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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 26

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theauroran.com

FREE

Week of April 26, 2011



Look at all the eggs, mommie. Children, hundreds of them, took part with their parents in the 10th annual Easter Egg Hunt that took place near the Aurora Seniors' Centre Saturday morning. The event, co-sponsored by the Aurora Girl Guides and the Town of Aurora, attracted one of the largest crowds ever in its 10-year history. Participants were able to explore the scenic trails of the Aurora Arboretum as they looked for Easter Eggs.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Old Rogers Centre turf could come to Aurora

The Aurora Minor Ball Association could be the proud new owners of the old turf from Rogers Centre, but they might only be able to secure the deal with some help from the Town, according to Association president Dave Giroux.

Mr. Giroux appeared before councillors as a delegate at last Tuesday's general committee meeting, where he asked the Town to act as guarantor on the line of credit that would be opened to acquire the turf and associated installation and maintenance equipment for \$160,000.

A line of credit would be required to complete the purchase on the turf which, he said, has been in storage since early 2010.

"We have been negotiating for a long period of time [for this turf] trying to reduce the costs as much as possible for the Association and in doing so we have established a price for \$100,000 for the turf, but \$60,000 is the installation into an indoor facility and to actually lay it," said Mr. Giroux.

The issue was "very time sensitive", he said, adding that he had been to several local banks to enquire about lines of credit and as a non-profit organization they asked for all their directors to put a personal guarantee on the line of credit.

"It is something I will not ask all of my directors to put forward that,

so in the discussion with a couple of people, it was considered that maybe the Town could be the guarantor of this line of credit," he said. "The line of credit would be assumed by the Association and would be looked after by the association, but we're just looking for something to secure it, so the bank would actually allow us this opportunity."

According to Mr. Giroux, the Aurora Minor Ball Association has approximately \$80,000 in the bank, but that is what would be required for annual operating costs, with just up to \$20,000 remaining in the bank at the end of the year. Costs were incurred in Stewart Burnett Park for the installation of a \$35,000 bunker.

"If we had those funds still available we might be able to manage another angle, but right now with the short period of time, it is a concern for us to get this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity so the youth have a facility that is second to none in the Region," he said.

"There are really two things that we're really looking for specifically is the access to be the guarantor for a line of credit. The second part of it would be the consideration to delay payment, I say delayed payment, not waive the fees, for our user fees which is about \$30,000 to a bit later in the year to allow us some working capital."

Please see page 3

Demolition likely for Wells house

The days are likely numbered for the 90-plus-year-old house at 105 Wells Street as Aurora councillors are poised to give final approval to a recommendation that will remove the property from its register of heritage properties and allow the demolition of the building, paving the way for a new home that "contributes to the community".

Removing the property from the register was a matter that appeared Tuesday at a general committee, leading Councillor Evelyn Buck to wonder how it got on the list in the first place if councillors were now being told "that it is not of sufficient cultural heritage value or interest to warrant preservation".

"If it is easy to allow it to be demol-

ished because it doesn't really have any heritage significance, why was it listed in the first place?" she asked Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "If it is easy to demolish because it doesn't have any heritage significance, why do we need to have a record of the architectural drawings and

Please see page 18

Standing room only at Auroran's debate

Undecided voters joined dyed-in-the-wool partisans at Aurora's Town Hall Wednesday evening for a Federal all-candidates meeting, an Auroran-sponsored event which attracted a standing room only crowd, to hear Parliamentary hopefuls make their pitches to the electorate.

Progressive Canadian Dorian Baxter, Liberal Kyle Peterson, Green

Vanessa Long, and Conservative Lois Brown, in order of the numbers they pulled before hand, joined moderator, and former Aurora Councillor, Alison Collins-Mrakas at the table for two hours of questions and answers.

NDP candidate Kassandra Bidarian and Yvonne Mackie, candidate for the Animal Alliance Environment Voters, were unable to attend.

The panel was led by former Aurora Councillor Grace Marsh, Councillor Evelyn Buck, Auroran columnist Christopher Watts, and Auroran reporter Brock Weir.

Mr. Baxter began the evening by getting right into the nitty-gritty.

He said his party was "appalled" by the treatment given to veterans by the current Conservative government, a

government which, he said, was found in contempt of Parliament.

"I think it is of great significance today to realize that those veterans who have given their lives, many of them coming back as recently as Afghanistan, need us to maintain our covenant with them," said Mr. Baxter.

A vote for him would restore a voice for Newmarket-Aurora in Ottawa, he

said; something he argued has been absent in the governments of the last two decades.

"Every one of them is a puppet, a shell," he said of Conservative candidates, taking pains to assure the crowd he was not speaking "just" of Lois Brown. "We need somebody who will speak on your behalf."

Please see page 16

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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

New Bereavement Group "Finding your way" after the death of a spouse/life partner runs 8 weeks starting today at Hospice King-Aurora. For additional information and to register contact Karen Simmonds at 905-773-0155 extension 26 or at k.simmonds@hospicekingaurora.ca.

APRIL 26-29

For the third consecutive year, the Dr. G.W. Williams Students' Council will hold a spring rummage sale and will accept donations of used or new books, toys, appliances, furniture, games, and more (excluding clothing) for the sale. Drop Off time is 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, in the front foyer.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the first of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Hillary House: A Glimpse of Everyday Life in Old Aurora." The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Rummage Sale today from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.

The Aurora Community Arboretum, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, will hold

their annual tree planting event today from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring the whole family and plant a tree. The group will meet at the intersection of Birshire Drive and Somerton Court in the northeast area of Aurora. Please see the website www.auroraarboretum.ca for more information.

Yoga Class will suit all levels. Starts at 1 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Light refreshments are available. \$10 donation to Amnesty International. For more information, call 905-727-8671 or send an e-mail to mbf@lindavarnam.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the heritage lecture "The Queen's York Rangers: Their 200+ Year Linkage to York Region." Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Corkery, former Commanding Officer from 1989 - 1992, and current Chair of the Regimental Council of the Queen's York Rangers will give an overview of this historic regiment. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For more information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Jesus Christ Superstar auditions will be held at Trinity Anglican Church from 5 to 7 p.m. with Sheryl Thomas of Marquee Theatrical Productions and John Clements (reserve pianist for the London production). The lead

parts have been filled, but 25 roles are still required. Bring an instrumental CD if needed. Performances will take place at the end of October. To book your 10-minute audition contact Sheryl Thomas at sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Mother's Day Lunch and fashion show at the Aurora Seniors' Centre today. Doors open at 11.45 a.m. Cost is \$7 for members and \$8 for non-members. Lunch will be served at noon with the fashion show starting at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the Seniors' Centre.

MAY 5-7

The Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale will be held on the above days at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, formerly Church Street School. May 5 and May 6 the sale will begin at 10 a.m. and continue to 9 p.m. and on May 7 it will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. There is free admission and a door prize. Call 905-

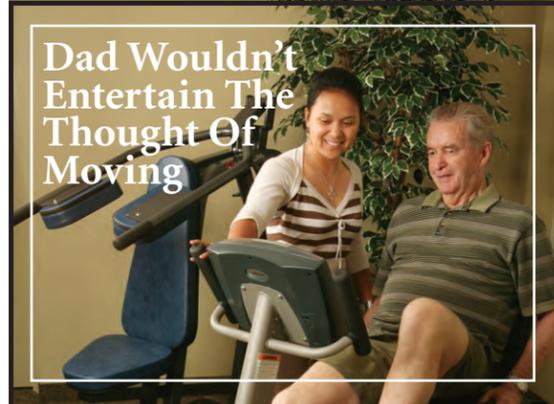
727-1278 for further information or visit <http://www.pinetreepotters.ca>

MAY 6

Jesus Christ Superstar auditions will be held at Trinity Anglican Church from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening with Sheryl Thomas of Marquee Theatrical Productions and John Clements (reserve pianist for the London production). The lead parts have been filled, but 25 roles are still required. Bring an instrumental CD if needed. Performances will take place at the end of October. To book your 10-minute audition contact Sheryl Thomas at sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca.

MAY 7-8

Aurora's annual Art Show and Sale takes place at the Aurora Town Hall this weekend. For all art enthusiasts this is an event that features more than 200 pieces of artwork. On Saturday, the show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Please see page 20**



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for more info: www.pinetreepotters.ca

Where will Stephen Harper's \$11 billion in cuts come from?

HANSARD, October 1, 2002

"It should not matter who delivers health care, whether it is private, for profit, not for profit..."

OCHU Media Release, 4/15/2011

\$10 million for private Vaughan [health care] company

New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal, 07/16/2010

Curb Health Care Costs: Flaherty

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VOTE TO SAVE HEALTHCARE



The Aurora Chamber of Commerce held a regular breakfast meeting last week and two politicians running in next month's federal election showed up. They were Kyle Peterson, left, seeking the Liberal nod, and Lois Brown, right, the current Conservative incumbent in the Newmarket-Aurora riding. They were joined by Brent Forrester of Thompson's Funeral Home, sponsors of the event, and Judy Marshall, executive director of the Chamber.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Turf from centre may come to Aurora

From page 1
When asked by Councillor Michael Thompson if the Association had a timeline in place on which they would be able to pay back the line of credit with interest based on their current operating surplus, he said they were "probably looking at a five-year venture".

"The idea would be to host and run clinics to enhance the ball players and charge them on a per-use basis," said Mr. Giroux. "We would put things in place to still be non-profit and to absorb the costs through the association and through the extra income to hopefully in five years have that at zero. The turf would still have great value five years from now."

Upon receipt of Mr. Giroux's delegation Mayor Geoffrey Dawe asked town staff of the ramifications of such an agreement, particularly if there had been any precedent related to this.

Town Treasurer Dan Elliott said that in his ten years with the municipality he had "not been exposed to such a thing".

"My initial comments are that while (it's) an interesting request we would end up pledging some form of asset because we would not be issuing personal guarantees to the bank either," said Mr. Elliot. "I have no precedent and I would be concerned of the precedent that this

would set for other groups looking for similar projects and our financial assistance while pledging of our assets in their interests."

In playing "devil's advocate", Councillor Paul Pirri queried why Mr. Giroux would feel uncomfortable asking the Association's directors to sign on as guarantors.

Mr. Giroux said he had already put the wheels in motion to make himself the sole guarantor if necessary.

"I know that the Association is viable, the Association isn't going anywhere, the quality of the turf and the value of it far exceeds the value that we're paying for it," he said. "There is no guarantee. It is something that in my position I would not ask all the other members to put their livelihoods or to restrict their future opportunities that they may choose to do by being a guarantor on something."

"They may be volunteers this year but they may not be volunteers next year, so there is a lot more at play than just a one or two year thing."

Councillors referred the matter to Mr. Elliott and to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation Services, to consider Mr. Giroux's request.

A recommendation had not been added to this week's council agenda at press time.

Area-specific charges could be abandoned: infrastructure director

Area specific operating charges for pumping stations could be a thing of the past, if measures brought about by the Town of Aurora in its 2011 Wastewater and Stormwater Budget presented last week are approved, a move which raised alarm bells for some councillors.

The Wastewater and Stormwater Budget presented at last Tuesday's general committee meeting by Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure calls for the abandonment of area specific operating charges for three Town pumping stations, known as the Ballymore, Bayview and Brentwood Stations.

"During design and approval of subdivisions where these stations exist, the Town adopted a practice of creating an area specific charge to the residents serviced by each station," noted Mr. Simanovskis in a report. "This has resulted in charges specific to the operation and long term maintenance of these stations being added to the water bill as a separate item. The three stations service 516 residents at a total cost of \$71,300 per year."

Mr. Simanovskis said

area specific practices were "arcane" in an integrated system that would be akin to charging residents "living adjacent to a water main line project for the cost of repairing the water main."

The system "must" be considered as an integrated system with all costs shared equally by all users, he said, adding that there would be "no significant impact to the overall community."

During his presentation Tuesday, however, he said this would result in a 0.6 per cent overall increase on the water budget.

This was one of the many areas of Mr. Simanovskis' presentation that did not sit well with Councillor Evelyn Buck, who said that these charges were agreed to in the subdivision agreements "precisely because the homes could not have been built in that location without these pumping stations."

"So, in effect, that rate is like a local improvement," she said. "Nobody else had that requirement to receive water so I don't see any reason why I should be paying however little extra it is for homes having been built in an area where we might not otherwise

have built."

Councillor John Gallo said he shared Councillor Buck's views on area specific operating charges, underscoring that the infrastructure was put in the areas in question specifically to service the neighbouring homes.

In response, Mr. Simanovskis said the Region of York had a number of specific charges on infrastructure "12 or 15 years ago" and the system was found to be "unfair".

"At the infrastructure costs here, I believe the rate increase for those two pumping stations was approaching 20 per cent from what I saw," said Mr. Simanovskis.

"That sounds like a lot from a percentage basis and that might not be a lot in dollars, but it is a significant increase for a small residency."

"I don't think that is a fair way to manage the system because you have arguments on all sides and to divide the system by area specific service areas is going in the wrong direction, hence my recommendation to incorporate it and basically create more equity for the entire community."

"We'll agree to disagree on that point," concluded Councillor Gallo.

The Wastewater and Stormwater Budget is up for final approval this week.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Only a couple of weeks left til 50s dance

If you've heard of the following terms, you're probably going to the Rock and Roll dance in Aurora in a couple of weeks: neat-o; peachy-keen; be there or be square; jeepers creepers; you're cruisin' for a bruising; smooching; going "steady" or pinned.

And if you want more details about the May 14th dance, visit www.iloverockandroll.ca.

The site - something you couldn't visit 40 years ago (good grief, who'd even thought of such a thing) - will give you all the information you need to attend the dance and even has a countdown to the time things get bopping.

Frankly, I can't wait.

If you want go, there are tickets left, but not too many.

Highlight of the evening for me will be the appearance of Kevin Mills as Elvis!

Mills, a Richmond Hill resident, has been selected as the second-best Elvis impersonator in the world by Elvis Presley Enterprises 2010.

Also appearing, and every bit as good as Elvis, will be Freddy Vette and The Flames, an eight-person band that plays only the music you remember from the 50s and 60s.

The evening emcee is Aurora's own Brian Larter, who runs Larter Advertising Agency.

You can't miss his office location: the busiest corner in Aurora - Yonge and Wellington - the building with the 90-foot wall mural.

Brian was at the last committee meeting of the group responsible for the evening, and he kept repeating something over and over.

"We're going to have fun," he said as the committee tried to stomp him with problems.

Among some of Brian's ideas included a contest for people who showed up wearing clothes that matched the era; a Harley Davidson motorcycle to show off "for atmosphere"; old movie clips; and he generally revved up the night.

Sounds like a blast.

Both Kevin Mills and Freddy Vette have websites, so if you want to get an advance of what they're like, look them up, or follow the links on the I Love Rock and Roll site.

On the Freddy Vette site, you'll read: "It's been (more than) 50 years since Rock & Roll first shook the world with its new sound that kids loved and parents hated. This new music was sexy, fun, and some said, dangerous. The Devil's music. Everyone from Frank Sinatra to any critic at the time said it wouldn't last. Boy, they couldn't have been more wrong."

From Kevin's website comes this: "Kevin's crowd pleasing style and mannerisms, mixed with his unique blend of talent, vocals, electrifying charisma, and elaborate costuming, makes him a favourite with international fans around the world. Multi-talented at playing a spectacular tribute to Elvis Presley, Kevin became a high-profile International Tribute Artist, and stood out early in his career.

"His popularity, as well as his astonishing high energy performance, charm and exquisite styling, makes him a strong talent...and he attracted the public's attention early in his career with overwhelming, positive response."

Proceeds of the evening will go to Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District, an incredible organization of dedicated, talented people who work to help developmentally disabled people live fully integrated lives within the community.

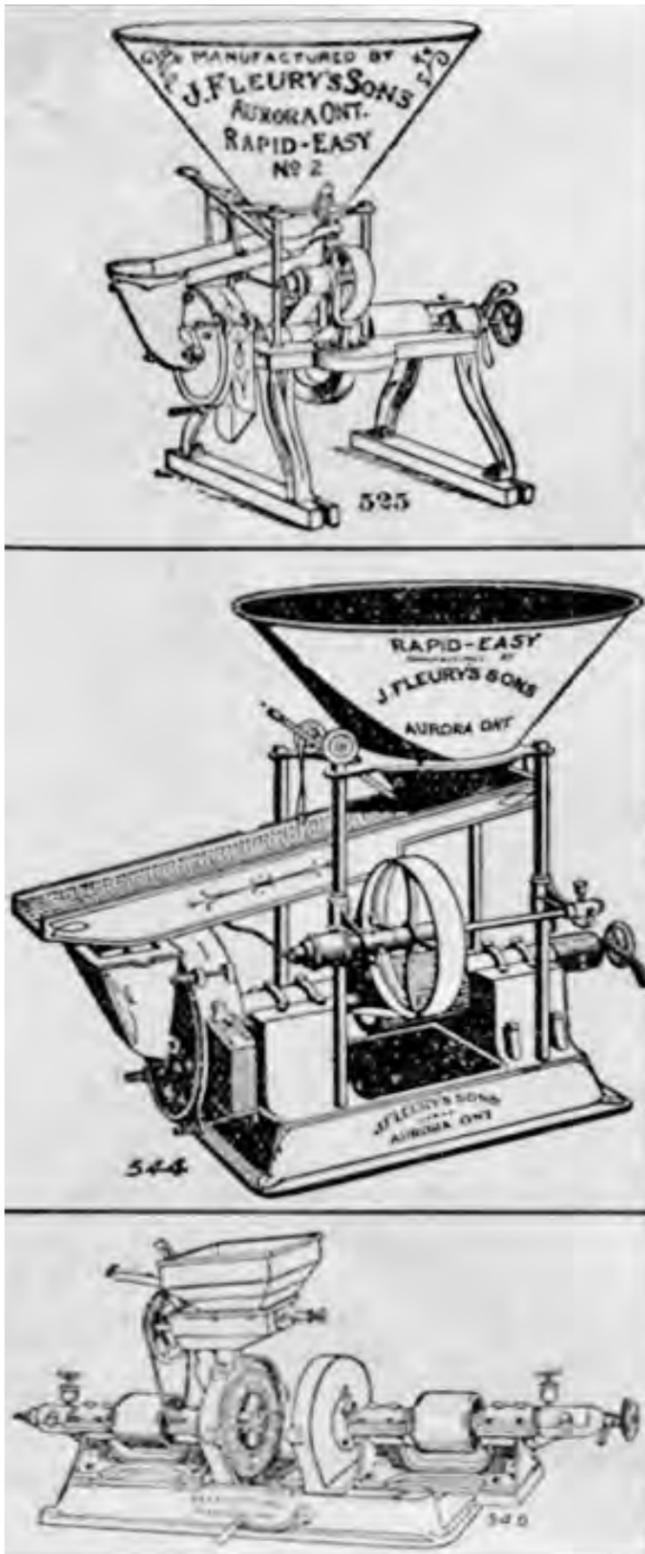
The committee hopes to raise some money that night to support their work and those members of our community.

For a \$60 ticket, you'll get a three-course meal (with wine), a silent auction, and a show like you remember when you were a teenager.

Yes, there are still a few tickets left and you may get them at Aurora Used Books, on Edward Street in Aurora, any day except Monday; from Jog Paint & Wallcovering, 200 Davis Drive in Newmarket 905-836-6257 or from Alan and Pat Hayes, of Aurora, by calling 905-727-8600 or 416-992-3811.

See you there.

Signed, Aurora's oldest teenager.



Aurora's J. Fleury's Sons did more than manufacture the famous Fleury Plow, as this advertisement years ago attests. The company, located on Wellington Street West in Aurora, also manufactured grinders. Billed as the largest line made in Canada, the rapid-easy grinders did more work using the same power as any other grinder manufactured in the country, according to the ad. Winner of last week's question is Lisa Rush of Aurora. The 78-year-old winner has lived in Aurora for 62 years. She knew the building, located on the south side of Wellington Street, just east of Yonge Street, is currently a law office but for several years served as a butcher shop.

Letter to the Editor

Former mayor didn't declare conflict, he says

To the editor,

Re: Conflict of Interest and Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al.

Furthermore to my letter earlier this month, entitled "Please help me understand how litigation against three Aurora citizens was approved", I would like to add the following information in regards to the defamation action of Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al.

I reference the Ontario Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.50) found at www.els-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90m50_e.htm.

The Act helps control the actions of our elected officials who hold the pub-

lic trust. Its main purpose is to prevent them from benefiting financially from a decision in which they were involved in the process.

The Act generally states that if there is a matter that comes before council that would touch on a member of council's direct or indirect pecuniary (of or related to money) interest then it is the duty of that member not to participate in the decision-making process for that matter and to declare this conflict of interest.

I would draw your attention to the following sections taken from the above online reference:

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Please see page 6

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Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Gift of Life

I will never forget the desperation in the eyes of the man sitting across from me.

Little did I know that this encounter would have such a major influence in my life and my work as a legislator.

Although middle aged, Geoffrey Risen looked decades older.

In a feeble voice, he told me that he had come to see me for two reasons.

First, he wanted to let me know about the desperate state of organ donation in our province and how that has affected his life, and he also wanted to let me know that it doesn't have to be that way.

He told me how he had poured his life into building a successful business, and how his world was "almost perfect".

Then came the news that his kidneys were failing him, and he began his treatment journey that took him through a series of medications to increased frequencies of dialysis and ultimately onto the wait list for a kidney transplant.

After four years on the transplant wait list, and numerous unsuccessful attempts to find a compatible living donor, Geoffrey was losing hope.

His kidney was failing fast and a transplant was his only hope for survival.

Geoffrey had made the decision that week to put himself on the wait list at a hospital in Miami.

He was told that a kidney could be available within a matter of weeks, but that it shouldn't be more than three months.

He would have to pay the fee of course, but as he put it, he had no choice. This was a life and death decision.

This half hour meeting led me to many thousands of hours of research into the issue of organ and tissue donation.

The more I learned, the more frustrated I became that we have placed such low priority on organ donation and transplantation in our healthcare system.

HOW CAN IT BE...

That under the umbrella of our multi-billion dollar

healthcare system in Ontario, we have more than 1,500 people on a wait list for organ transplants on any day?

That one of those people on that list dies every three days waiting for an organ that never comes?

Why is it, that in many jurisdictions in North America, the rate of registered donors is as high as 80 per cent, and in Ontario only 17 per cent of our eligible population have registered as donors?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

That was the question I asked of the healthcare providers and administrators who are struggling to cope with Ontario's organ donor system.

Although there are many issues on their list that range from front-line medical staff training to clinical hospital resources, it all starts with having a sufficient number of potential donors available.

So how do we increase the number of registered donors?

When people are asked if they would be willing to be an organ donor, 90 per cent say yes. Why is it then, that, in Ontario, only 17 per cent have actually registered as donors?

The answer is very simple...

Ontario's system of registering organ donors is antiquated, cumbersome and inefficient.

Fixing this must be made a priority by the government.

And we should be doing much more to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation.

Dan Hargrave, the 26-year-old local resident who was given the gift of life through a double lung transplant, is doing his part to raise that awareness.

Dan and his mother, Tanis Hargrave, are reaching out at every opportunity to educate the public about how to become an organ donor.

Aurora resident Bruce Cuthbert, who received a life-saving liver transplant, told me that his two sons want to do their part to raise awareness of organ donation after witnessing what it meant for their father.

ON-LINE ORGAN REGISTRY NEEDED

Most people don't realize that even if you have signed a donor card, it will probably not even be considered if your intentions haven't been filed with the OHIP database.

That's why, on numerous occasions over the past four years, I've called on the government to put in place an on-line organ donor registry system.

At long last, I was assured by the Premier this past week that "it's coming".

Sooner than later would be good.

MPP CHALLENGE

In an effort to increase donor registration, I issued a friendly challenge this past week to all MPPs, to join me and my colleagues, Norm Miller and John O'Toole, in a four-month MPP Organ Donor Registration Challenge.

Here's how it works:

Our riding of Newmarket-Aurora has 109,528 OHIP cardholders.

Of those, there are 22,276 registered as organ donors, representing about 20 per cent.

While this is higher than the 17 per cent provincial average, I am hoping we can double that between now and September 1st.

The Trillium Gift of Life Network will provide the total number of registered donors at the end of the challenge period, and I look forward to celebrating the results with you.

You can give the Gift of Life, by registering as an organ donor today.

Please do so, by visiting my website at www.frankklees.com where you can download the instructions.

By the way, Geoffrey Risen had that kidney transplant in Miami, and within weeks was back at work. The last time I saw him, he was in excellent health, thanks to his Gift of Life.

As always, I welcome your comments.

Please feel free to contact me through my website, or call me at 905-750-0019.

Letter to the Editor

Released documentary tells Korean War story

To the editor,

April marks the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong – one of the most significant battles fought by the Canadians in the Korean War.

As a member of The War Amps Operation Legacy, a group of committed young people who

are dedicated to preserving Canada's military heritage, I would like to highlight this anniversary.

On April 24-25, 1951, the 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry engaged in the Battle of Kapyong.

From their stand on Hill 677, the Patricias man-

aged to hold their positions and re-open the supply route despite tremendous odds and bitter fighting.

The Canadian action at Kapyong stopped the Chinese advance in this sector of the front for the rest of the war and earned the battalion the US Presidential Citation for

valour.

Canada sent 26,791 soldiers to battle in Korea.

More than 1,200 were seriously wounded and another 516 never came home.

After the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed in 1953, the Canadians returned home amid little fanfare.

There were no bands playing, and no parades.

In fact, the Korean War had very little impact on Canadians, except, of course, those who fought in it or who lost loved ones.

To mark this anniversary, The War Amps has re-released its documentary Korea: Canada's

Forgotten War to regular and specialty TV channels.

Part of The War Amps Military Heritage Series, it is also available at a cost-recovery price of \$12 by calling 1-800-250-3030 or visiting waramps.ca.

Jamie Lunn
Ottawa

Letters to the Editor

Former mayor may be in conflict, he says

From page 4
ered,

5. (1) Where a member, either on his or her own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the council or local board at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the member,

(a) shall, prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the interest and the general nature thereof;

(b) shall not take part in the discussion of, or vote on any question in respect of the matter; and

(c) shall not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 5 (1).

(2) Where the meeting referred to in subsection (1) is not open to the public, in addition to complying with the requirements of that subsection, the member shall forthwith leave the meeting or the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 5 (2).

Disclosure to be recorded in minutes

6. (1) Every declaration of interest and the general nature thereof made under section 5 shall, where the meeting is open to the public, be recorded in the minutes of the meeting by the clerk of the municipality or secretary of the committee or local board, as the case may be. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 6 (1).

(2) Every declaration of interest made under section 5, but not the general nature of that interest, shall, where the meeting is not open to the public, be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting that is open to the public. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 6 (2).

As referenced by the minutes of the Aurora Town Council meeting of September 14, 2010, then Mayor Morris participated in the closed session portion of the meeting that subsequently resulted in the motion "THAT the Town Solicitor be directed to retain external legal counsel and to take any and all actions to bring resolution to this matter".

She participated in the closed meeting but did not vote on this motion as she left once coming out of closed portion of the evening.

It is this motion that eventually led to the litigation against Johnson et al.

The first agenda item of a council meeting is the "Declarations of Pecuniary Interest".

For the September 14 meeting Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas had a declaration on another matter

but there were no other declarations in the minutes.

I will allow the reader to formulate their own perspective, but from one side it could be interpreted that ex-Mayor Morris may have violated the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

She may have done so by not declaring a conflict of interest and through her subsequent participation in the closed session meeting concerning the Town's direction that led to the litigation against Johnson et al.

In this litigation she would be the sole beneficiary and not the Town.

She could be seen as having a pecuniary interest and that she failed to declare a conflict of interest.

As taken from George Rust-D'Eye's Executive Summary: "The retainer letter signed by the Mayor and the Town on October 6, 2010 leads to the conclusion that both are jointly and severally liable for paying the legal expenses incurred for the defamation action."

Even if, for argument's

sake, Ms. Morris sought \$0 damages, the fact that the Town was liable for expenses in her legal matters could possibly still show pecuniary interest as there could be either a reduced or no out of pocket expense for her in proceeding with this private action.

It is noted that although this action started with the plaintiff as Mayor Phyllis Morris it was later changed to a plaintiff of Phyllis Morris to express that it was a personal matter and not one for the Town of Aurora.

Also please note that the Town as per its March 29, 2011 council meeting minutes passed the motion to "pay the legal accounts of Aird & Berlis LLP for the services up to and including December 15, 2010 and for additional outside counsel, Paterson MacDougall for services rendered up until December 21, 2010."

I note from Mr. Rust-D'Eye's Executive Summary: "at the same time, Phyllis Morris appeared to have a pecuniary interest in the mat-

ter under consideration by the council, in view of the fact that the debate involved a proposal that the Town provide or pay for legal services for her defamation action against third parties, at that time without any undertaking on her part to repay the Town, whether she was successful or not - the Town appeared to assume the entire financial risk, with the mayor standing to obtain a personal benefit from success in the proceedings".

For some it may be thought that her participation in the closed session meeting and the failure to declare a conflict of interest was perhaps committed through any oversight or by reason of an error in judgement.

But for others they may ask whether this would be the mistake of a politician with numerous years of experience.

As taken from her own website (www.phyllismorris.net) Phyllis Morris had six years as a councillor, three years as deputy mayor and four years as the mayor with this incident occurring at

the end of her mayoral term.

Sampling a review of council meeting minutes in recent years, councillors and the mayor for a variety of reasons express a conflict of interest at the start of the meeting.

Ms. Morris had in the past (Town of Aurora, Council Meeting Minutes No. 08-22, Tuesday August 12, 2008) declared a conflict on a particular matter.

But with this incident at

the September 14th meeting she did not declare a conflict of interest nor did she do so at any subsequent meeting in regards to her attendance to the closed session meeting that started the action against Johnson et al.

I allow the reader to interpret the information to their own accord and I stand open to correction on any of the information that I have presented.

Paul Sesto
Aurora

CEOs benefit from tax cuts, she claims

To the editor,

Re: Business tax cuts don't spur capital spending

The more we hear about the impact of corporate tax cuts the less it looks like a good deal for Canadians.

Harper's rationale for continuing these cuts to wealthy corporations is that they will create jobs for Canadians.

The latest study by the Canadian Centre for Policy

Alternatives destroys that argument.

It shows that when rich corporations get additional revenue from tax cuts they don't pass it along for the benefit of others.

Instead, the extra cash goes into the pockets of corporate CEOs.

The bigger problem with more corporate tax cuts is the morality of the choice Harper is making. Harper is giving away billions of dollars that could be used to reduce waiting times in hos-

pitals, provide community resources to deal with mental health or give our kids a better start in life with a quality early learning and child care program.

The only people happy about that choice are the CEOs of the big banks and insurance companies who are stuffing their wallets at our expense.

Shameful is the word that comes to mind.

Dora Robinson
Aurora

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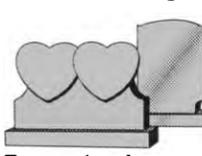
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Letters to the Editor

Council didn't leave enough time, he says

To the editor,

The town council, after much discussion, has finally approved extending the term of the Trails Subcommittee for a maximum of six months to enable the completion of the Trails Master Plan.

This is after three years, with other committee members, in all weather conditions, of walking more than 70 kilometres of potential trail routes and plotting on a map these routes aimed at linking together existing parks and open spaces, schools and employment areas with a comprehensive off-road trail system.

We also investigated road crossings, handicapped persons' access, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, to name but a few of the aspects of trail develop-

ment and management we researched.

This was all done by a small committee at a savings of tens of thousands of taxpayers' dollars if this work had been undertaken by paid professional consultants.

I, personally, consider that the Trails Master Plan is now completed.

What is more important is the long term implementation of the Master Plan that will take a good many years longer than six months.

Both the Town staff, who worked on this project with us, and the consultants, appointed by the Town to produce the written report, all agreed to including a recommendation in the report that the Trails Subcommittee (with or without me as a member) should become a permanent joint staff and citi-

zen committee to ensure that opportunities to implement the long term master plan are not overlooked.

For example, we have until next year, 2012, to implement an already agreed trail easement through a property in the northwest corner of town, that would link the existing Willow Farm Trail route with the Nokiidaa Trail route behind Handley Grange.

If council fails to take action in the next few months this agreement becomes null and void and this trail opportunity will be lost forever.

There also are many other opportunities in the next 10 years to develop trails through the proposed developments on the east side of the Wildlife Park.

Interestingly, there is not a single trail in all of

the extensive developments on the west side of the park.

No doubt due to the fact that there was not a trail subcommittee in existence when these subdivisions were planned and developed.

Although this council, for some reason, has not been very supportive of citizen committees, there is a lesson to be learned in the lack of trails west of the Wildlife Park.

The success of the long term implementation of the Trails Master Plan will depend on both staff input and citizens' support, which can best be

achieved by a joint staff-citizen trails subcommittee, as recommended in the report, that will ensure council has the best possible information on which to base its decisions of future changes

or modifications to the proposed trail routes and changes to the construction and management of the trails.

David Tomlinson
Aurora



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Reader appalled by MP's spending

To the editor,

Currently, local politicians receive a rebate of 60 per cent of the personal expenses they occur dur-

ing an election campaign.

That means that our tax dollars are used to subsidize more than half of what politicians spend on their elections.

We should expect that this money is spent responsibly, and in good faith.

I was appalled to learn that our M.P. Lois Brown attempted to submit a claim of \$228 in visits to the salon during the last election.

She also submitted a claim of close to \$1,800 for clothes she bought in Toronto.

To their credit, Elections Canada caught this scheme and denied her claim.

I want to know how a candidate can run on a platform of fiscal prudence and accountability when they don't practice it themselves.

I'm fine with Ms. Brown taking a shopping trip to Toronto, or day at the salon when she is supposed to be talking to the voters of Newmarket and Aurora, just don't expect me to pick up the bill.

Baxter's signs a "waste of ink"

To the editor,

Driving south on Yonge Street into Aurora the other evening my eyes were assaulted by election signs at Yonge and St. John's Sideroad.

While there are a couple of modest signs of our key players in the upcoming, unwelcomed federal election there appeared to be countless sign-after-sign for Dorian Baxter.

Not only is this visual pollution, it's a waste of good ink.

I always thought that the term "Progressive

Conservative" was a bit of an oxy-moron, which is why the functioning party is now called Conservative.

Had I been sitting on the fence for my decision, this display of countless signs certainly would have swayed my vote in another direction.

You won't be successful in diluting popular vote in this fashion.

Patty McLaughlin
Innisfil

Ed. Note: Dorian Baxter is the candidate for the Progressive Canadian Party.

Cole Webster
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Who will youth vote for, he wonders

To the editor,

Who will the youth vote for in this election?

Throughout this Election 2011, the Conservative government has used hegemonic practices and methods to spin a story to tell the public that they need a majority to

manage the country. Surely, by now after years of opportunity to implement programs to benefit the younger generation, we would see some success stories.

However, the younger population does not see much hope in their future.

The youth represent a

big demographic in Canada: there are three million potential voters under the age of 25 years of age in our society now.

Most of the recent college and university graduates carry a big burden of student debt from paying for their education.

This population faces

high underemployment and unemployment rates in our society. Unfortunately, this cohort does not represent very much of a political threat to the present day government.

Groups such as the big corporations represent the power base of Canada, and they

receive the tax breaks and favourable policies to maintain their swag-ger and clout in our society.

By getting out to vote, young voters in our society can have their say and have an impact on some riding's results in the upcoming election on May 2.

Issues such as responsible leadership, ecology, employment, safe and affordable energy and social advancements for minorities are important to many of us in our society.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Former resident recommends this DVD

To the editor,

In the last few months both Canadians and Americans have seen their fuel costs soar and it's a good bet that they

will go even higher. A few years ago I purchased a DVD from PBS in the United States with the title: "Who Killed the Electric Car?".

This documentary is

especially excellent in your current economic environment.

The program's main focus is on Electric Cars but it also examines alternative fuels for

motor vehicles. In addition, it covers batteries and solar energy.

I strongly recommend to your readers that they consider getting a copy

of this inexpensive DVD because they will be enlightened even though the program is a few years old.

I wonder how far technology has improved over

that time period. It would interesting to hear from your readers about this concept.

Wayne Hemington
Former Aurora resident

Getting dining room back means Spring is here

To the editor,

In my home there are several "rights of spring". I have mentioned the mud and various and sundry backyard cleanup rituals before.

One that I cherish is that I get my dining room back.

Unfortunately, my house is small and upon entering the front door, as in every house I have been in, stuff is dropped at/on

the most convenient receptacle.

Some people have a foyer with a table and sitting area.

I have a walkthrough on the right and a dining room/office on the left.

Guess where everything goes!

That's right, snowboards, hockey equipment, winter coats, boots and a boot dryer (looks like a small octopus) - you name it and it covers my dining

room area slipping ever so slowly into my office.

But now with the dissipation of snow and the termination of hockey schedules - I get my dining room back.

I can just see small

patches of natural wood showing through like the sprouts coming up in the garden.

Spring has arrived!

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Questions to candidates should be oral, he says

To the editor,

My compliments to all at The Auroran for orchestrating the event in

Aurora on Wednesday evening past.

If you are going to run one of these again, hopefully for the upcoming

provincial (and not another federal election for a while), you should insist that there are no written questions from the audi-

ence. If one wants to ask a question then one does so on one's feet at the microphone.

Some of what passed

for "audience questions" on Wednesday were written by staffers for one of the candidates.

I think this sort of

"priming the pump" is dishonest.

Geoffrey Smith
Aurora

Auroran should devote an issue to Vic Paraninfo

To the editor,

How sad to return from a holiday to the news that Aurora had lost one of its

finest gems, in the passing of Vic Paraninfo.

Your article (The Auroran, April 5th) and the tribute by Ron (Poor

Ronnie) was very well done.

However, it just does not seem to me to be enough.

I hope there is more coming.

The Auroran could devote an entire issue to this great person with pictures, past articles, and tributes from your readers.

I wonder how many have taken their children to Vic, not just for the skates, but to experience the magic of Vic's rapport with the kids.

How many of us have wanted to take our grand-kids, but our own children, now grown up, insisted on being the ones.

Merlin Garden open four days for free

Bill Hack
Aurora

To the Editor,

You are invited to visit Dierdre and David Tomlinson's English flower garden (Merlin), featuring more than 2,000 different perennials.

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Lois Brown and the Conservative Priorities

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"At ICAMP, children build a wide array of skills - everything from critical thinking, to storyboarding and even geometry. All of the skills they learn here can be applied immediately to the real-world" says Nazar, who runs ICAMPs across York Region. "The fact that the children are in charge of their Adventure gives them a sense of ownership, which is very meaningful to them."

"We want the kids to be really creative users of technology - that's the goal," says Nazar. The philosophy is that the computer should be an enabler - a tool to achieve a creative objective. The

ICAMP environment is very fluid and collaborative - kids will walk around, checking out one another's projects and even offer to help. Physical activity and breaks are part of a regular day, where kids will go outside and play a healthy mix of camp games. "Time outdoors is just as important as the creative learning being done indoors - the last thing we want to do is sit a child down for the whole day," says



Nazar.

Believe it or not, one of the most popular questions that CTW gets is from parents wanting to register themselves as well as their kids. Until CTW introduces workshops for parents, we will just have to live vicariously through our kids engaged in one of their many programs. This summer, CTW will mark 8 years of summer ICAMP in Aurora - icamp will be running from Aurora High School, as well as several other locations across the GTA.

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example, on the first day of ICAMP, a camper might plan a mission to Mars to search for life on the Red

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http://www.yukonminers.ca/Libraries/Documents/03-16_Ross_River_Fundraiser_5x7.sflb.ashx

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\$535.00	Players born 1991 through 1996
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\$ 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.

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Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team.

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We will not add teams in September to accommodate late registrants.

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Top amateur athletes and coaches were honoured last weekend at the 2010 Ontario Sport Awards in Toronto. The event, hosted by the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport and the Sport Alliance of Ontario also recognized the outstanding contributions of officials, volunteers and corporate supporters of amateur sport in Ontario. Of the 57 honourees recognized for sport excellence, four athletes received top honours, one was Summer Mortimer of Ducks Swimming, right. Summer, coached by her father Craig Mortimer, has met with success at the IPC World Swimming Championships, where she won four gold medals and broke four world records. Her goal is to swim at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England. Making the presentation is Margarett Best, left, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport.

Rick Hansen relay may come to Aurora

The Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay could come through Aurora December 7, according to a report from Aurora CAO Neil Garbe.

The Rick Hansen Foundation has formally expressed its wishes to have the relay come through Aurora and has provided the Town with an opportunity to host an End of Day Celebration to mark the arrival of the Rick Hansen Medal.

"As Aurora would be an 'end of the day' community, there is the opportunity to host some sort of event to celebrate the arrival of the relay," said Mr. Garbe in his report. "The relay is scheduled to arrive in Aurora the afternoon of December 7, arriving from Schomberg in the south end at Yonge Street. There are several route options, all of them involving turning the relay off Yonge Street to the east and proceeding on side streets to Town Hall."

The relay is expected to leave Aurora December 8.

A Town event honouring the relay coming to Aurora could coincide with the annual tree lighting ceremony at Town Hall, Mr. Garbe said, which will minimize staffing costs for the municipality. But there are traffic issues which could arise with coordinating the two events.

"Staff has expressed concerns about the negative impact a rolling clo-

sure would have on people trying to get to the Tree Lighting ceremony," he said. "For that reason, staff is suggesting the relay end in Aurora in the afternoon and that its members be invited to attend the tree lighting ceremony later that evening.

"Since this is a rolling roadblock that would take no longer than two hours on December 7 and one hour the following day - and will not take place on Yonge Street - staff feels the impact on traffic would be minimal."

Municipal staff recommended an upset limit of \$1,000 be approved to stage the event. The recommendation cleared general committee without any discussion or debate. The recommendation also called on Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Town Clerk John Leach to sign a "community agreement" with the Rick Hansen Foundation "setting out the terms and conditions of the Town's participation."

Relay participants will be chosen through an online participant contest, but one participant will be selected by the Town. Those selected will each be able to carry the replica Rick Hansen medal 250 metres.

The relay is slated to begin August 24 and expected to conclude May 22, 2012, counting 7,000 medal bearers along the way. Mr. Hansen will be present at

a number of stops along the relay route.

Hopefuls can enter their names for selection by visiting www.rickhansenrelay.com.

Governance and economy dominate Aurora debate

Issues of governance and economy dominated much of the conversation when Conservative candidate Lois Brown, Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson, Green Party candidate Vanessa Long, and Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter sat down for an all-candidates debate at Town Hall Wednesday.

On this front, candidates first tackled the issue of how they would re-engage voters, voters who are often shown to be apathetic - or even angry - about this election.

For Mr. Baxter, it was a matter of engaging the youth vote by lowering the voting age.

"If we are prepared to license our young people at the age of 16 to drive a car, we need to lower the voting age," he said.

He also voiced agreement with Mr. Peterson about introducing an online voting system.

"There is that time frame that these young people are ready and really want to get involved," he said.

But for Ms. Long, voter apathy wasn't an issue, it is an issue of addressing voter "despair".

Her solution would be to reform Canada's electoral system to have representational government rather than the current "inadequate" first-past-the-post system.

"We live in a society where every voice deserves to be

Blame Harper for the election, candidate says

The frustration felt by some voters about going to the polls in today's economic climate was underscored at Wednesday's debate by one member of the audience who asked why Canadians were going to the polls right now with an election "that costs the taxpayers \$300 million".

With the person directing his comments to Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson, Mr. Peterson responded that this election was called because the Stephen Harper Conservative Government was found to be in contempt of parliament.

"The election may very well be unnecessary, but you have nobody to blame but Stephen Harper," said Mr. Peterson.

It was one of the many issues surrounding the economy that was brought up at the Aurora all-candidates meeting, which covered issues ranging from plans to help seniors combat the economic downturn to the impact of merging the Toronto Stock Exchange with its London counterpart.

In response to Councillor Evelyn Buck's question regarding taxes for seniors and "correcting the injustice", Mr. Peterson said the

Liberal Party plans to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by infusing \$700 million dollars into the fund, something that would be applicable to "all 1.6 million Canadian seniors that are already accepting GIS."

"We are going to make [the Canada Pension Plan] more robust so hopefully that will help as well," he said.

For Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter, seniors should be credited with "having woven the fabric of this great nation."

He said he is currently looking into why some seniors in his parish have had their income cheques reduced, sometimes by \$30 and \$40, something that has yet to be determined.

"If we fail them at this time, we show that our civilization and modality for being human has taken a huge paradigm shift," he said.

During the debate, Mr. Baxter also illustrated the two "wings" of his party, when asked by panellist Christopher Watts on what fiscal responsibility meant to the candidates. The left wing of the Progressive Canadian

is socially progressive while the right wing is fiscally conservative, he said.

"It means we are looking to deal with the causes of poverty," he said. "We are looking to deal with the circumstances that cause as opposed to looking at the symptom."

Fiscal responsibility, too, was important to the Green Party, said Vanessa Long, who noted her party is more on the right end of the spectrum when it comes to economics.

"What it means both economically and nationally is we get out of deficit as quickly as possible," she said. "The Green Party incurred debt in the 2008 election and it became our number one priority to get out of that debt as quickly as possible so we would regain our financial stability. We had it paid off by the beginning of this year, which is a great achievement for a small party. We need to support citizens that require our help. Seniors, veterans deserve to live in dignity. We don't need to support companies who pollute."

With regards to the question posed by panelist Grace Marsh on how the proposed merger of the London and

Please see page 14

many I think needs to be done to improve decorum in the House of Commons."

In her response, Ms. Brown said the Conservative Government has taken a number of measures to strengthen Parliament, she continued.

"We have tried to change the Senate, we have put in term limits, we would like to see that legislation go through, we would like to see the redistribution of seats by population because we believe people deserve to have their voice heard in Ottawa...I have always comported myself appropriately."

Candidates, however, found agreement in some of the "rapid fire" yes or no questions directed at the candidates, including whether or not Quebec should be recognized as a nation ("No."), and whether coalition governments were fundamentally undemocratic.

Each candidate said they were not undemocratic, but before Ms. Brown answered 'no', she said, "not [a coalition] of losers."

This raised the eyebrows of some members of the audience, including one man who came forward during the question and answer session to ask for elaboration.

"Earlier tonight you let it slip or you volunteered in answer to the question, you used the words 'coalition of losers,' he

said. "That is something your leader likes to use as well, or at least your operatives. How does that make things more civil or more appropriate, especially as a member of a party that has not topped 40 per cent while 60 per cent of the voters have chosen other parties?"

"How is it appropriate that a sitting MP of all these constituents to refer to the other 60 per cent as supporters of losers?"

In her response, Ms. Brown said that issue reflects why yes or no questions were "inappropriate" in that kind of forum.

"In our parliamentary system, a coalition that is made up of people who did not win the majority of seats in the government is not a rightful government," she said. "We have got a coalition government that has gone on in Germany, for instance. Ms. Merkel has led a coalition government but she gained the majority of the seats in the house."

"In England, we see the same kind of a coalition going on but it was a coalition that was made up of the ones who won the most seats. That is why the question was inappropriate. I have deep concerns about a coalition in our country [and] I have deep concerns about the Bloc holding the balance of power."

Women dominate U of T swim meet

By MELONY TEAGUE

Aurora's Master Ducks Swim Club sent 19 swimmers and their coach Nancy Black to the 'All OUT Swim

2011' meet which took place recently at the University of Toronto Athletic Centre.

The Ducks were first in the women's overall ranking.

The contingent of Ducks that attended was made up of four men and 15 women.

A total of 180 swimmers from Ontario, Quebec and Northeastern U.S. were reg-

istered for this event which was hosted by 'The Downtown Swim Club' of Toronto and coordinated by Phillip Coupal.

"We just love the Ducks

because they are so competitive," Phillip said, "it's a great team and they have great team spirit, they are a great model for us as a club."

The opportunity to race in a long course event is one that Ms. Black has encouraged, particularly as a warm-up before the National Championship next month in Montreal.

"Thank you to Phillip and his volunteers for running Ontario's best BIG little meet. It was awesome as usual," Ms. Black said.

The events ran smoothly and efficiently. All OUT Swim 2011 is a Master's Swimming Ontario sanctioned meet which featured 15 events, including relays and an 800m freestyle.

The competition featured state of the art electronic timing and is the ideal setting for competitors to break long course (50m) records at provincial, national and/or international levels.

Swimmers attended from as far as Ohio as well as Ottawa and Montreal.

It is not at every event that you are given personal

'Thank you' cards for attending or have a beautifully printed program of events.

First time Master Duck competitors who attended the meet were Sara Thomerson, Christina Nagy-Oh and Tanya Sudy.

Tanya, who has been with the Ducks since September 2010 said, "I was nervous going into it, I was not sure of my capabilities in an authentic competitive environment, so my heart was racing; but I felt okay because I had my team supporting me. I was in a 50m pool which I had never done before. It was a very positive experience."

The unofficial results showed that the Master Ducks placed first in the women's overall ranking.

Of note was Master Duck Cheryl Stewart who topped her age group.

The head coach was buoyed by the results and reminded the team, "We are on track with our fitness and can race well in the 100 and 200m distances. Now, we have six weeks to get a little more speed to race for personal bests at Nationals."

Gigantic hospital run happens this Sunday

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Whatever motivation you need, now might be a good time to get ready for the 2011 A & B Courier Run for Southlake taking place on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the Aurora Community Centre.

In the past the Run for Southlake has attracted a great number of dedicated long distance runners, but participants do not have to

be trained runners to participate in the day.

The event this year has four unique courses to choose from, including the Kids Mini Mile, expressly designed for little legs, and even walking the 10K or 5K is happily encouraged.

Still, others are determined to move a little faster.

"It feels like this is the first time I am learning to run," said Kim Goodman who is training for the 5K course at the A & B Courier Run for Southlake. "This is

not the first 5K that I've done, but all of my running experience was before my kids were born and I have a desire to get back into shape after having my second son at Southlake in December."

In fact, Goodman and both her young sons were born at Southlake Regional Health Centre, providing a great deal of her motivation to participate in this year's event.

Kim is also the daughter of Steve Hinder, the Chair of

the Run for Southlake and has challenged her dad to do it with her.

"My eldest son was born six weeks premature and spent the first 17 days of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)," recalled Ms. Goodman. "The care, compassion and support we received from the labour, delivery, and NICU teams was incredible. They made a stressful and anxious experience a positive one."

The run is an important event on the Southlake calendar and helps to raise vitally needed funds for our hospital's priority needs, including a second Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine, and everyday hospital equipment, like mattresses, wheelchairs and IV poles.

The entire community is encouraged to attend the 2011 event and, whether you want to walk, run or just play, 'Spend the Day Your Way'.

Among the sponsors of the 2011 Run for Southlake are: A & B Courier; Running Free; New Balance; Royal LePage York North Realty; The Optimist Club of Aurora; Bunn-O-Matic; Minto Homes; Apple Storage; Ellis Studio Ltd.; Cardinal Golf Club; Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group; Aquafina; Mercedes Benz Newmarket; Intact; and TD Waterhouse.

For more information about the event visit: www.runforsouthlake.ca or phone 905-836-7333.

Aurora skaters do well at two meets

Members of the Aurora Skating Club competed at the Ursula Lehming Scarborough Skate in Scarborough two weeks ago and the Thornhill Fun Competition earlier this

Harper

From page 13

Toronto Stock Exchanges would affect our economy, Ms. Brown said there was not enough information available for complete prognostication, but said there could be some benefits.

"The one argument was brought to the table was with Canada having low corporate tax rates there is tremendous interest around the world to bring investment money into Canada," she said. "Part of the problem they have from foreign countries is that they don't know the Canadian stock exchange and they have far more conversancy with the London Stock Exchange."

The issue was an out for Ms. Long, however, who said a merger would be just "another symptom of globalization."

"It leads to capital flight and the loss of jobs for Canadians," she said. "We need to be creating quality local jobs here, not figuring out how to attract more multinational investment that will search for the lowest wage and it will fly out of here as quickly as it came. We are creating healthy local jobs, we are creating a green economy and we need to stick to that. We don't need to be thinking about how we can be the bargain basement country. We're too good for that."

month.

In Scarborough the results were: Marilena Perri, Sr Br StarSkate-7th; Nicole Marino, Pre Novice Competitive Long-9th; Hannah Lang, Pre-Prelim B-3rd; Elise Popa, Pre-Prelim STARSkate-2nd; Claire Palmer, Prelim A-3rd; Alana Wise, Prelim A-4th; Erin Forster, Prelim B-2nd; Ashley Calvert, Jr. Bronze A-3rd; Nicole McCausland, Jr. Bronze A-3rd; and Emma Smith, Jr. Bronze A-4th.

In Thornhill results were as follows: Samantha Hadden, Intro A-Group 3-3rd; Isabelle Ah-Sen, Pre-Prelim A Group 5-7th; Sydney Brenzel, Intro A-Group 11-4th; Madisyn Lamoure, Pre-Prelim

StarSkate-2nd; Adriana Beniot-Meschino, Pre-Prelim StarSkate-4th; Danilee Sparrow, Pre-Prelim StarSkate-5th; Maddie Petit, Pre-Prelim StarSkate-2nd; Karlee Mannella, Pre-Prelim A-5th; Martina Scenna, Pre-Prelim A-4th; Simona Fanuzzi, Pre -Prelim B-6th; Alexandra Ledbury, Pre -Preliminary A-4th; Elise Popa, Pre-Prelim Starskate-3rd; Celine Yau, Pre-Prelim B Freeskate-6th; Cassie Tsioris, Starskate Pre-Prelim-6th; and Lauren Strathdee Intro A-7th

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Support for soldiers, future of gun-registry examined at debate

Support for soldiers, preventing crime, and the future of the gun registry all came under examination at last Wednesday's federal candidates' debate at Town Hall.

Each candidate was asked by panellist Christopher Watts what each of them would do to support Canada's men and women in uniform.

With the question directed to Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson and Conservative candidate Lois Brown, both expressed support for those who serve in the forces.

Part of the Liberal platform is a new veterans' charter, said Mr. Peterson, who added the need was brought home while door-knocking last week.

"I ran into a veteran who had just moved here from BC...and

the problem is their pension is clawed back based on the benefits they get," he said. "He has been in the armed forces since he was 18 so I think he had 32 or 33 years before he retired; now he is forced to find a second job because of the claw-backs in his pension. I think that is unfair and wrong and we need to do something as a country to figure out how to take care of our veterans because they sure have taken care of us."

From Ms. Brown's perspective, the Conservative government has invested in purchasing equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces "after a decade of darkness."

"Our young men and women in uniform deserve to have the very best equipment when we're asking them to do a

job for us, so we will give them the very best equipment possible," she said. "We are continuing to support our veterans. We have put \$2.3 billion into veterans' benefits over the last year, so we would like to continue working with our veterans to ensure that they have the very best assistance."

On the other side of the coin, panelist Councillor Evelyn Buck asked how each party would devote resources to fighting crime. With the question being directed to all candidates, the answers were varied.

Mr. Peterson was called on first, and he underscored alternatives to imprisonment.

"I think spending money on prevention, rehabilitation, and social programs is far more effective than incarcerating peo-

ple," he said, touting the Liberal Party's Canadian Learning Passport. "It is inspiration rather than incarceration, and building super-prisons is not the way to go."

For Green Party candidate Vanessa Long, there is no doubt that prisons were in need of renovation, but agreed that rehabilitation was also "extremely important."

"We question the cancelling of the prison farms program," she said. "It was the most successful program in helping to change inmates into successful citizens and [the Government] cancelled it because they want to keep them in jail as long as possible. That is why we have mandatory minimum sentences. The Green Party would like to see more of a focus on white collar crime; we think that people who embezzle and take our money should be punished."

"Then you would have supported our legislation for white collar crime," responded Ms. Brown, who added Canadians want to feel safe on their streets and in their communities.

"We believe that law abiding Canadians shouldn't have to worry about walking down their streets," she said. "It has been many, many years since we invested anything in our prison system and we need to upgrade and rehabilitate those correctional facilities. We also have to invest in rehabilitation and we need to invest in prevention. We are doing both."

In an interview with The Auroran earlier this month, Ms. Brown said her party supported scrapping the long-gun registry and said it "hasn't saved a single life".

So when asked how each party evaluates the success of the long-gun registry, Ms. Brown maintained it was "wasteful" and "ineffective".

"We have worked very hard on issues of crime and justice," she said. "We know full well that criminals do not register their guns and that is what makes the gun registry wasteful and ineffective. It has never targeted actual criminals committing gun crime; it targets farmers, duck hunters, and other law-abiding gun owners."

Mr. Baxter, however, said he had "serious concerns" about a "sitting member of Parliament"

claiming "not a single life had been saved."

In discussing the issue, Mr. Baxter said he was told by many officers that they check the gun registry before responding to domestic disputes.

"They know there is a long-gun there, they are able to approach that house and I believe many police lives have been saved because they approach it in such a way as to make sure nobody is killed," he said.

While Mr. Peterson said he and his party would like to see changes made to the registry, including streamlining registration and making first time failures to register only a ticketable offence, he said his party wanted to maintain the "integrity" of the program.

"Over 11,000 times a day police use the gun registry," he

said. "We're on the side of police officers, doctors, nurses, and victims who support this life-saving gun registry. That being said, it needs improvements."

From Ms. Long's perspective, however, maintaining the gun registry was a matter of practicality.

"What seems wasteful to me is cancelling a registry now that it is up and running," she said. "We have put all of this money into it. Why not keep it now that it is actually working?"

"The Association of Police Chiefs of Canada, including York Region's own, all support the long-gun registry because they believe that it saves police officers' lives. I believe that as Mr. Baxter says, in case of domestic disputes...it protects women's lives to have those guns registered and I will always support that."



Lillian Michiko Blakey is seen here with Angel Antonio-Waskul, left, who sold his paintings at a current art show held at the Aurora Cultural Centre to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross' Japanese earthquake relief fund. Blakey's art show has been running for the month of April and finishes April 30. The show may be seen Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Ron Wallace, owner of The Auroran, receives a plaque from Susan Werden, left and Mary Jo Williams, marking 10 years of sponsorship with Welcome Wagon. The Auroran and Hartwell Thayer Financial Services were both honoured for achieving the same goal recently.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Federal candidates tee off at debate

From page 1

Mr. Baxter was followed by Mr. Peterson, who said public events like Wednesday's debate are the "cornerstone of our democracy".

If elected Mr. Peterson said he pledged to frequently have similar public events. Speaking to "thousands" of voters over the course of this campaign, Mr. Peterson said the priorities of Newmarket-Aurora residents are clear: health care, "support for real families", and the economy.

"Many people are afraid of losing our public health care under Stephen Harper and rightfully so," he said. "He has spoken out many times about his support for a two-tier, for profit, healthcare system. To me, this is unacceptable."

"The Liberal Party is committed to a publicly funded, universally accessible health care system. "We need to protect and strengthen our investment in health care now more than ever as our population ages."

As a candidate, Mr. Peterson said he is confident in the Liberal Party's vision for supporting families, and said it reflects the greatest areas of need, including education, support for seniors, child care and the environment, areas which, he said, have been "ignored" by Stephen Harper during his tenure as Prime Minister.

"We will pay for our program by stopping the \$6 billion corporate tax giveaway that Stephen Harper wants to give to the country's largest companies," said Mr. Peterson. "I happen to believe that health care and support for our families is far more important than giving billions more dollars to big business."

In her opening remarks, Ms. Long echoed Mr. Peterson's theme that the voters have a "choice", but, she said, it is not a choice between "red" and "blue".

"Ms. Brown will argue tonight that she and the Conservatives are taking care of middle class Canadians, the environment, animals, veterans, and seniors while cutting taxes," said Ms. Long. "I guess that is why we have a record deficit."

Canada is facing the largest wealth disparity in its history, she said, with the rich getting "exponentially" richer and the poor get-

ting poorer and more desperate.

"I guess that's why we need more prisons," she said.

Seniors, for instance are returning to work in record numbers, finding their fixed incomes insufficient to meet their needs.

"We all deserve to live with dignity and the old line parties just aren't delivering."

Having picked the number four, Ms. Brown was the last of the candidates to speak their opening remarks.

She said she has worked "tirelessly" on behalf of Newmarket-Aurora residents and is proud of her accomplishments.

"We've been through two very difficult years and during this global downturn the focus of our government has been on the creation of jobs," said Ms. Brown. "I was able to convince my colleagues in Ottawa to invest in Aurora in projects such as the Aurora GO Bridge...[and] this infrastructure money has improved the lives of residents of Aurora."

Noting that she invited the Regional Chair to Ottawa to meet with the Minister of Transport, she said a significant investment in the local Viva system was the result of the meeting.

She also said she has helped several Aurora businesses with Federal investment dollars, and there are still more projects she would like to continue working on.

"The global economy is still fragile and Canadians remain concerned about their jobs and their families," she said. "There is much more to be done. Our government has a plan to meet these challenges and we need to stay the course."

After over an hour and a half discussion among the candidates, panelists, and members of the public, on subjects ranging from the economy to the environment and from governance to gun control, candidates concluded the evening with their final pitch.

Being in fourth position at the beginning afforded Ms. Brown first crack at making closing remarks. After visiting thousands of doors since elected in 2008, she said the issues she has heard most are jobs and the economy.

"The Stephen Harper Conservative Government has consistently said that the economy remains our number one priority," she said, adding that her party is committed to keeping taxes low to support small business owners and manufacturers.

"You may choose a government which has given parents choice in childcare, support to students and significant tax cuts to seniors or an opposition that wants to raise taxes and risk setting families back. I have worked very hard to improve the quality of life for citizens in Aurora and I have a track record to prove it."

According to Ms. Long, a vote for the Green Party will be a vote for creating the Canada "that we deserve".

"Who are Green Canadians?" she asked in her closing. "We are new Canadians who want the chance to practice our professions. We are families together and apart who deserve income splitting and equal parenting now. We are the disabled, veterans and non, who deserve better than a lifetime of poverty."

"We are every Canadian and we deserve something better. The Green Party is something better and you have an important choice to make."

For Mr. Peterson, May 2 is about priorities, and the Liberal government offers the priority to "stand up for" the public health

system, invest in young Canadians with tuition help and incentives to hire youth, and providing all Canadians with an "equal opportunity" regardless of income.

"Stephen Harper's priorities are for corporate tax giveaways, fighter jets and prisons, paid for by cuts to your health care," said Mr. Peterson. "Stephen Harper has never balanced a budget and they have no plan to do so now. He has a gaping \$11 billion hole in his plan. They turned a \$13 billion dollar surplus into a \$56 billion deficit in four years. This is fiscal Conservatism? This concerns me and I know from knocking on doors that this concerns you. We must demand better."

Mr. Baxter's closing statements were reflective of the past government changes over the past few years and wondered if voters had detected any change with the government "flip-flopping" between "the Liberals and the neo-con government we have today."

"I want to promise you that Dorian will make the difference," he said. "Choose the person that will be able to speak clearly and forcefully and represent your rights. There are three things that I want to do for this community and I will fight until they are done. The moment you put me into Parliament I will get them done very rapidly."

"Cabaret" production features Aurora people

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Aurora Performing Arts Group welcomes you to a musical set in Berlin's Kit Kat Club, on the eve of Hitler's rise to power in Weimar Berlin in 1930.

It is hard-edged, taking no prisoners in a starkly real storyline based on Christopher Isherwood's Goodbye to Berlin and the subsequent play/film I am a Camera.

The show depicts the interlocking stories of a cabaret singer, a writer from America, and the denizens of Berlin, all caught up in the swirling maelstrom of a changing society.

It was the first big success for songwriting team John Kander and Fred Ebb, a big hit on Broadway, running for more than 1,000 performances in its initial engagement and with numerous successful revivals around the world in the decades since it was first performed.

Cabaret is often cited as one of the first major 'concept musicals', where the direction, design and symbolism of the piece can be just as important as the plot. When Director Sarah

Kyle began to direct this show, she decided fairly quickly that the interaction of the decadence of early 1930's Berlin culture with the rise of the Nazi party was fundamental to the plot and interpretation of the show.

As a result, producers are recommending parental guidance to ticket buyers.

Cabaret is a change to the group's usual tradition of staging big, family-friendly musical theatre.

The group chose this production to end its 16th season because history unfortunately repeats itself. Political factionalism has seriously jeopardized the security of many countries some more than once in the past.

The Aurora Performing Arts Group hopes that after seeing this production theatre-goers will be reminded of what can be done to make the world a place where everyone coexists as one.

The Performance, which features several Aurora residents is at the Newmarket Theatre May 13 through 15th.

For tickets go to www.newtix.ca or phone 905-953-5122.

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WEEKLY SHOW with Alison Collins-Mrakas

NOTICE: Last week the dates published in this section for the debate were not correct. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Federal DEBATE

for the riding of Newmarket/Aurora was recorded in the Aurora Council Chambers,

April 20, 2011

with moderator Alison Collins-Mrakas and is available on theauroran.com

WATCH OUR TOWN with Alison Collins-Mrakas Wednesday, April 27

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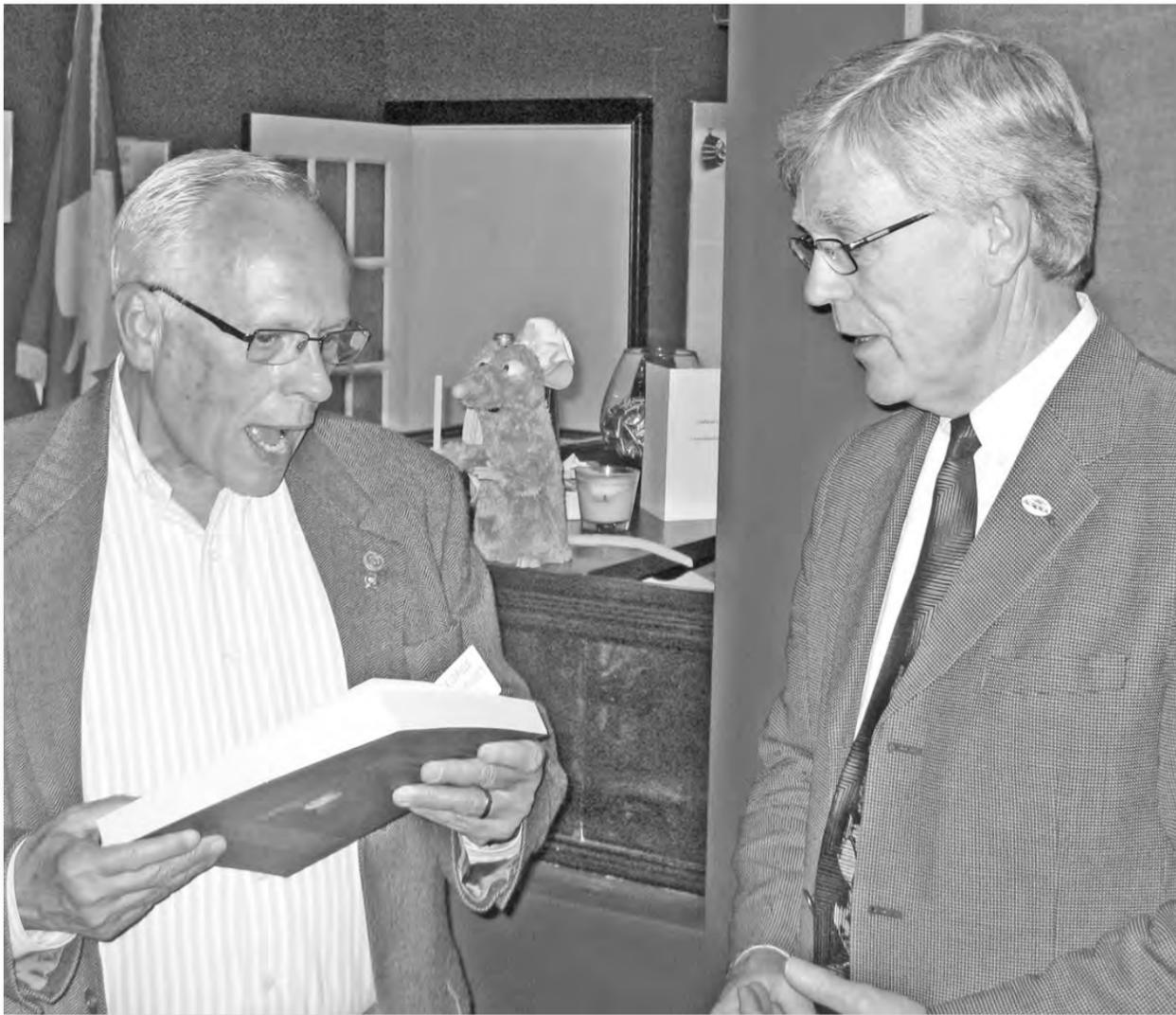
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Acting president of the Aurora Rotary Club George Gonsalves, left, presents Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe with a token of appreciation after the mayor was guest speaker at the club last week. The mayor was an Aurora Rotarian back in the 90s.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Candidates say they could solve local commuter woes

Regardless of the various plans to create local jobs, a number of Aurorans are commuters, often creating traffic gridlock during rush hours.

When asked by panelist Grace Marsh how candidates in the next federal election would assist municipalities in tackling issues such as long commute times that are beyond the means of property taxes, Green Party candidate Vanessa Long said her party felt very strongly that municipalities need a boost.

"We would increase public transportation so that people could actually get back and forth to work and we would create strong, local jobs so they wouldn't have to commute an hour or two hours each way," she said.

For Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson, his party's proposed Canadian Municipal Infrastructure Strategy would work hand in hand with municipalities to determine municipal priorities, including transportation issues.

"[We will] work in conjunction with [municipalities] and meeting with them face to face and discussing what their priorities are and helping them to fund those priorities, ones that suit the needs of the people in the community," he said.

Similar issues arose in yes or no questions posed to the candidates including one by Ms. Marsh who asked whether the Federal deficit should be reduced if

public services are diminished.

All candidates answered in the affirmative but Dorian Baxter.

When asked by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe whether they would support indexing the gas tax subsidy, something that has become "an important part of municipal budgeting", all were in favour but Conservative candidate Lois Brown.

Demands on services, including public health, created by Federal immigration policies was of concern to panelist Councillor Evelyn Buck, who posed a question to Ms. Brown and Progressive Canadian candidate Mr. Baxter on what they would do to provide assistance.

Healthcare was an issue regularly encountered door knocking, said Ms. Brown, who added the government contributed to the Canada Health Act and "support[s] universal health care and the single mode of payment as through your OHIP card."

"We have a lot of catching up to do," she said. "In 1995, budgets in the Federal government were balanced by removing the health transfer into the provinces. We lost \$25 billion out of our healthcare programs so there is a long way to go. We have committed to renewing the health care accord that comes up for renewal in 2014 and we have committed to putting that money back into the provinces."

Mr. Peterson said he

In his response, Mr. Baxter said he would make "a very strong noise" in Ottawa to protect health-care services in Newmarket-Aurora and seek to decrease wait times.

During rapid fire questions, the candidates tackled the question of legalizing/decriminalizing "pot", posed by Councillor Buck - yeas came from Mr. Peterson and Ms. Long - the question of support for public-private partnerships in healthcare posed by Christopher Watts - nays came from Ms. Brown and Mr. Baxter - and the issue of doctor-assisted suicide - with the only nay coming from Ms. Brown.

The latter question, however, brought up the issue of palliative care during the audience questions and answers.

"Our budget does include financing for caregivers for people who are taking care of loved ones who are at the end of their life, but we also have to respect the fact that the delivery of health care services does belong to the province," said Ms. Brown. "We can't dictate to each province how it is that they are going to be providing those services in the province."

She added a discussion is needed to see a balance across the country so everyone at the end of their life would be able to "have that dignity afforded to them."

Mr. Peterson said he

was a "big proponent" of palliative care, having been president of Doane House Hospice for many years.

"In our platform, the Liberal party wants to have a national palliative care policy in conjunction with the provinces to make sure there are consistent standards across the country, regardless of what province you live in," he said. "I think it is an important undertaking and I am committed to working with the provinces to achieve that end."

He also had the opportunity to expand on the marijuana issue when asked by an audience member how that would get support from the police forces.

"This shows the limits of the yes and no answers," he said. "I support the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana, making them not a crime but a ticketable offense."

Ms. Long, however, approached the question from a different angle.

"The war on drugs is a complete failure," she said. "All we have done is penalize people who are addicts, drive part of our economy underground, and waste billions and billions of our dollars and decades of our time trying to fight something that isn't going to go away."

"The Green Party would legalize it. It would bring in a billion dollars of tax revenue and that would help us provide social services to everyone."

Wells St. house may be destroyed

From page 1
photographs of the building? Who is going to care?"

According to Mr. Ramunno, there are more than 600 properties listed on the register as having "some historical or architectural or cultural interest", but the recommendation came out of a recent heritage evaluation that was undertaken in response to the property owner's demolition request.

"The property was identified as being moderately significant, however the committee's recommendation was that it would support demolition but it was worthy of documentation and it is standard practice with respect to maintaining our database to documenting not only the exterior but also the interior floor plans of these listed properties.

"[It is my] understanding that the owners don't have an issue with providing that documentation."

In his report, Mr. Ramunno said the matter was brought directly to council for consideration "due to the current absence of a council-appointed Heritage Advisory Committee and to limited time allowed by the Ontario Heritage act."

The property, which is currently for sale, is described in the report as originally owned by foreman woodworker Egbert Cattell, followed by Charles and Pearl Stone. The current house

was built between 1920 and 1921.

"It is a modest 1 3/4 storey Worker's house of wood structure, a square plan, front gable, and full-width covered porch," said Mr. Ramunno in the report. "The exterior walls have been covered with InsulBrick siding to give the illusion of brick."

"Other than the InsulBrick siding, the house is still true to its original design and has not been altered. The Fire Insurance maps revised in 1927 shows 105 Wells as a wood structure surrounded by two brick houses located at 103 and 107 Wells Street."

In addition to giving final consideration to the demolition request this week, councillors are also expected to fill citizen vacancies on advisory committees, including the newly-restored Heritage Advisory Committee. Expected members are David Heard, Erina Kelly, John McIntyre, Bob McRoberts, and Jacqueline Stuart.

Gordon Barnes, John Clement, Juergen Daurer, and Greg Smith are expected to join the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee while Edward McAleese Addison, Judy Gilchrist, James McConnell, Peter Piersol, David Taillefer, David Tomlinson, and Svetoslava Topouzova will round out the Environmental Advisory Committee.

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“Walk your talk”

By CHARLES SEQUEIRA

Join the Seniors' walking club - walks are held Wednesday mornings and are about an hour in length.

All walks are on trails in and around Aurora.

The terrain may be hilly (as is much of Aurora) and participants should wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

We meet each week at 9.30 a.m. at the Seniors' Centre and car pool to the starting location, if necessary.

No pre-registration is required, just show up.

We are always looking for eager members to walk with us and Spring is a beautiful time to get out and get moving.

So come out and join us, you will be glad you did. Meet Ziggy, walking Club Mascot.

To our Aurora Seniors' Association members using the indoor track at the Leisure Complex, this notice is to further inform you that we now have set a meeting date for Tuesday, May 3rd starting at 4.30 p.m. for about an hour at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

We will discuss the options proposed to us by the Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Aurora. For those that cannot attend we will e-flash the results of our recommendations.

Nominations for the Aurora Seniors Association have now closed.

We have five nominees for the three Director positions that are open.

Names of the nominees are Virginia Bodnar Bob Collard, Kay Hack, Frank Leone and Barbara Stoecklin. A meeting for the five nominees has been set for Thursday, April 28 at 11 a.m. in meeting room (C).

Elections to vote for the nominees start on Tuesday, May 3rd, and end after Friday May 27.

Taking part in the election process by exercising your right to vote as an active member of the Association, will help determine your Board of Directors for the 2011-2012 period.

Voting ballots will be available at the Seniors' Centre, and voting will take place Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday and Friday evenings as well.

Our reception volunteers will look after the voting during non-busy periods, and other pre-selected volunteers will have a separate table to look after the voting during busy periods at the Centre.

Our 2011 annual General meeting (AGM) has been set for Wednesday, June 6, starting at 4 p.m. at the

Aurora Seniors' Centre in the West-McKenzie hall.

The notice of meeting and agenda will be in our May newsletter and on our website: www.auroraseniors.ca.

This AGM will mark our 7th year of operation as an incorporated, non-profit organization.

This AGM is our members' opportunity to hear and comment on this year's progress and participate in decisions affecting their Association.

A barbecue supper will be available following the meeting at \$2 person for members who attended the meeting and a cash bar.

The Aurora Seniors Centre Silver Stars Drama Club has been invited to sing in a concert-sing-a-long at the Cultural Centre on Monday, June 6 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This date is the anniversary of "D" Day.

They will sing songs from the 30's and 40's.

Close to 20 Silver Stars volunteers from our Seniors' Centre have consented to take part in this concert.

The songs have already been arranged and we will be singing to the songs to the accompaniment of a pianist.

The Cultural Centre will organize posters, etc., all the advertising and invite residents from Retirement Homes as well as the local community.

The minutes of our Board Meeting on April 18, will be posted on our bulletin board next week along with the Financial statement.

At that meeting Mayor Geoffrey Dawe was our guest, and it was a very productive meeting indeed. We presented a brief summary of our background profile, the volunteer work we do at the Centre, our involvement with the community in Aurora and fund raising events we undertake for external charitable good causes.

We expressed concern on the availability of parking spaces, undertaking a study/survey on transportation for Seniors, and possibility of a vision for an offsite senior centre to accommodate growing membership and demand for an increase in senior activities and programs.

The Mayor's comments encouraged us to get involved/partner with other non-profit groups like Neighbourhood Network, Community Living.

Also suggested was "Smart Car Pooling" to ease parking at the Seniors' Centre, and to study the Salvation army proposed new facility in Aurora.

Our Next Board Meeting

is scheduled for Monday, May 16th starting at 1 p.m.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Volunteer Members, our sincere thanks to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Seniors' Centre Staff and our Sponsors for hosting a fun filled and enjoyable evening on Wednesday April 20, for all our volunteers at the Seniors' Centre.

We appreciate the recognition of the dedication and commitment of all our volunteers.

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WHEN IT DOESN'T BELONG IT STANDS OUT.

Tim Hortons wants to get together with you to clean up our neighbourhood and put litter in its place. Because it's not just any community, it's our community. So come out and join us on Saturday, April 30th from 9am - 12 noon for the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day. To register and for more information please contact Info Aurora at 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@aurora.ca.



COMING EVENTS

From page 2

and on Sunday it is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call 905-726-4762 or send an e-mail to sware@e-aurora.ca.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting takes place today at Cupid and Psyche Jewellery and Accessories, 2 Orchard Heights Blvd., Unit 3, Aurora, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Cost is complimentary to Chamber members.

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, there are still a few available, 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.

The Aurora Historical Society is looking for volunteers to join their Hillary House Outdoor Spring Clean Up, today from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a chance to enjoy the outdoors while working on the grounds of a 150-year-old home and is an opportunity for students to complete community hours. A barbecue lunch will be provided. For more information or to register contact Sandy at 905-841-4035 or ssbundy@sympatico.ca.

MONDAY, MAY 16

The 16th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters charity golf tournament will be held this year at Station Creek Golf Club on Woodbine Avenue in Gormley. The \$200 per golfer fee includes a four-person scramble format, lunch, golf, cart, dinner and prizes. For further information contact Rhonda at 905-726-2149, extension 316.

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.

Hospice King-Aurora presents Dr. Alan Wolfelt, "The Wilderness of Grief: Finding Your Way", this evening from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Country Day School. For additional information and to register call 905-773-0155 or go to <http://www.hospicekingaurora.ca>.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the second of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Aurora's Heritage of Artifacts and Documents: Treasures from the Aurora Historical Society's Collections." the lecture begins at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration is required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For additional information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MAY 29-31

Another historic walk is planned on each of the evenings listed above beginning at 7 p.m. Brought to you by A Step In Time, the walks will present data about where ghosts used to hang out in Aurora. Advance tickets are \$20 and 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the Heart and Stroke and Crohns and Colitis Foundations.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Wesley United Church, at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Sideroad is participating in Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours of this historical 130-year-old Gothic church sanctuary will be conducted by three pioneer members of the church. Artifacts will be on display. For those interested in visiting the old cemetery behind the church which dates back to the mid-1800s, a tour will also be available. Light refreshments will be served.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Annual Aurora Street Festival begins at 11 a.m. and runs to 5 p.m. on Yonge Street from Wellington St. to Murray Drive.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents "We'll Meet Again: Songs of the 1930s and 40s Community Sing-Along". Join the Silver Stars Drama Club in singing old favourites including The White Cliffs of Dover, Roll Out the Barrel, As Time Goes By - and more. Complimentary admission and refreshments. Event begins at 2 p.m. No registration is required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For more information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Aurora Heights Public School will hold an open house today, to celebrate the school's 50th birthday. Included in the event, which starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. will be a barbecue, a ceremony, historic displays, activities for younger kids and special raffles.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

The annual Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society invites you to attend its Aurora Garden Tour today. Eight gardens are available for touring where the owners and creators will be present to chat with you. The tour is from noon to 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aurora at Art of the Matter, 2 Orchard Heights Boulevard; Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street and at our booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market June 11th, 18th, and 25th. For more information call Madge at 905-727-5926 or visit <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/6118>



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