support Geoff Dawe because I know he is capable of being the leader this Town needs. *Don Constable, Resident, Optimist, Business owner*

Our Town of Aurora demands an Aurora Town Council that works... only Geoff Dawe possesses the key leadership and management competencies necessary to lead our Aurora Town Council through the next 4 years. Our Town of Aurora expects and deserves a stable, non-confrontational Aurora Town Council...

only Geoff Dawe possesses the interpersonal and communication skills necessary to lead our Aurora Town Council through the next 4 years. Our Town of Aurora's Town Council has an immediate need for CHANGE... only Geoff Dawe possesses the economic, efficient and effective focus necessary to lead our Aurora Town Council through the next 4 years.

Dennis R. Hopps, Resident, Seneca College, Business Program

August 2009: Toronto Star

The Toronto Star editorial asked "Has Aurora Lost its Aura?" after our first Integrity Commissioner was terminated just 1 day after delivering his first formal report that dismissed the complaint against Councillor Buck because it could be seen as wholly political.

Geoff has always believed that it is important to give back and for over thirty years he has unselfishly given back to our Aurora community with integrity, dedication and persistence; core values this town needs as we look to the future. He has the business acumen, experience, vision, consultative approach and dedication to run our 50 million dollar Aurora "corporation" effectively to provide the citizens of Aurora with a government that they can be proud of and with value for their tax dollars.

Bruce Walkinshaw, Resident & Business Owner



Geoff's leadership of the Board was deliberate, clear, efficient, and collegial. Two key areas of municipal leadership essential to his success were his understanding of the role of a governance body and his ability to lead a volunteer organization.

Colleen Abbott, Resident, former CEO, Aurora Public Library

It's time for Geoff Dawe

If you would like to get involved, please contact Geoff: **CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: Geoff@GeoffDawe.com WEBSITE: www.GeoffDawe.com**

With your vote, we can put the Aura back in Aurora.



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Results to Sunday, October 17




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HOUSE LEAGUE

603 Diamond Groundskeeping Services White 0. - 608 Crabby Joe's Grey 0.

603 Diamond Groundskeeping Services White 7- L. Bulmer 1G 1A, C. Dyer 2G 1A, H. Lambrinos 1G, M. LeClair 3A, J. Kypreos 2G 1A, A. Skelhorn 1G 2A, A. Lamana 1A.
607 Envirocar Kelly Green 2 - Ian Rucker 2G, Jacob Fenchak 2A.

610 Swiss Chalet & Harvey's Orange 6. 611 Purple 2.

610 Swiss Chalet & Harvey's Orange 4. 602 Wedi Corp.Com Waterproff Tile Solutions Gold 1.

609 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 1 - James Eydt 1G. **603 Diamond Groundskeeping Services White 3 -** L. Bulmer 1G, 1A, Skelhorn 1G 1A, B. Diamond 1G, J. Leblanc 1A, C. Dyer 1A, R. Ludgate 1A.

607 Envirocar Kelly Green 4 - Ian Rucker 2G, Alex Sesto 1G, Jacob Cann 1G, Connor Crane Jackson 1 A, Clements Ian Rucker 1A . **605 Lakeshore Valu Mart 5 -** Michael Dowling 2G 1A, Daniel Della Rocca 1G, Jacob Hatton 1G, Remy Colicchio 2A, Andrew Currie 1G 2A, Brendan Ross.

908 Crabby Joe's Grey 6. 905 ATS Healthcare Black 4 - Vince Duggan 2G 1A, Dylan Lyons 1G, Austin Megit 1G, Adam Durante 2A, Will Brogan 1A, Michael McCreesh 1A.

901 Graystones Restaurant Red 3 - Andrew Martin 3G, Kentner Arkell 1A, Andrew Staples 2A. **903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 3 -** Quinn McGowan 1A, Kelly Hudson 2G, Michael Perryman 1G 1A, Kyle Coughlin 1A, Nic Venosa 1A.

904 St. Louis Blue 1 - Alex Woodward 1G, Matt Clarke 1A. **902 Boston Gold 1 -** Graham Joiner 1G, Tyler Indos 1A, Jonathon Hurtubise 1A .

910 Philly Orange 5 - Graeme Allison 1G 1A, Daniel LaFlamme 1G, Jeremia Diaz 1G, Sam Steenhorst 1G, Sajjad Akbar 1G, Ryan St. Germain 3A, Ali Akbar 1A, Brian Pedron 1A. **906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 3 -** Zachary Seto 1G, Chris Falfalios 3A, Nick Moffatt 1A, Alexander Seto 1A, Josh Lawlor 2G .

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select A Pickering 3. Auora 2 - Nicholas Giorgio 1G, Owen Papulkas 1G, Jack Bray 1A.

Novice AA Aurora 4 - Carter Beswick 1G, Sam Lombard 2A, Ethan Cameron 1G, Evan Vierling 1A, Samuel Morin 1G, Daniel Gaeta 1A, Jake Adams 1G 1A. **TNT 4.**

Minor Atom AA Markham 1. Aurora 1 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Harris Goan 1A .

Minor Atom AA Georgina 6. Aurora 2. Andrew Park 1G, Michael Orlandi 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G, Trevor Dungey 1A,

Ben Liotta 1A.

Stouffville 4. Minor Atom A - Aurora 2 - Adam Wloka 1G 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1G, Jason Gage 1A.

Minor Atom A - Aurora 4 - Matthew McConnell 2G, Sam Ashton 1G 1A, Blair Crabbe 2A, Connor Thomas 2A, Matthew Gram 1G, Cooper Judson 1A, Colby Prymych 1A, Dylan Prescott 1A. **East Gwillimbury 2.**

Markham 7. Minor Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Alex Sandra 1G, Luc Catania 1G, Evan Robertson 1G 1A, Russel Tanaka 1G 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Carson Williams 1A, Ryan McCartney 2A.

Minor Atom AE Aurora 2 - Thomas Childerhose 1G, Warren Hil 1A, Stuart Bishenden 1A, Russel Tanaka 1A, Alex Sandras 1G. **Georgina: 2**

Minor Atom AE Tigers 1 - Thomas Childerhose 1G. **Stouffville 1.**

Minor Atom AE Barrie 6. Aurora 2 - Alex Sandras 1G, Jack Patterson 1A, Jessica Jollimore 1A Kyle Fowler 1A Owen Romano 1G

Atom AA Newmarket 6. Aurora 2.

Atom AA TNT 5. Aurora 2.

Atom AA Aurora 3. Richmond Hill 2.

Atom A Aurora 5 - Carson Venneri 2G, Cameron Tyndall 1G 2A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Scott Rumble 1G, Connor Iwai 1A. **Richmond Hill 4.**

Barrie 3. Atom A Aurora 2 - Carson Yeomans 1G, Jamie Stewart 1G, Andrew Cundari 1A .

Atom A Bradford 4. Aurora 4 - Jaedon Jackson 2G 1A, Anthony Capraro 1G, Jason Cox 2A, Carson Venneri 1A, Ben Spittle 1G, Andrew Buffa 1A .

Atom AE Aurora 5 - Sebastian Giorgio 1G, Braeden Joynt 1G, Jason Langdon 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Adam DePiero 1G, Francesco Scuglia 2A, Thomas Morra 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A. **TNT 3.**

Minor Peewee AA Georgetown 3. Aurora 1 - Philip Wolanski 1G, Brady Futterer, 1A, Kauffeldt Devlin 1A.

Minor Peewee AA Whitby 6. Aurora 0.

Minor Peewee AA Aurora 5 - Philip Wolanski, 2G, Kauffeldt Devlin 1G, Jack Liotta 1G, Ben Langlois 1G, Katarina Dajia 2A, Rhys Perry 1A. **Webster 1.**

Minor Peewee A Aurora 3 - Thomas Kostoff 1G, Stewart Gable 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G, 1A, Jack O'Keefe 2A, Curtis Romanchych 1A, Ryan Thornhill 1A . **Waterloo 1.**

Minor Peewee A Aurora 3 - Mark Kalmisto 2G, Reid Carpenter 1G, Stewart Gable 1A, Curtis Romanchych 1A, Max Goldman 1A. **Nepean 1.**

Minor Peewee A Aurora 3 - Thomas Kostoff 2G, Ryan Thornhill 1A, Jack O'Keefe 1G, Curtis Romanchych 1A. **Cumberland 0.**

Minor Peewee A Aurora 4 - Colin McGoldrick 1G 1A, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Jordan Torres 1G 1A, Eric McGhie 1A, Jack O'Keefe 1A, Stewart Gable 1A. **Metcalfe-Russell 1.**

Minor Peewee A Aurora 1 - Clayton Allen 1G, Jack O'Keefe 1A, Mark Carpenter, shutout. **Waterloo 0.**

Peewee AA Aurora 4 - James Wyndham West 1G, Tyler Williams 1G, Evan Woodhead 1G, Cameron Morrison 1G, Alec Magnante 1A, Jack Pecora 1A, Patrick Servideo 1A, Jared Brown 1A, Jared Reeves 1A, Michael Shum 1A. **Richmond Royals 1.**

Peewee AA Tigers 11 - Taylor Kauffeldt 1G 1A, Evan Woodhead 1G 2A, James Wyndham West 2G 3A, Tyler Williams 3G 3A, Alec Magnante 3G 1A, Austin Kiraly 1G, Keegan Matthew 2A, Jack Pecora 1A, Evan Woodhead 1A, Michael Shum 1A, Jared Reeves 2A, Cameron Morrison 1A, Graham Sanford Austin Pringle, shutout. **Buffalo Hockey Alliance 0.**

Caledon Hawks 3. Peewee AA Aurora 1 - Keegan Matthew 1G, Cameron Morrison 1A.

Peewee AA Aurora 4 - Graham Dynesk, shutout, Meegan Matthew 1G, Tyler Williams 1G 1A, Jared Brown 1G, James Wyndham West 1G, Jack Pecora 2A, Cameron Morrison 1A, Alec Magnante 1A, Michael Shum 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Patrick Servideo 1A . **TNT 0.**

Peewee A Aurora 4 - Matthew Liscio 1G 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Shaun Broad 1G, Mathew Tyndall 1A, Evan Cherubini 1A. **Markham 2.**

Peewee AE Arctic Foxes 2. Aurora 1 - Michael DaCosta 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1A .

Peewee AE Aurora 11 - Charles Bennett 1G, Zach Fletcher 1G, Michael DaCosta 1G 2A, Cooper Hewgill 2G 1A, Jordi Severini 3G 1A, Brendin Ramsay 1G 3A, Michael Jollimore 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G 2A, Connor Downs 2A, Nick Sansalone 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A, Thomas Sauer 1A. **Butler Valley Bulldawgs 1.**

Peewee AE Aurora 3 - Cooper Hewgill 2G, Michael DaCosta 1G, Charles Bennett 1A, Brendin Ramsay 1A, Louie Kirkos, shutout, **Pittsburgh Vipers 0.**

Peewee AE Aurora 6 - Michael DaCosta 1G, Connor Downs 1G 1A, Jeffrey McKay 2G, Jordi Severini 1G 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1G 1A, Brendin Ramsay 2A, Thomas Sauer 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1A. **Toronto 1.**

Peewee AE Fort Erie 3. Aurora 2 - Jordi Severini 1G, Michael DaCosta 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1A.

Minor Bantam AA Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 2 - Andrew Klinowski 2G, Nathan Romanchych 1G 1A, Hudson Yeomans 1A,

Eddie Duffy 1A .

Minor Bantam AA Barrie 3. Aurora 2 - Eddie Duffy 1G, Andrew Klinowski 1G, Will Thompson 1A, David O'Connor 1A.

Bantam AA Aurora 8 - Jordan Nanos 2G, Konner McMillan 1G, Matt Iwai 2G, Brett Thiessen 1G 2A, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Nic Delzotto 1G, John MacDonald 1A, Austin Lane 1A, Nick Scott 2A, Spencer Green 1A. **TNT 3.**

Bantam A Aurora 2 - Brayden Beswick 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Liam Beresford 1A . **Stouffville 1.**

Bantam A Aurora 4 - Paul Neophytou 1G 2A, Liam Coll 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G, Erik Balkovec 1G, Gabe Oulahan 1A, Alec Ground 1A. **Nobleking 3.**

Orillia 7. Bantam A Aurora 4 - Zac Cowl 1G, Liam Coll 1G, Jack Caldwell 1G, Shadoc Storm 1G, Kyle Nice 2A, Austin Persaud 1A, Mitch Arnew 1A, Gabe Oulahan 1A .

Minor Midget A Aurora 5 - Ryan Baskin 1G, Conor Fennell 1G, Liam Killops 1G, Matthew Pryse 2G, Colton Lee 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Andrew McDonald 1A. **Toronto Avalanche 2,**

Minor Midget A Aurora 4 - Hayden Trask 3G, Matthew Pryse 1G, Eric Damecour 2A, Eric Archibald 1A, Liam MacKichan 1A. **Richmond Hill Kings 1.**

Minor Midget A Aurora 5 - Hayden Trask 1G, Matthew Pryse 2G, Andrew McDonald 2G, Evan Romano 1A, Daniel Fiori 1A, Ryan Baskin 2A, Liam Killops 2A, Eric Archibald 1A, Colton Lee 1A. **Gloucester Blackhawks 3.**

Minor Midget A Aurora 3 - Andrew McDonald 1G, Liam Killops 1G, Quincy Ing 1G, Evan Romano 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A. **West Carleton Warriors 1.**

Minor Midget A Aurora 3 - Quincy Ing 1G, Ryan Baskin 1G, Colton Lee 1G 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Andrew McDonald 1A, Liam Killops 1A, Ethan Slimkovich, shutout. **West Carleton 0.**

Minor Midget A Aurora 3. Toronto Avalanche: 1

Minor Midget A Aurora 8 - Conor Fennell 1G, Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Matthew Pryse 1G 3A, Eric Damecour 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1G, Quincy Ing 2G 2A, Eric Archibald 1G, Liam Killops 2A, Evan Romano 1A, Daniel Fiori 1A. **Innisfil 2.**

Minor Midget AE Aurora 6 - Connor McQuillan 1G 2A, Kyle Fedec 1G 1A, Connor Moody 1G 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G, Matthew Reeves 1G, Eliot Harkin 1G, Collin Laird 2A, Sasha Dajia 1A, Paul Steiner 1A, Kyle Fedec. **Pickering 0.**

Minor Midget AE Georgina 3. Aurora 1 - Collin Laird 1G, Daniel Jones 1A, Eliot Harkin 1A, Jeffrey Lam 1A, Kyle Fedec 1A, Peter Sandwell 1A.

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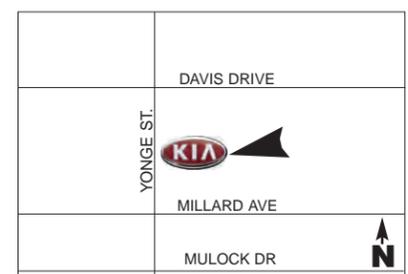
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Tigers give up fourth place following loss to Huntsville

It's official now. The Huntsville Otters, by virtue of a 5-1 win in Aurora Sunday afternoon, claimed sole possession of fourth place in the Provincial Junior A Hockey's north division. To that point, however, Huntsville and Aurora had been tied for the fourth spot in the league. Now, however, the tables are turned.

Huntsville has seven wins and five losses, while Aurora has six wins with seven losses.

The Markham Waxers still lead the division with 13 wins and three losses, their first loss of the season going to Aurora.

However, it wasn't all doom and gloom for the Tigers last week. They did pick up two points Saturday night when they downed the Mississauga Chargers 6-2 after losing to Brampton 4-1, at home Friday.

In all three games, Aurora opened the scoring, but in only one of them, were able to hang on for the victory.

The Tigers gave up three powerplay goals and failed to capitalize on a five-minute man advantage and that contributed to the Tigers loss.

Jordan Gidaro scored the lone Tiger goal just 25 seconds into the hockey game that threatened to be a runaway for Aurora.

But it wasn't to be as Huntsville bounced back to tie the game with less than a minute remaining in the first period, then scored four unanswered goals for the rest of the game.

Goaltender James Prigione took the loss, stopping 38 of 43 shots.

Newly acquired Jarrett Fennel made his presence felt scoring once and adding an assist in the three games but the Brampton squad welcomed back Josh Ruys, a 6' 3" Oakville resident, who scored twice in Brampton's 4-1 win.

When Josh last played with the Capitals he was

putting up almost a point a game.

Veteran players remember Josh as a force to be reckoned with.

Next up for Aurora is a game Friday night when they meet the Stouffville Spirit in a game at the Aurora Community Centre beginning at 7.30 p.m.

On Sunday afternoon in another home encounter, the Tigers host the Collingwood Blackhawks in a match that begins at 2.30 p.m.

BRAMPTON 4 AURORA 1

First Period

A - Andrew Secco (Fennell, Gidaro) 12.13
B - Josh Ocampo (Scuglia, Nieuwendyk) 13.24

Second Period

B - Josh Ruys (Nieuwendyk, Pintaric) 1.59

Third Period

B - Josh Ruys (Laidlaw, Nieuwendyk) 14.23
B - Chad Bennett (unassisted) EN 19.53

AURORA 6 MISSISSAUGA 2

First Period

A - Adam Moody (Gidaro) 7.56

Second Period

A - Brendan Bell (unassisted) 2.47

Third Period

A - Daniel Lisi (Chiarantano) PP 2.22
A - Sloan Stewart (Gidaro, Evely) SH 8.00
M - Jesse Facchini (Warnaar, Vernace) 8.12
M - Tyler Walsh (unassisted) 12.55
A - Brendan Bell (Johnson, Secco) PP 14.20
A - Jarrett Fennell (unassisted) SH19.32

HUNTSVILLE 5 AURORA 1

First Period

A - Jordan Gidaro (Stewart, Secco) PP 0.25
H - Adam Ritchie (Willmott, Yeo) 19.06

Second Period

H - Dane Horvat

(Kovacs, Clairmont) PP 12.48

H - Dean Willmott (Kirkwood, Yeo) 14.29

Third Period

H - Dean Willmott (Mueller, Kirkwood) 11.17
H - Daniel Clairmont (Horvat, Kirkwood) PP 17.20

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SIERRA CHOVANEC

Skater achieves her four levels

Aurora Skating Club member Sierra Chovanec has completed all four Figure Skating Gold Test Levels.

Sierra started figure skating on a frozen pond when she was two years old and she is happy to have completed her Gold Skills, Gold Dance, Gold Interpretive, and Gold Freeskate test levels.

She was 14 when she achieved her final Gold

test and she is now working on her Diamond dances.

She has competed in Freeskate at the Sectional level.

She also coaches Learn to Skate programs.

Sierra thanked her coaches at the Aurora Skating Club; Andy Klein, Blair Koski-Klein, Deborah Botticella and Danny Sorley for helping her achieve her skating goals.

Mayor "defamed", issues lawsuit

From page 1

successful, Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications confirmed to The Auroran that the costs for this lawsuit would be paid out of Town coffers.

"It is being funded by the Town of Aurora," he said. "That was council's direction."

Mr. Ballantyne, however, said he was unable to comment on the specifics of the case as it was before the courts.

On Mr. Hogg's part, he said he had no real inkling that this was in the works.

"It is two weeks before an election, you wonder what any of the candidates do and I certainly never anticipated anything like this," he said.

The bigger issue was the use of taxpayer dollars in this case, he said.

"Phyllis is using my tax dollars to sue me, which I find highly offensive that she is using taxpayer dollars to fight her political battles," he said. "[Also] we, as in the three named citizens, were never alleged to have made the comments she finds offensive."

For Mr. Johnson, who was served with the Notice of Action while sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner with his family last Sunday, he said the development was "especially difficult" for them given his past political allegiance.

"[It] is especially difficult for the Johnson family given the significance of our past support for Mayor Phyllis Morris and in light of the deep disappointment that we have experienced since she was elected Mayor in 2006," he said in a statement. "This latest action only serves to underscore the reasons for our growing concern given that I have been falsely accused."

Council approved the resolution to retain external legal counsel "and to take any and all actions to bring resolution on this matter" in the early hours of September 15.

The vote came after councillors went into closed session to discuss "litigation or potential litigation, including members before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality, or local board" regarding "potential defamation".

The Town minutes record this as carried unanimously; however, neither Councillors Evelyn Buck, nor Alison Collins-Mrakas, were present for the vote.

In addition, by the time the

matter became public for final adoption September 28, Councillor Bob McRoberts reconsidered his position and joined Councillors Buck and Collins-Mrakas in voting against the motion.

"I said into the microphone and on camera [at the September 28 Council meeting], 'Upon reflection, I no longer support the item reported out from closed session'," said Councillor McRoberts in a statement. "I did not get into my reasons and no one questioned my statement either during or after the meeting. I also did not support the minutes of September 14 for a bunch of reasons, this being one of them. Without getting into the details of the closed session, after the meeting I had an opportunity to clarify some of the information that was presented at the meeting. What I learned after the fact wasn't quite what I recalled hearing at the meeting. Basically, upon much reflection, I changed my opinion and my support."

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, this lawsuit is a matter of striking back against criticism. The real story, she said, is three families in Aurora are being "attacked by their municipality."

Following the all-candidates debate hosted by Sport Aurora Sunday afternoon, Mayor Morris spoke to The Auroran regarding the lawsuit including the fact this was being pursued through her capacity as mayor rather than a private citizen, and the use of public funds.

"The comments that have been brought to my attention that were contained and made and published, and continue to be published on a blog were of such concern that I brought them to the attention of Town council," she said.

"The council made the decision to retain outside legal counsel to take whatever actions were necessary to resolve the matter."

Over the years, Mayor Morris said a number of comments had been "levelled against" her, members of the community, Town staff, and councillors.

"One can accept them as

being freedom of expression and opinion, however, in this country, freedom of expression and opinion does not stretch to include inaccurate, defamatory statements," she said. "If defamatory comments are made, I, as a mayor, also have the right to defend my reputation and that of others."

While she admitted some people might "choose to believe" she should pursue the action on a personal level, it is more than that.

"What of the rights of those who have run for elected office only to be anonymously attacked, vilified, and subjected to defamatory comments? Are we moving into a situation where anonymous people can sit behind a blog and hide behind an anonymous, moder-

ated blog when no one is accountable and no one wishes to be held accountable for defamatory statements? The defamatory statements were made against me in my role as mayor."

In addition to the claims made in the lawsuit, Mayor Morris said she has been "pry" to statements made of a threatening nature that were handed over to York Regional Police to investigate.

The mayor alleges that further threatening comments and statements were made "by similarly named anonymous people, either an individual or individuals."

"They were allowed to be published," she said. "I will leave that for the courts and the police

Please see page 21

OCT 25TH

VOTE

Aurora Town Council



- Has lived in the Aurora area for 63 years
- In town for 38 years
- Candidate to Aurora Town Council seven times
- Toronto Fire Services 40 years
- Retiring in Jan. 2011

KEITH

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I have the ability, commitment and dedication to serve you well on this next council.

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- Consult with an Arborist regarding tree planting and care
- Have street lights maintained for safety and security.
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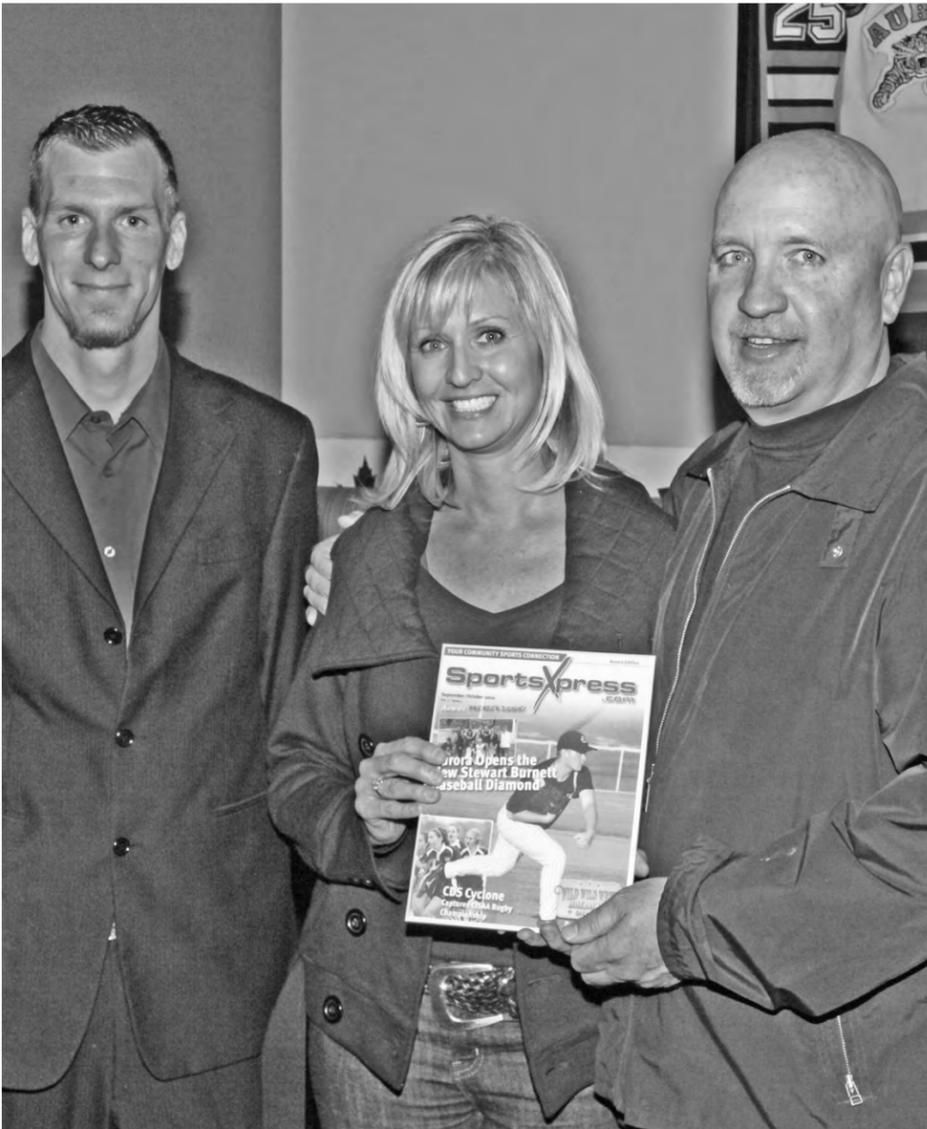
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Chris MacDonald, son-in-law of Ron Weese and publisher of the new magazine SportsExpress, left, enjoys of a copy of his new magazine with Christine and Stephen Clements, whose son, Tyler, is in the photo of the opening of the new ball diamond at the Stuart Burnett Park that is on the cover of the magazine. Magazine launched last week at the Aurora branch of Boston Pizza. The magazine is supported by Sport Aurora, a group that celebrates the accomplishment of amateur sport in Aurora, and sponsored a candidates' meeting at the Legion Sunday afternoon. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

TO AURORA VOTERS

After several years of this Council what Aurora really needs following the election is a forensic audit to establish what we have, what was wasted, and how we move forward in a fiscally responsible fashion.

We know the town's most recent administration has squandered vast amounts of money, possibly into the millions of dollars, on ill-conceived studies and projects, Code of Conduct witch-hunts, rotting buildings, commissions, committees and planning groups often populated by friends of the mayor, wasteful and costly OMB appeals, external legal bills into the many hundreds of thousands of dollars and a myriad of other incidents.

There must be an accounting for all this waste so that when a new administration takes over the town's operation they may be identified, discontinued and replaced by a budgetary and expenditure program that is transparent and accountable.

These last words were promised by the outgoing mayor and promptly disappeared from her lexicon after being elected.

Geoff Dawe is making the same promise. He will honour it.

Elect **John GALLO**
johngallo.ca
 a vote for Aurora

John Gallo, why would he make a difference?

- Open minded and respectful
- Lead by example
- Understands that we are, above all, public servants
- Mindful of due process and the need for public forum
- Appreciates the role and impact of ratepayers' groups

John Gallo, where and how he will make a difference

- Supports "Green Energy" initiatives
- Supports Growth in Aurora, but not at the expense of Sustainability.
- Create and support cultural opportunities
- Reliable "safe" electricity
- Support and help promote the "Arts" in Aurora
- Supports "Sports" in Aurora



On October 25th, Vote John Gallo for Aurora Council

Aurora author won't be silenced by threats

By MALCOLM WATTS
Special to The Auroran

Marina Nemat is a survivor of both imprisonment and torture in Iran.

Her autobiography, "Prisoner of Tehran", is a world-wide best seller.

She has received awards and acclaim, but also threats.

While cautious, she brushes off most threats since they are of the cyber variety.

"You can't hide under the bed when you are afraid or you are finished," she said.

Her latest book, "After Tehran: A life Reclaimed", relates her experiences following release from prison in Iran to the present.

Marina recently impressed a large audience of her fans at the Aurora library.

While she recalls getting out of prison as a good thing, she soon realized that with so many freedoms denied, Iran was in many ways just a bigger prison.

She and her husband came to Canada after glowing reports about this land from her brother who had preceded her.

The new book is a story of herself as a survivor, and other survivors who don't have a venue to share their stories.

It is a voice for those who continue to be imprisoned

and persecuted by the Fundamentalist Islamic government in Iran.

Marina's eye's flashed as she related that a frequent media question directed to her is, "Why did you wait 20 years to write your story?"

Marina answers that she was still a teenager while in prison.

It took years for her to face the details of her experience and prepare to share them with the world, she said. As a victim of trauma, this gap in time is not surprising according to experts she has spoken with.

Following her first book's publication in 2007, she didn't realize how much more of her story remained to share.

The new book chronicles her thoughts as a survivor living after the fact of being a political prisoner. She states that many such Iranian survivors remain silent for various reasons, and few books have been written about them.

"I owe it to other survivors, and those who have died, to finish my story," she said.

She is currently working on a joint project to bring her first book to the big screen.

Marina speaks out publicly on behalf of prisoners such as Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, an Iranian woman recently sentenced to death by stoning.

Marina says there are no

innocent bystanders – if one remains a by-stander in the face of atrocities, then one is not innocent.

She encourages Canadians to sign petitions at www.freesakineh.org and www.freehamid.org to free political prisoners.

While 300,000 Canadians have signed already, she feels we can do much more.

"After all, Lady Gaga has eight million hits on her website."

Marina is uncertain whether petitions really make a difference, however she is convinced that petitions at least inform the Iranian government that the world is watching, and that these people are not forgotten.

Her life as a best-selling author is hectic and stressful.

At times she feels overwhelmed by the stories and pain of survivors who speak to her after one of her many talks around the world.

Despite the gravity of her story, and pressures of her new life, Marina projects poise, confidence – and even a little humour.

The long line-up of people waiting to purchase books, and have them signed following her presentation suggests that After Tehran: A Life Reclaimed, will be successful.

As for the future, Marina

is uncertain where her writing will go.

After the current book tour, she hopes to settle back into a more normal life in Aurora with her family and friends.

She would like to teach a creative writing course in Persian at the University of

Toronto to facilitate other Iranian Canadians in their craft.

Malcolm Watts is a local author and president of the Aurora Writers Group. His website is www.authorsden.com/malcolmwatts





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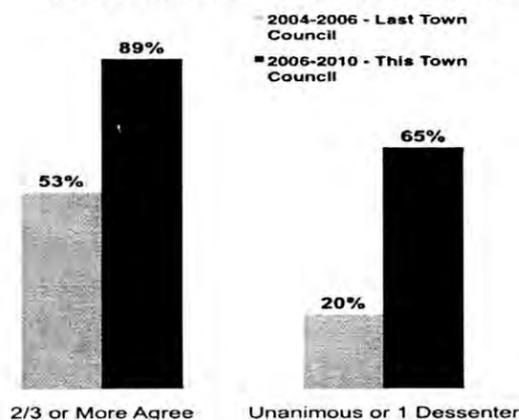
Saturday - 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday - 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Before you vote, get the facts.

Who do you believe?

Here is what the voting record shows

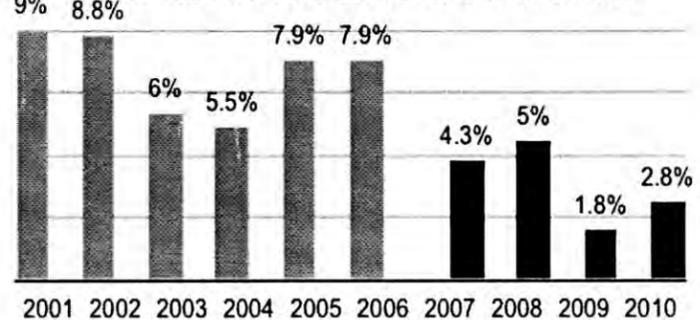


A Functional Council That Got Things Done!

- Staff Changes? **Yes, the past 4 yrs 75% of senior staff retired or were promoted.**
- Increase in Staff? **Yes, to serve the needs of a growing community.**
- Money Spent on Consultants? **Yes, this expertise resulted in a strategic vision to serve the community for 20 years.**
 - Official Plan review – last updated 1990
 - Master Recreation Plan – last updated 2003
 - Pricing Policy – last updated 1980's
 - The new Yonge/Wellington Corridor Improvement Plan
 - Newly developed Trails Master Plan
 - Corporate operations review - Saving millions

■ Former Town Councils ■ This Town Council

Aurora Tax Increases Lower Now Than Before



Lowest tax increases in 10 Years

This Council did not have their hands in your pockets

- Wasting Tax Dollars at the OMB? **No, protecting the community's interest is the priority.**
- Wasting money on legal fees? **No, protecting your staff and your Town is vital.**
- Parkland and green space has not been a priority? **This council has increased the supply of parklands by over 22%.**
- The town is in a poor financial position? **No, the Town's financial position has never been healthier. Reserves are the highest in history.**

Some may distort the truth. The facts speak for themselves.

THIS WAS A FUNCTIONAL COUNCIL THAT GOT THINGS DONE!!

Supporting the passions of people in the community RE-ELECT PHYLLIS MORRIS AS AURORA MAYOR

Dear Residents & Business Owners,

Our shared pride in Aurora and passion for our Town has inspired me to seek re-election as Mayor of this place I love and call home.

It has been a pleasure to work with a fantastic Town Council that successfully considered and charted new directions. The public record shows it to be the most capable in a decade at both finding common ground and achieving results.

Our town is remarkable! Aurora is quiet neighbourhoods, heritage homes and nature trails.

It's a lively place, with restaurants, a growing farmer's market and successful businesses, large and small. We are engaged in sports, schools, places of worship, art, theatre, music, dance, heritage, parades, charity, and more. We enjoy gathering, whether for music, art in the park or to watch our children play. Aurora is for everyone!

Aurora has grown stronger, because we respect and nurture new ideas. Your local government is better, because it has become more open, accountable and fiscally responsible. There has been \$285 million in new commercial construction this term. With fresh energy, enthusiasm and commitment, we have developed a clear vision of how to further enrich our community.

In consultation with you, I have worked to identify important town issues and provide leadership to resolve them. As Mayor, I listen to you and use my experience and skills to help represent your needs. I have championed Aurora's interests at Town Hall, York Region, Queen's Park and Parliament Hill, resulting in essential Town improvements.

We live in one of the best communities in Canada -- and with your vote, we will have an opportunity over the next four years to continue working together, to make it even better.

On October 25th, please re-elect PHYLLIS MORRIS, FOR MAYOR

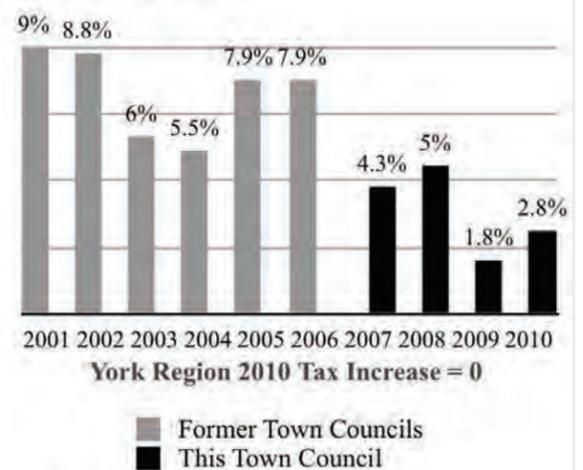
Sincerely, *Phyllis*



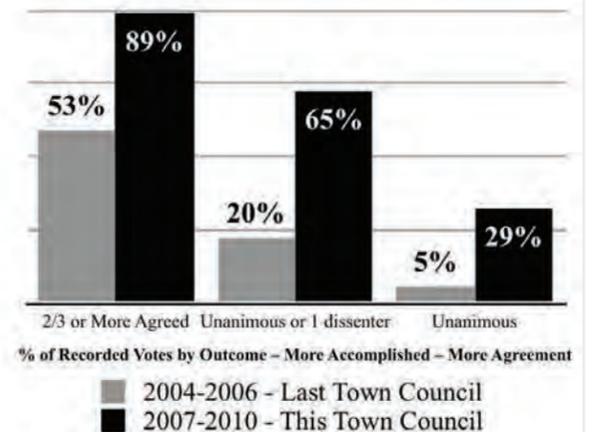
VISION OF THE FUTURE

- Conduct a major celebration of the sesquicentennial and 125th anniversaries of Village of Aurora and Town of Aurora
- Fiscal Responsibility – Focus On Having Aurora Tax Dollars Spent On Aurora Needs
- Implement the New Official Plan
- Protect Our Heritage Lands And Champion Environmental Needs
- Improve Economic Opportunities – 6,000 New Quality Jobs This Decade
- Keep "The Community" In Our Downtown
- Avoid Future Community Traffic Hazards
- Fiscally Responsible Growth
- York Region Transit, VIVA and GO Transit Improvements
- A Wonderful Place For Families – Act On The New Master Recreation Plan
- Develop Arts, Culture and Heritage Master Plan
- Keep the Town Accountable, with Measurable Action Plans and an Enforceable Code of Conduct

Aurora Tax Increases Lower Now than Ever Before



A Functional Council That Got Things Done



Not only did the current Council take the time to find common ground, it was more accountable by attaching names to votes. 174 votes were recorded by name in the current term of Council vs. 96 in the previous

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Aurora Town Council focused on smart economic development, improved quality of life and increased participation of residents and business owners in public life.

Careful Work Managed Growth, Sustainability, Transportation & Environment, Protected Neighbourhoods & Promoted Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation

- **Five-year Official Plan Review** – Supported by 7 of 9 members of Council, the most open, largest effort to consult the public in Town history about the urban plan.
- **Aurora Promenade Urban Design Strategy** developed with support by The Planning Partnership, and advisors in transportation, parking and heritage architecture. Completed after 30+ public meetings, thousands of submissions, and an awareness campaign.
- **Aurora Cultural Centre** in the newly renovated Church Street School. The Centre is a cultural sensation.
- **Clean Up Aurora Campaign** – A downtown Streetscape Study is planned. Improvements include new paving stones and curbing, weeds cut in empty lots, repainted railings, flower baskets, refurbished heritage signs, new Machell Park playground, new planned Fleury Park restroom, and graffiti removal.
- **Aurora Northeast (2C) Secondary Plan** – addresses wetlands and species protection, future employment lands, and conservation-focused building requirements

- **Trails Master Plan** – A 50-year plan to develop a connected off-road, multi-purpose trail network.
- **Parks & Recreation Master Plan** (and pricing policy) – A plan for leisure services, programs and facilities through to 2013 to serve a growing population.
- **Formal Review of the Municipal Administration**, the first since 1985.
- **Municipal Space Allocation Review** – definite use found for old Aurora library building for next three years. The lease of Aurora Hydro Building to the Department of National Defense brings Town new revenue of about \$130,000 a year.

Fiscal Responsibility

- **Making Growth Pay for Growth** – Taxes increases are down from the 9-percent level set in 2001 by the Council of the day to just 2.8 percent this year. There was no increase in York Region taxes this year.

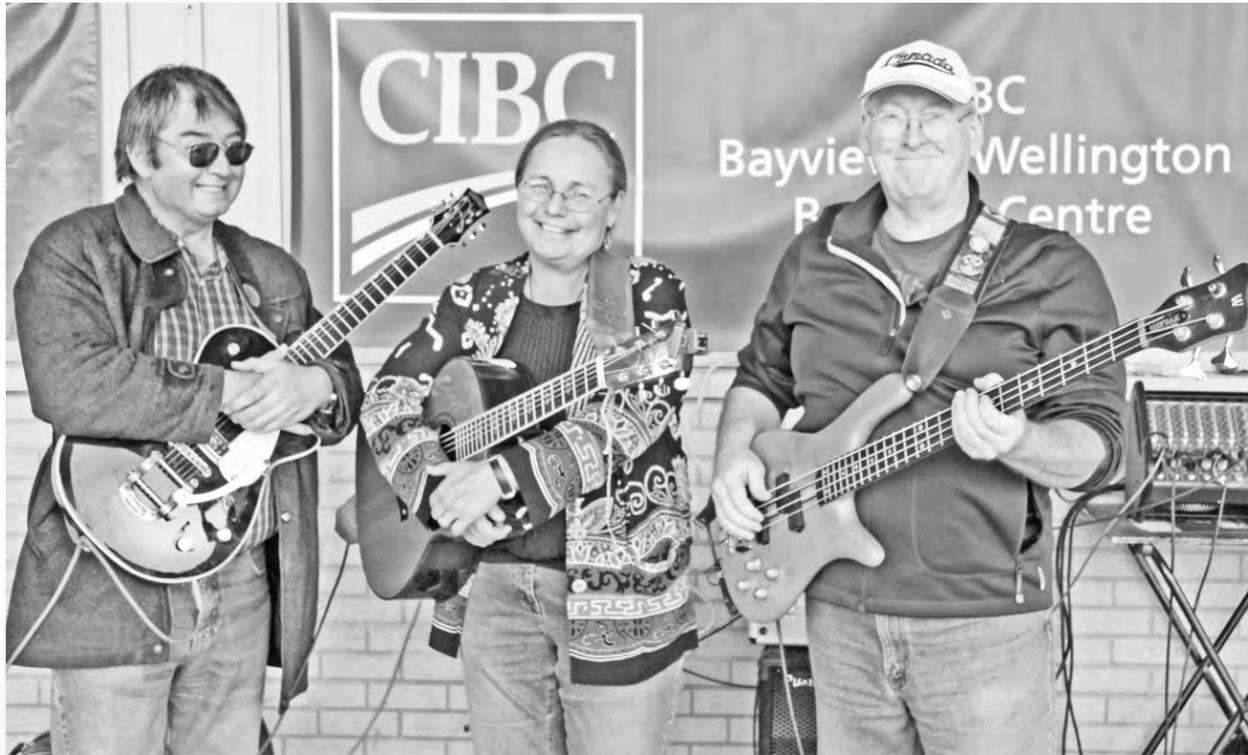
Environmental Protection and Sustainability

- **Community Urban Wildlife Park** – A plan modeled on Europe's urban nature reserves.
- **Anne Bartley-Smith lands Stewardship Program Initiative**
- **Corporate Environmental Action Plan** – A five-year action plan for the corporation of the Town of Aurora.

Authorized by the CFO together with Phyllis Morris

Re-Elect
Phyllis MORRIS
FOR MAYOR OF AURORA
Leadership • Vision • Ability

For information or to help in the Campaign visit www.phyllismorris.net or please call (905) 841-4003.



Patty McLaughlin, centre above, is joined by her band members Jo Gravelle, left, and Jason Pegg at Aurora's Colours of Fall Concert held at the Aurora Town Park recently. The third annual event also featured the Quarrel Sisters entertaining as well as visits from Aurora Teen Idols. Carving up her own pumpkin is Katelyn Forgiore, photo at right. For a nominal fee, participants could also enjoy a community corn roast.

Aurora photos by David Falconer



Mayoralty candidates debate each other

From page 1
one is respectful of the process, debating concepts and ideas, but not debating personalities."

For Mr. Prikryl, he proposed an overhaul of the current council structure, including making certain councillors responsible for different areas of Town business.

"I propose that we change the structure of our council meetings so that elected councillors become ministers of different departments and that will create some accountability," he said.

Reform was also an issue for Mr. Clowater who said, as mayor, he would only vote on Town matters in the event of a tie.

"That is not heavy handed and is conducive to developing good relationships on council," he said.

Each councillor should be treated with the respect due to them as the representatives of the people of Aurora, added Mr. Kean.

"There shouldn't be any bickering, there shouldn't be any backstabbing, there should be positive reaction for what Aurora needs and wants," he said. "You have to make sure [councillors] have the proper time they are allowed to speak, and you shouldn't be repeating what they have said. If you respect them, they in turn will respect you back."

Respect for Town workers and building morale amongst them were also questions for the candidates as they were

asked what they would do to restore it and why "so many [of the] senior management left over the last couple of years".

Mr. Clowater said there would be no civility at Town Hall until he was elected and that he believed he has "the leadership capabilities that can move this Town forward and help it heal."

Mr. Kean, however, took a different approach to answer this question.

"With all due respect, Phyllis Morris isn't here tonight," he said. "I don't believe we can blame everything that has happened in this Town on Phyllis Morris. I really don't. Everyone is blaming this council for doing this."

"This Council hasn't done everything right, believe me. Morale in the Town is low. We can say that we're going to have Happy Hour from 4 - 6 every day or something like that and I don't think that is going to work either."

"As Mayor I will not micro-manage the Town staff. We're hiring expensive people that do the job correctly. I am not an expert at what they do. They are."

For Mr. Dawe, respect comes first.

"The position and the duty of council and the mayor is to lead, to develop vision and policy, and the position of the staff is to manage and make sure that the day-to-day business of the town is run," he said. "I believe that if we make sure we maintain that differentiation that a lot of morale

issues will clear up."

In terms of the Integrity Commissioner and Code of Conduct, it was a unanimous feeling at the table that the Commissioner position should be scrapped. But the same cannot be said for the Code of Conduct.

"I do not believe that you need an Integrity Commissioner," said Mr. Kean. "I believe that people on council should have integrity. I don't think any minister is going to preach it to you and make sure you have it. It is too late then."

Mr. Dawe echoed this stance and said he would initiate a moratorium on the Commissioner in conjunction with the rest of council.

Mr. Clowater, Mr. Dawe, and Mr. Kean, however, said they supported the idea of the Code of Conduct, but not necessarily in its current

form.

"I do see the Code of Conduct as having a place and it is a standard operating procedure in Council," said Mr. Clowater.

The Code of Conduct should be brought forward for public review, said Mr. Dawe, adding that while he supported the concept, he did not support the existing "poorly worded" and "poorly executed document".

The Code of Conduct is there for a reason, added Mr. Kean, who said it is worth it if something can be done about an offender.

"If we're just going to have it the way it is, and certain people don't want to sign it or don't have to sign it, then it is not enforceable," he said. "Let's make it enforceable and let's make it a workable Council that is going to work for you."

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All is in readiness for the fourth annual Haunted Forest event which takes place in Aurora this Saturday night. Tickets are now on sale for the event which takes place in Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, located on Industrial Parkway South. Attendees are encouraged to wear Hallowe'en costumes and should be equipped with a flashligh.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Neighbourhood Network sponsors workshop uniting business and charity

In an age when doing good is simply good business, a number of local companies are looking for ways to give back to the community - especially when it comes to letting employees donate their time and talent.

Aurora-based Neighbourhood Network is sponsoring a workshop next week that brings together business and charities.

The goal is to help local businesses identify ways in which their employees can offer volunteer service within the community.

The interactive session - part of the York Region Community Foundation Making Your Mark conference - is taking place Thursday, October 28th at the Le Parc Conference & Banquet Centre in Markham from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"The workshop is a great opportunity for community-minded companies in Aurora to connect with charities and community groups and

explore volunteer opportunities," said Steve Hinder, Manager of Magna for Community.

Businesses interested in taking part in the afternoon workshop can contact Neighbourhood Network at 905-726-3737.

Neighbourhood Network is a "Magna for

Community" initiative that provides opportunities to engage volunteers from Newmarket and Aurora with local charities and community groups.

Neighbourhood Network currently has more than 2,100 volunteers and 160 partner organizations.



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Salon would raise cash for Yellow Brick House

Local musician Katie Toksoy is putting her talents to use for the Yellow Brick House this month when she hosts the first of her five "cultural salons" at the Church Street School Cultural Centre to raise money for the shelter.

Ms. Toksoy, a freelance horn player, has developed the Sunday afternoon concept, which will mix music, dance, drama, and visual arts - based on the 18th and 19th century concept of a "salon".

"It comes back from the 1800s when composers and poets and authors would get together in their salon, their living room, and basically amuse each other," she said. "This is people of different disciplines, sort of up-and-coming performers who you may not have heard their name but they're going to make a splash at some point, and some better-known performers."

The five salons, scheduled for October 24, December 5, February 20, April 17, and June 12, will all be held at the Cultural Centre.

With the goal of raising \$10,000 for Yellow Brick House over the five sessions, each ticket is \$35 and all net proceeds will go towards building the organization's new shelter, which is tentatively slated to be built the southern end of York Region.

"There are only 120 seats, so it is a pretty intimate thing," said Ms. Toksoy. "It is very good quality and because of the [York Region Arts Council] grant and the sponsors I've got, I'm able to charge a pretty decent ticket fee

which is good. If this was in Toronto it would be at least \$100."

While Ms. Toksoy said she is performing in her first salon, this may not be the case in the next four entries.

The October 24 event also includes writer and actress Maissa Bessada.

"She has written the script of the myth of Pandora, which is a 10-minute long original play and she is actually acting the role of Pandora herself," said Ms. Toksoy. "There are four characters. Playing a minor character in the play, but a major role in the musical part is Chris Burton. He is a Toronto-based pianist and he's going to be playing some of the most difficult solo music there is for piano but has agreed to play Pandora's husband. J.C. Paquette is also taking part and he has done all the graphics. He is doing all the stage managing and he's playing the part of Hermes."

In the true spirit of a salon, the event, which is booked to run from approximately 2.30 p.m. to 4.45, will be broken up by a 30-

minute intermission where refreshments will be served and will afford the audience and performers a chance to mingle.

"It is kind of a social networking thing where people can kind of find out what is going on in the local arts scene," she said.

"[The Yellow Brick House] is the best-known charity in Aurora [for] I'd say probably some of the most vulnerable people. I think the people that typically come to arts events are actually the most privileged people and I think it brings the two together."

More information on Pandora's Box Salon can be found at www.pandorasboxsalon.com or through The Yellow Brick House at www.yellowbrickhouse.org.





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In the photo are Gabriel Schacher from Gabriel's Café and Mary Georgopoulos, owner of Jonathan's Restaurant, with some of the bowls that will be available for the "Empty Bowls" lunch and dinner coming up next month. These two restaurants together with several others from the area will be serving up their signature gourmet soups and artisan breads. The Pine Tree Potters' Guild has donated bowls since 1997 to the Toronto based program. PTP is spearheading their own Empty Bowl project for York Region. Funds raised will benefit Welcoming Arms and the York Region Food Pantry. The inaugural event is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th to be held in conjunction with PTP's Winter Sale at the Aurora's Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For more information, click on www.pinetreepotters.ca.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Who got sued

From page 1 defendants "jointly and severally, maliciously published false and defamatory statements against Mayor Morris between August 24 and October 2 on the Aurora Citizen blog.

The postings, the suit claims, have subjected Mayor Morris to "ridicule, hatred, and contempt" which has damaged her reputation "in relation to her office, profession, trade, and calling, as the case may be."

Specifically, the suit cites posts that "in their natural and ordinary meaning, and by innuendo" claimed the Mayor "(a) is a compulsive liar; (b) as the leader of her administration is guilty of many acts of malfeasance; (c) has no regard whatsoever or knowledge of good government; (d) has made decisions that have resulted in the total waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars in relation to the Town's involvement in OMB appeals; (e) on behalf of the Town, has knowingly

engaged corrupt lawyers; (f) has purposefully engaged in a 'puppet' as an Integrity Commissioner; (g) behaves in a completely unaccountable fashion; and (h) behaves as would the devil, that she is evil and that she has committed illegal acts while in office."

Following the claims above, the suit also cites an October 2 blog posting by James Doe which "suggested that the Plaintiff Phyllis Morris should be hanged with her own Mayoral chains."

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hogg, and Ms. Bishenden were named in the suit as "moderators of the Aurora Citizen web blog with the power to publish, republish, encourage, or delete the postings thereon."

"These Defendants have authorized and encouraged the publication and republication of the Defamatory Postings and are jointly and severally responsible for their contact," read the Notice of Action.



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Everyone...man, woman and child deserves fair and equal treatment whether or not they vote and regardless of their means.

Different viewpoints in debate are a good thing. The right to speak frankly and freely should be exercised and there should be no need to defend it.

Civility is a must!

A community is strengthened by its past. It is the foundation of the present and a lens into the future.

Each of us must be a steward of our environment; we are among the world's most fortunate.

"To those that have been given much, much is expected".

An election is a celebration of our rights and freedoms and a renewal of commitment.

My Priorities For The Community

Business must be recognized as a full financial partner with the town in our responsibility to make life affordable for people of all ages. Business provides jobs; they contribute to town revenues without adding to costs. They sponsor youth sports organizations; they contribute to fundraising projects. They give and give and give.

We need to listen and respond to their needs.

An urban area is serviced with roads, water, sewers, lighting, etc. Shopping and professional services are situated within the town; various levels of government have invested billions of dollars to provide amenities required by a thoroughly modern municipality. Intensification policies prevent urban sprawl and housing to meet a variety of needs. New families contribute to successful business and share the cost of providing services.

They keep taxes affordable.

Food banks and substandard housing are a poor reflection on our standards. Families need jobs and decent housing, not handouts. The town should be proactive, encourage job creation and affordable housing. We all benefit when everyone's needs are met and nobody is made to feel less than others.

It is part of our planning mandate.

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blog: www.evelynmbuck.blogspot.com
Telephone: 905-727-6457

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to Aurora Town Council



NIGEL KEAN FOR MAYOR

Dear Aurora Residents,

I would like to thank all of you for your supportive words that I have heard at the thousands of doors that I have knocked on. If I did not get to your door, I apologize, and I want you to know that everyone in Aurora is important. Unfortunately, with more than 18,000 homes in Aurora it was impossible to personally knock on them all. If I did not get to your door please check my website at nigelkean.ca to review my platform or if you prefer, you can call me at 416-888-0173.

There is a really good chance that more than 50% of the new council will consist of new councillors. With this possibility it makes sense that you would want a Mayor with previous Aurora council experience. If you are looking for change, I am the only challenger for the Mayor's position who has this qualification as well as 35 years of senior business management experience.

As Albert Einstein said;

"The only source of knowledge is experience".

When I served on council from 2000 through 2006, I always put you, the residents, first. I started the Farmers' Market to help the downtown core. I voted in favour of building the new Aurora Seniors' Centre, I voted to build the new Rec Centre on Wellington near Leslie, I voted to build the new fire hall, I voted to turn the old Church Street School into the Aurora Heritage Centre and Museum and I am very proud to say that I led the vote to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

If I am elected Mayor I will always put you, the residents, first. I will look for ways to cut the waste at the Town Hall. I will push to have the Seniors' Centre enlarged, I will work towards a youth centre, I will find a location for Habitat for Humanity to build and I will, through tax incentives, get the downtown improved. I will also personally contact all businesses in Aurora for ideas to attract a broader commercial business base to help our tax base. There are many other parts to my platform that you can read at nigelkean.ca.

Nigel Kean

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Senior Scape



The 2010 York Region 55+ Winter Games will be held during November and December.

Payment and registration must be sent in before October 24th, so decisions must be made and registration executed promptly.

Registration forms are available at the Seniors' Centre, and Jim Liddy and Joan Best can help if questions require answers.

Winners of regional events are eligible to compete in sanctioned events in the Winterfest Games, which are held every two years.

The sense of achievement is a strong motivator and to win an event is a major achievement for most seniors.

Charles Sequeira won a medal a year ago at Actifest, and the memory is burned in his mind and thrills him to this day.

It also provides motivation to repeat or surpass previous achievements and to win another event is to grow self-esteem.

It is not for everybody to win, but for those who compete and achieve their best performance,

satisfaction produces a desire to prepare for further competition and to try again.

The Seniors Christmas Float is in need of a chairperson to form a committee to guide this event through to completion.

The float and the vehicle are available, I understand, and volunteers to construct any items required will be carried out in the Wood Shop under the direction of Ron Coe.

With a chairperson in place to take responsibility and give direction, committee members can be found and plenty of advice can be obtained merely by asking.

A chairperson is the key person required to take charge, form a committee and submit an entry for the float before November 18th.

The trees in countryside and forests are now resplendent in their riot of fall colours. This magnificent spectacle before the approach of winter, exhilarates everybody who experiences it.

Rozlin Lober artistically crafted a needlepoint footstool cover of very high quality; Rozlin is

excellent with needle and thread; an artist by any standard who has made countless beautiful garments and other articles used at home.

Ron Coe will construct a frame and legs for the footstool and when the project is completed and the quality of the work is appreciated, it will probably be the subject of a raffle.

This item though not completed, will, if cared for properly, evolve to the status of an heirloom.

Rozlin leads a Crafts and Conversation knitting group, also known as the Knotty Knitters who turn their skilled hands to whatever work is required.

The group is about 20 strong at this time and room is available for more members to add to the pleasure of completing whatever sewing or knitting, embroidery or any variety of work of the moment.

Help is available for those who need help, just come to the Seniors' Centre, Mondays at 10 a.m., and you will be welcomed, and probably impressed by a

fine group of women, busy with their fashionable arts and crafts.

A membership drive on November 5th, between 4 and 8 p.m. will be held in the Seniors' Centre.

As many activities as possible will be represented during the evening, and the presentation of events will occupy all available space.

All new memberships will include all of 2011 and November and December of 2010, so that is an added bonus to take out a membership, which

for the 1,000 present members represents an enormous benefit.

Having sufficient financial means to pursue even a modest retired life is important, but with finances satisfied, a social component of life demands to be recognized and appreciated, and the Aurora Seniors' Centre looms as the finest sphere or environment for the retired senior.

It provides a robust environment to perform all that was ever dreamed, and probably more that ever occurred to anybody.

The Seniors' Centre allows for those who choose modest involvement, while celebrating those who take powerfully active roles, and everybody is accommodated.

An environment of many new friends beckons new members and is a powerful inducement to take a membership in the Seniors' Centre, while to stand among a host of people comparable in age, interest and getting from life the bounty that good society offers, is a rational motivator.

Two running for trustee position in Aurora-King

The two candidates vying for the position of Public School Board trustee for Aurora/King had their first opportunity to state their platforms to the citizens of Aurora at the recent all-candidates meeting, hosted by the Aurora Public Library.

First to speak was Dave Williams, who has been a resident of Aurora for 16 years.

Having put two children through the public school system, Mr. Williams highlighted his work in the community including time as a volunteer and as coach for both the Aurora Soccer Association and the Aurora Basketball Association.

As school trustee, Mr. Williams said he would like to "put the 'public' back in public education" while ensuring the school board is more "parent and community friendly."

"I think trustees should be encouraged to have an open discussion of the issues that are of interest to the community," he said. "I think the school board needs to demonstrate that they have an increased level of accountability to the community."

"When I see groups of parents demonstrating in front of the school board just to get their attention I know there is something wrong."

He also said that the school board needs to be more proactive in communicating any issues with the public, specifically on issues that are subject to change.

"The last thing all of us want to read about is something that is going to affect the lives of our children and our families in a letter that comes home in somebody's knapsack."

In addition to this, the school board needs a change in attitude, he said.

"When the school board has a bit of a mess-up, whether it is French immersion registration, or is a reaction to a bullying incident, I think the path that the school board should take is to admit they're wrong and, more importantly, tell the community what we're doing to fix it."

In his introductory remarks to voters, incumbent trustee Gord Kerr did just that.

Before stating his platform, Mr. Kerr asked the audience to consider the role of education in "building our community and preparing our children for their roles as future community leaders."

He said everyone could probably think of a couple of things they would do to improve the public education system and that is work that needs to be continued for the next four years.

"Here in York Region we are fortunate to have a public education system that is working," he said. "It is not perfect, but it is working very well. Test scores of reading, writing, and math are consistently above provincial average and they have increased at a remarkable rate over the last 12 years."

Graduation rates are also up, he added and are a "tribute to the 10,000 teachers, administrators, and support staff who provide instruction for 115,000 students every day" across York Region.

But for Mr. Kerr, the last few years have been a mixed bag, with the opening of Hartman Public School and preserving Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, but failing to keep Wells Street Public School open.

He also spoke to measures being undertaken that address concerns outlined by Mr. Williams.

"I can tell you today improvements are in progress to improve the registration for this so we do not have a repeat of last year's long lines," said Mr. Kerr regarding French Immersion programs. "With a new director of education and a new board chair, this board is in a better position than it was four years ago to bring about those stronger relationships between Board and the Town of Aurora."

"Over these last four years, we've encountered some tough issues here in Aurora and through them I have learned how to navigate the Board's many committees and departments."

York Region District School Board trustee candidate Elizabeth Crowe, who was acclaimed, was not present to speak at the meeting, nor were candidates Rene Laurin, Dan Poisson, or acclaimed candidate Yves Levesque.



Gord Kerr



Dave Williams

Register now if you're entering 2010 Games

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Mayor "defamed", issues lawsuit

From page 14
to determine if and how that will be resolved and addressed."

"As mayor, I have risen above many inaccurate statements and comments," she added. "I choose to focus on the positive in Aurora. If you take political office and you are representing the people, I believe there comes a time when the public would expect a mayor and/or councillors to be defamed and not take action. In personal lives, everyone has the right to clear their name."

Mayor Morris, however, said the purpose of the Notice of Action is to "determine who the anonymous person or persons are" that have made defamatory comments against her acting in capacity as the mayor.

"Legal counsel are embarking on a course of action to determine the true identities of those who have made the defamatory statements," she said. "York Regional Police are investigating similar anonymous threats that were made against me and my personal safety."

The mayor was keen to stress, however, that any award made in this lawsuit would fund any associated costs.

If the suit is unsuccessful, however, taxpayers will still be on the hook. As to where any award made above and beyond the costs incurred will go if the suit is successful was a matter Mayor Morris referred to the lawyers.

As the action is related to the "harm done" to the mayor's reputation, Mr. Winkler said any calculation of damages in the event of an award would be looked at in this respect.

"The amount awarded to compensate her for that as well as a damage award of this kind also compensates a plaintiff for their hurt feelings in relation to what has been said," added Mr. Winkler.

Although Mr. Winkler said it is premature to speak to this, he said Mayor Morris could do "any number of things" with an award made in her favour, including the cost of litigation.

"The cost award that is made in litigation usually is only an indemnification towards costs, so an award cost wouldn't fully indemnify the Town with respect to the services of our firm," he said.

"Generally speaking you start to encroach on the damage component of the award to also

indemnify and contribute to the cost component because the costs awarded don't always - or very rarely - constitute a full indemnity."

It is the intention of the legal team to move as quickly as possible to obtain "the true identities of the anonymous bloggers" and once obtained, their names would be added to the Statement of Claim, said Mr. Winkler.

As the lawsuit was pursued by council, this matter could be reviewed by the next duly elected council, said Mr. Ballantyne.





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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

For further information, click on www.pine-treepotters.ca.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

A jitterbug ball, to support Hospice King-Aurora, will be held this evening. Visit www.hospiceking-aurora.ca for updates.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Aurora Seniors' Centre presents its Christmas Bazaar. Vendors from the Farmers' Market, ASA group baking, woodshop, sewing, knitting, and many other crafters will be on hand for the event.

The Town of Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee invites you to the Old House Seminars event to take place at the Church Street School (Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church St.).

NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH 27

"A Chorus Line" will be performed at St. Andrew's College at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by emailing Jane Bedard at jane.bedard@sac.on.ca or by calling 905-727-3178 extension. 260. For more information, visit <http://www.sac.on.ca>.

NOVEMBER 27-28

The Optimist Club of Aurora holds its annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, Saturday, November 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, November 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

A Children Wish Foundation Christmas Tree Raffle happens today at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The tree, donated by Home Hardware will be on display from October 18 to December 1 when the draw will take place. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

York Region Community Choir Presents "Classics of Christmas", a concert celebrating the Holiday Season. at 2 p.m. at the Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained by calling Heather at 905-853-6925.

CONTINUING

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

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

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 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.

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 runs every Thursday in the hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. The volunteer-operated program is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Lunch cost is minimal. Last year, more than \$6000 was given to local charities.

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.

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

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

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

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the

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

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

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

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.

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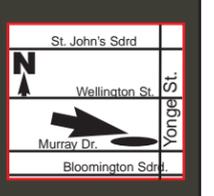
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This posting for theauroran.com pre-election POLL RESULTS are conducted by theauroran.com. To participate please go to www.theauroran.com, scroll down the home page and you will find the pre-election POLL on the bottom right side. Vote for one Mayor and up to 8 councillors only.
 Results are generated weekly and published on theauroran.com each Tuesday until the election.
 This is not a municipal vote. Please VOTE at your municipal polling station on or before the October 25th, 2010 election.

MAYOR	R. Clowater	6%	(30)
	G. Dawe	48%	(225)
	N. Kean	27%	(127)
	P. Morris	17%	(81)
	M. Prikryl	2%	(9)
COUNCIL	J. Abram	5%	(76)
	J. Abel	8%	(128)
	C. Ballard	5.5%	(88)
	E. Buck	11%	(181)
	R. Cohen	5%	(80)
	B. Duff	6%	(99)
	J. Gallo	7%	(108)
	W. Gaertner	3%	(55)
	S. Granger	4%	(66)
	M. Hart	4%	(67)
S. Humfries	7%	(113)	
E. MacEachern	4%	(69)	
D. Moore	4%	(65)	
K. Munro	3%	(46)	
P. Pirri	6%	(100)	
H. Power	4%	(61)	
M. Thompson	8%	(125)	
A. Wilson	5%	(73)	

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE:
 YCDSB Trustee: E. Crowe (ACCLAIMED)
 YRDSB Trustee: D Williams 61% (121) G Kerr 39% (77)
 Le conseil scolaire de district du centre-sud-ouest
 R Laurin 48% (29) D Poisson 52% (31)
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