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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 32

905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of June 7, 2011



Every traffic light in the photo above is green, and that's how the Aurora Chamber of Commerce felt after their 16th annual Street Festival was held Sunday with perfect weather. Chamber manager Judy Marshall estimated the crowd at "more than 40,000". Everything, she said, went off smoothly and she thanked the volunteers and the exhibitors for their efforts. More photos on Page 15.

Auroran photo by Rob Scheutze

## Town won't change mind

The planning act and zoning amendments for the controversial wellness centre and residential complex construction on Yonge Street and Elderberry Trail continues despite a last ditch appeal from residents to get council to change their minds last week.

The effort came from residents of the Elderberry Trail neighbourhood who approached councillors Tuesday afternoon asking to hold an emergency meeting later that day to review and possibly reverse their decision to approve the amendments made just one week before.

Evidently a majority of councillors opted against an emergency meeting but the residents were heard anyway when they waived procedural bylaw to allow a resident to appear before general committee as a delegation.

"There were a number of issues that were raised as a concern to myself personally that I believe were shared with

members of the community," said delegate Walter Mestrinaro, who outlined concerns regarding the planned height of the residential building on site as well as the change in density that would be needed if the building went ahead.

"The density that was presented to you was 2.45 units per acre," he said. "That density can only be arrived at by

Please see page 12

## Council passes six-month mark

The 2010 Council passes its six-month mark this week and if comments from new and returning councillors are any indication, it has been a pretty steep learning curve.

At last week's general committee meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said someone has likened the experience to being "force-fed information with a fire hose", an assessment he said he agreed with.

"We haven't always agreed on everything but I believe we are doing it in a fairly congenial manner, so thank you," he told councillors and staff last Tuesday.

For first-time Councillor Michael Thompson, he said the ride has "been wonderful."

"Personally I am very much enjoying the role," he told The Auroran last week. "I think we have developed a very good, positive working relationship amongst each other and we're certainly moving the Town's business forward."

One piece of business the Town has moved forward is can-  
Please see page 12

## Cancer survivor ready for Friday relay

With the 2011 Aurora Relay for Life fast approaching on Friday, the relay's Honorary Survivor Larry Raifman is trying to raise as much money as possible for the big day.

The Newmarket resident, a survivor of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, has gone to his work colleagues, his Facebook friends and almost anybody he can get his hands on to support his team, Larry's Lab Rats, in advance of the June 10 event.

As "the face" of this annual fundraiser for 2011, Mr. Raifman is encouraging everyone to seriously consider supporting the Relay for Life

if approached by participants.

"I think the motto of the relay is Remember, Celebrate and Fight Back, and that is basically what we're trying to do - remember those who have passed away from this awful disease, celebrate those who survived it, and to fight back so hopefully we can eradicate down the road this horrible disease."

As The Auroran reported last week, Mr. Raifman's relationship with the Canadian Cancer Society began with his diagnosis six years ago when the organization helped him make his way to and from treatment

sessions at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital.

The volunteers, he said, always had coffee and tea on hand, and were always willing to offer support and reassurance before going in for treatment.

The support from the Canadian Cancer Society went hand-in-hand with the support provided to him by his wife, daughters, and other family members.

"It was scary and yet I was determined, I had great support," he said. "My family was very strong for me, and with me, and I was strong for

them because I didn't want them to really see how scared I was. It was a long journey and I was glad when it was over. I am even more glad that it has been six years since that time.

"When I got a clean bill of health I decided to try to pay back the Canadian Cancer Society."

For several years now, his "pay-back" has been to participate in Relay For Life, but now as Honorary Survivor, Mr. Raifman has a leading part in the event.

For those who may have had a recent diagnosis, his advice is sim-  
Please see page 10



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**COMING EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10**

You are invited to a Sunset "Lethal Luau" and Beach Party to help solve a murder presented by the "Silver Stars" Drama Club at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Chase Diamond is celebrating his birthday party, but his drink is laced with poison. It is up to you to find out which one of his guests poisoned him. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the dinner and a cash bar is available. Dinner, the show and prizes are included with the \$10 admission price and tickets, are on sale now at the centre's front desk until June 8.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

Merlin's Hollow is open to the public for free today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The English flower garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent, west of Industrial Parkway, off Centre Street.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12**

The Art Of Flying - Pandora's Box series in Aurora presents a mix of classical music, dance, food and wine. Net proceeds go to the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter campaign. Join dancer Heather Lumsden, flute soloist Anne Thompson, the L'il Rascals Horn Quartet and Tony Browning's Marion Singers to experience "flight" through music and dance. Tickets include finger food, tea and wine. Tickets online at <http://www.pandorasboxsalon.com/> or call 289-221-0229. Show starts at 2.30 p.m., at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly Church Street School.

\*\*\*\*

The first Victorian Tea held by GRANAurora will be held this afternoon at Hillary House from 2 to 4 p.m. GRANAurora is part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in conjunction with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The group will have its signature African dolls and some summer African Kazuri Jewelry for sale at the event.

\*\*\*\*

Due to the success of the May walking event, another Rescue Mediums show has been added tonight. The May episode was a success. You will need to show up tonight as David Heard again leads a historic walk and return to the Filly & Firkin for viewing of shocking video footage from inside the bar and the episode. Once again, he says, the group will embark from the front of the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. Tickets are available from the Filly & Firkin and the A Step in Time Booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market. 100 per cent of funds raised will go to the Heart and Stroke and Crohn's and Colitis Foundations. Aurora is still a community full of mystery. Experience some of that magic tonight.

**MONDAY, JUNE 13**

The Manor, ByPeterandPauls.com, and

10 local chambers, including the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, host the Colossal Chamber Connection Event. This interactive networking event takes place at The Manor (Carrying Place) at 16750 Weston Road in Kettleby beginning at 5.30 p.m. and continuing until 7.30. This networking event attracted more than 600 participants last year.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15**

Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, presents the Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church St. Louis, Missouri Carillon Ringers Handbell Choir in concert with the Aurora United Church Bell Choirs. This concert, featuring a group of teens performing on tour in numerous U.S. and Canadian cities, begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted in support of this fundraising event. For more information, call Lisa Kyriakides at 905-898-5198.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17**

The Seniors dance committee, with Angus MacKenzie as its chair, will hold its second dance of the month tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The committee will take the months of July and August off and looks forward to resuming the dances September 2nd.

**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.

\*\*\*\*

Jackryn France, 89 Wellington Street East, will hold their Annual French Country Market Sale today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A percentage of the sales will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

\*\*\*\*

Jim Edwards family reunion concert, featuring seven top local singers, tonight at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. For tickets, call Jim at 905-713-1665.

**JUNE 18-26**

Artcures Exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Call 905-713-1818 for times the centre is open.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25**

At the Aurora Community Centre and Machell Park from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. you can meet Andrew, an Aurora teen battling Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy who will be granted his most heart-felt wish through The Children's Wish Foundation. Net proceeds of Wish-Mania will be donated to sponsor Andrew's wish, and those of other children coping with life-threatening illnesses. For

more information about Children's Wish, visit [www.childrenswish.ca](http://www.childrenswish.ca). During the day, several people will attempt to set a new Guinness record to make the world's largest smiley. Some 767 people are needed to set the new record. All participants must be registered and in line with their ticket no later than 2.30 p.m. That will take place at 3 p.m. at Machell Park. Go to [www.wishmania.ca](http://www.wishmania.ca) for details.

**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>

**SATURDAY, JULY 2**

Merlin's Hollow is open to the public for free today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The English flower garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent, west of Industrial Parkway, off Centre Street.

# Deadline is Friday for Teen Idol competition

If you have a natural talent to sing and command an audience, you won't want to miss the fourth annual Aurora Teen Idol competition presented by the Town of Aurora.

The competition's participant registration ends Friday, June 10.

To participate in the competition you must be between the ages of 11 and 19 and live in Aurora.

Registration applications are available at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and online at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca).

The first round of auditions are scheduled for

Tuesday, June 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

The final round will take place at Lambert Willson Park in conjunction with the Canada Day festivities on Friday, July 1 from 3 to 4.30 p.m.

The winner will be chosen by a panel of professional artists looking for the best youth vocalist.

The Aurora Teen Idol will receive a \$100 cash prize, rights to perform at key Town of Aurora events, a three-month swimming or fitness pass, two Cineplex Odeon movie passes, and XSCAPE Play Cards, pizza for a year from Boston Pizza Aurora

and a framed certificate signed by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

The runner up will receive a \$50 cash reward, be an alternate to perform at key Town of Aurora events (when the winner is unavailable), a one-month swimming or fitness pass, two Cineplex Odeon movie passes, two XSCAPE Play Cards, dinner for two at Boston Pizza Aurora (\$50 value) and a framed certificate signed by the mayor.

For more information on the 2011 Aurora Teen Idol competition, contact Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator, at 905-726-4762 or at [sware@aurora.ca](mailto:sware@aurora.ca).

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Workers apply glass to parking lot at Sheppard's Bush last week. About 2.7 million bottles were used to create the innovative parking lot.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# New parking lot made from bottles

A new, innovative parking lot is settling in this week at the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area after it was put in place last week.

The parking lot in question, just off Industrial Parkway, is not made of the typical concrete and asphalt materials, but one that is made out of approximately 2.7 million glass bottles.

Mixed with a polyurethane base, approximately 350 tonnes of glass from a recycling facility in upstate New York were poured into the 30,000 square foot parking lot.

"The process uses a much needed, valuable resource, recycled glass - the majority of which gets recycled to the curb but never makes it to any end use - and around 75 per cent of that resource is never actually recycled," said Joe Caul, owner of the Colorado-based Caul Corporation who innovated the process.

Mr. Caul worked with Aurora resident Matt Parsons of Layfield Group to bring this project to Town.

"In this process we use roughly 90 bottles per square foot and we have 30,000 square feet out here."

One of the major selling points of this glass product for use as a parking lot is that it is a permeable surface which allows water to pass through and get back into the ground.

Curiously, another environmental impact is that the material also attracts oil, trapping it, and allowing it to biodegrade without passing through and getting into the groundwater.

"It has an affinity for oil," said Mr. Caul. "There is not a

really good scientific technology behind it other than the fact it seems to have a surface tension that likes to grab oil. Glass doesn't have any pore space in it but it has an affinity for the oil to hold onto it as the water goes through."

According to Aurora's Parks Manager Jim Tree, who was on hand Thursday morning to show off the process, the Sheppard's Bush parking lot was selected for this project, the first of its kind in Canada (although there are similar lots in the northern United States and in Germany) because it was a high-traffic granular area.

Installing this permeable hard surface will significantly impact the amount of maintenance that has to be done to the lot, he said.

"Every time it rained we would have to come over and do more maintenance because it got potholed very quickly," said Mr. Tree. "Initially the parking lot was supposed to be asphalt and as time went on we looked at environmentally friendly alternatives to asphalt so that evolved with more research, more discussion with the [Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority] who manages the property and the Ontario Heritage foundation who owns the property."

While Mr. Caul estimates that the lifespan of the permeable glass surface would last between 10 and 15 years but "quite a bit longer than that" if proper care is taken with snowplowing - plows with rubber tipped blades are preferred - Mr. Tree said it is unknown how this is going to compare in terms of durability

to other surfaces.

"There are no other installations in Canada [but] we do know that it is functioning in northern US in Colorado and Wisconsin and it is similar to our climate and based on our research and the research that has been made available based on the engineering information that has been made available and information that we have obtained, we're comfortable enough to go with it here," he said.

The cost is more expensive than traditional surfaces but most of that is attributed to the base that is below the hard surface, including three feet of granular base and even more sand beneath that, but costs will be recouped in the long run, he said.

"We get savings on infrastructure like storm sewers, all of the catch basins, curbs, gutters, and you keep the water on the site so there is a huge savings there," said Mr. Tree, adding that the success of the project can be measured right now. "We know going in that we're keeping water on the site, keeping the contaminants out of the soil, we're saving money on infrastructure, we're making use of recycled post-consumer material so that is a big measurement right there."

# Heritage planning fees need to be relaxed: Buck

Aurora's heritage planning fees should be relaxed to make it easier for merchants and other professionals to make use of the Town's historic buildings, according to Councillor Buck.

Councillor Buck made her views known at last week's general committee meeting during a discussion on Town service fees.

Existing fees for owners to change the use of a heritage building may be prohibitive to newcomers who may want to set up shop in the buildings that populate Aurora's heritage core.

"For 40 years we have encouraged the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings," Councillor Buck said. "The reason for that is to maintain the heritage character of the old part of Town. Councils down through the years have supported that principle, the community supports the principle and, in fact, there are homes in the heritage area that are nicer now than when they were originally built."

Individuals and building owners have taken it upon themselves to improve, renovate, and adapt the buildings, said Councillor Buck, "and then along comes some people who decide that the house they're looking at fits the vision they have for operating a business."

One example she cited was a house that was renovated to accommodate an interior design and accessories firm with the appropriate zoning actions put in place with the appropriate fees.

With the owner now seeking to wind down her business, she can now "only sell to someone who would be interested in operating an interior design consulting business."

"In fact, the owner has lost two buyers already because two doctors, a husband and wife, weren't in the business of interior design consulting, but they can't buy that house because that house is specifically for an interior design consultant," she said. "In order to change it there would have to be another fee of almost \$20,000 paid. This is a very small building with a limited amount of floor space."

"These fees in this circumstance are quite out of line with the value of the property and they do not help us to carry out the intent of seeing these lovely little old homes be adapted for a mod-

ern use. When we put those fees out of any practical reality we are not doing what we should be doing."

Councillor Buck expressed her views in a discussion on proposed adjustments to fees charged by various Town departments for a wide variety of services ranging from simple document copying to charges for new blue and green bins.

"The charges for the services on these schedules are user pay services for the sole benefit of the requesting party," said Town Treasurer Dan Elliott. "Most of the fees are on a full cost recovery basis, rather than only par-

tially recovering the town's costs in the provision of service."

Increased fees include \$10 in administrative costs for building services for internal processing of applications, a new \$125 fee for a preliminary zoning review for proposed construction projects, a new \$40 fee for official plan consolidation, and a \$3.25 price increase to blue boxes to reflect an increased cost due to the larger size of the receptacles.

Council will give final approval for the fee changes this week.

Councillor Buck has indicated a notice of motion addressing her concerns is forthcoming.



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# PCs introduce "changebook"

At the Ontario PC Convention that took place last weekend, the Ontario PC Party officially released its platform document called changebook.

It's the PC Party's commitment to give relief to families and businesses who are struggling to cope with increasing taxes, fees and bureaucratic regulations.

Changebook details how a PC Government would provide relief, not only from taxes but also promises to remove the provincial portion of the HST from hydro and home heating bills.

According to Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, the changebook document is the result of extensive consultations with Ontario families, PC Party members and expert stakeholders.

The policies contained in changebook were taken directly from the Have Your Say survey in which thousands of Aurora and Newmarket residents participated.

"Ideas also came from constituent feedback through meetings, calls, e-mails and postings on social media" said Mr. Klees. "Overall, the exercise was the largest platform consultation ever taken in the history of the Province of Ontario".

The three pillars of changebook are: More money in the pockets of Ontario families; guarantees for priority services, like health and education; and Commitment to clean up government and eliminate waste, fraud and secret deals.

Every government agency, board and commission will be subjected to a "sunshine review", he said. If a meaningful purpose is being served and it's running efficiently, it will be kept in place. If there are inefficiencies, they will have to be addressed and fixed.

If it's determined that the organization is no longer adding value, it will be eliminated.

The Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) have already been identified for elimination with a commitment to put the millions saved directly into front line health care services.

All government contracts will have to be publicly tendered and there will be no more secret deals like the \$7 billion Samsung Agreement, which was signed behind closed doors without opportunity for Ontario companies to even present a competitive bid, he said.

"The upcoming election offers Ontarians real choices" said MPP Frank Klees. "Voters will have a choice between higher taxes or tax relief.

"They will have a choice to stay with the current government that thinks Ontarians have an unlimited ability to pay, or change to a government that knows hydro costs and taxes are out of control.

"And they will have a choice between a party that understands what it's like to struggle to make ends meet and a government that is out of touch."

The provincial election date is fixed for October 6, 2011.

Mr. Klees has been nominated for the Ontario PC Party in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

The full changebook document can be downloaded online at [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca).



This group of youngsters are from Form 1 (you know it better today as Grade 9) and they're posed in front of Aurora's first high school, a year before it was rebuilt and today is the Wells Street school building on, yep, Wells Street. In 1923, the school - we'll have a picture next week of what it looked like before renovations - was still the Aurora and District High School. Since 1952, the high school, later renamed the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, has been located on Dunning Avenue. This photo was taken in 1922 and was provided to The Auroran by Ted McClenny. See anyone you know?

## Letters to the Editor

# Manager thanks Heard, Myers

To the editor,

Aurora Spirit Walk/Rescue Mediums Screening May 29 was Sold Out and a Second Date is scheduled for June 12.

Thank you to local history enthusiast David Heard for

organizing a guided tour through historic downtown Aurora on May 29th, where he both educated and entertained young and old alike with stories of spirits and history of the old town.

After the walk, everyone gathered at the Filly & Firkin Pub.

Thank you also goes to Cathy Myers, Manager of Filly & Firkin in Aurora who closed the Yonge Street pub for the evening to allow for the private world premiere screening of the Rescue Medium show that was taped on location earlier this year with Jackie Dennison and Alison Wynne-Ryder. Ms. Myers and employee Bradley Mok were the stars of the episode that will air shortly on TV.

Ms. Myers very generously provided a variety of delicious pub fare to all ticket holders, in addition to donating \$1,000 for the event.

Mr. Heard is matching that donation from A Step In Time.

After the premiere screening that ended to loud applause, guests were well entertained by singer/guitarist Pat Mete, a former Auroran.

A silent auction with many valuable items including a Maple Leafs jersey and framed prints was also available for bidding.

A second guided tour and

show has been added for June 12th due to popular demand - you won't want to miss it!

Tickets are \$20 with all proceeds to be shared by Heart & Stroke Foundation and Crohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada.

Tickets can be purchased at the Filly & Firkin or from David Heard at the Aurora Farmers' Market, which runs Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Thank you to David Heard and Cathy Myers for organizing this historic event for local residents. Thanks also to Pat Mete for providing entertainment, to the staff of Filly & Firkin for supporting the event, to those who donated items to the silent auction, and to everyone behind the scenes who made this such a resounding success and entertaining evening.

**Nancy Brouillard**  
Area Manager  
York Region North  
Heart & Stroke Foundation

# Woman says Holmes is Mr. Self-Righteous

To the editor,

Re: Mark Holmes' letter - The Auroran, Week of May 31, 2011.

Mr. Self-Righteous, aka Mark Holmes, is certainly entitled to his opinion, as are Mr. & Mrs. Goody Two-shoes.

As Peter Drost mentions in his letter, (The Auroran, May 31), "The rustic days of trains chugging through town blowing their brass whistles are long gone." I am of the same opinion.

I ask, how many people have been killed at the train crossings in Aurora, ever?

I ask, were they obeying the laws? With four, count 'em, four level crossings in Aurora, where can you live in this town that you will NOT hear the train whistles?

Sleep deprivation is a real and present danger and as Christopher Watts recently mentions in his blurb, 100 Watts (The Auroran, May 17) "Reconnecting this past week with an old friend I learned that he had a recent scare after passing out at work. After undergoing several tests...the real root of his problem was discovered: sleep deprivation."

Yet, when I brought it up in my letter to the editor of The Auroran, June 22, Christopher Watts was incensed enough to 'give me' an Ass-Hat on his blog, as follows:

"To Phyllis Mahon who wrote a whiny letter to The Auroran in which says she will

be very happy to move so she doesn't have to be woken up by the train whistles.

To which I say the next train leaves in...oh wait, I don't have a schedule, tell you what one will be along shortly why don't you just listen for the next whistle.

Perhaps Mr. Watts has a different opinion now?

I repeat what I said in my letter of June 22, 2010 - it's been proven that someone who's sleep-deprived and driving a vehicle is as dangerous as a drunk driver, if not more so.

P. Cooke mentions in his letter to The Auroran (May 24) that he can recall at least four deaths along these tracks.

Were these deaths at the points where the whistles are to be sounded?

Or somewhere the people shouldn't have been in the first place?

I believe people need to take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Use your head, Mark Holmes - no one has suggested never using the whistle.

As a matter of fact, if you refer to a report of the Transportation and Works Committee Regional Council Meeting of February 21, 2008, it states, "Even if a local municipality enacts an anti-whistling by-law at a location, the train operator still has discretionary use of the train whistle."

An automated horn system has been suggested in that

same report but apparently at that time the use of automated horn systems was not approved as there were no standards for these systems and no criteria for their use. Has this changed since 2008?

Why does the decibel level of the train whistle have to be loud enough to blow you off your feet? Can it be lowered? Car horns are a warning device and cars are nowhere near the size of a train, which should be obviously visible and avoidable.

Why can't train whistles

# Don't feed the fox, writer begs residents

To the editor,

I live in Regency Acres in the Seaton Drive, Knowles Crescent area.

We have a fox living in this area, too.

He visits everyone, sometimes staying for a while.

I contacted MNR (as advised by OSPCA) for information and they told me that the fox must have a food source for him to continue to come back.

I am not sure, but I think some people have been feeding him.

MNR has advised that this is not a good idea, because it will only encourage other wild animals

have a similar sound/decibel level?

Just a few things to think about. And, yes, Christopher, I still live in Aurora.

My house is for sale and it will be good to move away from Aurora.

Mark Holmes so patronizingly welcomes new residents to a little town he's called home for 50 years.

I'll be happy to call Aurora my ex-hometown.

**P. Mahon**  
Aurora

(Coyotes etc.) into the area!!

I have a very small dog who plays in the backyard and I have been very concerned for her safety.

If you are feeding this fox, can you please stop!!

A fox is known to go after rabbits, cats, birds and yes, could even go after small dogs!

I love all animals and would really hate for anything to happen.

Thank you to the neighbours, who do let me know when they see the fox.

Let's hope it is not too often.

**Diane Vanherk**  
Aurora

## THE AURORAN

### "Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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Aurora, L4G 1W1

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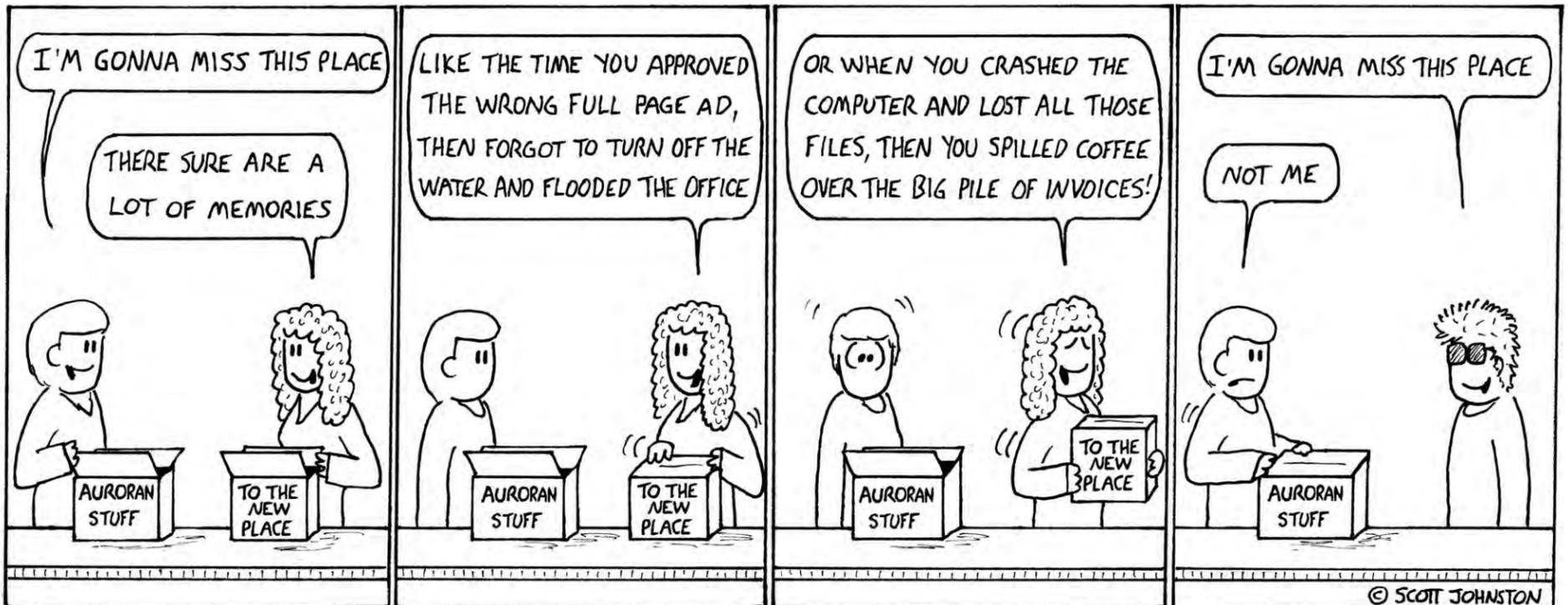
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## Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees  
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

## Can "Working Families" buy provincial election?

If you haven't seen them yet, you will. Political attack ads that paint Tim Hudak and the Ontario PC Party as being opposed to all that is good in Ontario.

The message of these ads is clear - only Dalton McGuinty will continue to give so-called Working Families what they need...and if that doesn't sound like the battle cry of a special interest group, I don't know what is.

And who's paying the millions of dollars to produce and air these political attack ads?

Working Families...

The tag lines on the ads tell us that they are being paid for by...Working Families.

Most will assume that this organization is made up of the typical, hard working families in their neighborhood.

But who is this Working Families group really?

According to their website, Working Families is a not-for-profit organization made up of the following unions: Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Canadian Auto Workers, Ontario Nurses Association, Service Employees International Union, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 128, The Millwrights, The Painters District Council Local 46, Ontario Pipe Trades Council, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and last but not least, the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council.

So, it's not your typical working families at all. It's a collective of unions, whose bosses have decided that they will pool their financial resources to launch a political media campaign with the sole purpose of re-electing Dalton McGuinty.

In other words, this organization is really a front for the Liberal Party of Ontario, but escapes the scrutiny and financial restrictions of political parties.

Some questions you might want to ask:

1) Why not be truthful and declare who is really behind these political ads?

Perhaps it's because the union leaders behind this campaign know, that the integrity of their message would be questioned if peo-

ple knew the true source of their message. And they're betting that few would bother to dig deep enough, to discover who is behind these political messages.

2) Why would this group of unions want to ensure that Dalton McGuinty is re-elected?

Because Dalton McGuinty sold out to every demand made by these unions since becoming Premier in 2003. From unaffordable public sector wage settlements, to legislative changes such as the elimination of secret ballots for union certification votes, it's clear who's controlling the agenda.

3) How will the unions associated with this Working Families group pay for this multi-million dollar political campaign?

Individual members of these unions will have no choice but to pay up.

For example, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), a member of the Working Families group, recently announced to its members that they would have to pay an additional \$60 levy to fund this upcoming political action campaign. Based on a membership of 45,000, this will generate almost \$3 million for an ad campaign to support Dalton McGuinty's re-election and specifically attack Tim Hudak and PC candidates.

And that's from just one union associated with this group.

4) How do front line teachers and members of other unions associated with the Working Families group feel about being forced to contribute to a political campaign with which they may well disagree?

In the wake of the OECTA announcement, I have had many calls from teachers who resent being forced to make what amounts to forced political contributions.

To the credit of York Region OECTA delegates, according to the April 1st President's Newsletter, York delegates were not convinced it was necessary.

Still, the resolution passed, and all York Region teachers who are members of this union will be forced to fund this campaign.

And just this past week, it was revealed that Ontario's Catholic teachers are being surveyed by their association to see if they would be willing to take time out of classroom duties in September to work for a union-endorsed candidate.

The SpeakforChildren.ca survey asks teachers if they are a

member of a political party, and if so which one?

Interesting that OECTA President James Ryan confirmed that there are no PC candidates on their list of endorsed candidates.

5) How does OECTA justify forcing its members to fund political attack ads?

In a March 23, 2010, letter, OECTA President Ryan states that the election of a Conservative government under Tim Hudak would "threaten the common good, particularly education".

In the same letter, Mr. Ryan makes a number of statements about the policies of the PC party that he claims are a threat to public education. None of the policies referenced by Mr. Ryan are in the PC platform.

I believe Mr. Ryan is as out of touch with the real working families of our province, as is Dalton McGuinty.

First, unionized or not, people don't want to be, and should not be forced to support any political agenda against their will. A 2008 Nanos Research survey showed that 78 per cent of unionized workers disagreed with having their dues used to fund advertising campaigns that oppose political parties.

Second, to assume that just because someone belongs to a union, they support or oppose a particular party, is equally out of touch. There's a reason that Oshawa, the largest auto town in Ontario, with the largest local of the Canadian Auto Workers union, has voted solidly Conservative since 1995.

Union members make their own decisions when it comes to the ballot box and vote based on what they believe is best for them and their families. That's why the PCs changebook commits to "paycheque protection" to allow union members to opt out of supporting political causes through their dues.

Will Working Families be able to buy a provincial government?

I know that the real working families of Aurora and Newmarket will make their own decisions about who to trust when it comes to leadership for our province. And I'm confident that Ontarians will base their voting decisions on what they believe is right and in the best interest of their family, their community and their province.

As always, I welcome your comments and advice. Please feel free to contact me through my website at [www.frankklees.com](http://www.frankklees.com) or by calling 905-750-0019.



## Lois Brown

By Lois Brown  
MP Newmarket-Aurora

## Stability, prosperity, security

Canada continues to be one of the world's top-performing advanced economies, but the global economic environment remains uncertain.

We must act now to protect our recovery and set the foundations for long-term growth.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Government will deliver on its commitments and be there for all Canadians - for individuals, for families and for all regions of the country - working together to move Canada forward.

Specifically, the Government will focus on: supporting jobs and growth by implementing the next phase of Canada's economic action plan, which will include further steps to promote a stable, low-tax environment; develop a highly skilled and flexible workforce; support innovation and the adoption of new technologies, and expand access to markets abroad; eliminating the deficit one year earlier by making responsible choices and reducing the cost of government, ensuring that the econ-

omy can continue to grow and create jobs; supporting hard-working families by helping seniors make ends meet and continuing to help Canadians save for their retirement; by supporting family caregivers and helping parents who want to provide their children with opportunities to discover their creative passions; standing on guard for Canada by celebrating our heritage; by developing Canada's extraordinary resource wealth in a way that protects the environment; and by continuing to stand for what is right on the world stage, including through our missions in Afghanistan and Libya; supporting law-abiding Canadians by reintroducing comprehensive law-and-order legislation to combat crime and terrorism; by protecting the most vulnerable and working to prevent crime by addressing the problem of violence against women and girls; and by reintroducing legislation to clarify and strengthen laws on self-defence, defence of property and citizen's arrest; helping communities and industries by ending the long-gun registry; by continuing to support Canada's traditional industries; and by

addressing the barriers to social and economic participation faced by many Aboriginal Canadians; promoting integrity and accountability by reintroducing legislation to reform the Senate and restore fair representation in the House of Commons; by taking steps to phase out direct taxpayer subsidies to federal political parties; and by ensuring that citizens, the private sector and other partners have improved access to the workings of government.

The economy remains the Government's top priority. Budget 2011, the Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan, will build on the progress already made and ensure Canada remains one of the world's top-performing advanced economies.

Please contact me anytime by phone at 905-953-7515 or by e-mail at [Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca) or visit my website at [www.loisbrown.ca](http://www.loisbrown.ca) to complete a Consulting with You survey.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions on these or any other issues.

Letters to the Editor



Maria Jagodkin, Evelyn Grant, Jordana Goldman, Barry Goldman, Max Goldman, Charlie Stark, George Marshall, Mark Grant, Matt Powell and Maya Goldman wrap hockey equipment prior to it being sent to a Yukon location, following a disastrous arena fire recently. Equipment sent came from Aurora.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

# 10 skids of equipment sent to Yukon location

To the editor,

I heard of the community centre/arena fire in Ross

River, Yukon, a small community northeast of Whitehorse consisting of primarily First Nations peo-

ple, on the radio the morning after it happened. Upon further investigation, realized that the Town of Aurora would be able to help out in the hockey equipment area.

I contacted the Aurora Minor Hockey Association and advertised an equipment drive through the association.

Collection was at the ARC for two weeks during the recent tryouts for next season.

There was an overwhelming response from the people of Aurora.

Donations of equipment came in from our local residents and their friends and co-workers.

The largest donations came from Stephen Dempsey who donated York University equipment which had been updated, Adam Lye, who had 10 hockey bags from a previous equipment drive and Doug Adair of Rec Cycle, who volunteered to sharpen the more than 160 pairs of donated skates.

On Wednesday May 25, we packed the 90 large hockey bags and boxes

onto 10 skids and had them loaded on a transport truck on its way to Edmonton, Whitehorse and then eventually to Ross River.

The collected equipment consisted of everything hockey related; shoulder, elbow and shin pads, hockey bags, neck guards, skates, pants, helmets and cages, sticks, gloves, even quite a few goalie pads and some people were thoughtful enough to add water bottles, hockey tape, soccer balls and shoes and some winter hockey jackets.

There were numerous bags which we filled with just hockey jerseys and hockey socks.

I am sure the town of Ross River will be very colourful this fall once the gear is distributed and they are sure to love black, white, and yellow, the Aurora Tiger's colours, which the majority of clothing came from.

Thank you, Aurora, for being so generous.

Maria Goldman  
Aurora

## Farmers' market offers thanks for Town support

To the editor,

On behalf of the Aurora Farmers' Market, I just want to thank the community for such excellent support in welcoming back our vendors this season to Wells Street.

We opened on May 7 and had our Grand opening on May 28 hosting throngs of people every week.

We are working very hard to bring you a great market experience - for the young, old and something-in-betweens.

Our executive wants to ensure a pleasant and safe place to meet and greet your friends, neighbours and community.

We actively review the layout of the market to ensure it flows at a relaxing pace with minimal disruptions of bottlenecks.

For your convenience, our farmers and food vendors are located on Wells Street, while our Artisans and Community Groups are placed in the Town Park to provide a variety of

interesting sights and smells.

We feature fresh, locally grown produce; preserves, honey, baked goods and delicious food; garden, herb and decorative plants; cooking demonstration every market day at 11 a.m. featuring one of our farmer vendors, (located on the west side of the park); logo contest: open May 28 - June 11: enter at AFMlogocontest@gmail.com. The winner receives \$100 Market Dollars on June 25; special event dates: June 25, July 9, 16, and 30, August 13 and 27, Sept.10, Oct. 8 and 29.

Every week we hope to bring the community something fun and interesting, while keeping the spirit of a true farmers' market alive.

To avoid parking tickets, patrons of the market can park at the GO Train parking lot if legal street parking is full.

Anna Kroepelin  
Chair,  
Aurora Farmers' Market

# Another walk is scheduled Sunday, June 12

To the editor,

There was certainly an incredible amount of energy present at our May walk.

Attendees went away with smiles and strong sense that they were part of something much bigger. The episode without a doubt was a success.

The comments shared with me still resonate today. Those who have seen other episodes of Rescue Mediums said this one was unique.

Aurora has another first in its historical cap.

I remember back in 1991 a TV movie was filmed on Centre Street in town.

An old row-house located on the corner of Wells Street and Centre was part of the mini-series set. "Conspiracy of Silence" was a brutal account of the murder (1971) of an Indian woman in Manitoba. It told the 20-year-tale of police finally finding her four killers.

The episode of Rescue Mediums that we premiered is a much happier event.

During the viewing and after; people cheered, cried, and celebrated.

I am not going to give up the ghost and throw in a spoiler.

You will need to show up June 12.

We will again have a historic walk and return to the Filly & Firkin for viewing of shocking video footage from inside the bar and the episode.

Once again we will leave from the front of the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available from the Filly & Firkin and the A Step in Time booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

One hundred per cent of all funds raised will go to the Heart and Stroke and Crohn's and Colitis Foundations.

Aurora is a wonderful town full of rich and

prosperous history.

It is also still a little community full of mystery.

Please come and experience some of that magic on June 12.

I recall a song by the Bee Gees entitled Spirits Having Flown.

Ever since the premiere I can't get that song out of my head.

I think it's Annie's fault.

David Heard  
Aurora

## Compostable bags are free at this store

To the editor,

On a recent visit to Home Hardware, I was pleasantly surprised to find my purchase bagged in a compostable bag at no charge.

I bought compostable bags long before they were made mandatory, but thought that many families on limited incomes must find them difficult to afford, even if they might wish to do so.

Although retail companies defend their charges on ordinary plastic bags by saying they donate to recycling, I would much rather have the option of being in control of my own donation.

It seems we also have HST added so a five cent bag actually costs seven cents.

If one store is capable of giving free compostable bags, why can't all the others follow suit?

I commend Home Hardware for their commitment to the environment.

Alma Durkin  
Aurora

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# Committee debates uses for Whitwell funds

Two councils later and there is still debate on how the money provided to the Town by Whitwell Developments (Smart Centres) for improving the downtown core should be spent.

This lack of consensus was illustrated last week in a discussion on whether or not the money in the account, which was provided to the Town by the developers to keep the downtown business area in shape from competition from the new developments near the 404, should be used to spruce up area heritage-style street lights.

According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, an option was available to replace the existing 33 heritage-style street lights running from Yonge and Wellington in the north to Church Street in the south

at a cost \$350,000.

"The Council direction was to use the funding provided by Whitwell Developments as part of a contribution made for the improvement of the downtown core," said Mr. Simanovskis. "This funding is currently retained under the Whitwell donation reserve account and has a current balance of \$135,214 as of December. The proposed projects are eligible for this funding."

In his report, however, he noted 23 of the 33 poles installed in 1997 could be improved with a simple paint job. Four of the remaining poles are off-centre, one has a "minor wobble" and is currently on the Municipal to-do list, and one pole is in "general poor condition."

"Several poles have other minor problems such as missing receptacle cov-

ers and loosened scroll arms, etc.," he noted.

For Councillor Sandra Humfryes, the second option of replacing the poles with a similar style represented a "long-term view" that should be explored.

"I think it is really important for us to think about, through the revitalization of the downtown core, to include it perhaps in the 2012 budgeting process that is coming up and to perhaps look at the sidewalk, curb, and some of that type of repair as well," she said. "I think it is important for us to figure out a long-term view of what we're trying to do for the downtown core."

While Councillor Evelyn Buck, who originally asked for this report, said repairing and painting the poles was enough for her, the possibility of using money from the Whitwell account to do so

set off a "red flag" for Councillor Chris Ballard.

"The funds that Whitwell gave to us and we negotiated from Whitwell were not to be for regular maintenance type things," he said. "This is a Town asset that should be maintained because it is a Town asset. The next thing we'll be fixing potholes in the downtown core, sidewalks, curbs, etc., using up that Whitwell money which was negotiated for the very specific purpose for the restoration and development of the downtown core. I don't see how regular maintenance fits into that."

Councillor Buck, however, said she did not have any misgivings "either way" about using money from the funds or repairing the poles through the regular maintenance process, but, she noted, this is not simply "regular maintenance".

"These heritage lamps

are only in the heritage area of the downtown. They are not anywhere else. They were part of the special project to bring back something special to the downtown area so I don't have any concern about using some of those funds that were put towards assisting the merchants in the downtown area to help them combat the competition from Smart Centres," she said. "I see keeping those small bits and pieces we have in the down-

town area and keeping them in good shape...as contributing to the wellbeing of the business in the downtown area."

Councillors ultimately voted to go with the \$17,000 repair and paint job proposed by Mr. Simanovskis.

Councillor Humfryes, however, was cautious about future repairs in the downtown area.

"I don't want to lose track of that long-term vision," she said.

## Newmarket-Aurora MP reappointed

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has reappointed Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation.

"I am honoured by the renewed opportunity to serve as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation," said Ms. Brown. "It is an enormous privilege to represent

Newmarket-Aurora as Member of Parliament and I am grateful for the faith residents placed in me on May 2. I look forward to continuing to work hard at delivering results on their behalf."

As Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Brown will assist the Minister of International Cooperation by supporting productive dialogue between

Parliamentarians and the Minister.

The Minister of International Cooperation is responsible for Canada's overseas development assistance through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Lois Brown was first elected to the House of Commons in October 2008 and re-elected in 2011. She was appointed

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation in January 2011.

Parliament returned on June 2. The House of Commons elected its Speaker the same day, as its first order of business.

The Speech from the Throne was read by the Governor General in the Senate on June 3.



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This is the group who will operate the new Royal Bank branch, which held its official opening Saturday. They are, left to right, Clara Lee, Laurence Chua, Helen Preston, George Tsvetanov, Whitney Gebbie, Richard Mayer, Nancy DiSante, Victor Turcan, Lucy D'Amico, Aileen Lee, and manager Tim Laronde. The branch is located at 14785 Yonge St., Unit 101, south of Dunning Avenue.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Wells' house to come down

Council passed a final resolution without comment last week to "not oppose" the demolition of the 1841 Wells House in south Aurora, the first permanent home of early area settler William Wells, to make way for the Westhill golf course and housing development near Leslie Street and Bloomington Road.

As The Auroran reported, council passed a staff recommendation to "not oppose" the demolition of the listed property and its removal from the register of historic properties at the previous week's general committee meeting.

Along with their approval came the recommendation to also undertake a full measured architectural documentation of the floor plans and elevations of the structure at Westhill's expense.

According to a report submitted by Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, the home is viewed as the likely first permanent home of William Wells.

In a 2007 evaluation, the building was found to be "a remarkable example of an 1840s settler's house".

As such, the Heritage Advisory Committee at the time recommended that a section of the house be retained with the provision that any future development would allow for the re-location and/or restoration of the building.

This recommendation was approved by the council of the day, but according to a report Mr. Ramunno, as the building has been vacant for quite some time, "its physical condition has deteriorated significantly" and the "opportunity for preservation might present a challenge".

For one member of the Heritage Advisory Committee who made the initial recommendation to the previous council, the recent change in direction not to oppose the demolition was

disappointing.

"I was part of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee at the time of the recommendations and I [still] agree with those recommendations," said local historian and former committee member Jacqueline Stuart. "If the older part of the house cannot be saved, it can at least be recorded. I guess we always feel regretful when these old buildings go, if they have to go."

Ms. Stuart said the assessment of the expert consultant retained in 2007 to evaluate the property is indicative of the significance of the home.

"It is a surprisingly good example of a settler's house in the 1840s, just as it said in the report," she said. "There aren't too many of those left around here, so that's it. It tells us something about how those fairly early - although the 1840s is get-

ting on a bit - how those very early settlers were living."

While she said she regrets the house was neglected to a point where it may be impractical to restore or move, it is a conundrum that has been facing similar heritage bodies across the province.

"I don't think any heritage committee or its equivalent in Ontario has figured that out," said Ms. Stuart on how advisory committees can ensure properties designated under the Heritage Act are cared for to maintain their integrity. "I'm afraid it often comes down to dollars and cents. People who might be interested in a structure of that sort might not be able to afford the large sums that it takes to maintain it."

"People who own it and aren't particularly interested may not be willing to spend their business dollars on it."

"It is a huge problem."



## AURORA HIGH

By MAGGIE EDWARDS

### Aurora High student council plans for a successful year

Shortly after student council elections took place to select members for next year, the current and incoming council began preparations for a fresh start in the fall.

The council, supervised by Timothy Cox, strives to create a favourable environment for students.

The 2011-2012 president, Adam Suleman, said the new council intends to hold more open discussions and meetings with students in an effort to benefit the student body and create more awareness regarding the council's role as leaders in the school.

Another initiative the council hopes to achieve next year is a peer mentoring program.

Council members and other leaders in the school would act as peer tutors to those in need.

The council organizes spirit days to make school a more enriching experience for everyone.

As exams approach, the council has organized

a 'nerd day' for students to express their inner-geek. Prizes are to be awarded to those wearing the best costumes.

To increase spirit around the school, the council held a contest to name the school mascot, the eagle.

After a student vote, the mascot has been named 'Smeagle the Eagle', and will be there to cheer on the school's athletes next year.

With only a few weeks left in the school year, council has been organizing a breakfast for this year's graduates, on behalf of the entire school.

The breakfast, in honour of the Grade 12s will celebrate their time at Aurora High.

In addition to a grad breakfast, the council organized a teacher appreciation breakfast, set for exam review day.

Aurora High's student council acts as a bridge between the students and the administration, where council members commu-

nicate the needs and desires of the entire student body.

Next year's council comprises a smaller group, including a mixture of new and returning members who plan to work from the solid foundation laid out by this year's council while growing and contributing as a new council.



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# Here's a chance to help set a Guinness record

Machell Park will offer something for everyone June 25, as the park plays host to Wish Mania, a fundraising event which, through the Children's Wish Foundation, will work toward sending an Aurora teen with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy on a dream trip to Italy.

"Like other kids his age, Andrew is a very sociable teenager and enjoys being with people," said Children's Wish in a statement. "He loves soccer, video games, Lego, being on the computer and watching TV. When Andrew was only three years old, he was diagnosed with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, a disease that causes progressive muscle degeneration. Now due to illness, at the age of 13 he is limited in his abilities and relies on using a wheelchair as he is able to walk only short distances."

The Children's Wish Foundation was contacted by Andrew's father earlier this year, and they were informed that his "most heart-felt wish" would be to travel to Italy to take in both its scenic and its culinary delights.

"My wish is to have a

tasty and relaxing guided tour of Italy which includes Rome, Naples, Amalfi Coast, Florence, Venice, and Pisa," said Andrew in a statement. "I chose this wish because I love Italian food and culture and I want to see its beauty."

Wish Mania, organized by Aurora resident Shay Pileggi, is working to help make this dream a reality. In events as diverse as attempting to break the Guinness Record for the largest human smiley face to hot air balloon rides and celebrity guests, Ms. Pileggi said the event offers attractions for people young and old.

"I wanted something that every member of the family could enjoy and that is the basis I went on," said Ms. Pileggi.

"I tried to get [guests and entertainers] that would appeal to the young kids, so we've got the Music with Brian show at 10 a.m. for the

small kids and we've got face painting and a jumpy castle, and those kinds of things for the little ones. We've got a vintage car show for the men, the silent auction is there for everyone, Family Channel is there for teens and tweens,

and we've got some people coming out for the women and the men."

Additional guests at press time included parenting expert and TV personality Nanny Robina (CityLine), radio host Jim Richards (News Talk 1010), Lindsay Hamilton (Family Channel), Dylan Everett, Demetrius Joyette, and Brittany Adams from the show "Wingin' It", Delayne Drive, the Endless Summer tribute to the Beach Boys, and

HGTV personality Ambrose Prise will lead 10 kids on an "on-stage decorating adventure."

Participants will also be able to enjoy a barbecue provided by the Aurora's Optimist Club, an ice cream truck, hot air balloon rides, performances from the Canadian National Youth Circus, an Aurora's Funniest Pet Trick contest, judged by staff from Aurora's Abbotsford Animal Hospital and Newmarket's Alpha

Paws, and a chance to get into the Guinness Book of World Records.

"Officially now Croatia has the record for the World's Largest Human Smiley Face," said Ms. Pileggi. "They achieved that on May 6 with 769 participants, but I am awaiting confirmation from Guinness regarding an attempt made in the United Kingdom in March with 1,349 participants."

"I basically would like to put a call out to the public for attendance to

help us break this record because I am looking to beat 1,349!"

Wish Mania is currently looking for volunteers for the June 25 event. If you would like to participate either as a volunteer or by coming out and having a great time, contact Ms. Pileggi via email at wishmania.aurora@gmail.com.

The park opens at 11 a.m. and festivities kick off with a performance by the Canadian National Youth Circus at 11.30.

## Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

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### Aurora helps northern community

The following story appeared in the *Whitehorse Star* and is reprinted here.

By JUSTINE DAVIDSON  
Star Reporter

When Maria Jagodkin of Aurora, Ont. heard about the March fire which destroyed not only Ross River's recreational centre, but also much of the town's hockey equipment, the story struck at the very heart of what it means to be a sports mom.

"My kids play hockey and my daughter figure skates, so I know how important a rink is in such a small centre," Jagodkin said this week from her home about 40 kilometres north of Toronto. "I thought, 'These poor people, I know we can do something about that, just me alone with all the stuff I have in my garage, never mind everyone else in town.'"

"Aurora," Jagodkin said, "is a very hockey oriented town. They have between 26 and 30 teams in the junior hockey association alone, made up of 1,500 players from ages five to 17. The town of about 50,000 people also boasts a Junior A team, the Aurora Tigers, not to mention the oldtimers and rec hockey players.

Jagodkin just happened to hear about the Ross River fire as tryouts for next year's rep teams were set to begin.

She figured it was the perfect time to get people to bring any extra equipment down to the rink.

"Everyone associated with a rep team would be there at some point," she said. "I thought, 'You're coming to the rink anyway; you're bringing a kid and a bunch of gear anyway, so just look in your garage and bring it down.'"

She contacted the local hockey association and got its blessing to hold the equipment drive, then wrote a letter to the *Star*, asking someone in the Yukon to contact her with any suggestions on how to get the goods up North.

"Sarah (Mosavi), who works at the *Star*, was the only person to get back to me, but it turned out she knew exactly who to call," Jagodkin said.

Mosavi put Jagodkin in

touch with Janet Lee-Sheriff, vice-president of First Nations relations at Golden Predator Corp., one of the companies which first came forward to help Ross River rebuild the arena after the fire.

"Janet stepped right up. She's been in charge of transportation. At first she wanted to do it by air, but I said, 'No way, we've got too much stuff!'"

By that time, the donations had started rolling in, and Jagodkin was almost overwhelmed by the amount of equipment she was getting.

"After I had planned it all, I started to get worried no one would bring anything, then a couple of days before, I thought, 'What if I get too much stuff?' which turned out to be more what happened," she said.

Over eight days and with help from a number of Grade 12 students who volunteered as part of their graduation requirements, Jagodkin collected what ultimately amounted to 10 pallets loaded with hockey equipment.

In total, they collected 90 hockey bags, 160 pairs of skates, and a whole team's worth of equipment from the local university.

"The largest donations came from Stephen Dempsey, who donated York University equipment which had been updated, Adam Lye, who had 10 hockey bags from a previous equipment drive and Doug Adair of Rec Cycle, who volunteered to sharpen the over-160 pairs of donated skates," Jagodkin wrote in Aurora's local paper, *The Auroran*.

"On Wednesday, May 25, we packed the 90 large hockey bags and boxes onto 10 skids and had them loaded on a transport truck on its way to Edmonton, Whitehorse and then eventually to Ross River," she wrote.

"The collected equipment consisted of everything hockey-related: shoulder, elbow and shin pads, hockey bags, neck guards, skates, pants, helmets and cages, sticks, gloves, even quite a few goalie pads and some people were thoughtful enough to add water bottles, hockey tape, soccer balls and shoes and

some winter hockey jackets.

"There were numerous bags which we filled with just hockey jerseys and hockey socks. I am sure the town of Ross River will be very colourful this fall once the gear is distributed and they are sure to love black, white, and yellow, the Aurora Tigers' colours, which the majority of clothing came from. Thank you, Aurora, for being so generous."

And the generosity didn't end with used equipment.

Jagodkin's son's hockey team had some cash left over at the end of the 2010-2011 season and decided they'd like to see it go toward the rebuilding efforts, "so there's a bit of money in there, too," Jagodkin said.

In Edmonton, the pallets will be picked up by Matco Transportation and brought into the Yukon.

"We plan on having up it here by the middle of the month," Damon Anderson of Matco said Thursday. "We were hired to do the job, but we are definitely thinking about donating some of the cost."

Gordon Peter, one of Ross River's hockey organizers, was surprised to hear about the donation, and said it will all be put to good use. "We got some equipment for the Native Hockey Tournament," he said. "But they also lost a lot of skates and so on for public skate and so on, so any other gear – especially for the younger people – would be very much appreciated."

Peter said the community is hoping to have boards up for an outdoor rink by the end of the summer so Ross River residents have somewhere to practise their slap shots come winter.

"They were suggesting we use that old building but a lot of community members took a look at it and said it wasn't safe, so we are meeting this week to talk about where we'll go from here," he said.

And Ross River may get another surprise in the form of a couple extra pairs of hands from Aurora.

"With the help of Janet, I am planning to come up here in July with one of my kids," Jagodkin said. "I'll bring my work boots and hard hat."



Cancer survivor Larry Raifman, Honorary Survivor for this Friday's Aurora Relay for Life is doing everything he can to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society to help boost awareness, and increase funding for research to eradicate cancer.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

### Survivor ready for Friday

From page 1  
ple: remain positive and be prepared to do the treatment.

"Think positively that the treatments are going to work for you, maintain your sense of humour, maintain the good things, and don't dwell on what could be," he said. "I think the mind plays a very big part in helping you because if you're

depressed and you're sort of losing it, I don't think your body would fight as strongly as it would when you have those positive thoughts and say, 'You're going to do it, we're going to beat this cancer,' and do everything you can."

From his perspective as a survivor, the Canadian Cancer

Society provides a good mix of services with the money that is raised, ranging from information campaigns, services for those living with the disease, and money for research.

Research money, he said, is particularly important in advancing treatments, improving drugs, and eradicating the disease altogether.

Since he was diagnosed six years ago, local services have markedly improved with the addition of the Stornach Regional Cancer Centre to Southlake Regional Health Centre.

"The nicest thing is with the Stornach Centre opening, anybody in the Aurora-Newmarket area that has cancer now have York Central and Southlake that they can go to for treatments and even for the radiation treatment that I had to go into the city for," he said. "I think that makes it a lot easier on the patient and on the family so they don't have to worry about finding a way down to either Princess Margaret Hospital or Sunnybrook."

The 2011 Relay for Life begins Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. on the grounds of Magna International, Wellington Street East, and concludes the following morning at 7 a.m.

For more information, contact the Canadian Cancer Society at 905-830-0447.

### Southlake Run raises \$144,000

The final numbers are in. The 2011 edition of the A & B Courier Run for Southlake was an enormous success and has secured more than \$144,000 net for quality healthcare needs at the Southlake Regional Health Centre, according to organizer Steve Hinder.

A record number of participants, including more than 45 teams, and new online donation capabilities all contributed to the success of the event.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment for everyone touched by Southlake," affirms A & B Courier Run for Southlake Chair Hinder. "People from every walk of life have, once again, pulled together in support of quality

healthcare, close to home." Money raised from the A & B Courier Run for Southlake will be directed towards the hospital's priority needs.

Among them are a second Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, an enhanced Interventional Radiology Suite and essential everyday hospital equipment, like mattresses, wheelchairs and IV poles.

"The success of this event was certainly a group effort," Mr. Hinder said. "I want to thank our area mayors for leading by example, our hard-working organizing committee and dedicated volunteers, as well as the entire Southlake community for their support of Southlake - a great treasure in our region."

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# Aurorans score well at awards ceremony

Aurorans were big winners at last Wednesday's awards ceremony for the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region held at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Aurora resident Alex Broughton, along with producer Kate Lumbers, took top honours for drama with a win for Best Drama in the professional category for the film *Annuet Coeptis*.

The film also won awards for Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography.

Ashley Lewis, wearing the triple crown of director, producer, and writer also won Best Cinematography in the all-inclusive category for her film *Day 429*, which looks at body image. Brandon Lewis won Best Screenplay and Best Documentary in the youth category for *Sitting Small*, a story about a young man living on the streets.

Best Drama honours in the all-inclusive category went to Joshua Ary for *How To Properly Watch Television*, which also took Best Screenplay.

Two Aurora residents also took home awards in the elementary school category with first place for Best Photo Voice in the Elementary School Category going to Sarah Franken for *Forever In Our Hearts*, on the fight to save Wells Street School, and second place going to sister Katie Franken for *The Bird and the Swan*, about meeting a writing deadline.

The Auroran caught up to Mr. Broughton last Friday in Winnipeg where he is acting in the sequel to the feature film *Keep Your Head Up, Kid: The Don Cherry Story*.

In this follow-up, Mr. Broughton plays 1960s Montreal Canadiens goaltender Gump Worsley.

As he was in Winnipeg, Mr. Broughton got the first indication he won after several text messages arrived congratulating him on winning the big prize.

"It was pretty exciting, especially as this is my first festival as a director for sure," he said. "It's funny because the other film didn't win anything and the other film had something like four times the budget."

When The Auroran first spoke with Mr. Broughton last month, he made the prediction that the "other film", his more conventional offering, *I Do?*, about a couple discussing the finer points of matrimony, would be the bigger crowd pleaser.

The more "avant-garde" *Annuet Coeptis*, looks at two hit men forced to kill each other.

At the time, he said the film probably wouldn't fly with most of "conservative Aurora", but evidently there was something in it that resonated with audiences.

"I think that maybe they're almost surprised that artistic expression can kind of come out in Aurora because we're not used to any sort of festivals of art

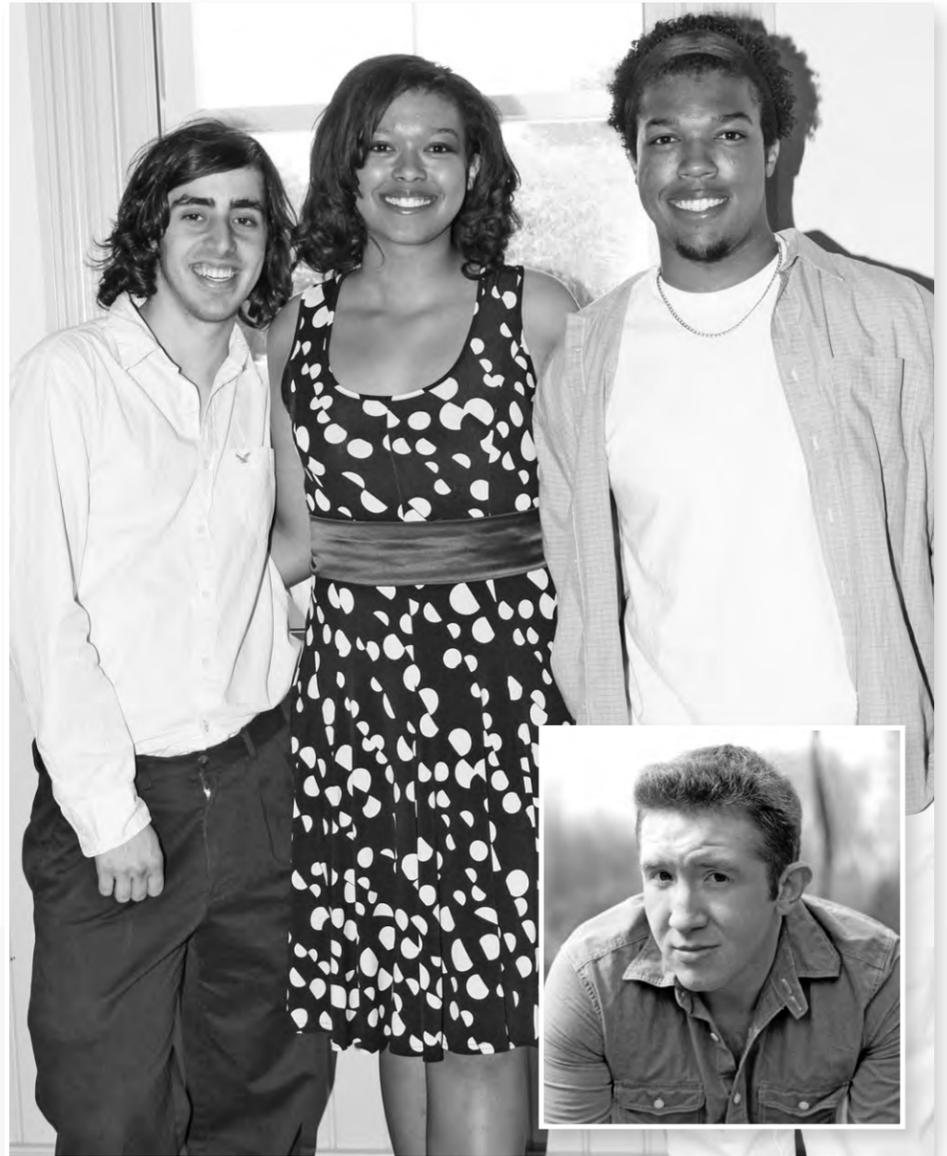
aside from pictures and paintings and things like that," he said. "There is the Jazz Festival that is starting to take shape in Aurora, but besides that, there is a lack of culture in Aurora and having a festival like this is an opportunity for those of us who are able to express ourselves artistically through different forms.

"In Toronto it would be common to see something like this, but in Aurora...you might be expecting something quite different than what that film was. Therefore when I was at the Festival and people saw it, they were refreshed by it."

The win last week gives him some confidence that people "actually like his work", said Mr. Broughton, and he said he hopes to submit this film in other festivals next year and build on his success.

For his award-winning film, Mr. Broughton said that Europe might provide the best markets for his film as it is language free and able to cross borders. While his ultimate goal is to have one of his films screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, *Annuet Coeptis* is out of the running as it has already had its North American premiere.

"Right now I guess the biggest goal would be Cannes next year but I think that might be a bit of the big boys yet," he said. "Too big for my little shoes, but my feet are growing!"



Aurora winners of the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region are seen here at the Festival's gala closing event and awards ceremony held at the Aurora Cultural Centre last Wednesday. Pictured left to right are Joshua Ary, Ashley Lewis and Brandon Lewis. "Annuet Coeptis", directed by Alex Broughton (inset) won three awards.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Selkies make waves at swim meet

The Aurora Selkies Swim Club are celebrating again this week after some exciting performances at the Mallard's Pentathlon Swim Meet, which took place at the Markham Centennial Pool recently. Twenty-one young athletes took part in the meet, some attending their very first swim meet ever. The "take home bag of medals and ribbons" is getting heavier at every meet that the Selkies attend" says club owner, Yvonne Cattrail. "Personal best times were attained by young Selkies swimmers in 85 per cent of the total number of races, but above all, the team had fun," she said.

Prominent first, second

and third place performances were made by the following swimmers: James Pallotto, Christina Smid, Evan Holtby, Emilia Tinajero, Julia Ramsay, Veronica Balzan, Ashley Endicott, Diego Carvalho, Mitchell Delic, Jaden Delic, Jonathan Bouchard, Lauren Hemburrow and Victoria Spiterie.

Here's how they made out:

Christina Smid, 10, 2nd, 100m freestyle; 2nd, 50m freestyle.

Emilia Tinajero, 9, 1st, 50m breaststroke; 1st, 100m Individual Medley; 1st, 50m freestyle; 3rd, 50m butterfly; 1st, 100m backstroke; 1st, 50m backstroke.

Julia Ramsay, 9, 1st, 50m breaststroke; 2nd, 100m Individual Medley; 1st, 50m freestyle; 1st, 50m butterfly; 1st, 100m backstroke; 1st, 50m backstroke.

Ashley Endicott, 10, 1st, 50m breaststroke; 2nd, 100m Individual Medley, 2nd, 50m backstroke.

Veronica Balzan, 9, 1st, 100m Individual Medley; 2nd, 50m freestyle; 2nd, 50m breaststroke.

Victoria Spiterie, 12, 3rd, 50m breaststroke.

Lauren Hemburrow, 11, 3rd, 50m breaststroke.

James Pallotto, 12, 1st, 50m butterfly; 3rd, 100m

freestyle; 2nd, 50m backstroke.

Evan Holtby, 9, 2nd, 100m freestyle; 2nd, 100m Individual Medley; 1st, 50m freestyle; 2nd, 50m butterfly; 2nd, 100m backstroke; 1st, 50m backstroke;

Diego Carvalho, 9, 2nd, 50m breaststroke; 3rd, 100m backstroke.

Mitchell Delic, 9, 3rd, 50m freestyle.

Jonathan Bouchard, 15, 3rd, 200m freestyle.

200m Freestyle Relay, mixed boys and girls 10 years and under, Ashley Endicott, Julia Ramsay, Christina Smid and Evan Holtby, 1st place.

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# Council in business six months Aurora resident

## guest speaker

**From page 1**  
 celling all municipal participation in former mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others.

This, said Councillor Thompson, was among the most significant achievements of the council so far.

"I think that was first and foremost in the minds of residents of Aurora and certainly we all heard about it as we campaigned," he said before outlining other achievements of the council. "I think just forging that positive working relationship [is a significant achievement]. We're going to be together for the next four years and we certainly want to ensure that we can develop that relationship and stick to the principles."

In the past six months, he said he has received very positive feedback from the community on council as a whole.

While some have pointed out to him that recent council meetings have been "boring" in

comparison to the more raucous meetings of the previous council, Councillor Thompson says he sees that as a positive thing.

"It means that we're putting civility and decorum first and focusing on business and I know that the previous council was dogged with a perception that they were a little bit dysfunctional so I think that we have show that we can work together and get along well."

Councillor John Gallo, who is in the unique position of being in his second term of council, but in his first term as an elected councillor, agrees that his colleagues are "jelling" well, generally speaking.

"We're respectful so far, and I think we're able to get stuff done even though we may not agree with everyone's views, and that is healthy as long as it is done in a respectful way. I didn't know how the dynamics were going to be but I am happy with the way they are."

"We are taking some

different approaches on how to deal with things. Some things I agree with and some things I don't necessarily agree with and I have expressed my views at the table."

One of the areas Councillor Gallo said he may find some disagreement is with how the approval of the amendments for the PARCEL development on Elderberry Trail at Yonge Street unfolded.

He said he probably would have liked to spend a little more time on the matter, but said he realizes timing was critical and it was "the best we could do."

As this is the first time Councillor Gallo has come into council on the ground floor along with other councillors, he said some of his previous orientation has stood him in good stead this time around.

"Those were pretty important for me as well as it is beneficial having been there before and not starting entirely fresh and knowing a lot of the history that went back

and just being able to get on your feet running," he said. "The learning curve was pretty high, especially coming in halfway through the term."

Going forward, one of the things he is particularly looking forward to in the coming months is addressing the Town's Youth Councillors, a program which was instigated in the final months of the last council term by Al Wilson.

It will be valuable to weigh whether to revive the old program or start fresh with something new, he said.

"I am very interested in that and have had some discussions with Councillor Pirri and I know he is also interested," said Councillor Gallo. "It's something that is of great interest to me because that is how I got my start in university in Mississauga. I was part of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee there and that kind of planted the seed for me. It was great and I think it would be great to do that to others."

Reverend Vicki Collins, an Aurora resident and Chaplain at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, will be the guest speaker at the Aurora Probus club's next meeting, June 15.

Vicki has been with Southlake since September, 2009, after taking a year-long residency program for specialty training in chaplaincy at the University Health Network in Toronto.

She is also trained as a spiritual director and facilitator of the labyrinth - an

ancient spiritual/meditation tool.

She will share her thoughts and feelings about her role and responsibilities as a spiritual care provider in a hospital setting.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and the guest speaker will begin at 11 a.m. for an hour.

Probus meets at the Royal Canadian Legion building on Industrial Parkway North.

For further information, call Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.

# Residents still attempting to change council's mind

**From page 1**  
 doing one thing and that is by taking the number of units and dividing them by the total land area of 8.57 acres. That means you're transferring the density from institutional to residential. OPA 34 says you can't do that, and if you do that it lays precedent for other developments...that will ask to transfer their density from institutional to residential."

In response to the resident's concerns, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said the previous week's amendments permitted a maximum of 20 units within the proposed apartment building, plus one, in addition to the wellness centre. OPA 34, he said, allowed for density transfers within blocks.

"The chart in my report indicated that based on that site area the density would be calculated at 2.45 units per acre," said Mr. Ramunno. "However, OPA 34 speaks to density and that is calculated on the larger block plan scale and the block plan for this area encompasses 50 acres and the lands to the north, which has currently been developed as the Ascot residential neighbourhood. [It includes] a maximum of 39 detached housing units, and a smaller par-

cel to the north which would form part of that lot."

Another issue Mr. Mestrinaro brought before council's attention once again was the uses permitted in this plan.

At the May 24 meeting, council gave final approval for the plan amendments along with additional amendments to satisfy residents' concerns that an addiction clinic could be part of the development. If Mr. Mestrinaro's delegations are any indication, those concerns are still alive and well in the heart of the Elderberry Trail community.

"We have really grave concerns about that," he said. "The doctor runs an addiction clinic in Toronto and he's been holding his cards very close to his chest as to what this will be. We would like some certainty as to what it will not be."

He encouraged councillors to give the plan a "sober second thought" to ensure what councillors are voting for is "what they really think they're going to get".

Following the delegation, councillors had an opportunity to ask Mr. Ramunno questions related to what they had just heard.

One of them who ran with that was Chris Ballard, who also questioned staff about the

institutional uses permitted on the property.

This, he said, was a stumbling block in his consideration of the plan.

"We have gone to great lengths, I think, to prevent an institution here that serves the immediate neighbourhood and we've said the pharmacy can't serve the immediate neighbourhood, we didn't want ins and outs into the immediate neighbourhood, so this section 321 says only institutional facilities serving the immediate neighbourhood yet this institution clearly isn't," he said. "Perhaps if we expand the definition of 'immediate neighbourhood' to include the GTA we might fit it in there."

At this point, Councillor Paul Pirri called a point of order arguing that Councillor Ballard's remark was "out of line."

"You're Reductio ad Absurdum just doesn't make any sense whatsoever."

Mr. Mestrinaro's delegation was received by the members with only Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed.

On Wednesday, however, Councillor Ballard took to his blog to express frustration with how the day unfolded and questioned his fellow councillors' ideas of democracy in denying an emergency council meet-

ing to again hear the arguments of the Elderberry residents.

"The objective of the meeting was simple - to reconsider the motion we approved at our May 24 council regarding the zoning application," he wrote. "I felt it would allow staff to publicly clarify many important questions residents feel have not been satisfactorily answered."

"It was not a delaying tactic - I am not happy when so many residents are angry, confused and feel that they have been shut out of the democratic process. By not agreeing to the special meeting, I feel councillors and the mayor have clearly demonstrated their version of democracy for Aurora."

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## Senior Scope



The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) Computer Club held its general meeting last week, with approximately 40 members in attendance.

Most members now possess personal computers, desktop or laptop, and others possess other hand held technological devices, including hand held wireless readers, which have gained surprising popularity.

Portable wireless phones with computer ability including internet abilities find many users among seniors.

Evolving technologies

require explanations, and receive whatever attention is necessary or available among the seniors to bring understanding to subject matter that evolves constantly.

Often, one on one explanations of technology focus the requirements of members better than the group setting when the subject under discussion often takes unexpected turns.

Each Tuesday afternoon, senior members who require clear and unqualified explanations for their technology problems, can receive help.

For those members naturally inclined to matters of technology, the Computer Club provides a fertile field for opportunity, since the computer equipment is modern in this age of continual improvement, and the core of members with a high standard of computer expertise is outstanding, and far better than expected.

Seniors remain healthier with the benefit of modern medicine and consequently, inclination and energy levels enable them to keep up with the modern age, often with a surprising degree of proficiency.

The group of seniors who have little or no knowledge concerning computing, will find the welcome mat is out for them, and basic computer instruction awaits those with the thirst for knowledge.

A welcoming reception awaits those who require encouragement, because basic computing is within the capacity of seniors, men and women who need only their natural ability, and patience with the first few get-acquainted lessons.

The great number of seniors

who have become accomplished with the basics of computing, bear testimony to the likelihood that those who venture to take basic lessons will probably succeed, and a little shyness or fear of the unknown will have little impact on successful basic computer study.

The Seniors' Centre runs substantially on the vigour and capability of seniors.

The groups and clubs available within the scope and range of the Seniors' Centre, is greater for seniors than anywhere else imaginable.

The Aurora municipality made the Seniors' Centre possible, but the seniors provide the considerable driving force that motivates them.

The Chess Club continues to build interest among seniors.

The Tuesday chess will now begin at 4 p.m. and continue until 7.45 p.m.

In addition, a new time slot will open on Thursday morning beginning at 9.30 a.m. and continuing until noon.

Chess in the Seniors' Centre may attract players any day at any time and the Tuesday and Thursday meetings provide the convenience of a common time to enable chess players to find each other conveniently.

If Thursday morning chess proves popular then chess in this time slot will continue as a permanent feature.

Few chess clubs exist within a reasonable distance of Aurora and the opportunity presented to players by the

Seniors' Centre is outstanding for convenience, flexibility and low cost of membership.

Many people, played chess in their younger days, but the demands of adult life eventually drew them away.

The idea of a chess tournament in late summer or early fall is a common subject for discussion and interest appears well established, so we look forward to this probability.

A relatively fluid membership with new players emerging, pending holidays and the Canadian Open Chess Championship in July hampers an immediate tournament.

If any player is unsure of the standard of play required to compete effectively, please contact me or leave a message at the front counter.

All members and all playing strengths will be welcomed.

Strong and weaker players need to find players of their own calibre to find satisfaction playing chess.

Members of the Chess Club must obtain membership in the ASA and adhere to the rules and regulations of the Seniors' Centre.

The Seniors' Centre is a favoured setting for more than 1,000 ASA members, who spread their visits through the days and weeks, and remarkably, the vast majority appear fit and well.

An abundance of activities find expression among the rich diversity of cultures that parade the Seniors' Centre, and those who find acceptance continue, some for many years.

# Who should have ultimate say on sponsorships, ask councillors

Aurora Town staff have proposed changes to how the municipality handles sponsorship requests, and if council gives formal approval of the plan this week, it could take councillors out of the equation in making the final decision on what groups and events the Town will sponsor.

Councillors approved the plan at last week's General Committee despite objections from Councillors Chris Ballard and Evelyn Buck who expressed concerns that council would not be able to exercise its discretion on these applications as it has done in the past.

"The questions that need to be answered when sponsoring something is, 'What do we receive in return?' and 'Of what value is that?'" said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation last week.

"Staff are recommending that evaluation criteria be established and the level of sponsorship be determined by a scoring system. As the score becomes higher, so too does the level of sponsorship. Sponsorship can take the form of a monetary commitment, a services-in-kind commitment or a combination of both."

Under the new plans, \$5,000 would be allocated annually for sponsorship purposes with a semi-annual report coming back to council for information.

Requests would be evaluated and approved by staff in accordance with the

newly set policy criteria with no one request receiving more than \$2,000 without the approval of council.

With the new criteria, groups and events must serve the residents, businesses, and stakeholders of Aurora and "support one or all of the Town's triple bottom line sustainability approach" of the natural environment, economy, and/or community."

But delegating final approval for such requests to Town Staff was something that raised the eyebrows of some councillors.

"Part of me says it would be nice because it would take a certain amount of pain away from the people coming in and asking for money and us, perhaps as a council, getting caught up in a political whirlwind," said Councillor Ballard. "The other side of that is it is our responsibility to administer these types of affairs of the Town, so I could see three staff members doing the preliminary work, making the recommendation and coming to council for its approval."

"The problem with saying that someone can come to council if they get turned down by staff is just that. It doesn't look good that we would be accused of ignoring our staff and our professionals and those kinds of things."

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, who previously expressed frustration in what she called "cocka-

mamie platinum sponsorships" particularly with sponsorship for the Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards Ceremony, something from which she said the Town got little return, it is very important for council to make decisions in public if public money is being used.

"It is incumbent upon us to be damn sure that whatever we do with [public money] can be justified to the people we took it from," she said. "I think we forget because sometimes it is awkward to say no to people at the podium but I think it is incumbent upon council to debate it around the table with cameras on us and people watching and listening to us and judging our judgement, our logic, and how we can justify giving away the money we took from them. That is their right and that is our obligation."

As the recommendations from staff passed general committee, there was obviously support for the recommendation with backing coming from Councillors Michael Thompson and Sandra Humfries, among others.

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# Chamber street sale attracts more than 40,000



With the weather almost perfect, officials at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce believe more than 40,000 people took advantage of their 16th annual street festival Sunday afternoon. One of them was The Auroran's photographer, who grabbed the shots on this page. Starting with the photo on the very top left, Heather Sedore invites customers to lunch of hot dogs and the chance to cool off at the Aurora United Church, while Don Bonita and Christina Laramee prepare for the onslaught of people who wanted to buy sunglasses, in the photo below Heather. Beneath those two is Aurora's own Klaus Wehrenberg, who has for several years been active in the street festival as an organ grinder. In the bottom corner, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees and his wife Jayne passed out trees to anyone who wanted one. Part of the crowd of more than 40,000 is caught in the photo immediately to the left, while Jordie Schwartz demonstrates how the Bubble Blaster machine works, in the photo below the crowd scene. Vicky Roblin prepares her Spar-Clean booth, at the bottom of the page, while the person next to her remains unidentified.

*Auroran photos by David Falconer*



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