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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of July 26, 2011

Morris motion thrown out

Former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris' attempt to have the identities of anonymous posters on the Aurora Citizen website, who she alleged "defamed" her in published comments, was denied last Wednesday as Justice Carole Brown dismissed her Norwich Motion.

Ms. Morris, who plans to appeal the decision, filed her Norwich Motion in relation to her \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson, and Elizabeth Bishenden, among others, and the motion was argued in Toronto in March.

Ms. Morris's Norwich Motion sought to have the court compel those named in the lawsuit along with the companies involved, to release any and all information they had that could be used to deter-

Please see page 8



Young Auroran Edward Zsoldos tries to keep cool in the heat wave at Town Park's splash pad. Edward was one of many residents that sought out relief from the hot, humid days experienced in Aurora last week. For more on how people beat the heat, please see page 3.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Charges laid in shooting

Two men and one male youth have been charged in connection with a shooting at the First Commerce Drive Plaza Thursday, an altercation which left a police officer hospitalized with non-life threatening gunshot wounds and a suspect also hospitalized.

The altercation, which took place during a botched robbery attempt at the plaza's Bell Store, took place at approximately 8.35 p.m.

"Uniformed patrol officers and investigators working out of the Hold-Up Unit responded to a robbery in progress at the Bell Store located at 91 First Commerce Drive," said York Regional Police Constable Rebecca Boyd in a statement. "Upon arrival, officers confronted three suspects and were attempting to arrest one of them when an altercation ensued and shots were fired.

"As a result of the shooting, one suspect was transported to hospital with a gunshot wound. One police officer, a member of the York Regional Police Hold-Up Unit, also sustained non-life-threatening injuries as a result of a gunshot wound. Both remain in hospital and are being treated for their injuries."

Ryan Michael Patrick Berment, 18, Michael Kevin Whitlock, 24, and a 17-year-old male youth, all of Pickering, have been charged in the shooting, and charges include robbery, use of a firearm, disguise with intent, forcible confinement, possession of dangerous weapons, and theft over \$5,000.

"Mr. Berment is additionally
Please see page 3



A York Regional Police cruiser stands guard outside the shuttered Bell Store at the First Commerce Drive plaza near Wellington and Highway 404 Friday morning. The store was the scene of a botched robbery attempt Thursday night which left one police officer and a suspect suffering gunshot wounds.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Briefly

FIRE BAN IN EFFECT

Central York Fire Services issued a ban on all outdoor and open air burning in Aurora on Thursday until further notice. According to a statement from CYFS, the ban will remain in effect "until such time as ground, weather and atmospheric conditions permit."

FIRE STATION TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Edward St. fire station has closed temporarily for renovations. Renovations began July 25 and should be completed in November. A temporary home for the fire station has been found at 200 Industrial Parkway in the former Police building. CYFS says it does not anticipate any disruption or difference in response times.

PORTRAITS OF JAZZ OPENS TODAY

Portraits of Jazz Photography, a new exhibition featuring the work of Greg King, opens today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The exhibit opens July 26 and runs Tuesday through Saturday from 1 - 4 pm or by appointment.

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COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Opening today in the Great Hall Gallery at the Aurora Cultural Centre – "Portraits of Jazz Photography" by Greg King. Part of four summer gallery shows throughout the building: "Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes" from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, photo and sculpture installation "Staccato" in the Blue Gallery, and "Portraits of Giving" in the Red Gallery. Exhibition hours: Tuesday – Saturday 1 – 4 pm, or by appointment. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Speaker this evening is Steven Biggs who will talk about No Guff Vegetable Gardening. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. For further information call Cindy at 905-713-6660.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

The Aurora jazz+ Festival begins today and runs through July 31. Enjoy the Civic long weekend in Aurora at the festival, including fabulous music, visual artists, Festival Marketplace, food vendors, Beer & Wine Garden; Kids Craft Blast Zone (Sat/Sun) & Boogie Boy Blues multi-media interactive concert July 31st 3pm at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Also MultiMedia Film Festival of York Region offers viewing of award winning films at the Cultural Centre Sat. July 30th noon - 4pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

Your only chance to meet Derek Foster, Canada's youngest retiree, happens at the Aurora Public Library this evening. The national best-selling author of 'The Idiot Millionaire' and 'Stop Working Now', he will teach you an investing approach that any six-year-old can understand. Event happens at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room, and while seating is limited, the event is free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents the first of four outdoor painting classes this month from artist/instructor Herbert Pryke. Learn the joy of summertime painting "en plein air". All mediums welcomed. Classes run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, August 6, 11 and 13th. The \$120 fee includes all four classes plus a bonus one-hour introductory class. For info or to register contact Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, or call 905-713-1818.

AUGUST 9-10

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

AUGUST 9-20

Theatre Aurora kick starts its 54th season, with The Cemetery Club, a comedy by Ivan Menchell. The first performance is August 9, 2011 and continues August 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, and finishing August 20. All performances are at 8:00 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora. You can now purchase tickets on-line through our web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or you can contact the Theatre Aurora Box Office by phone at 905-727-3669, or by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

A fundraiser, called "Goats For Africa", will be held this evening from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Timberlane Athletic Club, 155 Vandorf Road. A barbecue, catered by the Roving Chef, will kick things off and participants will be able to listen to music provided by "The Timecats". Also included in the evening's events will be a raffle, wine tasting and a cash bar. Admittance is \$45 with all proceeds going to P.R.E.F.E.R (poverty - reduction - education - family empowerment - Rwanda) to send children to school and buy goats to sustain families. Tickets are available from Dorothy Campbell. Call her at home 905-237-9066, at work 905-830-4444, extension 2303 or on her cell at 905-751-6342.

She is also available by e-mail at dorothy.campbell119@gmail.com or dorothy.campbell@york.ca.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

The 38th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show will be held today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Don Mills (Woodbine) Road. Rain date is August 21. Join in as

exhibitors from across southern Ontario display their prized antique and classic cars. Food is available in the tea room or off the barbecue. Historic buildings will be open with heritage demonstrations, children's activities and live entertainment. Admission is \$7 (children under 7 free) or \$17 per family of up to four. For more information call 905-727-8954.

AUGUST 15-18

Here's your chance to join Dr. Hyoun Park and bridge the gap between Grade 12 Calculus/Vectors and first year university calculus. Join Dr. Park at the Aurora Public Library for four days of calculus problem-solving in preparation for university. Classes begin at 6 p.m. for two hours in the Optimist room. The event, while restricted to students entering 1st year university calculus only, is free although seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

AUGUST 23, 24

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. The Aurora Cultural Centre is located at 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SEPTEMBER 11

The 14th Annual Aurora & Newmarket Parkinson SuperWalk will take place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc., and speeches begin at 9:30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street entrance. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information or to volunteer please call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774 or e-mail kimrp@sympatico.ca For more information on Parkinson's or to register on-line please visit www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca

OCTOBER 1

The Juno-nominated Sultans of String bring their CD release tour to the Aurora Cultural Centre tonight at 7:30. Tickets are available at the door from the Cultural Centre for general admission seating for \$30. Advance tickets are \$25.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All money raised is used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

The Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinze, meets every Wednesday afternoon in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Members meet at 1:30 p.m. and rehearsals are from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

Aurora Probus Club, which meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion, will not meet during July and August. They will reconvene September 14th. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

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

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

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For

more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

Martha's Table, the community lunch program offered at St. Andrew's Church, Aurora, will open again on Thursday, September 1, after closing for the summer.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

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

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and

girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com.

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

Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

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

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8:15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10:30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7:30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7:30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.



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Police search in shrubs at the First Commerce Drive plaza Friday morning following the previous night's shooting incident at the neighbouring Bell Store. As an individual was injured in an altercation involving police, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit is on the case and conducting an investigation parallel with that of the York Regional Police.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Police urge caution after arrest

York Regional Police are urging public caution after the arrest of an Aurora man Wednesday who was charged with the "misleading use of a badge."

Aurora resident Vincent Moy Tam was charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, carrying a concealed weapon, and the misleading use of a badge by a civilian on July 23 when he was found outside a Newmarket Tim Hortons.

According to information released by Constable Rebecca Boyd of the York Regional Police, Mr. Tam was arrested immediately without incident.

"Upon investigation, police discovered the man was in possession of two replica handguns, a box cutter knife, two plastic badges, and a police notebook and pen similar to what is used by police officers in York Region," said Constable Boyd.

Mr. Tam appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket Friday where he pled guilty to the charge of using a police-like badge and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, "concurrent to any sentence he is currently serving, two years probation and a

weapons prohibition order for a period of five years," said Brendan Crawley of the Crown Attorney's office, who added the charges of possession of an imitation firearm and carrying a concealed weapon were withdrawn.

In the wake of Mr. Tam's arrest, the York Regional Police are taking measures to ensure the public is aware of the proper identification of plain clothes police officers.

"Plainclothes police officers will identify themselves both verbally and with a metal police badge and warrant card that includes a photo of the officer," said Constable Boyd.

"If you suspect that you are being stopped by an individual [who] is not a police officer, maintain current speeds, obey all traffic laws, and proceed to the nearest police station and use your cell phone to contact police to verify the legitimacy of the traffic stop.

"If the individual is actually an officer they will not be concerned that you are taking those steps. Please keep in mind that there are unmarked police vehicles used in undercover operations. If you feel the need to pull over quickly, drive to a well-illuminated area or densely populated location before stopping."



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Police, SIU investigate shooting

From page 1
charged with Assault Peace Officer, Possession of Firearm or Weapon and Carry a Concealed Weapon," said Constable Boyd Monday afternoon.

As the suspect has been injured in an incident involving the police, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit has moved in to investigate the altercation and is conducting an investigation parallel to that of the York Regional Police.

At press time, the SIU

had yet to confirm whether they had been able to speak with the injured suspect, but said Friday that it would be contingent on his condition following surgery that day.

"The individual who interacted with the police officer sustained a gunshot wound," said Frank Phillips, Communications Coordinator for the Special Investigations Unit on Friday. "He was taken into surgery this morning and that is really all I know at this point.

We don't have a positive identification yet so we're not sure who this person is, but we're absolutely going to find that out and we're going to attempt to interview this male."

The SIU will continue its investigations in the area, including at the First Commerce Drive plaza where they plan on canvassing for further witnesses to the shooting, as well as looking into other area sources of video surveillance images that might provide further information.

The SIU has assigned five investigators and three forensic investigators to "probe the circumstances of this incident" and encourages anyone who may have information regarding the case to contact the Unit at 1-800-787-8529.

The SIU operates as an arms-length agency investigating reports "involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault," said Mr. Phillips in a subsequent statement.

"Under the Police Services Act, the Director of the SIU must consider whether an officer has committed a criminal offence in connection with the incident under investigation; depending on the evidence, lay a criminal charge against the officer if appropriate or close the file without any charges being laid; [and] report the results of any investigations to the Attorney General."

The injured suspect remains in hospital.

Cooling stations opened, power records set during heat wave

Whether staying indoors or descending on local leisure facilities, Aurorans sought to keep

cool during last week's scorching weather, which culminated Thursday with record busting temperatures.

In advance of the heat wave and above cautioning residents to stay indoors and take other precautions, the Town of Aurora offered up several air conditioned facilities as cooling stations. These locations included Town Hall, the Aurora Public Library, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, and the Aurora Community Centre, as well as the splash pads at Town Park and Ada Johnson Park.

With heat that felt like over 50 degrees Celsius with the humidex, records were also being set by

the amount of power used by residents during the heat wave. PowerStream reported a record for electricity peak demand by 2 p.m. on Thursday of over 1,900 megawatts, beating its previous record marked in July 2010 of 1,896 megawatts.

"Each year we connect a significant number of new customers to our distribution grid," explained Brian Bentz, President of PowerStream in a statement. "When you combine this with the successive days of above 30 degree temperatures we have been experiencing over the past week, it's easy to see why a peak demand record was set today within our service territory."



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Broke Brock

By BROCK WEIR

So, we survived the heat wave. While a lot of people were on high alert, it seems this time people refrained from giving this particular weather phenomenon supposedly cute or clever moniker like "Snowmageddon" or the more recent "Carmageddon" experienced by our friends in California. We must be progressing as a people.

My Thursday essentially began shortly after 7.00 a.m. when my preferred radio station cunningly started blasting Ella Fitzgerald's version of the standard Heat Wave right after its news update that roused me from my slumber. While some may have found the music selection a bit trite, it certainly set the tone for the day. Scratch that. It set the tone for the week.

I took a step back at the beginning of last week and looked on with amazement as the people around me - including friends and family - made elaborate and inventive plans at the beginning of last week for the scorcher that was to come.

One planned to sit at home with electric fans blaring in as much darkness as his curtains and blinds afforded him. Another was looking forward to spending the entire day in her pool. One friend was actually looking forward to going into work to plug away at a job they detested just to enjoy the free air conditioning, while another - at the last time we spoke - was making a list of key times to turn their own air conditioner on and off to get the most out of it...but not regret it when their bills rolled in.

The last person in my informal survey was the rebel of the bunch and told me - almost defiantly - that he would be going about his day in a business-as-usual manner and that included his early evening run. I tried as best I could to hide the fact I was questioning his sanity, but the smirk on his face told me this was what he expected. I wasn't about to give him the satisfaction.

Back to the woman with the detailed air conditioning schedule - I asked her why she was doing this and on top of financial concerns, she was convinced the grid was going to blow and we would again be engulfed by darkness and stifling heat experienced by so many of us in the "great blackout" of 2003.

"But would that really be so bad?" I asked her. I got no response other than a look of astonishment.

WAS IT AS GOOD FOR YOU AS IT WAS FOR ME?

I don't know about the rest of you, but I had a great time during the 2003 blackout. Sure, it was uncomfortable at first, lying in the dark, sweating profusely, pondering whether it was hotter indoors or out while debating the merits of opening the windows in the paltry hope of air circulation. But after night had passed, things took an interesting turn.

At the time, I lived in a community of detached homes mixed with townhouses in a Newmarket neighbourhood just north of Hadley Grange. If memory serves, we had to wait for several more hours for our power to come on compared to you lucky Aurora folk. Then again, I could be wrong, as we only got word that the power was back on south of St. John's Sideroad after a neighbour breathlessly sped back home to give us the news that he found an operating gas station near Aurora Heights.

He was one of the multitude of neighbours that I had never seen let alone met until that day. As the darkness gave way to the light of day, with nothing else to do inside but bake in solitude, people got the novel idea to come outside. It's crazy, I know. Sometime around dawn I braced myself and went out the door to see if I could spot any working traffic lights off in the distance and was astonished to find people outside doing things that were actually productive.

Joining them, our ranks continued to fill in until about 7.30 a.m. when someone had the bright idea to gather up all our perishables, throw them on a collection of barbecues, and have an impromptu block party.

"I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE THEATRE OF THE LIVING..."

With our stomachs satisfied and our rapidly defrosting freezers free of their thawing burden, people actually continued to stay outside and enjoy each other's company. And there was something for everyone to enjoy. From my perspective, a veritable theatre of the living played out before our very eyes. Some of the local kids appeared to be having a concert amongst them. Our neighbourhood's answer to Lady Bracknell came down from on high to survey the goings-on with a disapproving look, but shockingly opted to let her hair down and join in the fun. On top of that, an exciting domestic disturbance - complete with vulgar hand gestures and obscene language that would have otherwise sent "Lady Bracknell" into cardiac arrest had she not been engrossed in conversation elsewhere - erupted over something as innocuous as a ketchup bottle. The fight climaxed when one of the participants asked the fatal question, "And what should I do with the bottle?!" I'll let your imagination take a stab at what the other player replied, but the two then dissolved into laughter and went to a neutral corner.

And then the power came back on.

The sounds of the laughter and various conversations were soon competing with the white noise of buzzing air conditioners and almost like moths to flames, people quickly filed back into their houses to bask in the chilled air.

And that was that. Thereafter my neighbourly interactions were limited to those living on either side of my house and immediately across the street. The kids still played outside, but that is par for the course. By the time we moved to Aurora, block parties - impromptu or otherwise - became an extinct species and our sightings of "Lady Bracknell" were limited to probably less than a handful.

At the risk of receiving hate mail over the coming week, I'll throw caution to the wind and suggest that a brief blackout wouldn't be all that bad. Now if neighbours made a point to have blackout-style parties in spite of having a regular supply of power indoors, it could be a win-win!



Sarah Foster, daughter of M & M Meat Shops' Greg Foster, gets into the spirit of the occasion of the Great Canadian Barbecue held at the Aurora Seniors' Centre just before Canada Day. Members of the Aurora Seniors' Association are expressing thanks to Neighbourhood Network and Belinda Stronach for facilitating the event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Letters to the Editor

Seniors' Centre thanks Belinda, Neighbourhood Network

To the editor:

The Aurora Seniors Association would like to thank Belinda Stronach and Neighbourhood Network (NN) for their sponsorship of the The Great Canadian BBQ event held at the Seniors' Centre on Thursday June 30th 2011. Neighbourhood

Network provided all the food and drinks for this event, with all the proceeds going to the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Our thanks also go to Greg Foster of M&M Aurora for barbecuing all the food, and to the Neighbourhood Network team for working together with our volunteers and Seniors' Centre

staff to make this another successful event.

This was the sixth barbecue event that Belinda Stronach through Neighbourhood Network has supported for the Seniors' Centre and has now become an annual affair. They do this as a fundraiser for the Seniors, which always attracts a

large attendance - and this year was no exception with approximately 135 guests and members participating.

On behalf of all our members, thank you, Belinda and Neighbourhood Network!

Charles Sequeira
President,
Aurora Seniors' Association

Had hummingbirds drop in on you lately?

To the editor,

The Aurora Wildlife and Naturalization Working Group, over the last six years, has been undertaking a survey of Aurora's breeding bird population.

To date we have recorded more than 100 different bird species present within the Town's boundary during the nesting season.

At present we are having difficulty identifying how many hummingbirds are nesting in the Town.

If you have a humming-

bird feeder in your garden and live in Aurora then we would like you to inform us if you have had a hummingbird visit your feeder between June 20 and July 20.

Call 905-727-8979 and leave your name, telephone number and the address of the location of the feeder used by a hummingbird during the four-week period.

Your help in this project will be greatly appreciated.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

Reader learns green bins not racoon-proof

To the editor,

Green bins are not racoon-proof.

My garage doors got left open last night.

This morning, we found the green bin tipped over, opened up

and rummaged.

Food-stuff strewn out and down the driveway.

Crafty little devils to not only tip it over, but to open the latch.

Bill Hack
Aurora

—THE AURORAN—

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

John Gould
john@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
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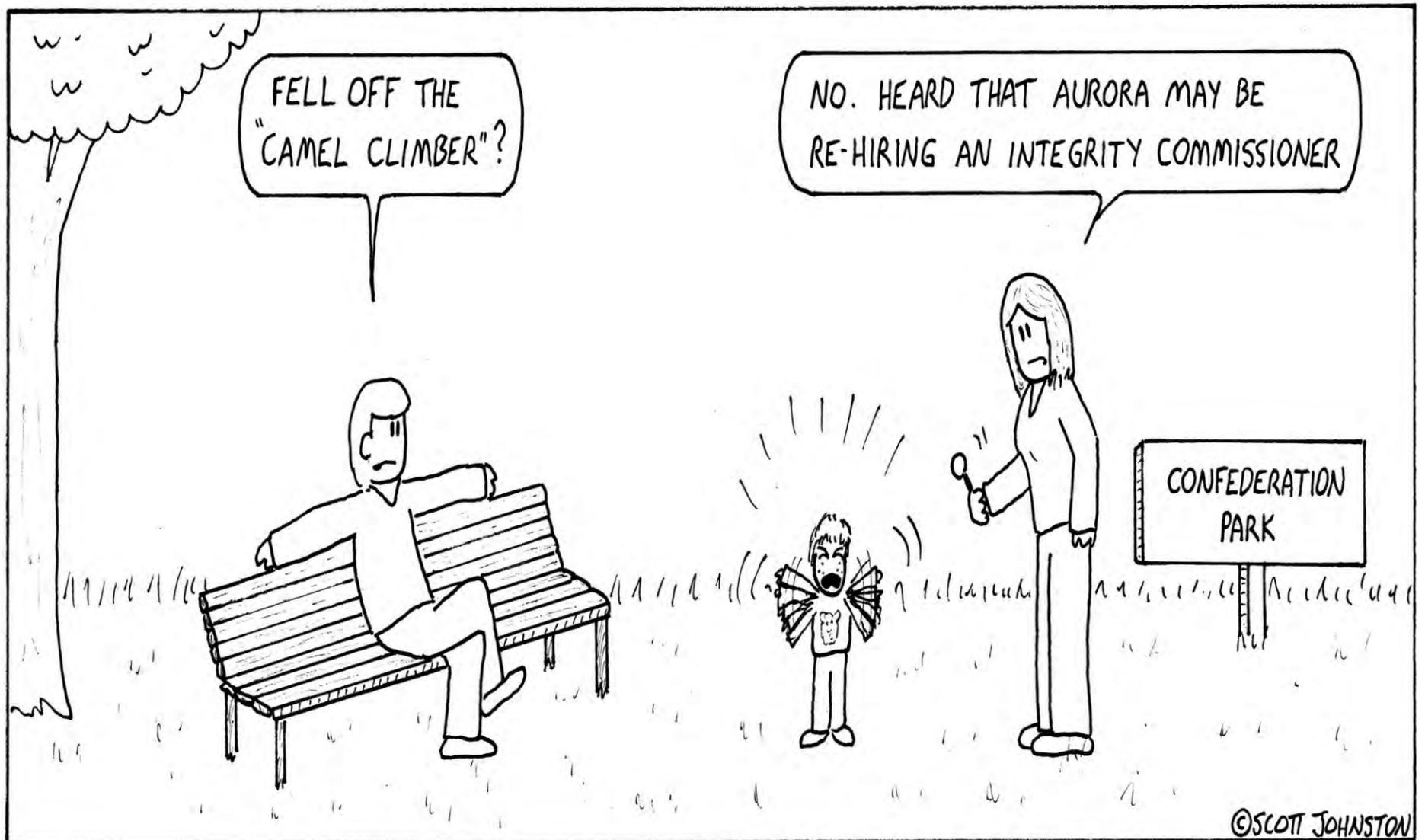
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Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

I've reached the bottom of the barrel.

Actually, thanks to our Sahara-like weather this summer, I've almost reached the bottom of 5 barrels.

Allow me to explain.

Although you don't actually hear much about it in the media any more, and wouldn't really expect it in a country that boasts almost 10% of the world's supply of fresh water, the town is under a water ban every summer. This means that depending on your house number, you can only use water outside on odd or even days, and only during certain morning and evening hours.

Of course, not everyone abides by Aurora's ban, and risks paying the \$5,000 fine for being caught. You can see the more furtive ones, waiting until almost dark, and skulking out with their hoses, looking guiltily around in the hope their neighbours aren't calling the watering snitch line.

Several years ago, in an attempt to be civic minded, and not wanting to have the clock and calendar dictate our gardening hours, we decided to investigate the use of rain barrels. While this would not allow us to keep our rapidly yellowing lawn rehydrated, it would at least ensure a steady supply of water for our gardens and potted plants.

Although they are a bit more available now, back then

the choices for rain barrels were pretty minimal. The only ones we could find were not that big, and cost well over \$100 each, which was a bit beyond our civic (and budget)-mindedness.

But we did find a reasonable price for an attachment to tap into the downspout. With this in place, when it rained the water would flow out of the downpipe from a point a few feet from the ground, and through a connecting tube and into a water container. When the container was full, the water would just drain as usual out the downspout.

Now all we needed was to find something large enough to hold the water that cost slightly less than \$100.

We looked at a number of options without success, before stumbling upon just the thing while we were on a trip out of town; olive containers.

These were big plastic bins, which had been used to ship over pickled olives and onions from Europe. They were similar to rain barrels, but a bit bigger, and at only ten bucks each, complete with lids, we figured we didn't have anything to lose. So we got a couple, brought them home and hooked them up together, so that when one barrel filled, it overflowed into the other.

One rainfall later they were both full of clear, if slight-

ly olive-smelling water. But the plants didn't seem to mind the fragrant hint of the Mediterranean, and thrived on the steady supply of former rain.

Our experiment was so successful, we eventually got some more olive bins, so we now have five of them connected to our two downspouts. Better yet, we enjoy the freedom of watering when we want without fear of being apprehended by the Water Police.

The only drawback is that while they hold a lot, the barrels are not quite bottomless, and the rains gods haven't been exactly inundating us this summer.

So as the weather has gotten warmer and drier over the past few weeks, and our increasingly parched flowers and vegetables thirstier and thirstier, we've been dipping a bit deeper into our steadily decreasing water supply to the stage where the levels in all five barrels have gotten to their lowest point yet.

One more good rain should refill them all and see us through the rest of the summer, even if it stays relatively dry. If not, I may have to sneak out in the middle of the night with the hose when no one's looking, and fill them up.

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

Letter to the Editor

Drivers should be patient at crossings

To the editor:

On the afternoon of July 19 at the level crossing on Elgin Mills, west of Bayview in Richmond Hill, my wife was caught up in snarled traffic, a detour, police cars were everywhere, temperature hovering at 35C.

She gasped in horror upon seeing what she thinks was the remains of a car near the level crossing.

"It was a ball of ruined metal, unrecognizable as a car. I only knew it to be a car because of the level crossing! I felt sick to my stomach and so sad. I cannot imagine anyone surviving," she said.

She was shocked and remained so for many hours. I was reminded of a level-crossing accident involving school friends many years ago, two couples in a sedan, the train sliced the car in half, the

front couple disappeared, the rear couple unhurt.

I was reminded of the tragic incident in Aurora a few years ago, a mother and daughter, level crossing, a mistake...

The trains helped to open up and develop Canada and are still critical to industry and our economy. Like the car, everyone knows trains are dangerous.

We persist in challenging them, in skirting

around barriers in the down position, past signs and red lights flashing, bells tolling incessantly and train whistles blaring...

Day and night, week-days and weekends, winter and summer...

I shudder as I often see motorists, cyclists and even pedestrians going around the barriers, knowing full well that a train is guaranteed to be coming at them.

The biggest problem is the trains are deceptively fast.

We all remember the other incidents; we see the faces, we recall the families and the tears, we remember the TV spots and newspaper articles.

And still, even still, we try to save a minute or two by beating the signs, barriers, flashing lights, bells and whistles.

Please take a moment to mourn, to remember

and to commit to patiently waiting for the trains to pass. Two minutes saved is hardly worth the rest of your life.

And enjoy the whistles as a daily reminder. I still cannot believe some in Aurora seriously lobbied and considered banning one of the best reminders that a train is coming...right now!

Peter Storms
Aurora

Letters to the Editor

Reader struck by lost farmland in photo

To the editor,

This is a fine photograph which illustrates just how much Aurora has grown. Most striking is to see how much farmland has been lost. I often wonder how much more our cities and towns can grow before we seriously start compromising our food producing capability.

Regarding the copyright status of the photo-

graph. I am somewhat saddened to read that this newspaper could not determine the status for itself. While copyright law is extremely complicated, copyright on photographs is one of the simplest. There is no need to know who the author is, nor when it was first "published". Quite simply, copyright subsists on photographs for 50 years from creation, so since you can show that the

photo is over 60 years old, you can rest comfortably knowing that this photo is firmly in the public domain.

Our government is doing its very best to make copyright even more complicated than it already is, at a time when this law starts to directly affect more and more individuals on a daily basis. If not for the last election Bill C-31 would have become law

making it illegal to copy DVDs to portable players, jailbreak iPhones to run your own or unapproved Apps, or to record digital broadcasts (including HDTV) without the permission of the broadcaster. Interestingly, it would also have changed the copyright term of photographs to be the life of the author + 50 years, meaning that your example would suddenly not

be so simple any more as you would need to know the photographer and when he died before being able to determine the exact copyright term.

Copyright law is beginning to affect all individuals in very intimate ways that it was never intended to do, and citizens would be well served to learn a little about it and talk to their MPs when this bill is reintroduced.

I recommend the following web sites to learn more: www.michaelgeist.ca, excesscopyright.blogspot.ca, copyrightic.ca, amongst many others.

Darryl Moore
Aurora

[Editor's note: The photograph Mr. Moore refers to appeared on page 4 of our July 12 issue.]

"Obsession" with weather a Canadian trait, says reader

To the editor,

Wikipedia describes "Canadians (singular Canadian) as the people who are identified with the country of Canada. This connection may be genetic, residential, legal, historical, cultural or ethnic. For most Canadians, several (frequently all) of those types of connections exist and are the source(s) of them being considered Canadians".

However, several stereotypes have become associated with Canadians. General characteristics include the use of the slang "eh" in every sentence. I have met a lot of people and

have yet to hear "eh" except by some comedians, eh! Another distinctiveness attributed is that we all play hockey. Not true, some of us just watch. The only igloos I have seen are the two dogloos that I put on my deck every fall in anticipation that my dogs might actually use them. Not everyone eats peameal bacon (personally it is one of my favorites (well-done of course). Then there is poutine, yuck! My son loves it but to me it is just a heart attack waiting to happen that I can avoid with pleasure. Other idiosyncrasies, too many to mention, are mere urban legends fodder for comedians or late

night talk show hosts.

But there is one trait that "we" cannot escape and that is our obsession with "the weather". I have travelled a bit and have not encountered any people that are more fixated on daily forecasts, talking/complaining about in general, conversations (the weather comments coming after "Hi, how you doin'?") than Canadians. I, like everyone this past week, have found it necessary to verbalize "boy is it ever hot" or "I hope your air is working" - like the people I am speaking to haven't noticed the 37 + degree temperatures (uh duh). I am as guilty as the next for "weather chit chat". I check the

forecast when I am planning to go up north or some outside activity, particularly in the winter to avoid driving on icy roads. But what is the fascination with the weather? Yes it has been dry and hot! But we have to have something about the weather to comment about, don't we? All I heard were complaints about all the rain we had in May/June (we could use some of that now), and how cold it was this winter, like every winter (we live in Canada after all).

Don't get me started on the "weather network". Could they please pick some better music for their every 10 minute

local update? Have you noticed that we get the Buttonville temperatures but Toronto forecasts since ACI was purchased by Rogers? I want to work as a weather forecaster. You can be wrong 90 % of the time and still keep your job. If you watch the weather channel you have seen the forecast be adjusted to co-ordinate with what is really happening without even an oops! A suggestion would be to perhaps look outside! This mania is further encouraged by our local

(Toronto) TV newscasts where lately the first 15 minutes of local news is dedicated to the weather. I think "we" know that it is hot! But after all, that is what Canadians do best, talk about the weather. Keep in mind that some of us pay dearly, in the winter, to go somewhere that we hope has this exact same weather.

So just think of the money you have saved by taking your winter vacation early!

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Camel climber "fun" for kids who are ready

To the editor:

After reading and witnessing all the kerfuffle over the camel

climber at Confederation Park, I now find I need to put forward my two cents worth.

This climbing apparatus is

quite fun for most kids who are physically ready for it. For those younger, smaller, or not as physically adept, a spotter is required at all times to make sure the child is safe. As parents, we don't let our children swim out of reach or unattended if they are non swimmers or very young.

We don't let them cross the street alone and, when they are a little older, without teaching them to look both ways.

Children are the responsibility of their caregivers, whether they are a parent, a babysitter, camp counselor, etc.

Just watch our Aurora Summer Camp staff in action if you want to see good supervision at a playground.

We can all take lessons from them on child safety.

Bottom line, if you think the climber is too dangerous for your child don't let him play on it.

That's your choice.

It's not your responsibility to make that choice for the rest of us by demanding the climber be removed from the park.

Sharon Brookes
Aurora

Thanks for good samaritan

To the editor:

This is a note to the "nice lady" that loaned me a lawn chair to enjoy the Good Brothers concert at the Town Park on July 13.

I still have your chair.

Thank you so much! Please call me at 905-727-1438.

Roy Harrington
Aurora

Appreciation for July 12 column

To the editor,

Thanks to Stephen Somerville for introducing an adult discussion about energy in Ontario plus the repercussions on us and on the environment that we all share. This will surely include price and availability on the supply side plus conservation and innova-

tion on the demand side.

In a recent interview, the Mayor reported that the Strategic Plan and the Promenade Study will soon be on the agenda. Much regional planning is framed within the twenty-five years of Ontario's "Places to Grow Act." During that time, the world population is projected to increase by

one-third. Aurora's growth is projected at forty percent.

Stephen, we are anxious to see you un-spin the spin doctors, which will

surely produce the vigorous discussion/debate you call for.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

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Westhill development in Ministry's hands

The future of the Westhill Development in south Aurora near Leslie Street and Bloomington Road is now in the hands of Ontario's Ministry of the Environment following a letter sent to the Minister by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe outlining Council's request that the department withhold the development's Permit to Take Water (PTTW).

Mayor Dawe was directed by Council to send a letter to Minister John Wilkinson asking him to withhold the permit from developers last month in a last ditch effort to stop the construction of the 75 unit residential and championship golf course development.

After lengthy hearings, the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) ruled in favour of Westhill in its battle against the municipality to go ahead with their development plans.

When the matter went to the OMB, the final outcome left municipal control, and the request to the Minister was seen by some Councillors to be the last card the Town held to halt the project.

Councillor Chris Ballard made the motion in June calling on Mayor Dawe to "write to the Minister of the Environment, at the Mayor's earliest convenience, to continue to deny, for environmental reasons, namely the continued protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine, a permit to take water."

As part of the motion, a copy of the letter was placed on the July 12 Council agenda for information. If Councillor Ballard was expecting an impassioned plea from Mayor Dawe to the Minister asking him to deny the permit, the terse letter that appeared on the agenda may have left

him disappointed.

In his letter, Mayor Dawe simply outlined Council's motion.

"The purpose of this letter is to advise you that on June 21, 2011, Aurora Town Council adopted a motion which directed I write to you to request the following," wrote Mayor Dawe, before including Council's motion verbatim. "The matter is with respect to the Westhill Redevelopment Company Ltd.'s proposal to construct a golf course and residential development on the Oak Ridges Moraine in the Town of Aurora."

The Minister had not responded to the letter at press time.

When the matter came up for Council discussion on July 12, Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed disbelief at both the motion and the contents of the letter. Councillor

Buck left the meeting last month before Councillor Ballard made the motion and took the opportunity last Tuesday to ask for clarification.

"I wasn't here when this resolution was passed and I would like to know exactly what the purpose of this letter is," said Councillor Buck to Mayor Dawe. "Does anyone understand what

you're asking the Minister to do?"

Mayor Dawe explained how the motion came about, but Councillor Buck was still incredulous.

"Are you serious that you wrote, after \$650,000 that we know about, not counting all the staff time of going through an OMB process, weeks of OMB-ing in front of the OMB

and losing, that we continue to tell the Minister that we think he should deny a permit to take water?" she asked. "What is it this Council hopes to accomplish with this, other than making fools of ourselves?"

Mayor Dawe replied that he was "not sure" he knew how to answer that question, with Councillor

Please see page 13



Council "waits" for United Way

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, along with Councillors John Abel, Sandra Humfries, and Paul Pirri will be trading in their fancy Council duds next month for aprons and drink trays as they join Boston Pizza's wait staff on August 4.

The Mayor and Councillors will be taking your orders between 6 and 9 p.m. to raise a targeted \$2,000 for the United Way's annual Dragon Boat fundraising raise, the cost

of the Town's entry.

"We're asking residents to come out for a great time while enjoying some great food," said John Firman, Manager of Business Support for the Town, in a statement. "How often will you have the chance to be waited on by the Mayor and Councillors?"

10 per cent of all Boston Pizza sales taken in while your elected representatives deliver food and drinks will be donated

to the United Way of York Region on behalf of the Town. With money raised in the endeavour, the Town will participate in the organization's 8th Annual Dragon Boat Race at Seneca College's King Campus on August 20.

In the photo above, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe (second left) is joined by Councillor Paul Pirri (L), Boston Pizza general manager Sam Abbas, and Aurora Human Resources Clerk Mara Gromacki.

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Former mayor could appeal

mine the identities of the anonymous posters to proceed with a lawsuit.

In her ruling, which was issued July 20, Justice Brown said Ms. Morris' team had "failed to establish a prima facie case" in the matter and dismissed the motion. She also failed to provide evidence that the statements made on the blog caused her harm in terms of her reputation, and emotionally.

"The Plaintiff in this defamation action has failed to set forth the specific words complained of as being defamatory," said Justice Brown in her decision. "The jurisprudence clearly establishes that in actions of libel and slander, the precise words complained of are material and should be set forth with as much particularity as possible in the pleading itself, ideally verbatim or at a minimum, with sufficient particularity to allow the Defendant to respond."

"This is not a case where the Plaintiff is unable to obtain the verbatim defamatory statements and to extract them from the articles and blog comments noted."

The court, Justice Brown went on to note, has to be able to do a "detailed and contextual analysis" of each allegedly defamatory statement. With the information Ms. Morris' team provided the courts, that analysis was impossible "where the Plaintiff has not clearly identified the words relied upon."

Bylaw changes don't work in the summer: Councillors

Recent changes to the Town's procedural bylaw just don't work in the summer months, say Councillors after finding the amount of time it takes to get a notice of motion up for discussion is impractical and inefficient.

The Councillors made their feelings known at this month's Council meeting after frustrations were raised by Councillor Evelyn Buck that after she missed a noontime deadline to get written notices of motion into the Clerk's office on the day of the meeting in question. Since she was unable to get her notices in for the July meeting, she will now be unable to get them on the table before Council reconvenes for their August session, and even then the matters won't be discussed until September.

"This is hardly conducive to anyone even bothering to put forward a notice," she said.

Her frustration, she said, was compounded by what transpired after she left the previous Council meeting when Councillor Chris Ballard made a motion without giving notice asking Mayor Geoffrey Dawe to write to Ontario's Minister of the Environment asking him to withhold the standard Permit to Take Water from the Westhill

"While the plaintiff argues that the words of defamation are clearly set forth in the articles, it is not the role of the Court to parse the impugned articles and blogs before it to attempt to determine, by divination or divine inspiration, which statements it should assess in determining whether a prima facie case has been established."

In consideration of the Norwich Motion, Justice Brown said she was cognizant that the allegedly defamatory postings were made in the middle of a "hard-fought" political campaign and said the comments in question "clearly related" to the position of the Mayor, "the governance of the Mayor, councillors, and the municipal government generally."

"In ensuring that proper weight is given to the important value of freedom of expression, particularly in the political context, the importance of the stringent prima facie test is necessary to protect and balance the public interest in favour of the disclosure with the competing interests of privacy and freedom of expression."

Justice Brown goes on to state she was not convinced Ms. Morris took "reasonable steps" to identify the anonymous defendants in the case as she "has not proceeded to either documentary discovery or examination for discovery". She also indicated that Ms. Morris did not provide evidence - by affidavit or otherwise - to sup-

port her submission that the statements have harmed "and will continue to harm her reputation and are causing her both emotional harm and fear for her safety."

Within her decision, Justice Brown also acknowledged the privilege of the anonymous individuals to remain anonymous when making their comments online. She said the anonymous posters in question "had a reasonable expectation of anonymity in the particular circumstances, given that they were free to identify themselves, to write under a pseudonym or remain anonymous with respect to the website, and, in this case, the anonymous defendants chose to write under a pseudonym."

"In the circumstances of this case, where the Plaintiff has not established a prima facie case, the public interest favouring disclosure clearly does not outweigh the legitimate interests in freedom of expression and the right to privacy of the persons sought to be identified."

At the end of her decision, Justice Brown calls on the two parties to come to an agreement regarding costs incurred in the matter. If they do not come to an agreement, she noted both parties can submit their costs in writing to her within 30 days of July 20.

In response to Justice Brown's decision, Ms. Morris said that while she respects the decision of the court, she "respectfully disagrees" with the judge's findings.

"We...respectfully disagree with the finding that we failed to make out a prima facie case of defamation by not specifically setting out the words complained of," said Ms. Morris in a statement to The Auroran Friday. "In particular, we are supported by the March 2011 decision of Mr. Justice Spence who found that we had adequately pleaded our case when he denied the defendants' motion seeking to dismiss the lawsuit on a similar basis."

In his March ruling, Justice Robert Spence said that the "defamatory postings" had been identified by Ms. Morris without using the specific words in her notice, but it was acceptable to impugn the entirety of groups of specifically identified sentences for the defendants to properly defend themselves, as Ms. Morris' team had done. Justice Brown, on the other hand, and as noted above, ruled it was not the responsibility of the court to determine which particular words were supposed to be defamatory.

"It is further our position that the anonymous comments published went far beyond acceptable political commentary, and we therefore pursued the Norwich motion as the most efficient, timely and cost effective way to obtain the identities of the anonymous bloggers," Ms. Morris continued in her statement.

"We are intending to bring a motion to seek leave to appeal the decision of Justice Brown to the Ontario Divisional Court and will serve and file our materials within the timeframes provided by the Rules of Civil Procedure."

From the perspective of Jordan Goldblatt, lawyer for Mr. Hogg and Mr. Johnson, they were unsurprisingly "pleased" at Justice Brown's decision.

"We're obviously pleased with the decision and we think it reflects an appropriate balancing of factors that were before her," he said. "We'll see what the next step is and we will continue to vig-

ously defend the action."

Justice Brown's decision is a "fairly significant" judgement in terms of freedom of speech, according to Mr. Hogg.

"It has crystallized the fact that the anonymous posters on the blog have the right to anonymity when it concerns things of public interest such as a mayoralty race," he said. "We know from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that that is a right that is protected and frankly we chose to stand up and protect that right on behalf of citizens not only of Aurora, but citizens of Ontario and Canada as well. All we did was we decided not to be bullied by Mayor Morris and to stand up for what we believe is right."

that website had every right to criticise the behaviour of the Mayor and not make comments on Phyllis Morris, but the Mayor."

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Please see page 9

Time for Council salary review committee, says Gaertner

A committee could be appointed to "ensure fair and equitable compensation for Councillors", if Councillor Wendy Gaertner's call for a report outlining best practices bears fruit.

Councillors voted in favour of a notice of motion given by Councillor Gaertner at this month's Council meeting, calling on staff to prepare a report "outlining current best practices in use by other municipalities and options for Council to consider, together with potential recommendations, which would assist Council in developing a strategy for the review and update of compensation of Members of Council both now and in the future."

Such a committee is typically struck in the final year of a particular Council term in advance of the incoming Council, but no such committee was put into place by the outgoing Council led by former mayor Phyllis Morris, noted Councillor Gaertner.

"It has been a practice to review the Council compensation every so often," said Councillor Gaertner.

Process "too long"

From page 8

too long."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner appeared to also agree with Councillor Buck when looking at summer motions.

"The notices of motion [process] was changed... actually, it was to be a three step process and we've changed it to a two-step process, so it is less onerous than it used to be, but I think for the summer sessions it needs to be re-looked at."

While Mayor Dawe said that it is "definitely" something

"Unfortunately, it was not done in the last term, so it wouldn't have been done in five years, so it is just in order. Not only is it in order, [but] there should be a process in place where it is done on a regular basis so that Council doesn't have to bring this forward because it is a sensitive issue.

"It's a sensitive topic to have Council ask for a review of their own salaries and there was no political will to do it last time."

Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott said in his experience, Councils often adopt formulae or mechanisms setting the timing and methodology for salary and compensation reviews and he agreed with Councillor Gaertner that there was "an effort to raise that issue" during the last Council term.

"They recognized that it was my perception that Council recognized what the issue was but chose not to take any action on it and chose to leave it for this Council to undertake a review of their compensation," he said.

Mr. Elliott added that there are pros and cons related to a salary committee and added that it would be appropriate to

that can be brought to the Clerk's attention for a possible "revisit" of the matter, this month is not the first time Councillors have expressed frustration with the lengthy process. Some Councillors, including John Gallo, have made their concerns known that under the new process, motions are already in the public domain for two weeks before the mover even gets a chance to speak to it. This, he said, "takes the wind out of [Councillors's] sails" once the matter eventually comes up for debate.

look and see what other municipalities are currently doing to ascertain best practices and go from there, noting he could have a report back to Council on how to proceed when Council fully resumes in the fall.

"I know that this Council is eager to try and restore the public confidence in the integrity of Council as a whole and they are hoping to do that," he said. "I'd be more than willing to undertake this kind of report and bring it back to you in September."

Councillor Buck, however, said that in her experience there has already been a procedure established for a salary review and that she didn't see the point in bringing forward another report if Councillor Gaertner's intention was simply to have a committee put in place to review remuneration.

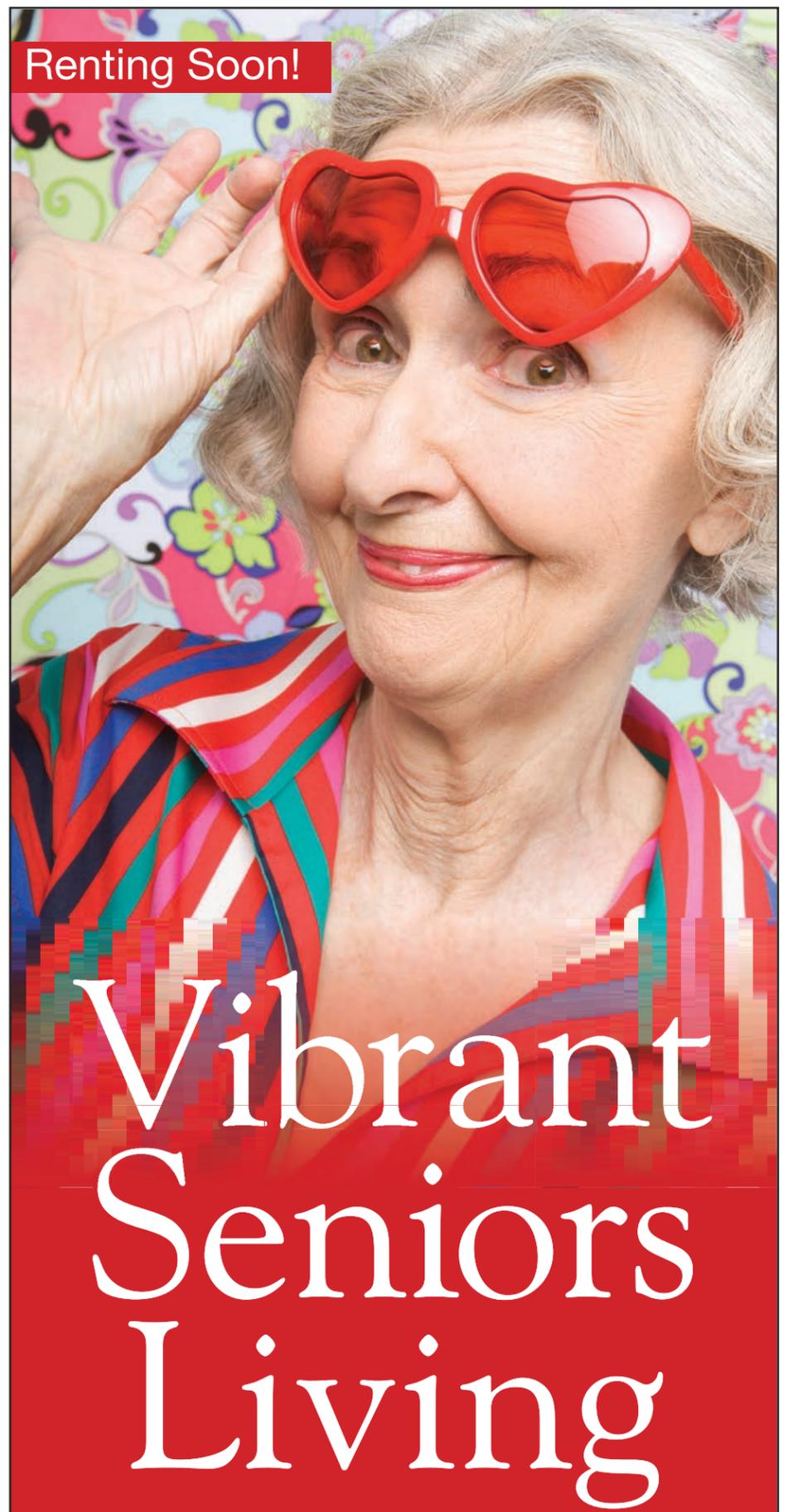
"We should follow the practices of the past if that's Councillor Gaertner's intent that salaries should be reviewed," said Councillor Buck, who said if that is the intention, Council should just do it. "Let's just direct staff to review the terms of reference and bring it forward for August."

For Councillor Chris Ballard, bringing forth a report on best practices would be an effort to bring municipal policies up to date.

"Once that process is formalized then Council can make a decision as to whether it wants to move ahead or not move ahead at that time," he said. "I think a lot of the work we've done over the past few months, certainly things that I have been pushing for are to enshrine in our policies some semblance of order so we don't have to remember how we did it in years gone by, that we have a formula, we have policies to do these sorts of things."

"This to me is just one more of those pieces of housekeeping that needs to be done."

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The Humber River Shakespeare Group arrived at Town Park on a hot Sunday afternoon this month to put on William Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors for an Aurora audience of over 150. The performance of Shakespeare's work of mistaken identity about two sets of identical twins separated during a ship wreck was part of Aurora's Theatre in the Park event, which organizers heralded as a "fully green" production using no electrical power with an "ecologically aware cast that used environmentally friendly products."



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Week of July 26, 2011

Aurorans push their "tushes" for cancer research



A number of residents descended on the Aurora Family Leisure Complex Saturday afternoon to "Push their Tush" to fight colon cancer.

Push for Your Tush, otherwise known as the 15th Annual Colon Cancer Canada Walk/Run, kicked off at 3:30 on Industrial Parkway North, and included people of all ages - and even a dog or two - as participants took on a 10 kilometre run, a five kilometre walk, and a 1 kilometre "Toddler Walk."

The annual event - but the first of its kind in Aurora - was organized

by "Tanya's Tushies", in honour of "an amazing mother/wife/sister/daughter/friend, Tanya Shepherd, who after suffering from Crohn's and Colitis for a majority of her life, was diagnosed with Colon Cancer in May 2009," according to a statement released by Kate Shepherd, Holly Douglas, and Jenn Shepherd, Committee Chairs for Push for Your Tush.

"That same year, Tanya and her team of Tushies raised over \$33,000 for below-the-waist cancer research. Unfortunately, Tanya's Aurora - was organized

Please see page 11



Aurorans (top) raised over \$45,000 for colon cancer research Sunday in "Push Your Tush", a run/walk event in aid of Colon Cancer Canada. Seen below left are Kate and Jenn Shepherd and Holly Douglas, who spearheaded "Tanya's Tushies" which organized the event. Team uniforms for Young Buns (below right) took the concept literally and left no doubt of what people were running for. *Auroran photos by Diane Buchanan*



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Soccer Results



HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS

Boys Results

June 3 - Sky Blue/Lazio 5 (Munn, McCartney, Thiffault) vs. Emerald Rapid Vienna 5 (Domanico, Borsellino, Mikhalli); Orschel's Drillers/Royal 3 (Cressell, Marshall, Montgomery) vs Gringler, Iskov Learner 1 (Quagliarini);
June 10 - Emerald/Rapid Vienna 2 (Borsellino, Osmond) vs Gringler Iskov Learner 6 (Lerner 3, Eeleigh 2, Yeatman); Orschel's Drillers 5 (White 2, Marsillo, Bagsha, Whelan vs Sky/Lazio 2 (Munn, Newbie);
June 17- Sky/Lazio 3 (Munn 3) vs Gringler, Iskov Lerner 0;
Orschel's Drillers/Royal 4 (White, Cresswell, McKay,

Whelan) Newmarket Red 3 (Drag, Haller, Glen); Rapid Vienna/Emerald 6 (Borsellino x Domanico 2, Mikhalli) vs Newmarket Royal 0;
June 27- Soccer Nation/Navy 9 (Holler 3, Turrieff, Tyndall 2, Reid, lafrate vs Royal/Norwich 2 (Vaughan 2); Priestly Demo/White 2 (Magnante, Gilles) vs Pizza/Pizza/Orange 2 (Charleson, Adams); Dr.Weaver/Scarlet 4 (Chiarenza 2, Shennan 2) vs Canadian Springs/Sky 3 (Snedden 2, Rojas);
June 29 - Canadian Springs/Lime 3 (Ghazali, Gonsalve, Davis) vs Pizza/Pizza/Orange 4 (McConnell 2, Crabbe)
June 26 - U19/29B June Festival

Rapid Vienna/Emerald 6 (Mikhaili 3, Pellarin 2, Domanico) vs Newmarket/Royal 0; Fulham/White 2 -5 PK- (Lerner, Yeatman) vs Norwich/Royal 2 -4 PK- (White 2); Rapid Vienna 6 (Mikhaili 3, Domanico 2, Borsellino) vs Fulham/White 4 (Lerner 2, Eveleigh, Watt)
June 29 - U8B Salzburg/Navy 3 (More, Yuen, Pisapia) vs Blackpool/Orange (Eveleigh 2, Carter); Fulham/White 6 (Fischer 2, Martinez 2, Balice, Kristof) vs Lazio/Sky; U14/15B Salzburg/Navy 7 (Noah O, Luc M 2, Lucas P 2, Michael T, Christopher R., Nick S) vs Sky/Lazio 0; Basil/Lime 4 (Rojine 3, Fleck) vs Fulham/White 1 (Reiter); Norwich/Royal - 3 (Steel, Missahi 2) vs Vienna/Emerald 2 (Dunlop, Peng); U12B Vienna/Emerald 4 (Cowell 2, Carpenter, Sault) vs

Salzburg/Navy 2 (Wulle, Parypa);
U11B Salzburg/Navy 3 (Tydall 2, Caruano) vs Blackpool/Orange 2 (Issaris, Meunier-Geoffroy); Sky Lazio 4 vs Fulham/White 3
July 1 - Rapid Vienna/Emerald 10 (Borsellino 3, Mikhalli 5, Domanico, Cantarutti) vs Gringler Iskov Lerner 6 (Yeatman 4, Quagliarini, Lerner); Sky/Lazio 3 (Wong, McCartney, Munn) vs Orschel's Drillers 3 (Whelan 2, Madeiros)
Upper Canada Mall/Royal 1 (Stel) vs Upper Canada Mall/Emerald - 0; Upper Canada Mall/Scarlet 1 (James) vs Dr Steiners Drillers 3 (Foxwell, Pozzebon 2).

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Repairs coming to the Leisure Complex

The Aurora Family Leisure Complex will continue to serve the public with Councillors opting to approve over \$600,000 worth of projects to refurbish a number of aspects of the facility, projects which should extend the lifespan of the building for another two decades.

Following Council's approval of the initiatives, Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) will see money pumped in to improve its ageing sound system, the first phase of a retrofit of the building's ice plant, re-glazing for energy efficiency, a reconstruction of the parking lot, and the installation of a new elevator.

"The average annual cost for replacing major capital components of this facility is

\$150,000 over the next 14 years," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report to Council. "As a comparison, to replace the current facility with a new facility would require an investment of \$10 million to \$22 million, assuming no land costs or removal of the existing facility (if reconstruction on the existing site is preferred). This estimate excludes service disruptions and impacts involved with re-construction on the existing site.

"No new facilities are planned until 2017, continuing the upkeep of this facility is the preferred alternative."

According to Mr. Simanovskis, the AFLC arena sound system has deteriorated over time, and is in continual use by ice users

such as the Aurora Skating Club. The funding approval will see the installation of a new CD player, microphone, amplifier, tuner, and speaker system. The cost of the refurbishment is \$25,000 and, according to Mr. Simanovskis, if the project was not approved, it could have resulted in "decreased user experience and customer service" if the sound system failed during programs, special events, and permits.

\$500,000 will go to the retrofitting of the ice plant, a project which includes the redesign and engineering of the existing plant room, the replacement of compressors, as well as the shell and tube chiller, and the evaporative condenser. Continued maintenance to the existing

ice plant would incur annual costs of \$20,000 to \$25,000.

"A complete failure of any of the three major components can result in the loss of refrigeration and the removal of ice for a minimum of four to 12 weeks," said Mr. Simanovskis. "This service disruption will affect a full program and permit schedule through the Parks and Recreation Services Department and associated loss of revenue.

"Loss of revenue in peak season (October to December) would range from \$45,000 for four weeks to \$135,000 for 12 weeks."

The ice plant project can be phased in over three years, Mr. Simanovskis added, with the first phase, approved this month, coming in at \$200,000.

The re-glazing project will tackle the failing seals in many parts of the glass viewing gallery overlooking the pool. The failed seals in the skylights and the pool exterior windows are causing leaks. While this component of the project is expected to come in at \$150,000, environmental benefits are also expected to be reaped along with the plugged leaks.

"Improvements to the glazing will improve the building envelope at exterior elevations and at the arena viewing gallery and pool viewing gallery, increasing the energy efficiency of the facility," said Mr. Simanovskis.

The complete reconstruction of the AFLC parking lot is projected to cost \$280,000 and will go towards improving the deteriorating lot which Mr.

Simanovskis says presents "a number of areas for trip and fall hazards.

"Improvements to this lot and walkways are required for safe access and egress," he said. "The condition of the asphalt and catch basins at the AFLC parking lot are resulting in poor drainage into the storm-water management system."

The fate of the AFLC was the subject of extensive discussions last month on what the Town should actually do with the municipal facility. Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation said that the AFLC is "probably the worst building [he had]

ever seen" from an operational standpoint, but said he was glad to have it on the roster of recreation assets.

Councillors Evelyn Buck and Wendy Gaertner agreed that the building had been problematic since its inception and they and their fellow Council members debated whether to throw more money at the building to maintain its current service levels, to repair and restore failing components, to the building for something else, to replace it with an entirely new structure, or whether to expand the services currently offered by the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

\$45,000 raised

From page 10

battle with colon cancer soon became a war and she passed away November 6, 2009, leaving behind her husband Tom and young son Jack. In 2010, in Tanya's memory, Tanya's Tushies again raised over \$33,000 for cancer research. This year, we want to blow that number out of the water!"

And they did - topping \$45,000 in money raised!

The annual Colon Cancer Canada Walk/Run has raised over \$2.5 million to support cancer research, one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in Canada regardless of gender. According to information released from Colon Cancer Canada over 22,000 Canadians were

diagnosed with colon cancer last year with over half of those diagnosed having the disease turn fatal.

"Surprisingly, colon cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer," they said. "If caught early, over 90 per cent of these cases could and should result in a full recovery."



Students of Northern Karate School at the Aurora Shopping Centre near Yonge Street and Murray Drive demonstrate their well-honed (and growing!) skills at Town Park Saturday. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Confederation Park signage could improve

When it comes to signage - both for warnings and for soliciting public opinion - all sides in the squabble over what to do with Confederation Park's two-hump camel climber admit there is room for improvement.

Martin MacIntaggart, the Aurora resident who first brought safety concerns over the playground equipment to Council's attention, expressed concern right from the start that the methods used by the Town to solicit public opinion on whether the climber should stay or go was clearly inadequate.

"I addressed these concerns over three months ago in a telephone call to [Parks Manager] Jim Tree," he said. "He suggested putting up a sign to canvass fellow Aurorans as to whether they want to see it stay or go."

What resulted, he said, was a simple piece of paper taped to an adjacent piece of equipment.

"It was on a piece of equipment that wasn't even close to the camel climber," he said. "It was on a baby swing which was located facing away, approximately

25 feet from the camel climber. I don't think canvassing was done fairly. My suggestion was that canvassing be done on a Saturday, or after hours when the park is busy and there are lots of children. It was told to me that that wasn't going to get done because it was outside regular operation hours. I guess overtime is really expensive."

In responding to the notice of motion from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe calling for the equipment's removal, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, admitted there were issues as to whether nor not public notification was sufficient.

"The resident at open forum had mentioned that perhaps the notification notice should have been bigger or should have been closer to the piece of equipment, we're not arguing that," he said. "Perhaps we can always do better at communicating to the public. That being said, however, we didn't find an overwhelming response to the public positively or negatively with regards to the equipment."

Emails from both sides of the debate were received by the Parks department, he said, adding that additional measures such as signage on the actual piece of playground equipment "in order to provide some additional public notification is possible."

"However, we feel that we have done all measures possible with regards to our due diligence to make sure that piece of equipment is safe," he said. "We're now at the pleasure of Council."

For Gale Palmer, an

area resident who spoke in favour of keeping the camel climber in place, additional signage would be beneficial and could result in the continued enjoyment of the equipment.

"Please consider the ramifications of removing this piece of playground equipment," she told Councillors. "There are other solutions. Some parks in York Region have labelled specific playground equipment with age appropriate symbols or signs. There are cautions alongside the more challenging apparatus."

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Humfryes "loving every minute" of Council

First-time Councillor Sandra Humfryes is finding great satisfaction in her new role from helping members of their community with the issues facing them - which should not be a surprise to many considering Councillor Humfryes' track record as a long time community volunteer.

"Personally, it is great to give back to the community and a wonderful experience," she told The Auroran. "I'm loving every minute and I'm learning every day, so there is more to learn and more to experience, and I am really excited about the next six months or three-and-a-half years ahead!"

Councillor Humfryes spoke to The Auroran as part of our series of interviews with Councillors to mark the first six months of the new Council, a milestone which was reached last month. When she was elected, Councillor Humfryes received concerns expressed in the blogosphere right off the bat that she was "too close" to the outgoing mayor, some defeated councillors, and one or two of Aurora's more divisive community volunteers and organizers to be a truly independent voice on the Council table.

With her first six months of Council behind her, Councillor Humfryes said she hopes she has proved the naysayers wrong.

"I hope they have seen that I'm an issue-based thinker," she said. "I look at the issue, do my research as best as possible, ask for feedback, reach out to residents and businesses before decisions are

made, and I do a lot of research before every Council meeting, working with directors and staff, so that I am prepared.

"I hope that the public has seen that when I vote, my reasons for voting are definitely based on the issues at hand; I'm hoping that is the case and I do watch the blogs and I hope that they remain positive. Everyone is entitled to their opinion."

While Councillor Humfryes said she has enjoyed every minute of being on Council so far, one of their most significant achievements, from her perspective, is getting through the budget process.

"I know that every municipality had to do that, but being such a new Council and going through the different challenges of reducing the tax rate, starting at about 7.9 and going down to below four, I think was a really big achievement," she said, noting that additional challenges coming out of that included budgeting for 22 new fire department employees.

"We worked really hard and diligently to get that done and accomplished, and I'm really proud of that - and I'm proud of all the Councillors and the Mayor to get what we did."

But although Councillor Humfryes has pride in what has been accomplished by Council so far, she concedes there are issues that she would have preferred to be handled differently in hindsight, including the controversy in the spring surrounding the P.A.R.C.E.L. develop-



SANDRA HUMFRYES

ment off Yonge Street near Elderberry Trail. This, she said, represented a disconnect in communications on various levels.

"I think my assumption that the communication was out there, that all the local residents knew clearly what was going on [with negotiations between the Town, the developers, and the local ratepayers' association]," she said. "Having that assumption I thought RAYS (Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South) were funnelling that information out to residents. Seeing that that may have been a myth was a bit disappointing, so moving forward I will be ensuring that communication to residents on various serious issues - and they are all serious issues - is going to be clearer."

"I want a very clear understanding of how that communication is going out so we can protect our residents and keep them informed as much as possible. That, to me, is a disappointment, but moving forward I'll definitely be aware of the communication."

When asked if she would consider this a regret, however, she said she honestly has no regrets of what has transpired so far, just that she wished she had more experience under her belt than she currently has. But that, she said, comes in time. Councillors, from her perspective, are gelling and despite each member bringing their own perspectives to the table, all are finding cohesion in working hard for the residents of Aurora, she said.

"I like the way we can all just disagree, but there is some good respect and understanding around the table," she said.

For the next six months of Council, one of the issues Councillor Humfryes said she would like to tackle is the issue of Aurora's museum and what is in store for the future of Aurora's collections. She

said it is "personal" for her to address the concerns that several residents have brought forward about the lack of a museum for the historical collections currently stored at the Aurora Cultural Centre and elsewhere.

"I'm going to be looking towards understanding what the strategy is to the Historical Society, to our Cultural Centre, and the Town to see where we can go to place an official museum in Aurora," she said. "This is a personal thing and I will do my best to focus on that and see if we can make that happen for residents. I don't know how successful I will be, but I will do my best."

Upon her election last October, Councillor Humfryes told The Auroran that if she heard that the residents of Aurora were not satisfied with her in her role as Councillor, she would listen to them and not seek re-election. But now that six months have passed, we asked her, based on the feedback she has received so far, whether she would take another kick at the can if a municipal election were held tomorrow.

"I'm getting so much great, positive feedback, to be honest with you," she said. "If I continue to get that feedback and the residents feel that I am representing them fairly and as

best as I can, then I would love to be back and that would be based on the feedback that I continue to get."

"I'm starting to see that the residents are having a lot of confidence in me, asking me to spearhead their issues and concerns personally. There are still three-and-a-half years ahead, so I will be watching and listening and doing my best for the residents

and they will be the ones who will determine the decision at the end of the day for me.

"I would still like to thank the residents very much. I continue to thank them for the honour of serving them. I still take that honour very seriously; I don't for a minute think I am entitled to it. I am grateful and humble for it and I am really grateful for the experience."

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Budding Aurora artist Angel Antonio Waskul displays his painting of the Eiffel Tower at this month's Art In The Park. The philanthropic Angel, who had over 10 works on display for the buying public, donated all his proceeds to Kerry's Place Autism Services. Angel previously sold his art to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross's relief fund for those affected by devastating earthquake in Japan earlier this year.

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NDP candidate wants "fairness and compassion" at Queen's Park

As a life-long member of the United Church, Robin Wardlaw said he was always intrigued by the man leading the service at the front of the church.

"It was always a man in those days," said Mr. Wardlaw, hastily, as he explained his affinity for the world of religion and what drew him to follow in the footsteps of the man in the pulpit.

"I was eager to do something that would make a difference to people in the world and I realised the Ministry is one of those things that, in very personal and intimate ways, and also in societal ways, can make a difference," he told The Auroran last week. "The minister can play a role in society and I think I have done that to some degree in Newfoundland and in Ontario - bringing people together, finding solutions, and talking about ways of being with one another that are respectful and full of dignity."

Mr. Wardlaw, who recently vacated his position as minister of Newmarket's Trinity United Church is hoping to parlay what drew him to the Church as well as the lessons he has learned in his vocation, as the next Member of Provincial

Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora.

Earlier this month, Mr. Wardlaw was announced as the Newmarket-Aurora candidate for the provincial New Democrats in the upcoming October 6 provincial election where he will face off against incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees, as well as expected returning Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz and a Green Party candidate to be determined. His vision for Newmarket-Aurora - and Ontario as a whole - is one of "fairness and compassion." This view, he said, was shaped by his ministry and volunteer work.

"My occupation as a minister is where I got my vision for a fair and compassionate society and it angers me, quite frankly, to see the gap growing between the very, very rich and the rest of us and it doesn't have to be that way," he said. "I know from my own faith, my Christian faith, there is a very different vision of a society that is both equal and fair, and I think it is a perfect fit with the kind of work I have been doing as a minister in a church and what I'd like to do at Queen's Park."

The New Democrats will bring this vision forward by



ROBIN WARDLAW

following through with their "promises of change that put people first," said Mr. Wardlaw. He said that he thinks people "don't quite trust" PC leader Tim Hudak and believe that Dalton McGuinty's Liberals have "grown out of touch" with the electorate. His party offers something "truly different, better, really sensible, and conserved governing" under leader Andrea Horwath, he said.

The Ontario New Democrats plan on reducing the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) from essential products and service, including gas prices, and shift corporate taxes to their 2010 tax level. The HST on gas, the Party proposes, will be reduced by one percentage point annually over four years. HST will also be

taken off home heating costs, should the New Democrats form the next government, he said.

"Our analysis is that it was a \$6 billion shift from corporations to individuals and that concerns us greatly," said Mr. Wardlaw. "It is a taxation direction that has been going on in North America for 25 or 30 years and we see that it has been very unhealthy for Ontario, Canada, and North America as a whole."

"Overall the HST is something that is going to take a long time to get rid of, if ever, thanks to the way it has been integrated into our tax system as a whole."

The New Democrats also promise to reverse corporate tax cuts should they form government. For a Town like Aurora that is putting increased emphasis on attracting new and fostering current business opportunities within the municipalities, Mr. Wardlaw said area businesses "don't have anything to fear" in a New Democrat government. This, he said, is supported by the experiences of businesses elsewhere, particularly in the western provinces.

"Our track record is well known to corporate people on that," said Mr. Wardlaw. "The disappointing thing has been with the corporate

tax cuts that large corporations have been receiving, it seems that Statistics Canada is saying they have not been creating jobs or doing research, they have been stashing the cash and it hasn't achieved what the tax cutters said it was going to achieve.

"Large corporations are described as job creators but in fact it is small and medium-sized businesses that really create the most jobs in Ontario. We will give small businesses a slight tax cut from five per cent to 4.5 per cent for smaller businesses. We're very friendly with all businesses, but we have made a point of that in our platform this time."

But what of the New Democrats track record in Ontario? When asked whether some residents of Newmarket-Aurora would be reluctant to consider casting their vote for Mr. Wardlaw and his party from any sort of Bob Rae hangover or fatigue from the current Federal Liberal leader's 1990-1995 tenure as an NDP Ontario premier, he said he thinks residents are "prepared to put history in the past."

"There must be one or two who would have reluc-

tance, but it is a new party and Mr. Rae has moved onto a different party," he said. "I think the values that Andrea Horwath and the New Democrats subscribe to are ones that will resonate very, very well with the voters in Newmarket and Aurora."

While Mr. Rae has shifted party allegiance from the Ontario New Democrats to the Liberal Party of Canada, Mr. Wardlaw said there is still a perception that people in the religious community are typically of the more conservative persuasion, something that is not seen to figure into what the current NDP stand for. But this is simply a stereotype, he said.

"I am from the Christian left, which is healthy and vibrant and doesn't get the attention that the Christian right has in the past couple of decades," he said. "The Christian left has been active for a century and that is where the New Democrats come from actually - Christians who discovered in their Bible a call to make a society that just looked after all its members, especially the most vulnerable residents, well and fairly."

No response from Ministry yet

From page 7

Buck responding that she didn't think he would.

The discussion over Mayor Dawe's letter to Minister Wilkinson followed earlier discussions regarding the Westhill Project, particularly planning documents on which the OMB directed the Town to work with the developers.

"At the request of both parties, the Board held its final order for the Town and Westhill to submit a revised zoning bylaw amendment document and final listing of the draft plan conditions for the plan of subdivision and plan of condominium which would implement the OMB decision," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning in a report to Council.

"This is an administrative directive of the Board which is to ensure that the technical wording of the planning documents are correctly worded to reference applicable sections of the Town's Official Plan and zoning bylaw, and that the draft plan conditions address in full the requirements of approving departments and agencies including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Region of York.

Staff had been in discussions with Westhill regarding the implementing actions with a goal of

submitting a final zoning bylaw, draft plan of subdivision, and condominium conditions to the OMB by last Thursday.

"Staff have met with Westhill's consultants and the TRCA to review in detail the draft plan conditions, and specifically that they be structured in a manner which will implement the detailed recommendations and conditions of the Master Environmental Servicing Plan and the Environmental Study, which was approved as the Class Environmental Assessment for the development of the lands," said Mr. Ramunno. "These documents were considered at the OMB and in part were relied upon by the Board in reaching its decision."

Further to the information Mr. Ramunno provided to Council in his report, Councillor Wendy Gaertner requested a comprehensive comparison to be published of what the Town of Aurora requested of the developers "to protect the environment" before it went to the OMB and what the Board actually decided in the end.

"A lot of money was spent to protect the environment, a lot of money was actually spent by the residents to try and protect the environment," she said. "I think it would be important to give some more information to the

public. You can't expect them to go through [Jan Seaborn's] decision and get all the fine details."

Councillor Gaertner requested a memorandum outlining the concerns put forward by the last Council and why they thought the plans were "premature." Councillor Gaertner, who last month said she had read all of Ms. Seaborn's report except for the last page, now said she had read it but said a memo should come forward in the interest of "transparency."

"Transparency is not an issue," replied Mayor Dawe. "That report is on

our website and it is on the OMB website. It has been posted all over and reported on in the paper so I don't think transparency is an issue."

Councillor Gaertner said that the original OMB report would not be "that easy" for the "general public to understand," so a memo would be in order.

"We spent a lot of public money and they deserve a summary of what actually happened."

Mayor Dawe encouraged her to make a motion to that effect during the meeting but she did not do so.

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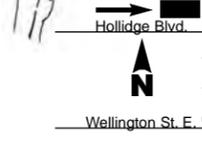


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Senior Scape

The Wood Shop completed unfinished wood artwork by Walter Rydzik, employing Intarsia as the technique of choice. The Intarsia Technique consists of a wood inlay, formerly utilized in the Italian Renaissance, used varied, often exotic woods with a variety of shades and colours, mounted on a base.

To attain maximum artistic effect and creative strength, an artist employed direct knowledge, imagination and artistry produce superior work. Artists aspire to create beautiful work and patience and attention to detail requires diligence and determination.

The unfinished, high quality wood-inlay Intarsia Technique artwork, which provided the base for the Wood Shop to work on, is the product of Walter Rydzik's artistry and copied, I understand, from an original work named "African Adventure" created by Judy Gale Roberts.

Walter is the late husband of Jennie Rydzik, widowed recently, who is a member of the ASA.

Jennie, though still grieving her loss, recognized an opportunity to have Walter's rendering of the "African Adventure" completed by the ASA Wood Shop.

Those who bring the sunshine of art to the lives of others bask in that same sunshine, and optimistically, this thought will bring a measure of solace to Jennie and a degree of satisfaction to all who contributed to

what Walter's faltering life-strength could not complete.

The unfinished copy of the "African Adventure" was frameless and was deficient in a critical plan defining or portraying how the completed piece should appear.

A copy of the original artwork by Ms. Roberts was not available initially; consequently after taking possession of the work, members of the Wood Shop searched the internet in hope of identifying where and how it originated.

The search yielded an excellent portrayal of the work resulted, serving as the defining plan.

Walter completed the bulk of the Intarsia Technique depicting, demonstrating vitality and quality of his work. Completion of the unfinished sections involved fabricating parts the work lacked.

With the parts fabricated insertion of the parts into the work and staining of the finished piece, all required attention to intricate, creative detail. The desire to employ the finest quality work was felt among all in the Wood Shop.

Fascination shaped collaboration among the Wood Shop artists who pooled their intellectual resources and talents, to conclude this significant artwork.

The future of this art composition arose as completion approached, and after discussion with Jennie and members of the ASA, a decision was made to exhibit the copy of "African Adventure" Seniors'

Centre lounge.

The ASA wood carvers had not practiced the Intarsia Technique until this time; now mutual delight with the project and love of beautiful work, open an exciting avenue of wood-working technique, which may find original expression among this talented group.

Talented people have regard for the accomplishments of those around them, and the crafters and artists populating the Wood Shop, always passionate about their expertise, now find new inspiration, which

may lead them along avenues of excitement to future of personal accomplishment.

Artistic impression finds expression in wood, and offers guidance to the wood carver, carving creative imagination to objects of beauty.

Imagination and reason combine to guide the hands of the artist carefully, while roughing out an initial version of the shape; delicate artistry caresses the final creation to emerge from the rough shape, now rendered to its full glory by meticulous hands.

The finished depiction of "African Adventure" had an inscribed plaque installed to honour his work and memory. A short ceremony in the ASA lounge, dedicated the work to his memory.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, during a visit to the Seniors' Centre, recognized the part played by members of the Wood Shop, and remarked on the high quality of the completed work.

The previous week's column described Senior Centre chess players competing in the 1600 section of the Canadian

Federation Chess players' tournament, with several days of competition remaining.

Bernie Prost finished with seven points, tied for second with two other players; Brian Warburton finished with two and a half points and Bob Girard scored two points.

Bernie Prost barely missed tying for first place and Brian and Bob want more competitive chess.

The Chess Club meets Tuesday from 4.30 until 8.00 p.m., and Thursday mornings, 9.30 a.m. until noon.

Hoedown funds will go to sensory garden

Individuals with and families supporting those with dementia will be able to enjoy a new sensory garden courtesy of Hoedown funds for the Alzheimer's Society of York Region.

The Society's intentions for their share of the Hoedown pot were announced July 14 at the official kick-off event for the fundraiser. With their money, the group plans to build a sensory garden at their Thornhill location which can be utilized by people region-wide who take advantage of the Society's programming.

"We are going to be completing a sensory component of the garden that we're really excited about," said Lynn Conforti of the Alzheimer's Society. "Over the years studies have shown that sensory stimulation can stimulate cognitive ability, so we're going to have a vegetable patch where clients can plant vegetables and harvest them during their day there and in the sensory garden there is going to be butterfly bushes and that type of thing.

"We're looking at adding a water feature, so we're going to look at all aspects of the senses and the people at the day centre are just looking forward to it. For some people there are certain scents like roses and marigolds, for instance, that may stimulate senses and for others it is even the rustling of long grass for people who grew up on farms, so I guess it just depends on the individual and the background."

Last year, the Alzheimer's Society serviced 17,085 families with nine social workers provid-

ing support and education to caregivers and individuals with three day centres in the region. Facilities in Newmarket and Thornhill can serve approximately 30 people daily.

"Region-wide, they estimate that there are about 120,000 people with dementia," she said. "We're providing services for 17,085 families, so that it is a little more than 10 per cent and almost 90 per cent of the families out there in York Region are struggling on their own with this disease. We know from research that has been done [that] between 2008 and 2016 the incidents of Alzheimer's Disease is expected to grow 35 per cent, which is considerably higher than the national average. Over the next 30 years the national average is 50 per cent growth, so we're seeing a greater concentration of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in York Region and a lot of that is due to our aging population."

The 2011 Wild West Hoedown will take place on the lawns of Magna on September 10. Tickets are \$65 and available through community groups benefiting from the event, as well as from Neighbourhood Network and Jonathan's Restaurant.

Marquee Theatrical products will have tickets available for sale at the Aurora Seniors' Centre this Wednesday, July 27, as well as August 10. Doane House Hospice will also be selling tickets at the Seniors Centre on August 3.

A roster of scheduled Hoedown entertainment is expected to be released in August.

Honouring Walter Rydzik

By BRIAN WARBURTON

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