

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

The third in a series of evening chats by Aurora historian Jacqueline Stuart happens this evening at the Aurora Cultural Centre, beginning at 7 p.m. Tonight "Our Aurora Heritage: Taking a Closer Look". There is complimentary admission and refreshments and no registration is required.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Embarrassed by your bare wrists? Get beading! Show off your sense of style with a unique beaded backpack pin and a fashionable suede bracelet made at the Aurora Public Library from 6.30 to 8 p.m. This program is for youngsters aged 9 to 14 and costs \$8 which includes all materials.

The PowerStream information session, How to Manage Your Small Business Electricity Costs with Time-of-Use Rates has been rescheduled to this evening at the Aurora Public Library, Magna Room, 15145 Yonge Street. The presentation will provide business owners information about Time-of-Use Electricity rates and will be followed by a question period. Registration is at 5.30 p.m. and the presentation will start at 6 p.m. Cost is complimentary, and refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

The Aurora Farmers' Market & Artisan Fair final day at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, happens today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Site is fully accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Cultural Centre is turning down the lights and turning up the fun for Earth Hour Unplugged. A evening of family-style entertainment, including local musicians Jamie Miller and David Rankine, and our signature "Punch in the Dark" mocktail! Free admission; accessible entrance at the north glass doors. It all happens tonight.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Community Arboretum will be held in the form of a Meet and Greet at 7.30 p.m. in the Aurora Town Hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

The Good Lovelies are in concert tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Church Street, beginning at 7.30 p.m. General admission is \$20. For further information, call Jane Taylor, program co-ordinator, at 905-713-1818.

"Get Low" is the movie at the Aurora Seniors' Centre tonight starring Robert Duvall, Bill Murray and Sissy Spacek. Movie starts at 6.30 p.m. and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members. Price includes the movie, refreshments and treats.

APRIL 2-3

Lions Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday and Sunday, inside at the Lions Hall, corner of Victoria and Mosley, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

The Aurora Historical Society will hold an Opening Reception for the exhibit "Arresting Images: Mugshots from the OPP Museum" including lectures by documentary photographers, Johan Hallberg-Campbell and Cheol Joon Baek from 5 to 8 p.m. tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The exhibit will continue until May 19th. The two lecturers will speak between 6 and 7 p.m. at the Reception only.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

It's time to join the Tuesday Philosophy Club and learn things like: What is the meaning of life? In a friendly, informal atmosphere, the Aurora Public Library will tackle this question. No prior experience in philosophy required-just an inquisitive mind. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

The Aurora Public Library hosts the discussion, Investing in Today's Economy, with Aurora resident Roger Strong. Find out how to treat your RRSP and your debt, and balancing safety, responsibility and return. Discussion begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room and it's free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

The Resourceful Mother's Secrets to Healthy Kids Aurora Public Library hosts a free seminar with local author and pediatric nutritionist Meredith Deasley at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information desk, 905-727-9493 option 4.

APRIL 9-10

Lions Pancake Meal will be held Saturday and Sunday, inside at the Lions Hall, corner of Victoria and Mosley, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

APRIL 15-16

The Aurora United Church Spring annual rummage sale starts Saturday at 1 p.m. and continues until 8 p.m. for the individual sale then resumes Sunday from 9 a.m. until noon for the bag sale. For further information call 905-727-1935.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

The annual Rotary Club of Aurora Frog Race takes place today in Tannery Creek. Money raised is going to Easter Seals Camp Merrywood in support of a Family in Aurora with three disabled children. Tickets will be available at the Home Show or through any Rotarian.

Seedy Sunday happens today at the Aurora Legion from noon to 4 p.m. Seedy Saturday and Sundays are the days when the new gardening season begins in earnest. You can have an opportunity to learn more about gardening, hone and share your gardening skills, and buy or exchange vegetable and flower seeds. Details at http://www.living-raw-foods.com. For further information call 416-277-5432.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Terry Kelly of Ontario Early Years returns to Aurora Public Library. to discuss what the latest research is saying about boys and literacy and how best to support your boy's learning. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room and it's free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Join local resident Phillip Hodgson for an interactive seminar to learn about today's popular youth drugs, the impact on the individual, the family and the community, warning signs, and where to go for help. Phillip is a psychotherapist and counsellor who works and lectures in the field of addiction. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Library.

Wesley United Church, located at the intersection of the Aurora Road and Woodbine Avenue, will hold its annual roast beef dinner this evening. There will be two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. It will cost adults \$15, while children between six and 12 will pay \$8. Children under six are free. but they must have a ticket. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

"I Love Rock & Roll" dinner dance takes place this evening at Dinardo's

Mansion on Industrial Parkway South beginning at 6 p.m. Dance to the music of Freddie Vette and The Flames and meet and have your picture taken with Elvis Presley, who is really Kevin Mills from Richmond Hill. Tickets sell for \$60 a person, which includes a three-course meal and are available at Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street. Proceeds go to the Aurora-Newmarket District of Community Living.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

At 7.30 p.m. the Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinze, invites you to join them for their Spring concert at the Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way, when they present "We'll Sing you a Song". Admission is \$10 for adults, while children, 14 and under, are free. Tickets are available in advance at the Seniors' Centre and they'll also be on sale at the door. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

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Glass Drive safety noted by residents

Councillors have brought forward the redesign project and eventual sidewalk reconstruction project for Glass Drive amid safety concerns from some local residents about pedestrian safety on the stretch near St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Residents once again came forward to make their positions known at a meeting of General Committee earlier this month to discuss the Operating and Capital Budgets.

"Concerns of Glass Drive have been brought to Council's attention many times over the years as these recent events are not new to our particular street," said resident Karen Smith, who appeared as a delegate to General Committee. "On Friday evening, March 4, a Mrs. Pearson received an e-mail from the Director of Infrastructure, which simply read, 'I just wanted to inform you that Council will be advancing the project design for 2011'.

"A subsequent e-mail clarified that that would be the entire road from Murray to Seaton. We requested delegation status two weeks ago with the purpose of presenting our request for sidewalks in person. Now we're here to say thank you to the new council for listening to the concerns of the community who have been working diligently together over the last several years to create a safe neighbourhood for all of us."

Safety problems have arisen on the street from various issues such as the width of the street, which Ms. Smith said gives "motorists the thought that a little quicker pace is acceptable", as well as the paved shoulders which act as a poor substitute for sidewalks.

"Unfortunately one of the temporary decisions that were made was to pave one side only," said Ms. Smith. "Paving gravel shoulders on that particular stretch of street, we have no curbs,

we have very steep ditches which flood, and in order for children to access the park, a public skating area, two schools, a soccer pitch... there is no safe passage along that road other than the paved pathway, as it is technically not a sidewalk.

"Unfortunately that paved area allows for no definition between the actual road to where children walk, other than a small crack where it doesn't join properly. It doesn't give any reference to a separation for motor vehicles as they come along that road in poor weather, bright sunshine, at night, there is nothing to define that area for walking."

In a memo prepared for councillors by Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure, Town Staff attended meetings to determine if there are requirements for improvement in the area.

"A long term resolution will be addressed through the Glass Drive consulting

assignment which will be initiated in the spring of 2011 pending council approval," he noted. "The School Board will be consulted during the detailed design phase to provide input and incorporate special considerations should the School Board choose to proceed with other onsite modifications to improve student drop off in front of the school. Actual capital works and cost sharing arrangements will be determined at that time."

"Staff will continue to work with St. Joseph Catholic School during the Glass Drive reconstruction period and have offered to make appearances at the School Council meetings should additional information be requested."

Although some councillors expressed concern on what this road reconstruction might mean to other road projects in Town, they did vote to receive Mr. Simanovskis' memo and go ahead.

"There is a large safety concern because of many factors and I don't know if the residents of Tyler Street are going to be unhappy with this, but I think we, as a council, need to make the

decision... with respect to the safety concern and the fact is only one park in the area and it is used winter and summer and two schools," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

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Turn off your lights Saturday, March 26

The Town of Aurora is issuing invitations to residents and businesses to participate in Earth Hour 2011.

It happens Saturday, March 26 from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Last year, during Earth Hour, the Town of Aurora as a whole reduced its electricity consumption by 13 per cent.

First up is "Earth Hour - Unplugged", a free family event hosted by the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday beginning at 7.30 p.m.

The Cultural Centre is "turning down the lights and "turning up the fun" for an evening of entertainment which, they say, will have "minimal carbon output".

Musician David Rankine will be on hand at the Church Street building to lead attendees in the "creation of sonic landscapes" to mark the annual event.

"Using voice and simple instruments, participants will create improvisational symphonies, honouring the powerful role of the individual in group creations," said Jane Taylor, Program Coordinator for the Aurora Cultural Centre, noting that no musical experience is necessary to partake in the program. "After that, favourite local indie artist Jamie Miller will bring his acoustic guitar and vocals to a magical set by candlelight.

"Participants will be able to complete Japanese paper crane crafts and play board games to round out the evening."

Earth Hour is a world-wide challenge initiated and supported by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an international

conservation organization.

The event started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change.

A year later on March 29, Earth Hour became a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating.

WWF Canada reported that more than 128 countries and territories (1.3 billion people) participated in Earth Hour 2010, making it the largest voluntary action ever witnessed.

Of that number, over 10 million participants were Canadians.

This year, the Town of Aurora is challenging residents and businesses to exceed the 13 per cent reduction by being increasingly power-wise.

How can residents participate?


1. Visit the Town of Aurora on Facebook at www.facebook.com/townofaurora
2. Click on the "Like" button and tell the town what you're doing for Earth Hour. If you do, the Town of Aurora will have a tree planted on your behalf by Trees Ontario, according to Michelle Dudzik, Communications Specialist for the Town of Aurora. You can also enter the contest by sending your tips to earth-hour@aurora.ca.
3. E-mail your number one tip for reducing energy consumption to earth-hour@aurora.ca by March 22 and you'll be entered into a draw for an Apple iPad pre-loaded with applications designed to help you reduce your carbon footprint. The top 10 tips will be published on the Town's Facebook page before Earth Hour.

For a free copy of the Town of Aurora's Earth Hour contest poster, send a request to earth-hour@aurora.ca.

For full contest rules and regulations, visit www.aurora.ca/environment.

"Earth hour extends far beyond this one-hour, once a year event," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe in a statement. "Powering down on March 26 is a symbol of your pledge to conserving energy and keeping our environment clean. The Town is asking you to make a more permanent pledge. Share how you make your world a cleaner place on our Facebook page to help us spread awareness and green our planet at the same time."

"This year, the Town challenges residents and businesses to exceed that percentage by being increasingly power-wise," said Ms. Dudzik.



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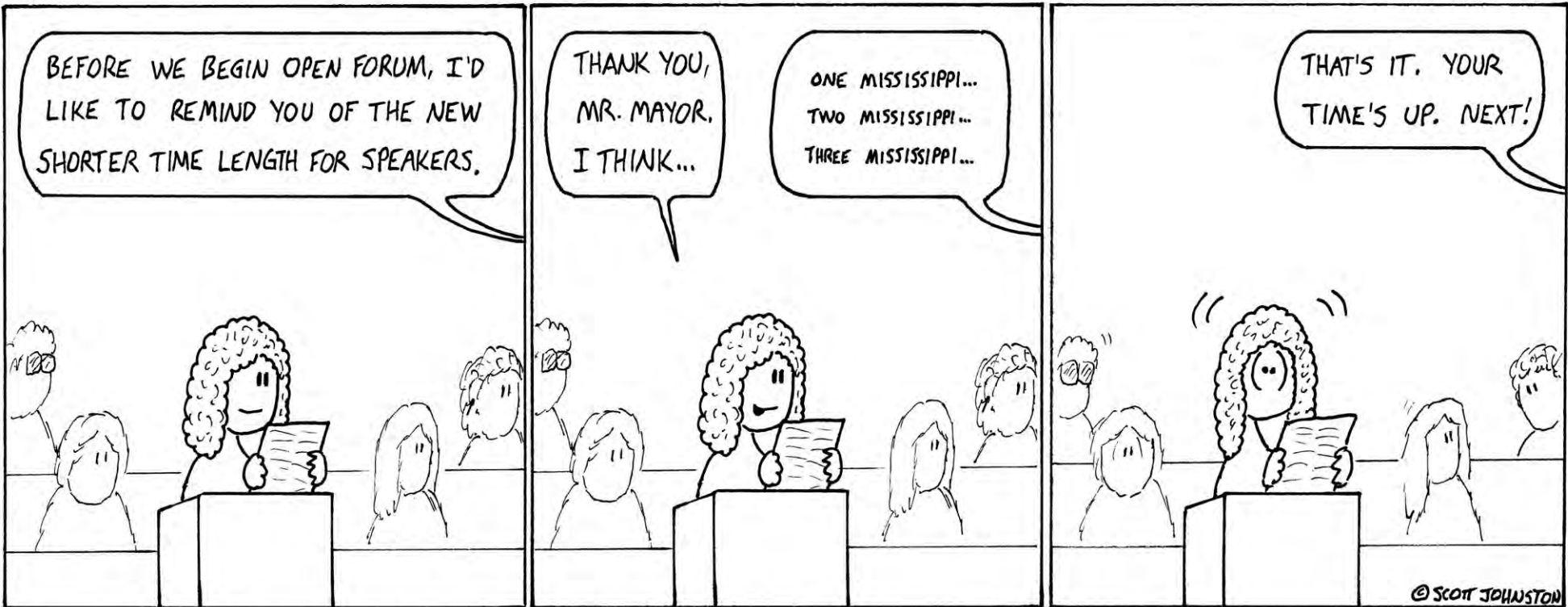




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Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, hydro customers get another shock!

As if the rate increases, Debt Retirement Charges, Smart Meter fees and HST aren't enough, here's the latest stranger-than-fiction hydro story.

Have you heard the one about the villain who was convicted of charging his customers interest rates that were in excess of the amount allowed under the criminal code?

And when the court ordered him to pay a huge fine, he had the gall to ask the court for permission to recover the amount of the fine by billing the same customers that he overcharged in the first place?

That could never happen in the real world, you say.

But that's precisely what happened in the world of our hydro utilities.

And one way or another, your electricity bill will be hit one more time with charges that have nothing to do with how much hydro you use.

Late Payment Penalty in Excess of 60% Interest Rate

Here's what happened: for years, municipally owned hydro-electric utilities and natural gas utilities have been charging a Late Payment Penalty to customers who missed the due date on their bills. Class action lawsuits were brought against the utilities claiming that these charges were so high that they actually violated the Criminal Code interest provision.

(In 1981, the Federal Parliament amended section 347

of the Criminal Code to make it a criminal offence to receive an interest payment at an effective rate of interest exceeding an annual amount of 60 per cent).

After extended court proceedings, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that in some circumstances, the Late Payment Penalty as charged by the utilities resulted in an effective rate of interest in excess of 60 per cent and thus contravened section 347 of the Criminal Code.

\$18 Million Plus Settlement

On April 21, 2010 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice approved a settlement with the utilities in the amount of \$18,382,125. (This included \$17 million in damages and balance for legal fees and taxes).

I won't go into the details here of how the rest of this story unfolded, but you can find a link to the Ontario Energy Board's Decision on my website, and see for yourself.

In short, having been found out, and directed to pay a fine of more than \$18 million, the utilities asked the Ontario Energy Board to let them recover the damages from their customers.

And guess what?

The very quasi-judicial board that should be looking out for the interests of consumers, ruled in favour of the utilities and told them to go at us once again!

Starting in June, our local hydro companies can now begin charging us what they consider to be our portion of their fines.

More Hydro madness

Stop the Madness!

Even the Minister of Energy sees the gross unfairness of this decision, and in a letter to all utilities asked them not to pass these costs on to their customers.

I can report that Newmarket Hydro has decided to respect that request and advised the Ontario Energy Board that it will not be recovering these costs directly from its customers.

In the end, of course, the customer always pays.

No decision yet for Aurora customers

According to a spokesperson for Powerstream, the utility that serves Aurora, no decision has yet been made as to whether Aurora customers will be billed for Powerstream's share of these costs.

In a letter to Powerstream's President and Board of Directors, I asked that as a matter of fairness, any costs related to this court decision should not be billed to its customers.

I encourage you to register the same request by calling Powerstream at 1-877-963-6900 or by emailing the President at brian.bentz@powerstream.ca.

Hopefully common sense will prevail, and we will be spared yet one more reach into our pockets.

As always, I welcome your comments and advice on this and any other issue of concern to you. Please feel free to call me at 905-750-0019 or through my website at www.frankklees.com.



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Most of the time, Aurora is a beautiful town. But this isn't really one of those times.

You know what it's like to get out of bed early in the morning after a late night, or restless sleep, or perhaps an extra "beverage" or three the previous night?

You stumble into the bathroom, grope for the light switch, peer blearily into the mirror, and ... well ... it's not a pretty sight.

That's kind of how Aurora is right now.

For months, our town has looked terrific under its white blanket of snow.

It was peaceful. It was beautiful. It was clean.

But with the warmer weather, and the days getting longer, our town is shaking off the darkest season of the year, and waking from its winter slumber.

And just like some of us first thing in the morning, it's not looking its best.

That's because with the unblemished blanket of snow now gone, it's revealed all of Aurora's blemishes.

Coffee cups, cigarette butts, newspapers, fast food wrappers, old municipal election signs, plastic bags...a whole season's worth of discarded debris is lodged in every conceivable nook and cranny of town.

And, thanks to a generous supply of melt-water and rain,

it's all a soggy, disgusting, and sometimes unrecognizable, mess.

Ick!

But garbage isn't all that's unsightly in town these days.

For example, there's the grass and open fields.

Normally these are some of Aurora's most beautiful features.

But before April showers bring May flowers, March showers bring mud, lots of mud.

It clings tenaciously to your boots, gets tracked everywhere, and generally adds a lot of brown to the landscape.

And if you are brave enough to venture out onto the grass, you may discover that some of your neighbours are not as diligent at stooping and scooping for their pets as you assumed.

Again; ick.

Even the paved parts of town are not ready for their figurative close-up this time of year.

That's because roads, sidewalks and parking lots all over Aurora are no longer covered in ice and snow, but in an inch of salt and a Sahara's worth of sand.

Now, I'm all for the Public Works department keeping us safe all winter by spreading this on our roads.

But that doesn't stop it from being a dirty, gritty nuisance

after it's no longer needed.

So for a short while at least, our town will be displaying a pretty drab colour palette.

Well, except for the odd discarded French fry container or pop can.

But fortunately, this phase doesn't last long.

As spring progresses and the town dries up, the fields and parks will become green again, and solid underfoot.

Folks will rake up their lawns, and tulips and daffodils will erupt from gardens and planter boxes.

As for the litter, the annual mayor's clean-up day will see great numbers of enthusiastic and indispensable volunteers out picking up trash throughout town.

Out on the streets, the Works department will sweep up all the sand, salt and gravel, after which any dusty remnants will be washed away into the sewers by the next gentle rain.

And soon, just like many of us first thing in the morning, after a shower and that all important first cup of coffee, Aurora will be refreshed, and ready to face the world.

We'll just have to bear with it a couple more weeks until it's fully awake.

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

Letters to the Editor

He's seeking volunteers to monitor boxes

To the editor,

The Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee's Naturalization and Wildlife Group has constructed more than 300 nest boxes from donated material, with the help of volunteers.

These have been placed in the Town's parks and open spaces.

During the nesting season, volunteers monitor these boxes throughout egg laying, hatching and the fledgling period.

They record the results including the number of unhatched eggs and nestling deaths on an easy to use standardized form.

All this information is sent on-line to the Royal Ontario Museum's Nest Record

Scheme, where this database is used for conservation and research purposes.

Last year the town of Aurora was the third largest donor in Ontario with 427 nest records.

This has been and continues to be one of our most important conservation activities in the town. Recently several of our regular volunteers

have moved out of town and we now have an urgent need to recruit new people to monitor nest-boxes if we are to continue covering all our nest boxes during this and subsequent nesting seasons.

This commitment is not strenuous and consist of visiting a cluster of 10 to 20 boxes every 2 to 3 weeks between early May and mid-August, to

record nesting activities.

This normally takes between one and two hours each visit.

Skilled birders will have no difficulty in identifying birds or nest contents but we would also like to recruit volunteers who have no bird identification skills but who would like to learn how to develop or improve them by teaming up with one of our more experienced nest monitors until you consider yourself able to visit boxes and record the contents on your own.

We have a group of boxes

located in the northwestern portion of the town around Cliff Trail to Treegrove Circle, along the Willow Farm Trail to Orchard Heights; in the centre of town in Sheppards Bush; in the Arboretum; McKenzie Marsh and the Wildlife Park and in the northeast portion of town around State Farm Way.

If you have time and live close by any of these locations and would like to learn or help with monitoring our nest boxes, please call 905-727-8979.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

Reader requires our help to aid earthquake victims

To the editor,

My name is Tanya Gardecky and I am a former member of the JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) program.

I lived in the port city of Shioagama, which is a 15-minute train ride from Sendai City, in Miyagi precture from August, 2009, until September, 2010.

As you most likely know, Miyagi prefecture, along with Iwate prefecture and Fukushima prefecture, were recently devastated by a 9.0 earthquake, followed by a massive tsunami on March 11.

They've had more than 200 (some quite severe) aftershocks and, to make matters worse, they are now dealing with radiation leaks at the Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant.

Those whose houses are destroyed are living in evacuation centres, like

school gymnasiums, which are far from being warm, even with hundreds of people in them.

Many of my friends there (both foreigners and Japanese) are struggling day to day, due to limited access to water, food, and power.

The lack of heat and the freezing temperatures just adds to their struggle.

The emotional pain and suffering from having lost friends and relatives, some swept away before their very eyes, is simply beyond belief.

On my days off, I had travelled to a lot of the the towns they are showing on the news, have met many of the people who live all along the East coast.

The fact that I cannot go over and help is heart-breaking and so, I have started this fundraiser, as it is the only thing I can do to help.

I have been in contact

with some of my fellow JET members who have survived the earthquake and they have set up a fund called "Save Miyagi".

Half the proceeds of my fundraiser will go to them, so they can go out and buy all the necessities (such as food, water and blankets etc) and help people in their immediate area and the other half shall go to the Red Cross, so that medical and other needs can be given.

One hundred per cent of the donations are going to Japan.

My pledge is to visit at least 1,000 houses in Aurora, to collect donations.

Even if you have already donated money, I would ask you to spare some loose change for this fundraiser.

As a town we can set an example for all the other communities!

Rain, shine, or snow, I

will be collecting because the people in Japan don't have the comfort to drive or to be warm or to stay out of bad weather.

They need our help and they need it now!

When I returned from Japan, the mayor of Shioagama sent a note to our mayor in Aurora, saying that at any time the people of Aurora would be welcome in Shioagama with open arms.

We need to show we care.

Feel free to contact me with questions or if you want to donate at JTAP2011@gmail.com.

Tanya Gardecky
Aurora

Reader says thanks to our community

To the editor,

We've all witnessed the seemingly endless disasters in Japan.

As a Japanese-Canadian I want to thank everyone in the community who has been so kind and generous.

So many friends, even strangers who guess I might be Japanese have stopped to express concern and sadness, and Canadians everywhere are generously contributing to the relief effort.

It makes me realize there are so many warm hearted people in the world who care for others.

There have been stories in the news that some charities have received more donations than they can immediately use.

Yet the need will go on for many months, even years.

Many, many people have lost their homes, and many children have lost their parents.

Japanese-Canadians in Aurora and Newmarket are folding 1,000 origami cranes, which are a symbol of hope, courage and determination.

We hope to give these out for \$1 donations, as soon as we find a place where we can set up!

You can also donate directly to the Red Cross, simply by texting the word ASIA to 30333 from your cellphone to make a one-

time donation of \$5 (added to your phone bill.)

And there are many companies, including Scotia Bank and ING, running matching fundraising campaigns.

On behalf of all Japanese-Canadians in this community, thank you so much, Aurorans, for your kindness.

Tomoyo O'Hara
Aurora

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How to manage your small business electricity costs with Time-of-Use prices

A free information session on Thursday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.

This workshop will examine Time-of-Use (TOU) prices for electricity and what they mean for your business. A representative from PowerStream will present practical strategies for reducing and shifting electricity use that can improve energy efficiency.

This session will outline new Conservation and Demand Management programs for 2011 that provide incentives for making your business more energy efficient. It will also demonstrate *Time-of-Use Rates at Work*, an online interactive tool for businesses that can let you try out various conservation scenarios and see how much they can save you on energy costs.

When: Thursday, March 24th, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (registration begins at 5:30 p.m.)

Where: Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, Aurora

This event is for PowerStream business customers only and open to all Aurora and Richmond Hill businesses. Pre-registration is required.

Pre-registration (Aurora businesses):
Call Caroline Rusnell at (905) 727-7262.

Pre-registration (Richmond Hill businesses):
Call Lucy Chen at (905) 884-1961, ext. 25.

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Liberals pick Peterson to run

Newmarket lawyer Kyle Peterson was acclaimed the Federal Liberal candidate for Newmarket-Aurora in a meeting Saturday, which means he will carry the Liberal banner in the next Federal election, an election that could be called as early as this week.

Mr. Peterson was acclaimed at the Saturday afternoon meeting held at the Newmarket Seniors Meeting Place after receiving a formal nomination during the proceedings from the previous Federal Liberal candidate, and former Aurora mayor, Tim Jones.

"He will stand up and speak out for the riding and find ways within the party to make it work," Mr. Jones told a packed room of party faithful. "He is someone who will speak up on behalf of the riding and I think that bodes well for us. It is something we haven't had for the last few years."

With the nomination itself out of the way, and after a formal introduction from Federal cabinet minister and current Markham-Unionville MP John McCallum, Mr. Peterson said he was "honoured and humbled" to stand before the crowd as the next Liberal candidate.

"Since the end of January our riding's membership has doubled, and today I am pleased to be acclaimed as your candidate as a result of this," said Mr. Peterson. "This is due to the hard work and commitment of all of you and I want to thank you for that hard work, that support, and for that belief in our campaign and what we are trying to do here in Newmarket and Aurora."

Thanking his wife Andrea for her support, Mr. Peterson told audience members that the hard work is "only just beginning" and made the pledge to work hard during the upcoming election campaign and, if successful, "as I know we will be, I plan to work even harder for you to ensure that your voice is heard and your concerns are addressed in Ottawa."

After moving to Queensville at the age of 10 and attending Newmarket's Huron Heights Secondary School, Mr. Peterson said after he left to attend university and law school he had no

doubt he wanted to come back to the area and plant roots in a sense of shared values.

"The best value, in my opinion, is this sense of community and the notion that we are all in this together," he said. "Our community has so many people who volunteer, who dedicate their time and money to so many great causes. We know that every now and then our friends need a hand-up. That is nothing to be ashamed of and is, in fact, something to be quite proud of and that is why I am proud to call the Liberal party home."

Mr. Peterson said the reason why he wants to be Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora is because he believes the riding needs someone "who puts the community ahead of politics".

The public need to "demand integrity" from their public officials and Mr. Peterson said he will run a "positive campaign" in the riding.

"That will not prevent us from pointing out the differences between me and my opponents," he said. "I will make sure that the voters know that I happen to believe we should be able to trust our government, whether or not we agree with their policies."

"I will make sure the voters know that I happen to believe we should be able to trust our government, whether or not we agree with their policies. I believe governments should spend our money wisely and let me be frank - I don't believe we can trust this government and I don't believe we can afford this government for any longer."

For Mr. Peterson, primary issues coming up are education, the economy, and the environment, and the Liberal party has a "good track record" on these issues, he said.

The Government also needs to tackle the deficit as ignoring it does nothing to stimulate job creation, he added.

"If you believe in having a pension when you retire, if you believe in having health care when you need it, if you believe in being able to afford university education for your children, if you believe in people showing respect for your tax dollars and if



Newly-minted Federal Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson is joined by supporters and party faithful at Saturday's nomination meeting in Newmarket. Left to right are Newmarket Councillor Chris Emanuel, Peterborough Councillor Bob Hall, Aurora Councillor Paul Pirri, Mr. Peterson, Markham-Unionville MP John McCallum, former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, and former Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

you believe in open government, and most importantly, if you believe in an MP whose primary concern will be serving his community then I urge you to vote for me," he said.

Several confidence motions are expected to come up in the House of Commons this week. Pundits speculate an election could be called as early as Sunday with an election date for early May.

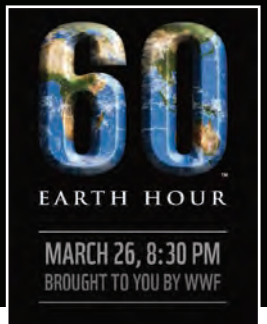
Expected candidates in the upcoming election include Progressive Conservative incumbent MP Lois Brown and Vanessa Long for the Green Party.

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- 2 Click on the 'Like' button and tell us what you're doing for Earth Hour. If you do, the Town of Aurora will have a tree planted on your behalf by Trees Ontario.
- 3 Email your number one tip for reducing energy consumption to earthhour@aurora.ca by **March 24** and you'll be entered into a draw for an Apple iPad pre-loaded with apps designed to help you reduce your carbon footprint. The top 10 tips will be published on our Facebook page before Earth Hour.

To find out more about Aurora's five-year Corporate Environmental Action Plan, please visit www.aurora.ca/environment. You'll see we're working hard to reduce our carbon footprint.

Don't forget!

Power down from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on **Saturday, March 26**. Together, we can keep the environment and our town clean and green for years to come.



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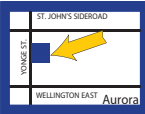


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HOUSE LEAGUE

410 HS Financial Orange 3 - Kyle Kasak 2G, Colby Harrison 1G, Cameron Lang 1A. **401 Chouinard Bros. Red 8** - Nicholas Vamvakaris 4G 2A, Colin Windle 1G, Dalton Slind 1G 1A, Austin Martin 1G, Raffaele Parente 1G 1A, Garrett Kohler 1A, Ben Pitre 1A.

607 Envirocar Kelly Green 0.

609 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 2 - Nicklaus Reid 1G, Evan Lambert 1A, Mackenzie Snelgrove 1G, Trystan Lebrun-Nagle, shutout.

607 Envirocar Kelly Green 8 - John Powell 1G, Ian Rucker 1G 2A, Alex Sesto 3G, Jake Polenz 3G, Jacob Cann 3A, Max Jones 1A, Jacob Fenchak 1A, Andrew Negri, shutout. **611 Gmarkets Inc. - Purple 0.**

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 4. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 4.**

1004 Global Caffè Blue 4. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 1.**

1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 7. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 6.**

1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 4. **1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 0.**

1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 3. **1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 2.**

1004 Global Caffè Blue 4. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 5.**

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 1. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 5.**

1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 4. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 3.**

1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 4. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 2.**

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 6. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 12.**

1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 3. **1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 7.**

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 3. **1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 6.**

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 6. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 5.**

1005 Aurora Home Hardware

Black 7. **1004 Global Caffè Blue 5.**

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 9. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 1.**

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 5. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 2.**

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 4. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 3.**

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 3. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 3.**

1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 6. **1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 3.**

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 5. **1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 2.**

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 5. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 10.**

1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 7. **1004 Global Caffè Blue 5.**

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 3. **1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 3.**

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 5. **1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 2.**

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 3. **1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 7.**

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 1. **1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 1.**

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 14. **1004 Global Caffè Blue 1.**

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 4. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 2.**

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1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 4. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 1.**

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 3. **1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 3.**

1004 Global Caffè Blue 5. **1002**

CW Coop's Aurora Gold 2.

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 5. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 2.**

REP LEAGUE

Novice A - Barrie 5. **Aurora 1** - Jace Jackson 1G, Jonathan Gagnon 1A.

M Atom AA - Newmarket 2. **Aurora 1** - Andrew Park 1G.

Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Justin Evans 3G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Braden Reid 1G, Lucas Surace 2A, Finn Reeves 1A, Braeden Joynt 1A, Max Lombard 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A. **Newmarket 2.**

M Pee wee A - Barrie 3. **Aurora 2** - Eric McGhie 1G, Eric Pears 1G, Stewart Gable 1A, Reid Carpenter 1A.

M Pee wee A - Barrie 3. **Aurora 2** - Stewart Gable 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Jordan Torres 1A, Eric McGhie 1A.

Pee wee A - Aurora 3 - Mathew Tyndall 2G, Matthew Liscio 1G, Cameron Zinner 1A, Alistair Johnston 1A. **Bradford 3.**

M Bantam A - Aurora 2. **Newmarket 2.**

M Bantam A - Newmarket 3. **Aurora 0.**

M Bantam A - Newmarket 2. **Aurora 1.**

M Bantam AE - Aurora 5. **New Tecumseth 3.**

M Bantam AE - Newmarket 3. **Aurora 1.**

Bantam A - Barrie 4. **Aurora 2** - Erik Balkovec 1G, Liam Beresford 1G, Graham Robinson 1A.

Bantam A - Aurora 2 - Shadø Storm 1G, Graham Robinson 1G, Paul Neophytou 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Austin Persaud 1A. **Barrie 2.**

Bantam A - Barrie 2. **Aurora 1** - Shadø Storm 1G.

Bantam AE - Aurora 4. **Caledon 4.**

Bantam AE - Caledon 1. **Aurora 0.**

Minor Midget A - Welland 3. **Aurora 1.**



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2011/2012 REGISTRATION

On-Line Registration begins:
April 1, 2011

In-House Registration dates:
April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18, 25
AMHA Office at ACC1
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Please refer to our website www.auroraminorhockey.net for further information.

REGISTRATION fees for the 2011/2012 season are:

\$500.00	Players born 1997 through 2005*
\$535.00	Players born 1991 through 1996
\$ 50.00	Late fee effective June 1 – 30, 2011
\$100.00	Late fee effective July 1, 2011
\$ 50.00	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*Tyke players born in 2004 and 2005 must submit a copy of a birth certificate. It is recommended that 2005 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

Fees may be paid in 3 instalments of 1/3 each, dated April 15, 2011, June 15, 2011 and August 15, 2011.

Full refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2011.

Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any try-outs for AAA or any AMHA rep team. AMHA tryouts begin April 30, 2011.

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Regular Season Lowest Goals Against:
JOHN HARDING (Masterclean)

CCLA lawyer attends Morris suit against 3

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) was on hand last Tuesday as interveners in Phyllis Morris' suit against three local bidders.

Arguing on behalf of the CCLA, which was granted intervenor status in the case earlier this year, Alex Smith said this was a unique case where they were unaware of elected officials seeking an order for "production of identity information for an anonymous speaker" commenting about someone in office.

"That is a novel issue from our perspective," he said.

Quoting from a previous decision, Mr. Smith argued that an individual's reputation, such as the reputation of Ms. Morris, is not to be treated as "regrettable but unavoidable road kill" in defamation discourse, "but nor should overly solicitous regard for personal reputa-

tion be permitted to chill free-wheeling debate on matters of public interest."

Ordering identities could indeed have a "chilling effect on political expression," he argued and that the modes of communication to engage in political debate are changing.

"It is a difficult job balancing and we realize that, but it is a real concern if people feel that by engaging in a political discussion anonymously on blogs that they will be holding themselves up for litigation from elected officials," said Mr. Smith. "They may or may not have funding and they may or may not be perceived to be in a position of greater power."

"Obviously elected public officials have a right to a reputation and the right to defend it, but there is a certain amount of higher exposure and we say that merits some consideration."



On Thursday, May 5th at 6.30 p.m., Sharon Grech, Guest Expert on Design featured on CityLine since 1997 and Benjamin Moore creator of the Designer Classics Colour Collection, will open the 2nd Annual Fine Photographic Art Sale, Rooms With A View. Sharon will provide design tips on how to use colour to enhance and complement photographic art in the home or office. Eight photographers will exhibit their fine art photography in the Brevik Room of the Aurora Cultural Centre from Thursday, May 5th to Saturday, May 7th. Photographic themes throughout the exhibit include world travel and nature, with background stories of the photographers' creative inspirations for their photographs. This is an opportunity to pick up fine art photography for Mother's Day. All exhibited pieces are for sale, and there will also be fine art photo cards in time for Mother's Day. Five per cent of all photography sales will be given to charity partner, the Literacy Council of York-Simcoe. In the photo from left to right are Anthony Kerstens, Sandra Scarpelli, Trisha Patrick from the Literacy Council of York-Simcoe, Heather Anne Lambert, Karen Merk, Ellen Cameron and Rob Schuetze.

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Aurora conductor to perform in Newmarket

Aurora's Tony Browning will be a busy man Sunday, March 27 when he conducts two of his local musical groups in a concert in Newmarket.

York Chamber Ensemble joins forces with Tapestry Chamber Choir in a concert exploring masterpieces of the Baroque period.

Twelve musicians from York Chamber Ensemble

will accompany the choir in three major works including Vivaldi's Gloria and Monteverdi's Beatus Vir.

The baroque period in music is considered to occur between 1600 and 1750 and both these composers are major contributors to the genre.

The choir will also perform other baroque pieces on its own.

The concert takes

place March 27 at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newmarket. Tickets cost \$20 and \$15 for seniors.

Tapestry Chamber Choir has been performing in Newmarket since 1988 and the York Chamber Ensemble performs regularly in Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

"We hope that followers of the York Chamber

Ensemble will come and enjoy the additional richness of hearing them with Tapestry. It is like two concerts for the price of one," Mr. Browning said.

For tickets or further information call 905-836-8589 or go to <http://www.tapestrychoir.ca>.

Aurora student raises funding to supply shoes

Aurora's Mitchell Mittelstaedt is a Neighbourhood Network student volunteer.

Not only did he volunteer for a double shift at the recent Neighbourhood Network Food Bank drive, he has undertaken to raise funds to supply shoes to Vezina High School on the Attawapiskat Reserve in northern Ontario.

With support from Aurora High School and

Under Armour Performance, more than \$2,000 has been raised so far.

Shoes are being purchased at wholesale cost from Under Armour, who will then ship them to Attawapiskat.

The total cost is \$3,119.93, and currently they are short by approximately \$720.

If you would like to help with this worthwhile cause, drop your donation off at

Neighbourhood Network, 14988 Yonge Street, Aurora, or c/o Mitchell Mittelstaedt at Aurora High School.

Cheques should be payable to Aurora High School.

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Go to: www.theauroran.com home page.Click on the **big video screen** toward the left side of the page. The video will begin.

If you click again it will take you to TheAuroran.com television station 'TV', here you will see the video screen with thumbnails below – select the episode you would like to watch.

If you have any questions or suggestions please forward them to alison@theauroran.com

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Website negative to Morris: Clark

From page 1
tected in certain circumstances, but political speech is "double edged," he argued.
The Aurora Citizen website was set up "almost with the intent purpose" of discussing

Aurora politics that would be "negative" to Ms. Morris, said Mr. Clark, who went on to say that there was a big difference between political speech critical to Ms. Morris in terms of the performance on the job

and defamatory speech which hurts "a personal reputation."
"[Politicians] must be given the opportunity to defend themselves and their reputations," he said.
Mr. Clark went on to cite

several highlighted articles and comments from the Aurora Citizen which he alleged were defamatory, including comments that called Ms. Morris "stupid", a "bully", "a coward with nary a good thing to recommend her", and that councillors had "allowed themselves to become the equivalent of trained seals performing and barking" under her.

"That is pretty defamatory and it is not just about a government decision, but a personal attack," said Mr. Clark.

"Better examples" of "defamatory" comments came in the form of comments made by an anonymous commenter going by the name "A Fistfull of Dollars", which called Ms. Morris a "lying hypocrite", accusing her of malfeasance and hiring "corrupt lawyers".

"It doesn't come much more defamatory than that," said Mr. Clark, noting that defamation cases had been won with words "far less defamatory".

"[On the Internet] people feel that their identity is protected somehow and they can say or do whatever they want. Unfortunately that is not the case," he said. "You can't get away with being anonymous on the Internet just because it is easy to do. You have to stand up and stand by what you said, especially if it is hurting someone's reputation."

Threats, he went on to argue, were also contained on the blog, specifically in relation to a post criticizing Ms. Morris for wearing her chain of office to a meeting of all mayoral

candidates at a local school.
In commentary beneath the post, Mr. Clark cited a comment made by "A Few Dollars More" said Ms. Morris should be "hanged" from the mayoral chain.

"That is a violent threat; whether or not they meant it we can't be sure," said Mr. Clark. "There are a lot of crazies on the Internet. That isn't the only threat that Mayor Morris received as a result of these defamatory postings," he continued, although he did not specify additional threats and noted the police have "refused to do a search warrant" to obtain their identities.

In response to the comments about the mayoral chains, Mr. Clark argued that Mr. Johnson had replied that the comments in question were "a bit extreme but I fully appreciate your frustration".

This, he said, was unclear on whether Mr. Johnson agreed or disagreed with his statement and although Mr. Clark said he didn't think Mr. Johnson agreed with everything "he is at least giving partial agreement and supporting it so that is one of the reasons why Mr. Johnson was named in the claim as encouraging or supporting defamation which is also jointly and severally liable for defamation."

Mr. Hogg, he said, has the "means" to identify the powers-that-be on the site and they believe he is the "owner and directive mind behind the site".

While Mr. Clark said he did not have evidence before the

court to say that conclusively, he pointed to passages in the cross-examination of former Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper, where he said posts had been removed after complaints from Mr. Cooper to Mr. Hogg.

"He's really the lynchpin in all of this," said Mr. Clark.

Ms. Bishenden, on the other hand, knows who "Aurora Citizen" is because "someone had to make her a moderator", Mr. Clark went onto allege, although he conceded that she may not have the ability to identify IP addresses.

Mr. Johnson, too, he said, had an ability to communicate with "Aurora Citizen", whether it was nothing more than an e-mail address.

"He is very closely associated with the website," said Mr. Clark. "He is a frequent poster there and has posted under his own name. It is unlikely that he is one of the anonymous posters but he may be Aurora Citizen. Aurora Citizen could be many people...it could just be an e-mail address [and they can log in with a password]."

"The reason why [the identities] should be disclosed is because otherwise the plaintiff has no ability to pursue her claim. These anonymous commentors don't have much of a privacy interest. They're not engaging in political discussions of merit and they're not being fair about what they are saying. They are just attacks."

Justice Brown had yet to hand down her decision at press time.

No information from Morris, defence argues

From page 1
anyone launching a defamation action, he said, and doesn't address the fact that former Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper's affidavit, which the plaintiff alleges contains all the information the defence needs to know, is also a public document, accessible to anyone who wants to pay the court fee to obtain it.

Ms. Morris did not produce an affidavit herself describing what harm she could attribute to the allegedly defamatory words and instead relied on the affidavit of Mr. Cooper who brought up the issue of solicitor-client privilege when cross-examined, said Mr. Sinclair.

The question is whether Ms. Morris and her team have taken the appropriate steps to find out the information themselves, he said.

"There is no evidence before you that the plaintiff has done anything to try and get this information other than, I suppose, the e-mail to Automatic Inc.0 [The website's host]," said Mr. Sinclair. "They have not written to AuroraCitizen.ca, they have not written to any of the defendants prior to commencing this lawsuit, there is no evidence of any actions or investigation that the plaintiff [has done anything on her behalf] to get the information on the identity of these individuals."

"You can't simply march off to court having made no effort whatsoever to ask the court to grant them this relief when they have taken no steps themselves."

The court needs to weigh whether the public interests in favour of disclosure outweigh the legitimate interests of freedom of expression and right to privacy, he added.

The comments in question

were engaging in commentary on a sitting mayor, although Mr. Clark admitted that some of the comments in Mr. Cooper's affidavit are "a particularly low form of comment".

The court should have regard for privacy of anonymous Internet users.

"It is clear that the right to remain anonymous is important and in the case before you, the individuals have chosen to remain anonymous," said Mr. Sinclair. "That right is not absolute [but] it is significant when engaging in commentary of this nature."

In addressing the alleged threats that came from the site comments, Mr. Sinclair dismissed these as a matter for the police rather than a relevant point in this matter before the courts.

He also rejected Mr. Clark's claim that one had to know the identity of "Aurora Citizen" in order to become a moderator on the site.

"There is zero evidence [of that] before you," said Mr. Sinclair to Justice Carole Clark. "For all we know I could become a moderator tomorrow if I sent an e-mail to wherever the e-mail is posted on the website and say, 'I'm a lawyer, this is what I do, I'd be a good moderator.' I don't necessarily get an e-mail back saying, 'I'm Aurora Citizen, my name is Bill Smith' or whatever the case may be."

In regard to Ms. Bishenden, Mr. Sinclair argued that there is no evidence linking to her on the website. He also said they have no reason to believe Mr. Hogg is the owner of the website and that it was revealed in the cross-examination of Mr. Cooper that Mr. Hogg did not tell him he was the owner of the website.

In his defence of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Clark said he was not alleged to have defamed Ms. Morris, and he also addressed the changing nature of the claim against him and the suggestion that he did not discourage posts, particularly the one instance suggesting Ms. Morris be "hanged" from the chains of office.

"I would suggest that it is pretty clear on the face of what he has written there that he is not only discouraging [but] expressing his dissatisfaction with what was just stated," said Mr. Clark of Mr. Johnson's post saying the "hanged" comment was "extreme".

Ms. Morris' suit puts serious issues at stake, Mr. Sinclair concluded, including that the lawsuit is automatically started off on an uneven keel as Ms. Morris was an elected official when it was brought.

"It is made all the more unequal, we think, by the plaintiff's refusal to plead the defamatory words actually in her claim," he said. "I would say that on the whole the case is not worthy of this court's deference in consideration of what is sought today."

"It was launched in the middle of an election campaign, clearly with a view to stifling criticism. If Ms. Morris is determined to proceed in this matter I would suggest to you that there is no urgency. She is no longer the mayor. My friend would suggest that there is a continued urgency to it, but the plaintiff's alleged threat about the mayoral chains would suggest to you that this is a matter for the police if taken seriously at all."

A decision from Tuesday's hearing was still outstanding at press time.

Five road improvements okayed

From page 1
June 20.
"It is beneficial to proceed with these projects in advance of the approval of the 2011 Capital Budget for reasons provided in the body of the

report," Mr. Simanovskis said. "Deferring approval of these projects until budget approval will result in delays in tendering that may impact project costs and timely project completion during the construction

season."
Council signalled its approval of the projects at a recent meeting after it appeared on the general committee agenda at the first of the month.

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This week we will try to fill Brian's shoes by writing this column for him.

Brian is undergoing hip surgery and we wish him speedy recovery.

We are sure he will be back writing this column as soon as his doctor says so.

Brian, as a member of ASA, has been writing this weekly column on Senior Scape for the last five years and has never missed a week, updating us all on programs, activities and special events taking place at the Centre and quite honestly I look forward to read what he has to say about the Seniors' Centre each week.

In addition, Brian also volunteers his time as secretary to the computer club executive, where he records the minutes and circulates them to all computer club

York Symphony returns to Aurora

The York Regional Symphony Orchestra is coming back to Aurora.

On Saturday, April 9, the orchestra will welcome back violinist Joanna Tang.

Joanna, who completed her Royal Conservatory of Music Performer's ARCT Diploma at age 12, winning the Gold Medal for the highest mark in Canada, was an audience favourite in both 2006 and 2007 YSO seasons.

She has also played with the Toronto Symphony, and the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival's Orchestral Academy in Germany, among others.

Somehow, while playing concerts around the world, Joanna has also managed to complete her degree in medicine at the University of Toronto, and is now in her final year as a medical resident at the University of Western Ontario.

At the Aurora concert, which will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, Joanna will be playing The Violin Concerto of Jean

Sibelius.

The orchestra will be led by another guest: conductor Charles Demuynck.

Currently, he is the Artistic Director of the Masterworks of Oakville Chorus and Orchestra, has guest conducted extensively in Europe and the U.S. and with many Canadian orchestras.

His experience also includes postings in several U.S. and Canadian cities.

Charles holds a doctorate in conducting from the Hartt School in Hartford, Connecticut.

He also holds conducting degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore and the University of Toronto.

Concerts are slated for Saturday, April 9th at 8 p.m. at Trinity in Aurora, and Sunday, April 10th at 7.30 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

Tickets for the Aurora show may be purchased by calling 416-410-0860.

Tickets will also be available at the door of both venues.



CHARLES DEMUYNCK



JOANNA TANG

Guest columnist

By CHARLES SEQUEIRA

members.

He is also a member of the Operation & Activities committee.

Brian is an avid chess player and is largely responsible for introducing chess at the Seniors' Centre Every Tuesday evening you will see him playing this game with a group of seniors.

Brian also teaches the game to students at a school in Richmond Hill.

We are very fortunate to have him as a member of our Association, for the various roles he volunteers and is willing to help when required.

Join us for a Pancake Breakfast provided in partnership with the Aurora Seniors' Association and the Optimist Club of Aurora at the Aurora Seniors' Centre Saturday, April 23rd from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (a nominal fee will apply).

If you are looking for a new activity or a new interest, try square dancing every Monday, from 11.15 a.m. at the Seniors' Centre in the West-McKenzie hall.

For the first two sessions we had a good response from our members.

With Dave Griffith our "Caller" and convener, you are going to enjoy this activity.

Congratulations to two of our members who were recognized by the Ontario Heritage Trust for their ongoing efforts towards keeping our Town's past alive. David Tomlinson received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario heritage award for lifetime achievement for his continuing commitment to our Town's natural heritage. Ron Wallace was honoured with the trust's award in the cultural heritage category for his years of supporting heritage preservation and for promotion of our Town's history through his publication, The Auroran.

We thank those members for renewing their 2011 memberships at the end of February. We had close to 988 active members and that includes 179 new members.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with the membership renewals and posting same into the membership database.

We encourage those members who have not yet renewed to please renew as soon as possible, if you wish to continue to receive our e-flash messages.

The Nomination process for the 2011 ASA Board of Directors began Monday, March 14, and will close Thursday, April 21.

Nomination forms are available at reception. Please obtain a copy, complete the form fully and return it to Reception. Taking part in the nomination process allows you to help determine your Board of Directors.

Lydia Schuster was appointed Chairperson of the 2011 Nominations Committee.

For further details please take a copy of the March monthly newsletter at reception desk.

All nominators and nominees must be active ASA members.

Please note our new address is now 90 John West Way, postal code remains the same.

The Aurora's Borealis has been a huge success, and it would not have happened without the generous support from the Aurora Seniors' Association.

We attended the council meeting Tuesday, February 22nd to be formally recognized for our contribution to this new initiative. The award will be on display at the Seniors' Centre.

The ASA Board Directors will meet Monday, April

18th, at 1 p.m. at the Centre.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe has accepted our invitation to meet and greet our directors, have an exchange of ideas and a general dialogue that will continue to enhance the ongoing relationship between the Town and ASA.

The Town of Aurora, Parks and Recreation Dept, has made a proposal to our Board at the last meeting, regarding the use of the indoor track at the Town Leisure Complex.

The proposal consists of three options that would apply to the use of the indoor track by members of Aurora Seniors' Centre who use the track.

The ASA Board of Directors would like to meet with all users of the track, to discuss the three options and make a recommendation.

Leave your name and phone number at the reception desk.

We would like to arrange a meeting date and time that will be suitable to most of you.

We would like to set a meeting date around the third week in April or sooner if we can make contact with all ASA user members.



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