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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of September 6, 2011



The Aurora Rotary Club has agreed to spend several thousands of dollars improving their park in Aurora, and work to bring the park up to date began last week. Handling the duties at Gurnett and Kennedy are, left to right, Greg Scott, Frank Van Bakel and Steve Phiippelli.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

No libel or slander in new legal policy

Libel and slander situations would not be covered under the Town's new legal indemnification policy, should council choose to approve the plan this month.

The new bylaw was on the table at last month's council meeting but was deferred to the September 6 meeting due to time constraints arising from the heavy agenda on August 16. According to a report from Town Solicitor Warren Mar, the new bylaw "is neither designed nor may it assist an individual to advance their personal rights to compensation in a libel and slander situation."

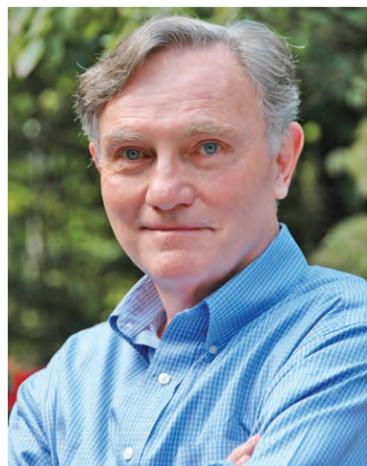
Specifically excluded under the indemnification bylaw is "any proceeding brought under the Libel and Slander Act", as well as the Criminal Code, Highway Traffic Act, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and the Provincial Offences act.

It also excludes "any proceeding commenced by an employee against another employee, a member of council against another member of council, an employee against a member of council, or a member of council against an employee."

"An indemnification bylaw
Please see page 8

Survivor of 9/11 coming to Aurora

BY MARCIA KAYE
Special to The Auroran



BRIAN CLARK

Although this Sunday will mark 10 years since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the memories of that fateful day in 2001 are as vivid as ever for Canadian-born survivor Brian Clark.

"The events scroll like a movie in my head," said Clark, 64, from his home in Mahwah, New Jersey. "I don't dwell on 9/11 on a daily basis at all. I'm not haunted by it. But when I'm asked about it, the memories have not changed a bit."

Clark is one of only a handful of people who escaped the South Tower from above the point of the plane's impact. (The North Tower had no survivors

above its impact point.)

It was an escape that has been called nothing short of miraculous.

As the milestone of the tenth anniversary approaches, Clark is more in demand than ever by global media.

He's recently done interviews with the New York Times, the Times of London and Paris Match. Major Canadian and U.S. TV networks, as well as stations around the world from Belgium to Chile, are coming to call.

TV news legend Tom Brokaw is taking him golfing.

But Clark made time earlier this week to talk to The Auroran. He will be bringing his personal story, along with

Please see page 8

Briefly

CEMETERY LIGHTS UP

The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold its annual Candlelight Tribute at the Aurora Cemetery September 17th and 18th.

The Candlelight Tribute is to honour those who served, came home and have since died.

At 5 p.m. September 17th, candles from Holland will be laid at the graves of all known veterans in the Aurora Cemetery where they will burn all night and create a spectacular show for people driving by.

On September 18th at 2 p.m., there will be a Drumhead Service at the cemetery. Spokesmen are hoping for a strong attendance by Aurora residents.

SHE DIDN'T WIN

Aurora's Susan Stevenson didn't win.

Alberta singer-songwriter Calum Graham was the big winner in the "A Song for Canada" contest hosted by Canada's Walk of Fame.

Mr. Graham, 19, beat out over 600 entries to get to the top prize.

He and Ms. Stevenson were named Top 10 finalists in the contest last month and he was named the first place winner.

Second place was awarded to Catherine Brenan of Oakville, and Third to Vince Dixon of Sydney, NS.

FUNDRAISER

Next week the provincial election will be called with October 6th as election day.

The Newmarket-Aurora riding Liberals' first campaign fundraiser will be held Thursday, September 8th from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at Jonathan's Restaurant, 14845 Yonge Street.

The Liberal candidate for the riding is Christina Bisanz.

Meanwhile, Progressive-Conservative candidate Frank Klees will hold a family fun day and barbecue at the Aurora Town Park Sunday, September 11 from noon to 3 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

David Sadler, PhD, P. Eng. will be the guest speaker at the Aurora Probus Club's regular meeting September 14 at the Aurora Legion Hall, 105 Industrial Parkway North, at about 11 a.m. The meeting starts at 10 a.m.

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



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COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9-11

The sixth annual Ribfest will be held this weekend in Machel Park. It will operate Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold its final event of the season tonight in the form of a Corn Roast for ASA members, families and friends on the deck of their headquarters on John West Way beginning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. A cash bar, serving beer, white and red wine soft drinks and water will be operating. Following the corn roast will be a video concert. Advance tickets are now on sale at the ASC reception desk. For more information, contact Marie Leone at 905-713-0608.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The 14th Annual Aurora and 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 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 visit www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Baby Talk supports language development with Blue Balloon and will be part of a free seminar with a pediatric health specialist covering normal language development and how best to support language acquisition in your child, with games and activities at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

"Surrealism, High Realism, Expressionism." Join three exhibiting artists at the Aurora Cultural Centre this evening for a free Opening Reception from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the Blue Gallery, high realism painter George Boyer presents Moments in Time show and sale of paintings; the Red Gallery will host abstract painter Katja Van den Enden with the exhibition and sale Freedom of Expressionism. Surrealist artist Marcelo Suaznabar will present an Artist Walk and Talk at 7.15 p.m. to discuss his new large scale works in the exhibition "Mensajes del Tiempo" (Time Messages). Aurora Cultural Centre is located at 22 Church Street and is fully accessible at the north entrance. For more information send an e-mail to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

The Probus Club of Aurora resumes regular meetings today at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 10 a.m. New members are welcome. For more information call: Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344, or Bob Staley, at 905-727-5017.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold its second annual Dog and Mutt Show behind the centre on John West Way from 1 p.m. (rain or shine). A barbecue will also be available. Registration forms are now available from the centre. Maximum is 30 entrants. For further information contact Michelle Stemer at 905-727-3123, ext. 3611.

Walk of Hope to raise funds for the Ovarian Cancer Canada happens today from the Farmers' Market at 9 a.m. Contact Gayle Palmer for further information at gaylepalmer@msn.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The annual Terry Fox Run takes place today from the Sheppard's Bush soccer fields beginning at 8.30 a.m. with registration. Participants have the choice of a five-kilometre run/walk/bike/roller blade or a two-kilometre forest stroll. For more information go to www.terryfox.org which also includes on-line pledging) or contact Hank Van Bakel at hvanbakel@ortech.ca.

Paul Neufeld's popular Sunday sessions returns this fall with the first of a set of four relaxed afternoon monthly jazz piano concerts, each with a special guest. Today Paul invites Hugh Marsh, an improvising violinist who has worked with everyone from Loreena (spelled correctly) McKennitt to Moe Kauffman, Bruce Cockburn and Robert Palmer. Tickets are \$15 each, or \$45 for a family of four. The session begins at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Today is the start of Fall Programs and Workshops for children, teens and adults at the Aurora Cultural Centre. From group guitar, to painting, drawing, wood and stone carving, to teen drama, songwriting, arts classes, a variety of one-day workshops will take place. Check out the website for all the program offerings or call for a brochure. The Aurora Cultural Centre is fully accessible at north entrance. For more information send an e-mail to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca, www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

This year the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Annual General Meeting will be held this evening from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22

Church Street. The 2010 - 2011 Audited Financial Statements and year end reports will be presented, followed by the induction of the Board of Directors. A cocktail reception, catered by Maunders Food Shop, will follow the formal part of the meeting. Cost is \$10 for members.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Spirit Nights - A Taste of Wine at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Enjoy an evening of 'tutored tastings' of limited edition wines, paired with artisan cheeses, all led by wine expert Chris Price. Round out the evening with visits to all three galleries with the artists in attendance to talk about their works, and the melodies of jazz pianist Paul Neufeld. Tickets are \$60 each and tables of eight are available for groups. Net proceeds benefit programming at the Centre. For tickets or inquiries contact the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, at info@auroraculturalcentre.ca or phone 905-713-1818. Mark your calendars for two more Spirit Nights: Friday, October 21, 2011 Oktoberfest! With George Kash's lively band & Saturday, December 3, 2011 Scotch - A Night of Nosing sampling the finest single malts.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The Art of Stenciling, with Deborah Mores, an artist, teacher, home furnishing designer and business owner. She will bring more than 30 years of expertise to this workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. \$20 per person and you must be 18 years and older. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

The Triple P Parenting workshop series returns to Aurora Public Library. Join the group the last Wednesday of each month, September to May, excluding December. A variety of topics will help you answer your parenting questions and needs. All meetings at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce first Business After Five meeting is a complimentary event hosted by Apple Suites, 16 Industrial Parkway South, which runs from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Theatre Aurora presents Michael Healey's The Drawer Boy. This thoughtful and touching Canadian drama tells the story of two boyhood friends, Morgan and Angus, who live together on a farm. Morgan is a tough-minded, stubborn man who cares for Angus, who suffered brain damage and memory loss during the bombing of London in the Second World War. Angus is initially identified as "the drawer boy" because he used to design buildings, and has the talents of an architect. A visitor threatens to unravel their memories. Produced by Kay Valentine and directed by Andrea Emmerton. Performances are September 30, October 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 (matinee), 12, 13, 14, 15, with evening performances at 8 p.m. and the matinee at 2 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora. Purchase tickets on-line through the website www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the box office by email at taboffice@bellnet.ca or by telephone at 905-727-3669.

OCTOBER 1 AND 2

You're invited to be part of the Aurora Artist Studio Tour 2011, a group of professional artists along with emerging artists from Aurora, inviting the public into our homes for our second year two day annual studio tour on Saturday and Sunday, October 1st and 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The following artists are already participating: Jean Beard, David Beard, Deborah Campo, Eva Folks, Maya Rodrigues, Judy Sherman and Christine Valentini.

OCTOBER 1, 2, 6 AND 7

The Canadian Cancer Society: Holland River Unit will be running the Pink Ribbon event in October. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and volunteers from the Canadian Cancer Society will be selling pink ribbons on the above dates to raise awareness about breast health. Funds raised during this campaign will support breast cancer research and community programs for people living with breast cancer and their families.

SATURDAY, 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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Tuesday Philosophy Club meets tonight at the Aurora Public Library in the Lebovic Room at 7 p.m. What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? Is there an ultimate purpose to my existence? If these questions have ever crossed your mind, join the club. No prior experience in philosophy is required. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

OCTOBER 6-9

Theatre Aurora presents Michael Healey's The Drawer Boy. This thoughtful and touching Canadian drama tells the story of two boyhood friends, Morgan and Angus, who live together on a farm. Morgan is a

tough-minded, stubborn man who cares for Angus, who suffered brain damage and memory loss during the bombing of London in the Second World War. Angus is initially identified as "the drawer boy" because he used to design buildings, and has the talents of an architect. A visitor threatens to unravel their memories. Produced by Kay Valentine and directed by Andrea Emmerton. October 6, 7, 8, 9 (matinee), 12, 13, 14, 15, with evening performances at 8 p.m. and the matinee at 2 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora. Purchase tickets on-line through the website www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the box office by email at taboffice@bellnet.ca or by telephone at 905-727-3669.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Join the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at the black tie (optional) 2011 Business Achievement Awards Dinner, which will be held at The Manor, 16750 Weston Road, Kettleby. Cocktails start at 5.30 p.m., with dinner and awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person plus HST. Visit the Chamber website for details and to purchase tickets.

OCTOBER 12-15

Theatre Aurora presents Michael Healey's The Drawer Boy. This thoughtful and touching Canadian drama tells the story of two boyhood friends, Morgan and Angus, who live together on a farm. Morgan is a tough-minded, stubborn man who cares for Angus, who suffered brain damage and memory loss during the bombing of London in the Second World War. Angus is initially identified as "the drawer boy" because he used to design buildings, and has the talents of an architect. A visitor threatens to unravel their memories. Produced by Kay Valentine and directed by Andrea Emmerton. October 12, 13, 14, 15, with evening performances at 8 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive,

Aurora. Purchase tickets on-line through the web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the box office by email at taboffice@bellnet.ca or by telephone at 905-727-3669.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

The annual Aurora Prayer Breakfast will be held this morning from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. sharp. Guest speaker is Dr. Rick Tobias who will speak on "Breaking the cycle of multi-generational poverty, with a particular focus on youth-at-risk". Dr. Tobias brings his passion and strategies for community-wide change to Aurora. Best known for his life-long advocacy on behalf of low-income and marginalized people and for collaborating with business and professional leaders to promote change in the city, the President and CEO of Yonge Street Mission, will be the speaker. The event will be held at The Mansion, formerly Dinardo's, 400 Industrial Parkway South, and the \$25 admission includes a hot breakfast. For tickets contact www.auroraprayerbreakfast.ca or call 905-506-0566.

OCTOBER 21 AND 22

The Aurora United Church presents its fall Rummage Sale today and tomorrow. Judging by the success of the spring sale there is still a need for people to acquire gently used items. All proceeds go back into the local community including the Welcoming Arms project. Friday, the event runs from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the individual sale and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon for the Bag Sale. Items include clothes, books, toys and linen. For further information, call 905-727-1935

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Aurora's Pine Tree Potters' Guild announces that it will be hosting its second annual Empty Bowls fundraising event. Tickets, at \$45, go on sale September 6 and are available from the Aurora Cultural Centre, Vic's Shoe Repair and Meridian Credit Union.

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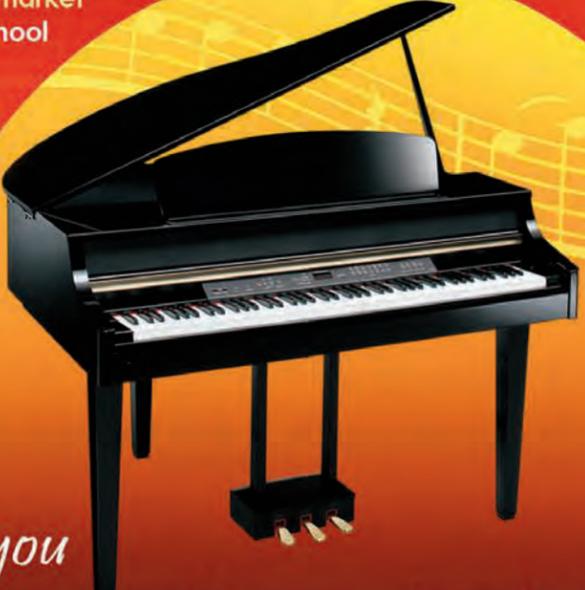
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Their first time at the Aurora Farmers' Market Saturday proved interesting for this couple, who wound up getting their faces painted. They are daughter, Tarin Mead, left, and her mother Tracey, right.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

If notice approved, Aurora could get its museum back

Hiring a curator to take care of a museum for Aurora could take a step forward this month with the creation of terms of reference for the position, if Councillor Evelyn Buck gets her way.

ED. NOTE: Councillor Buck's letter on the subject appears this week on Page 6.

Councillor Buck formalized her position at the August council meeting by providing notice of motion calling on the Parks and Recreation staff to develop terms of reference for the curatorship.

In her notice, the councillor noted that funds had been allocated in the 2011 budget for a museum curator and "the resource is required to re-establish museum service to develop the program and provide guidance and leadership to the volunteer community."

"Experience has shown such a service cannot depend upon the vagaries of a volunteer organization," she said.

The notice of motion sets in motion a process for which Councillor Buck has been a long-time advocate.

Last month, she told The Auroran that re-establishing a museum for the Town is a "critical issue" and one which will be a personal focus for her in the coming months.

"It is nowhere close to being resolved," she said. "I am still getting strong feedback from the community that they want a museum back in its right-

ful place."

For her, its "rightful place" is the Church Street School building, now home to the Aurora Cultural Centre.

While she stressed that she is not talking about "squeezing the arts and cultural component" out of the building, she would like its "prime purpose" to be a museum.

The key step going forward with that is to have a municipally hired curator and, therefore, one who is accountable to council, she said.

"I think the council and the volunteer community needs a very experienced curator with the qualifications sufficient to establish a museum because the collection is all in boxes, and [will] organize the museum and give guidance and leadership to the volunteer community. I don't believe we can operate a museum without that key resource person."

Re-establishing a museum has also been identified by Councillor Sandra Humfries who too said it was a "personal thing" after getting feedback from residents wondering "What happened to our museum?" and "Where is our museum going?"

"It is personal for me to help the residents in that matter, so I am 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."

The questions that had been asked of Councillor Humfries were echoed earlier at the August council meeting by local heritage promoter David Heard who said he had also fielded questions from residents asking where the Aurora museum went.

"I have heard comments that the museum is at Hillary House, but Hillary House is actually the Koffler Museum of Medicine," he said at the podium, and illustrating his point with a 1980 newspaper article depicting a donation from a property developer to the historical society "for a museum at the Church Street School".

"Back in 1980 there was an idea that there was going to be a museum, a regular museum, which is what I am hearing from citizens. I could find you dozens of people in the community who want to see a museum in the Church Street School."



EVELYN BUCK

Water system showing low leakage level, he says

Aurora's water system has a low leakage level compared with other municipal systems, but a recent Town water audit suggests there could be "potential metering issues" at the Regional level, according to a report from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure.

According to his report, Aurora has a low level of leakage within the system and the system is "performing very effectively", but the Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) over the study period - ranging from 1.00 in 2004 to 0.85 in 2009 with a dip down to 0.05 in 2007 - is "not consistent with expectations for a system with low and historically stable leakage rates," said Mr. Simanovskis.

"This type of profile also suggests wide swings in real losses which is not the experience of staff when monitoring system performance over the study period. The only other variable in the model is the total volume of wholesale purchased water as reported by the Region. It is an important question to ask how the system performance can be so influenced by the wholesale volume and how that single variable, for which the Town has no control, can cause such significant swings in the ILI.

"This question will require further investigation with the Region as similar experiences may be occurring in other municipalities."

Mr. Simanovskis' audit also looks at the "real losses" within the system which includes leakage from the service connections, distribution system, and "other difficult to identify sources" and as with the ILI data, the year of 2007 also showed a water loss rate of zero which too raised questions for Mr. Simanovskis.

"This is impractical in any system and suggests other issues occurring within the water volume data," he said, noting that while data has been used regarding system flushing, street cleaning, and other areas of system maintenance, data that has not been used "historically" include water use by the fire department and parks irrigation.

"Even after considering

these uses (totalling 41,383 metres cubed per year or 0.7 per cent of total purchased water) the issue with anomalous real losses persist."

In a graph provided by Mr. Simanovskis, there is what he describes as a "reasonably consistent difference" in what the Region of York bills for water and what the Town sold in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

"The difference appears to be quite large in 2004 and conversely quite small in 2007," he said. "It is precisely these types of variations in the trends that need to be addressed as part of the Regional exercise in billing discrepancies currently underway."

Mr. Simanovskis said there is a process underway by the Regional audi-

tor in working with municipalities to get to the bottom of these anomalies as similar findings have been reported in other areas of York Region. Aurora is also looking at ways to improve metering accuracy and its billing system performance and that includes a meter calibration pilot study and a "billing system upgrade investigations."

"These two initiatives are the highest opportunity for better control and understanding of apparent losses," he said. "Further reports on the results of these initiatives will be presented to Council as they progress. An outcome of these initiatives is expected to be a better accounting for apparent losses which will further improve the system performance reporting."

Aurora Farmers' Market



& ARTISAN FAIR'S special events:

Apples & Honey Fest Saturday, Sept. 10

Enjoy free children's programs, music by The Manatee Band and play fun pioneer games!

Thanksgiving at the Market Saturday, Oct. 8

Buy your fresh, local produce to enjoy with family and friends this weekend.

Pumpkin Fest! Saturday, Oct 29

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Well, the frogs never came, thank goodness

I have been given some space this week to write a letter from New York, in the aftermath of a fairly trying week of an unprecedented earthquake and a crazy hurricane named Irene.

The last time I was asked for a written account of what was going on in my neighbourhood, from the very same editor - who coincidentally happens to be my dad - was sometime around September 12, 2001.

So by journalistic standards, I am filing copy at roughly one piece per decade.

Luckily, I'm not a journalist.

In the spirit of "those who can't..." I teach.

And I don't even teach journalism, I teach media studies, which is different.

But I love journalism, and it's only out of my deepest respect for journalists that I don't even try. When journalism is done well, it can make you care about things you never thought you could care about, complicate your world view, mess with your preconceptions.

When it's not, we are all the worse for it.

In my neighbourhood, the talk these days is all about the hype.

How media outlets oversold a hurricane that was really only a big rain storm, with overzealous, fear-mongering meteorologists in their expensive raingear chronicling the Armageddon-to-be.

The Weather Channel pre-sold the storm to home improvement outlets and insurance companies capitalizing on the fear they wanted to monger.

So we stocked up on flashlights, candles, bottled water, and enough food to see us through to until Christmas.

Needless to say, around here people were a little underwhelmed when Sunday came and went without laying waste to the whole place.

After all, this is a city that can handle - and may even court - a little danger now and again.

We pride ourselves on a certain flavour of fortitude that rises to challenges every day, whether in the form of over-priced and under-spacious apartments, anarchic traffic, or the occasional plane flying into a building.

But this time the story wasn't in the big city with the big media.

The models that predicted something close to the total destruction of Manhattan were off a bit, and instead of being relieved, people here expressed a little disappointment.

This time the story was elsewhere.

The eastern seaboard states to the south of us were hit hard, and just after missing us here, Irene continued northward hitting upstate New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Vermont even harder.

So I am doing my very best to attend to the fact that while all around me people are laughing off their over-preparedness, the town of Rutland, Vermont, among so many other amazing places that we rarely read about, has been devastated.

In towns like this all over the northeast, people have lost their homes, their businesses, and in some places, friends and family members.

When and if those towns will recover from losses that are too large to imagine, no one knows.

But what stays with me is the fact that we can only know of those tragedies when there is someone there to tell us about them.

We may pride ourselves on being the media capital here in New York, but just because it didn't happen here doesn't mean it didn't happen.

My heart goes out to all of those communities that are suffering while people here have moved on to something else, and I'm hoping that people take a moment to appreciate all of those local papers that do the work of reminding us that just because it wasn't a big city story, doesn't mean it wasn't a story.



You may recall last week when I was talking to my daughter Aurora Lynne (that's her at left) in New York City she said, "Earthquakes and hurricanes in the same week, When do the frogs start falling from the sky?" That sort of explains the headline on this column, which, even though she'll tell you she's not a journalist, she wrote for me, and for which I am eternally grateful. Hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed getting it.



From the Freddy Files, as this newspaper used to call them about 10 years ago, comes this little gem of the old Aurora arena, in its heyday before it was destroyed by fire in 1965. It is reprinted here with the permission of Fred Bolsby's daughter, Lesley Bolsby-Dexter. And, she said, I can run the photo of Hurricane Hazel when it struck the area in 1954, about 60 years ago. So that will take care of next week. Fred was the retired Deputy-Chief of the Aurora Fire Department, which has since been amalgamated with the Newmarket Fire Department and is now known as the Central York Fire Service.

Letter to the Editor

Zero tolerance radar needed on Kennedy

To the editor,

While I sympathize with concerned residents on Kennedy Street, I have some concerns with the rationale provided by the proponents and potential solutions that may be implemented to resolve these concerns.

It is claimed that residents walk their dogs at all hours along the street.

I believe that roads have been built to facilitate vehicular traffic and most residents of Aurora use the sidewalk to walk their dogs.

It is claimed that widening of Bathurst street has resulted in increased volume on Kennedy street. While some increase in volume may be attributed to this, it should also be noted that town population has also increased over the past several years.

When major streets become congested, people try to find other alternatives.

It is claimed that on April 19th there was an accident on this street and was believed caused by speed.

Accidents happen on roads travelled by cars and other vehicles due to various reasons and a vast majority is due to driver error.

Traffic volume may or may not have contributed to this accident.

What does the police report indicate as the main cause?

I believe that road infrastructure is built to provide flexible and ready access

for the users of this infrastructure for promoting commerce and full enjoyment of the town facilities.

We already have a situation of infrastructure destruction in the North-East quadrant of Yonge and Wellington, where taxpayers money has been unwisely (my opinion) spend to build obstructions.

If the concerns were speed, then simple road bumps could have solved the problem.

However, based on a traffic volume of less than 100 cars/day on Centre Street (based on consultant's report) significant obstructions (chicanes) were built on several streets and some streets were even blocked access.

This decision has caused significant impact on other streets (Yonge and Wellington which continues to be a bottleneck).

It has also caused great inconvenience to more than 3,000 parishioners attending services at our Lady of Grace parish.

The infrastructure in our great town has been built and maintained at significant costs and good planning.

I appeal to the residents and politicians to oppose any significant destruction of this great resource for our town.

I also believe that we should look at the long term benefits of these infrastructures.

If the residents of Kennedy Street wish to

achieve their objectives of reducing speed on their street, perhaps the following options can be considered to minimize the impact on the town infrastructure.

1. Increase enforcement, such a week long (or random) Zero tolerance radar enforced monitoring by police. When it hits the pocket book plus a few demerit points people

quickly learn.

2. If the problem persists, then consider strategic placement of speed bumps.

I hope and pray that cutting off access to our existing roads infrastructure is not one of the options even considered by the town management.

**Joshy Kallungal
Aurora**

—THE AURORAN—

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Meet your provincial candidate

During the first week of the federal election campaign in April one of the pollsters that I was watching on television made two very interesting comments.

First, he said that nationally the Federal Liberals had garnered 800,000 fewer voters in the 2008 election than they had received in 2006 election.

This works out to an average of 2,597 less votes per each of the 308 ridings in Canada.

Second, he stated that - according to work that he has done - 62 per cent of people already know who they are going to vote for, even though it was only the second day of the campaign.

If this contention is true then the parties are fighting over the remaining 38 per cent of eligible voters.

The pollsters' points are intriguing and his analysis also proved to me how important the Leaders' Debate is to the final outcome of the election.

As you may recall NDP Leader Jack Layton did very well during both the French and English Leaders Debate, and based on this, led his party to Official Opposition status.

As the polls are currently showing a close race between Liberal Premier Mr. McGuinty and PC Leader Tim Hudak, the leaders debate will also be very important.

Closer to home, the four provincial candidates will also have the opportunity to participate in two public forums, one in Newmarket and one in Aurora.

The Aurora event will take place Thursday, September 22nd, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall and will be hosted by former Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas.

Expected to be in attendance that night include NDP Candidate Robin Wardlaw, Green Candidate Kristopher Kuysten, PC Candidate Frank Klees and Liberal Candidate Christina Bisanz.

I expect this community forum to be an exciting affair, if the recent past proves any indication.

The hall is usually jammed, and the atmosphere electric and tense, similar to that prior to a big prizefight.

And the local cable company usually televises it, so people who could not attend in person had a couple of opportunities to see the contestants in action.

As one who has participated in a number of these events in Aurora and elsewhere over the years, I kindly and humbly offer a few suggestions to fine-tune the event.

The format itself needs to be altered from what has been done in the past.

I would like to see direct engagement by the local partic-

ipants to the answers given by their opponents; not just reading from prepared statements, in other words, a real debate.

I want to see how a candidate defends his platform position under cross-examination and I also want to see them pick logical holes in their opponents' arguments.

Another suggestion is that, while the event should be held as an open forum, there should not be public questions.

Verbal questions from the audience are rarely asked with the sincere intention of seeking an answer. They are usually asked, after a suitably healthy and highly partisan preamble, only in order to embarrass one particular candidate.

Allow members of the media only to ask the questions or, prior to the event, have a panel choose from audience submitted written questions.

Or have a mix of media and public questions, but have the moderator read out the questions.

Re-vamping the event format itself as a way to subject candidates to a respectful inspection and evaluation of their views which could lead to interesting, engaging and exciting discussions of Aurora's future.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Enjoying the ride

I've come to the realization that the calendar year is a lot like a roller coaster ride.

As the first day of the new year dawns you are sitting in your seat, ready to go.

Anxiously anticipating the coming year, you are looking ahead to all the excitement and possibilities that await a fresh start.

Then the deepest part of winter sets in.

The days are short and dark, the weather is cold, driving is awful, and you're constantly shovelling snow.

As you slowly crawl up that hill in your roller coaster car, it seems like it will take forever to make it to the top.

But eventually, you notice the gradient is decreasing.

The spring weather warms, the snow melts, the days lengthen, and things start to green up.

As the steepness of the hill is reduced, you can finally see the top.

At the very peak of the coaster is the summer.

You can see for miles, the worst is behind you, and you're on top of the world. It feels great.

Unfortunately, like summer, that moment with its euphoric feelings is all too fleeting, because before you know it, you hit September.

As the beginning of this month rolls around, the

lazy days of summer are over, and our lives are about to get a lot more busy.

That's where we are right now in our roller coaster ride; just before the rapid descent.

The increased pace all starts with back to school; running around purchasing clothes and supplies, sorting out schedules, and reorganizing the daily household routine.

As well, there are all those after school and weekend activities, including clubs, and sports to line up.

This year we have the bonus of a Fall provincial election campaign as an added assault to our free time and senses.

Before you know it, it's Thanksgiving, with all the related cooking, cleaning and relatives.

Around this time we also get into the seasonal household transition.

Leaves are raked, gardens are wound down, and patio furniture is put away.

There's a double dose of this if you have a cottage, or are helping out aging neighbours or relatives.

The roller coaster continues to pick up speed as we hit Halloween, and all the associated costumes, candy and parties.

But the coaster really hits its maximum acceleration in November.

Although you'll have already seen evidence of it in

the previous two months, this month is really the official kick-off to the holiday season.

For the next several weeks time will fly really quickly.

No matter how well prepared you are for the shopping, wrapping, parties, relatives, decorating, school plays, cards, parades and other activities, you will barely have enough time to take care of them all, let alone spare a few minutes to enjoy them.

The pace of the season comes to a crashing halt right after Christmas, when you hit the bottom and end of the ride.

It seems you only have a short time to sit there recovering from your rapid decent, with your hands still maniacally gripping the safety rail, and your mind trying to make sense of the blur of the past few months, when the cycle starts all over again.

So as Fall looms, we are just starting our downward spin on the annual roller coaster of yearly events.

And like a roller coaster at the highest point of its travel, it's not like we can hop out mid-stream and avoid what's coming.

So let's all just take a collective deep breath, hang on, and enjoy the ride.

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

Letters to the Editor

What happens to bird in storm, she wonders

To the editor,

I have always prided myself in the thought that I was prepared for a weather emergency, until last week when the "tornado watch/warning" appeared on the weather network.

Yes, I still watch it!

I discerned that they were correct when CP24 also spent an entire afternoon/evening live reporting and tracking the "storm".

I am lucky that I have a basement, have stored water, canned food, candles, flashlights and batteries, first aid kit, blankets etc.

I also have extra dog, cat and bird food.

My mother dog has her new, filled prescription for anxiety pills that seem to be working.

Four pills every four hours.

Ever tried to give a dog one pill?

Think about getting four down one hour before thunder/fireworks?

After timing the first round of dog pills, I watched Tess at the first crack of thunder start her climb up to the second floor to find my son.

She seems to think that a male will protect her better than me. That's the thanks I get!

Anyway, as she clambered up, the cat we are fostering, passed her on the stairs to go to the basement.

I think the cat instinctively knew the basement was a better choice.

Our other dog, Two, seemed nonchalant, just lifting her head long enough to see the cat pass by.

Then it occurred to me.

What do I do about our African Grey Parrot whose cage is as large as a small room?

The cage is on wheels so that we can take Tequila in his cage outside on the porch during the good weather (you

know those couple of weeks in the middle of the year).

What would I do if we were advised to take immediate cover, down one and a half flights of stairs?

My only choice would be to let him out and hope that he would follow us down the stairs.

Tequila is not my bird and doesn't particularly like me, even though I feed/water and change him. The feeling is mutual, but I would want to insure his safety during an emergency along with the rest of the family.

Given no other choice, he might not follow me. Since the emergency

turned into a rather dull storm, I have decided to look for a smaller cage, to have on hand, in case of an emergency.

Now I have an excuse to go to garage sales again, not that I really should.

I will admit that I am a confirmed garage sale junkie.

I am also trying to divest myself of way too much stuff, collected over many years, while I am still in the disposal mode.

This clearance sensation historically does not last too long!

But to complete my emergency preparedness plans I will really have to locate a parrot sized, portable, bird cage and hope that Tequila knows to get into it so that I can take him to safety, even if I am not his favorite person.

Bonnie Tiffen
Oak Ridges

Motion will ask for curator for museum

To the editor,

A motion will be presented at the first regular council meeting in September, which will say, to the effect, the town retain the services of a curator with credentials sufficient to establish a museum, organize a collection, provide advice to council, guidance and leadership to the Aurora Historical Society and to volunteers willing to participate in the operation of a modern museum.

The motion is based on 30 years of precedent that the Town of Aurora honours its heritage, will continue to promote awareness to residents, young, old and new, of the town's proud history by provision of a museum and ancillary services.

Since 1976, Aurora invested millions of dollars

in repairs to restore and maintain the structure of Church Street school.

It was to stand as a symbol of the values of the founding families who struggled and sacrificed to create a place where families could grow and prosper.

In 2006 Aurora Council committed \$2.3 million to restore the interior of the building with a state of the art museum design funded by the Aurora Historical Society and adopted by council.

A further \$770 thousand heritage grant was obtained and used for the same purpose.

Restoration of Church Street School has been complete for two years.

The town provides an annual budget in excess of \$340 thousand to its operation.

In addition to providing maintenance services at a value of \$147 thousand.

The facility has a staff. No curator.

The town provides a grant of \$50,000 to the Aurora Historical Society, traditionally understood to fund curator services for the town's museum.

Today, no museum exists in the Church Street School. The collection is stored in boxes in the basement.

Space has been apparently provided to the Historical Society to "catalogue" the collection.

No curator is available to establish and organize the museum collection in its intended home.

No sign indicates the service will resume now or in the future, unless the town takes positive steps to make it happen.

The purpose of the motion is for the town to retain the services of a curator with the sufficient credentials to provide advice to council, with the intent of restoring the museum to its rightful home.

To establish and organize the collection.

To provide guidance and leadership to the Aurora Historical Society and other volunteers who may choose to participate in the operation of the community's museum.

The over-all aim and objective is continued awareness of town history, respect for the work and sacrifice of the founding families who provided a concrete set of values and principles to guide its future which we are currently enjoying.

Funds are provided in 2011 and have been provided in previous budgets sufficient to cover the cost.

Church Street School continues to exist because of this community's commitment to respect its heritage and values.

It is this council's authority and responsibility to ensure that happens.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

You might be interested in photo of the old arena

To the editor,

With the picture of the old water tower in this week's Auroran, and the mention of the old arena right behind it, thought you might find this picture (Page 4) entertaining.

I must give credit where credit is due here.

I culled this from a Facebook post by Lesley Bolsby-Dexter, and she got it from a collection of photos from the late Fred Bolsby.

Incidentally, there's a Facebook group called "I Grew Up In Aurora" which started a short while ago, and very quickly gained in popularity to more than 800 members.

Maybe The Auroran readers could check it out.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

EDITOR'S NOTE: Now that you have put us on the

spot, Mark, the water tower picture came from a file owned at one time by the late Fred Bolsby, who at one time was Aurora's fire prevention officer.

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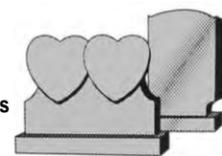
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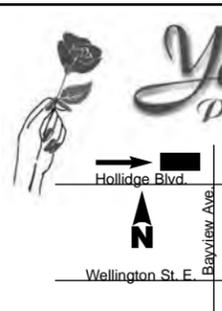
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Letters to the Editor

Walkathon slated for September 17

To the editor,

I am writing to you because I so appreciate the support of my local media in my endeavors.

Coming up quickly - Saturday, September 17th, is the Fifth anniversary of the Ovarian Cancer mini Walk of Hope Aurora.

September is National Ovarian Cancer

Awareness Month.

The Aurora Walk of Hope proudly supports Ovarian Cancer Canada in their search for an early detection tool.

Currently, in Canada, seven women are diagnosed a day and 17,000 women are living with ovarian cancer.

Four years ago, my sister was one of these

women and I am so thankful that today she remains in remission.

What began as a walk of hope for the recovery of my sister has grown to a walk that honours the life and memory of any woman touched by this disease.

To celebrate our fifth year, we have changed locations.

We will be beginning at the Bandshell in Aurora Town Park with free registration at 9 a.m.

During this time, I am thrilled to say music will be provided by Michelle Lemme and her father, John Lemme.

We have secured some wonderful silent auction items, ranging from a scientific calculator to custom

art furniture to running shoes.

There will be a teal nail polish painting and water tattoo station, and a fire truck and crew on site. Enjoy water, apples, cookies, and hot chocolate.

Join us and meet our wonderful MP Lois Brown, hear inspirational speeches and then walk 3.5 kilometres with us.

Before or after the Walk, you can also wander through the lovely Farmers' Market and enjoy the local wares.

To date, our Aurora Walk of Hope has raised more than \$50,000 for Ovarian Cancer Canada.

What is so exciting to me is that research breakthroughs have been happening - our dollars are making a difference.

They are steps closer to developing that early detection tool.

You will leave with a swag bag and the knowledge that you have raised hope for the women and their families who are living through ovarian cancer and hope that our daughters and sisters may never have to fear this disease.

Please check out ovariancancerwalkofhope.ca.

Gayle Palmer
Aurora

Why should I pay for barroom brawl?

To the editor,

During 2010 the McGuinty Government announced its intention of allowing "ultimate sport fighting" or bouts, apparently with a view of having bouts or matches hosted in the Rogers Centre or Air Canada Centre, under some kind of licence.

Although it was also stat-

ed such activity would only provide revenue to the province, I have not seen any activity which costs "nothing".

So I watched several of the UFB (Ultimate Fight Bouts) on television.

There is no doubt that the participants are in great physical condition.

However, they exhibit no other fighting skills that I can ascertain.

Simply put, the so-called fights are just that: 40 or 50 years ago they were what you did to settle an argument, or went outside to determine "who is right".

At least boxing or wrestling have schools to train participants, regardless of how poorly such training may be, and the "sport" is recognized for the Olympics.

All of that is of no import.

However, of the first occasion that someone gets killed, or receives a debilitating injury, it is the government which will be sued together with other participants.

That is of import to me.

Why should I pay for a settlement or additional health costs for someone to participate in a barroom brawl?

In my opinion that is all that the UFB's are - a barroom brawl under lights with a purported referee who may or may not have any specified standards as to approving certain acts in a ring.

Such "entertainment" should be halted now; not after I'm paying for someone being killed.

D.H. Peirce
Aurora

Sobey's could be good corporate citizen

To the editor,

Is Sobey's a good corporate citizen?

They could be, but will they be?

I read with disappointment, the news from

Sobey's spokesperson Sara Stover, announcing the closing of St. Andrews Foodland. The article also focused

on how this closure would affect the residents of the two adjacent seniors' residences.

There is a solution that is widespread in Winnipeg, where my mother-in-law lives.

Once a week Sobey's pays for a passenger van to transport any resident who wishes for an hour of weekly shopping at Sobey's.

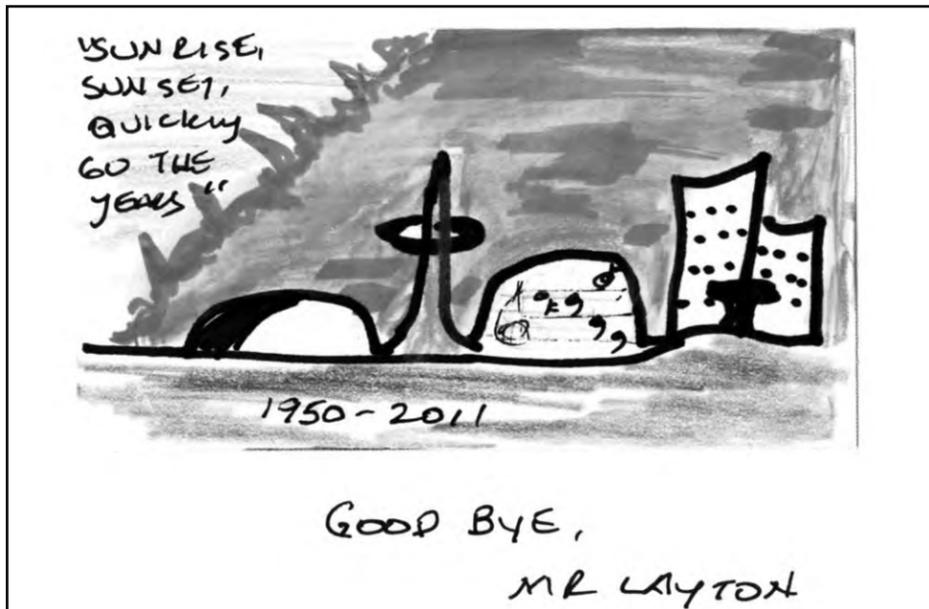
Incidentally two other grocery chains do this as well on different days.

The vans visit several apartment buildings on a set schedule.

A precedent has been set by Sobey's nationally.

Will our local Sobey's take on this responsibility?

J. Jones
Aurora



This tribute to Jack Layton was mailed to our office last week from the person who did the anonymous drawing of the Norway deaths in July at the Aurora Cultural Centre.



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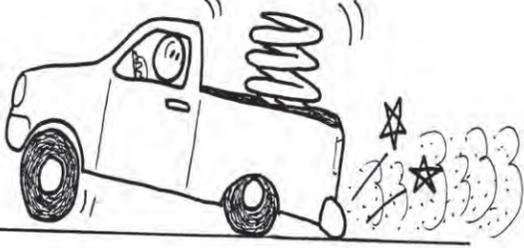


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9/11 survivor to speak at Aurora church

From page 1
his message of hope and optimism, to Aurora November 6 in a special evening event titled "9/11: Miracles and Reflection".

The event will be held at Aurora United Church, where his eldest son, Jeff, and his family are members.

"We are honoured that Brian Clark has agreed to share his story with us at Aurora United Church and with the broader community," said Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar. "What you will find in Brian's story is that even out of great calamity there is cause for hope."

Brian Clark's remarkable 9/11 experience was a combination of harrowing moments and unexplained miracles.

An executive vice-president with the investment corporation Euro Brokers, Clark was in his office on the 84th floor of the South Tower when he saw flames from the North Tower, which had just been hit by the first plane, shooting past his window.

Having trained as a volunteer fire safety warden after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, Clark instinctively grabbed his fire warden's flashlight from his credenza and headed out to the centre area.

About 200 of Euro Brokers' 250 employees had already started to evacuate the building, despite the repeated announcements over the public address

system that the South Tower was safe and evacuation was unnecessary.

But then the second plane slammed into the South Tower, just below Clark's floor. "I knew in a split second it was terrorism, not a random accident," said Clark. "That was the only point in the day I was terrified."

The building swayed one way for a few seconds, then righted itself with a jerk. "And then I had this feeling come over me that I was going to be okay," Clark said.

With the power out, the elevators frozen, and half a dozen colleagues following Clark and his flashlight beam, he instinctively turned toward a certain stairway.

Suddenly he felt a push on his right shoulder, even though no one was touching him.

"It pushed me around to the left and toward a different stairway," he said.

As he would later discover, no one who attempted to use the first stairway survived.

As he headed down the smoke-filled stairway, he passed people going up toward the roof, hoping for fresh air or evacuation by helicopter.

Again, he would later learn that all those who went upstairs would encounter a locked door to the roof and would perish.

When he got down to the 81st floor he heard an anguished cry. "Help! Help! I'm

buried, I can't breathe!"

About 15 metres away was a man trapped behind a partially collapsed wall.

The smoke was thick in the room, but strangely, Clark was able to breathe freely.

"It was miraculous - there's no other word I can use - but I had a bubble of fresh air around my head," Clark said.

He extricated the man from the debris, and after they both fell back on the floor, the man gave Clark a big kiss, then shouted, "Hallelujah! I've been saved!"

They did quick introductions - the rescued man was Stanley Praitnath, a Guyana-born executive for Fuji Bank - then headed back to the stairwell.

By that time Clark's colleagues had already gone.

The two men decided to keep heading downstairs, even though they passed another man who was heading up.

They continued their descent down the 81 floors - a total of 162 flights of stairs - until they reached the main floor and fled the building.

Within minutes, the South Tower collapsed before Clark's eyes.

Clark can't explain why he was spared when almost 3,000 others died.

"How do you explain miracles? You've got to have faith that there's something greater happening," he said.

"I don't ask 'Why me?' I feel relaxed, relieved, about not knowing all the answers. Some things are inexplicable, and I'm okay with that."

Despite all the sadness he experienced after 9/11 - he lost 61 colleagues and attended 15 funerals within days of the attacks - Clark developed a positive attitude.

Among his many charitable acts, he spent five years chairing the Euro Brokers Relief Fund, which raised \$5.2 million for health and education benefits for families of victims.

In 2004 he received the Norman Vincent Peale Award for Positive Thinking.

The now-retired Clark, who grew up in Toronto and Thornhill, is married to his high school sweetheart, Dianne.

They have four children, as well as nine grandchildren ranging in age from 1 to 16.

Clark's 9/11 experience taught him neither to dwell on the past nor worry about the future, but to make the most of the present.

"Life is precious and there are miracles that seem to be happening in our daily lives, some bigger than others," he said.

"Don't take any of it for granted. We'll all get to the end and when we do, we need to ask: Have we worked hard to make the best of the gifts we've been given? Have we lived well? Have we loved well? Are we leaving the world a better place?"

This Sunday, to mark the anniversary, Clark will go to his fellow survivor Praitnath's church in the morning, and Praitnath will go to Clark's church in the evening.

As for the flashlight that illuminated their escape route, the two men have donated it to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, scheduled to open next year.

For more information or to inquire about tickets to Brian Clark's inspirational talk on Nov. 6, call Aurora United Church at 905-727-1935.

Public invited to participate

The Town of Aurora has recently initiated a process to create a strategic plan to guide future directions in Aurora over the next 20 years.

Now, the public will be able to access the strategic plan information or provide input online by visiting www.aurorastrategicplan.ca.

"Launching the Strategic Plan website is a great opportunity to engage residents from the comfort of their home or office," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "Our hope is to receive a strong response from the

community by providing several channels of communication such as the strategic plan website, public consultations and community events. Together, we will be able to shape the future of Aurora."

The website covers several topics on the strategic plan including a description of the planning process, a draft community vision and goals and a preliminary strategic plan structure.

The site also provides an opportunity for residents to

submit their comments on the draft plan through a series of community forums and an online survey.

Over the next few months, the Town will be inviting residents, community groups and businesses to share their views and perspectives on the Aurora they would like to see in 2031.

Residents will be invited to take part in a variety of activities, including interviews, surveys, community consultation sessions, workshops and special activities for youth and seniors.

Visit Aurora's Strategic Plan website at www.aurorastrategicplan.ca to stay up-to-date regarding consultation information, dates, locations and ongoing updates.

Consultation sessions are scheduled to run until the end of October and a draft plan will be presented to council in November.

For more information on the Strategic Plan, call Anthony Ierullo, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, at 905-726-4742 or by email at aierullo@aurora.ca.

Policy won't cover libel, slander

From page 1

functions to provide security to both members of council and employees in the course of their day-to-day duties," said Mr. Mar in his report. "Despite the extent of insurance coverage, there are gaps in the coverage, such as where losses are in the deductible amount. "There is currently no bylaw or approved procedure respecting reimbursement and indemnification of employees and members of council for legal expenses, costs, damages, or other losses incurred for actions while acting in good faith, in the capacity of employees, or members of council."

Within the proposed bylaw former employees

and members of Aurora Council would be included under the plan, "provided that events alleged in the action or proceeding relates to the time the individual was with the Town and arose from their duties or responsibilities" but is not retroactive to include legal proceedings already underway.

Nor does it allow for indemnification for any future legal proceedings that could come up on issues that took place prior to the bylaw being enacted by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and the council.

"The establishment of a protocol to provide resources to members of council and staff in advance of a need for indemnification eliminates uncertainty for council

members and Town employees, and it prevents council from having to examine each request on an individual basis," continued Mr. Mar.

If passed on September 13, the budget for external legal council would cover costs for indemnification. The Town's legal department currently has an estimate of under \$10,000 for indemnification for staff members for 2011.

"For future years the economic impact is undetermined as the number of instances and costs for which indemnification is sought cannot be accurately estimated," said Mr. Mar. "In the past, however, it has been a rare instance where indemnification is sought by employees or members of council."

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- Transferable skills in one or more areas of Board governance such as finance, policy development, planning, program administration, fund-raising, marketing, communications, public relations, promotion, volunteer co-ordination, etc.
- Personal attributes of benefit to the Cultural Centre e.g. active contributor, team player, personal network, geographic location, problem solver, creative thinker, etc.
- Time and energy to contribute as a member and volunteer worker on committees, task groups, fundraising, special events and other activities.
- Personal commitment to the vision, mission, program action strategy and ongoing business of the Cultural Centre.
- Must be a resident of Aurora.

For further information or to indicate interest, please send Résumé or CV to: info@auroraculturalcentre.ca by September 15, 2011.

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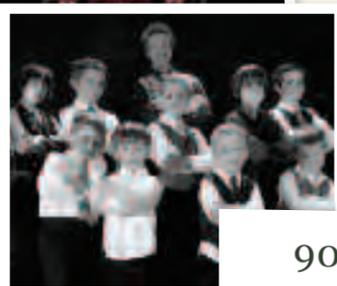


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Week of September 6, 2011

Tigers play four games in tournament

The Junior A Aurora Tigers left Tuesday for Burlington, Vermont, to play in the annual Woodchuck Classic hockey tournament and when the smoke settles, will have played four more exhibition games.

On Thursday at 5.15 p.m. they'll go up against the NE Huskies of the EJHL (they also have a team in the Junior B division) in the Cairns Arena in south Burlington, then will play their second game Friday at 12.45 p.m. against the SSK of the same league.

Their third game is slated for Saturday, at 1.30 p.m. against the Capital District Selects of the EJHL in the University of Vermont's Gutterson Field House and the fourth game will be played on the final day of the tournament at 8.45 a.m. when Aurora takes on the CT Junior Wolfpacks team of the AJHL also in the Gutterson Field House.

Local athlete in Games this week

Local athlete Shaina Harrison will be one of more than 70 young athletes representing Canada at the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games, set to begin this week in the Isle of Man.

Ms. Harrison will compete for Team Canada in the 100 metre event at the Commonwealth Games which begins on Friday, the first day of the competition.

Heats begin at 11.30 a.m. local time (6.30 a.m. EST), and the semi-final is scheduled for 5.20 p.m. local before the final race at 6.35 p.m.

The Commonwealth Youth Games wrap up Sunday.

Why is the tournament called the Woodchuck Classic?

According to a website, "the Vermontiest of Vermonters are sometimes called "woodchucks" and this seemed like a pretty good name to call the tournament at that time".

Started in 2004 with only six teams; USA vs. Canada at the Junior A level The Woodchuck Classic is considered the most highly recruited Junior A, Junior B and Midget AAA tournament in North America.

With an average of 110 College and Pro Scouts throughout the weekend teams in the Woodchuck have seen more than 1,000 college commitments and 100 NHL draft picks as it enters its sixth year. The Woodchuck Classic event will host 48 teams from Canada and the US.

The success of the event revolves around the USA vs. Canada format.

Teams travel from Michigan, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Quebec and Maine.

Also scheduled to see action at the tournament are other teams from the Provincial Junior A hockey League including Lindsay, Wellington, Buffalo, Oakville and Trenton.

Tiger players will stay at the Holiday Inn in Burlington.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



The office will be open for the season with the following office hours commencing Wednesday September 7, 2011.

Wednesday nights 7 pm – 9 pm
Saturday mornings 10 am – 1 pm

Midget rep tryouts will commence September 11, 2011. Players MUST be registered prior to tryouts and MUST purchase a "Tryout Passport" to attend any Midget AA, A or AE tryouts. Tryout Passports are available for purchase on Wednesday September 7 from 7 – 9 pm and Saturday September 10, 2011 from 10 am – 1 pm.

There is limited space in some divisions for house league hockey for this upcoming season. Registration is available during office hours shown above.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MIDGET TRYOUT SCHEDULE



Date	Start	End	Event	Location
9/11/2011	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Midget AA/A/AE Tryout	Aurora Recreation Centre [ARC West]
9/12/2011	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Midget AA/A/AE Tryout	Aurora Community Centre [Aur CC 1]
9/14/2011	9:30 PM	11:00 PM	Midget A/AE Tryout	Aurora Community Centre [Aur CC 2]
9/14/2011	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Final Midget AA Tryout	Aurora Recreation Centre [ARC West]
9/15/2011	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Midget A/AE Tryout	Aurora Recreation Centre [ARC West]
9/17/2011	5:15 PM	6:45 PM	Final Midget A Tryout	Aurora Community Centre [Aur CC 2]
9/17/2011	6:45 PM	8:15 PM	Midget AE Tryout	Aurora Community Centre [Aur CC 2]
9/18/2011	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Final Midget AE Tryout	Aurora Recreation Centre [ARC West]

PLAYERS MUST PURCHASE AN AMHA MIDGET TRYOUT PASS (\$50) PRIOR TO ATTENDING TRYOUTS. PASSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE AMHA OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7 PM - 9 PM.

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BE SELECTED FOR A MIDGET DIVISION REP TEAM YOU MUST ATTEND EITHER THE FIRST OR SECOND SCHEDULED MIDGET TRYOUT SESSION. NO PLAYERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS FIRST TIME ATTENDEES AFTER THE SECOND TRYOUT SESSION.

MIDGET TRYOUTS FOR ALL TEAMS, AA/A/AE, ARE BEING HELD AS A GROUP. PLAYERS WILL BE EVALUATED AT EACH TRYOUT SESSION.

AT THE END OF EACH TRYOUT THE PLAYER WILL BE DIRECTED TO A SPECIFIC TRYOUT DATE/TIME FOR THEIR NEXT TRYOUT OR RELEASED.

IF A PLAYER IS OFFERED A POSITION WITH ONE OF THE TEAMS, AND REFUSES THAT POSITION, THEY ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER TRYOUTS.

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Parkinson's walk should set record

About 50 people from Aurora and Newmarket are expected to head to Newmarket's Fairy Lake this Sunday for the Parkinson Superwalk, an event to raise funds and awareness for Parkinson's Disease research on behalf of Parkinson Society Canada.

At press time there were 43 people registered and counting for the annual event, with a total of just over \$6,000 raised so far.

According to event coordinator Aurora's Kim Rouse Parypa, organizers are shooting to raise a record \$40,000 this year.

"In 2009 we raised just over \$25,000 and last year we raised over \$36,000," she said. "We raised almost 20 per cent more. It was a huge increase and truly amazing last year, which was our best walk ever and we're hoping to beat that total this year. I'm thinking if we were up almost \$11,000 last year we could do that this year. That would be amazing."

Ms. Rouse Parypa's involvement with the Parkinson Society began 13 years ago with walks in Toronto, but this is the seventh year she has participated in the local walk and she has worked towards making the Newmarket walk inclusive of Aurora participants as well.

"My mom was diagnosed with Parkinson's 13 years ago and, as such, we started to do the walk down in Toronto, then I found out in 2005 there was actually a walk in Newmarket," she said. "I met the lady who was organizing it at the time and I really, really wanted to bring Aurora on board because I

thought it could increase the number of walkers they had and, hopefully, the amount of funds that were coming in."

She joined the local committee in 2006 and then took over the reins four years ago, a role which she continues to fill to this day.

For Sunday's event, Ms. Rouse Parypa expects that Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, along with Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, will be on hand with other dignitaries to offer words of support and encouragement to participants at the event.

People registered will be able to take in three different routes, all starting at Fairy Lake's main pavilion near the Water Street entrance beginning at 10.30 a.m.

The first 1.6 km. route will take you from the pavilion heading south from the pavilion, over the first bridge and back.

The second 2.8 km. trail runs as far as the next bridge and back, while the 3.5 km route runs up along Mulock Drive and loops back down.

While the Newmarket-Aurora Parkinson Superwalk will provide plenty of options for participants, Ms. Rouse Parypa hopes to extend the event in the future to bring it into Aurora.

"Now that the trails system is all connected with Aurora, it is fully complete now and I would like to add a run so runners could do a 5 km. run where they could actually loop in Aurora and come back up," she said. "That's the plan at some point in the future, and I would love to utilize that full path system because it is beautiful and a lot

of people don't really know it's in existence."

This year's walkers will be able to enjoy coffee as well as baked goods.

"This year, we actually were one of five walks in Ontario that was selected for the Subway sandwich lunch so we're getting Subway sandwiches this year, which is amazing," she said. "They decided to be a sponsor but they couldn't sponsor all of the Ontario walks so they picked five and our walk was one of the five, which was great news for us."

After the walk is complete, as participants return to the pavilion they will be informed of the preliminary results of their fundraising efforts so they

"leave knowing roughly how much they managed to raise" - and hopefully with a prize or two of items donated by sponsors which will be raffled off at the wrap-up.

Ms. Rouse Parypa is keen to stress that while one can register for the event online at www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca, people can register at the park the day of the event and for several days after the event as organizers have found that money continues to trickle in even after the walk.

Volunteers for the day are also welcomed.

At the end of the day, Ms. Rouse Parypa hopes people realize the importance and the extent of the cause.

"I don't think people really know what Parkinson's is," she said. "I think they think it is just a tremor of your hand, but the problem is that it is so much more than that. It is devastating. It just robs you of so much. If you're sitting on the fence [about whether to register] and think it is just a little hand tremor, one day somebody you might know might get the disease and you will definitely want to do anything you can to try to (1) raise awareness of the disease and (2) try to raise some money for research because it is one of those ones that is not as out there as the cancer walks.

"Of course, they are extraordinarily important as well, it would just be nice if we got out

there a bit more because so many people know people touched by cancer, but unfortunately Parkinson's is becoming one where you're starting to see more and more people being diagnosed with Parkinson's and at a young age. My mom was in her 50s and we have some walkers who are out there in their 40s and they have got young families.

"You can live with it, but it changes your life. You can't do what you used to be able to do. So, if you want to do something, great. For a lot of people who could use the help, come to the event because it would be really helpful and they would really appreciate the support of the community."

Superwalk organizers expect big things from Team

With organizers hoping to raise a record \$40,000 in this weekend's Newmarket-Aurora Parkinson Superwalk, it is very likely that a significant portion of whatever is raised, when all is said and done, will come from one Aurora-based team - Team Irish.

According to organizer Kim Rouse Parypa, Team Irish - led by Juliet Irish - has been their top fundraiser for the last several years.

"They're our biggest fundraisers," she said. "They have done amazingly well for us and last year they brought in \$26,000."

2010 brought in a total just over \$36,000.

Juliet Irish, Executive Director of Newmarket's Doane House Hospice, got involved with Parkinson Society Canada after her husband Martin was diagnosed with the disease.

Comprising of herself, her husband, friends David and Joan Gallagher and often their daughters Nicola and Sarah, Team Irish raised \$26,500 in 2010 and \$80,000 over the past six years.

"[Charity] is very much in my blood," said Ms. Irish. "Because of my personal situation I felt very strongly that we need to do something to try and find a cure, and if not find a cure, at least find a way [to] bring awareness to this and a wider community. Hopefully the money we raise helps do that."

"The reason our daughters and our dear friends do this with us is because we want to honour a very special man who always puts others before himself. Martin leads a full life despite the challenges he has to meet on a daily basis, and he keeps us all in

check! By raising the money we have over the past six years, it will help possibly find a cure and hopefully develop medications that don't give side effects that can be worse than the disease."

While Team Irish typically does not have a fundraising goal in mind and lets the chips fall where they may, she said they do not go out "hard selling" to raise funds.

The money they raise is usually personal donations from friends and family, she said.

"I have a wonderful husband and people are very supportive of what he has to go through on a daily basis."

Ms. Irish shares the view of Ms. Rouse Parypa that many people do not fully understand the extent of Parkinson's Disease and might have the perception that it is an affliction of the elderly.

Her husband, she points out, is only 52 and increasingly younger people are being diagnosed with the malady.

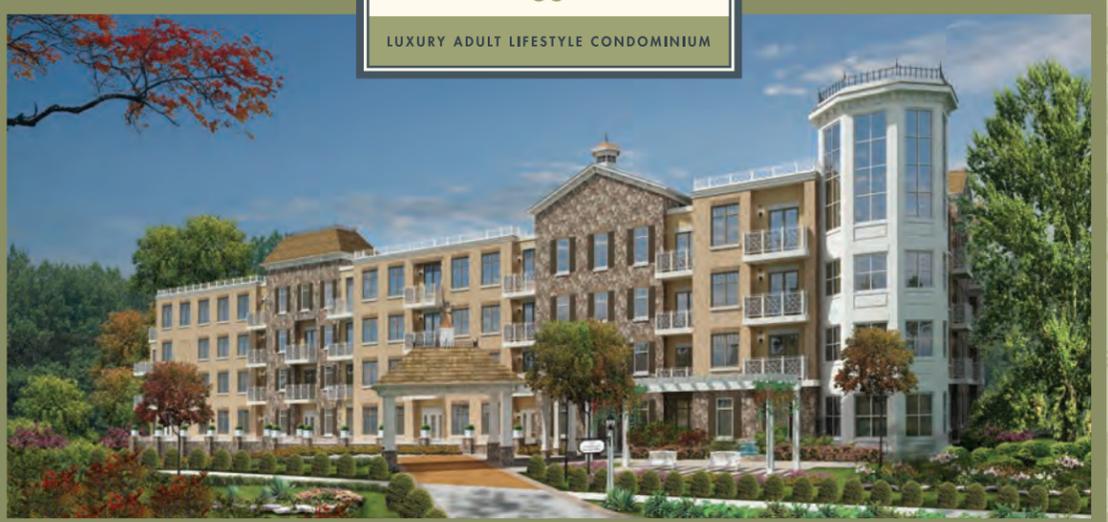
"People don't always understand that if they see someone who is struggling, like someone who is taking a little time in a queue to get their wallet out, people are very impatient and I think [it is important to bring] an awareness to the disease," she said.

"I think the wonderful thing about Parkinson's work is the full variety of people that come out. It is not a huge walk, but you see people with their walkers, you see people with their wheelchairs, and I take my hat off to them because they have to live with those frustrations every day but still find the time to be able to go out and do what they can to raise some money."

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Bolton defeats Aurora to advance in league

By **BILL REA**

What was supposed to be a five-game semi-final series ended up going seven.

And more than a few fingernails were bitten before the Bolton Brewers finally prevailed over the Aurora Jays to advance to the championship round in the senior division of the North Dufferin Baseball League.

The two teams were tied at two wins apiece and a tie, requiring a sixth game to end the deadlock.

It was scheduled for last Wednesday in Aurora, but the weather put a halt to that after just one inning.

The two sides got back together the following night in Aurora, and they settled nothing as they battled to a 4-4 draw.

That set up the seventh game Friday night in Bolton.

That match saw the hosts jump out to a commanding lead, and then Aurora came close to stealing the win away.

The Brewers were up 8-0 going into the fifth inning and wound up winning the game 8-6.

The Jays were able to get some men aboard, and Stephen Valley connected for a single that drove in Jake Pinnegar and Chris Bloom.

The sixth inning was scoreless, but the Bolton defence found itself in trouble in the seventh and final

frame.

The bases were quickly loaded, and Bloom, Valley, Ian Rettie, Ian Gabel and Justin Tamane were able to get across the plate.

With the bases still loaded, player coach Michael Keon flied out to end the impressive rally.

Although he would have liked a different outcome, Keon was impressed with how far he and his mates took the series.

"Nothing to hang your head about," he remarked.

He was also optimistic about things for next year.

"As long as we get some guys back, we should have a chance at the championship," he commented. "That's the goal."

Brewers' player coach Mike Wallace had been lamenting throughout the series that they were not getting the hits when they needed them.

That certainly wasn't the case Friday evening, with things getting off to a roaring start in the first inning.

Wallace, Brett Chater, John Hutchinson and Matt Blacklaws all made it home to give the side a 4-0 lead.

They added two more runs in the second as Chater and Wallace both made it home, and Owen Somerville and Mike Blackwood crossed the plate in the third to make it 8-0.

Wallace agreed after the game that they finally started getting the hits they needed. "Definitely a good time to do it," he remarked.

He was also impressed with the way the Jays fought back.

"They're a good ball club," he said. "They're not going to give up."

Bolton probably should have wrapped up the series last Thursday night.

They had a 2-1 lead after four, with runs from Wallace and Chater, while Bloom made it home in the first for his Aurora mates.

But the bottom of the fifth was a confusing frame. Ian Rettie reached first after the umpire ruled he had been interfered with.

The bases were eventually loaded, and by the time the third out was notched, Ian and Chris Rettie, along with Tamane had all scored, putting Aurora up 4-2.

The lead didn't last long, as Pat Warden and Adam Wallace scored in the sixth, tying the game 4-4, which is how it ended.

In previous games in the series, Bolton had their backs to the wall August 21), hanging just an inning away from elimination.

Things were looking good the following night, until the Aurora half of the fifth inning, when some mistakes, combined with a couple of disput-

ed calls on the parts of the umpires, saw the game ending in a tie, requiring the sixth match.

The series between the Brewers, who led the league in the regular season with a 19-4-1 record and the fifth-place Jays (13-9-2) opened August 16 in Aurora with the Brewers leaving with a 7-2 win under their belts.

It was a different story the next day in Bolton, as the Jays upset their hosts 12-9.

The third game was August 19 in Bolton, and the Brewers just seemed unable to get their offence into gear.

It also took a while for them to get their defence set for the match, as the home side was trailing 4-0 after two innings, and the Jays added two more in the fourth.

The Brewers finally showed some offensive prowess in their end of the fourth, loading the bases and drawing runs from Eric Cirone, Adam Wallace and Blackwood.

Bolton drew a bit closer in the sixth, notching two runs (Shawn Chalmers and Warden) to one for the Jays.

Bloom was hot for the Jays, scoring four times, while Tamane scored twice and Ian Rettie and Pinnegar each had single runs.

The August 21 contest in Bolton saw only two scoring spurts.

The Jays loaded the

bases in their end of the third, with Keon and Bloom crossing the plate (Bloom was walked in from third). The score stayed that way until the seventh, with the Brewers down to their last three outs.

Chalmers opened with the double, and Warden drew a walk. The runners advanced when Blacklaws executed a sacrifice bunt. Somerville walked to load the bases. Cirone was walked, scoring Chalmers, then Chater launched a single that had enough on it to score Warden and Brett Bond, who was running for Somerville.

The game the following day in Aurora was more complicated, with feelings running high both on the field and in the stands. Heckling from the Bolton supporters in the stands reached the point that the umpire had one of the fans ejected from the area.

Bloom got the first run for the Jays in the first inning, and Warden was able to tie things in the fourth when he doubled, then was hit home by Hutchinson.

It seemed that the

Brewers were taking command in their end of the fifth. Blackwood just beat the throw to notch a single, then Chater scored him on a double and coach Wallace hit a single that scored Chater.

But either luck or questionable officiating came into play in the bottom of the fifth.

Blackwood, playing third base, gathered in a ball that appeared to be in foul territory, but the umpire ruled it fair, enabling Chris Rettie to cruise into first and eventually score.

Later in the frame, coach Wallace, playing at second, seemed to notch an out, but the ruling was he didn't touch the bag. Bloom also crossed the plate in the inning, evening the score at 3-3, which is how the match ended.

Wallace later maintained he thought he touched the bag in the crucial play in the fifth. "I guess he saw it differently."

"We had our chances," he added. "I'm not one to blame the umpires. It's a matter of the big hits, which we don't seem to be getting right now."

Washrooms installed at two Aurora parks

In these dying days of summer, local kids will still have an opportunity to cool off at Town Park's splash pad, but the pad at Ada Johnson Park closes September 6, to make way for new improvement projects at that and other area parks.

According to the Town, the closure of the Ada Johnson splash pad is necessary to facilitate the installation of a new park washroom building, which councillors approved at their August meeting. The plan to install two pre-fabricated concrete washroom facilities at Ada Johnson Park and Lambert Willson Park was passed by consent at the meeting.

Council initially approved the tender for one concrete washroom building from HY Grade Precast Concrete for Ada Johnson Park in May, but the necessary replacement for the facility at Lambert Willson Park was soon identified thereafter in the 2011 capital budget after significant deterioration in the structure became apparent.

"The structure has been failing as a result of incremental settlement of the interior floor slab, movement of the exterior wall, foundation, and footings," said Parks Director Al Downey of the Lambert Willson situation. "The settlement has further led to significant cracking and instability of interior block wall partitions such that the engineer has suggested the building no longer remain

open to the public.

"In view of the fact that two washroom buildings had been approved by council, staff further evaluated the situation and came to the conclusion that two identical buildings could best serve the park needs and would result in a significant savings in design and construction cost.

"In addition to purchasing these buildings, it will be necessary to include mechanical services and interior fixtures for both of the buildings. These requirements have been addressed and approved by council for the Ada Johnson Park building in the previous staff report."

According to Mr. Downey, purchasing these two buildings together rather than separately

has resulted in a savings of nearly \$10,000.

In order to take advantage of project funding previously provided by the Federal government's RiNC (Recreational Infrastructure Canada) Program, the construction must be completed by October 31. Of the \$200,000 price tag for the Ada Johnson Park installation, \$133,332 has been provided through RiNC.

New and improved washroom facilities are not the only projects in the works that will go towards improving recreational infrastructure in Aurora as the August Council meeting saw \$95,985.80 approved for asphalt park pathway repairs in Atkinson Park, Copland Park, Hamilton

Park, Norm Weller Park, Optimist Park, and Seton Park.

"The condition of the existing asphalt pathway surfaces have deteriorated over time to the point where upgrades and repairs are required in order to maintain an acceptable level of service and public safety in our parks system," said Mr. Downey.

Of the repair projects, Norm Weller Park is the most costly with the removal and disposal of existing asphalt as well as the supply and installation of a new surface coming in at a combined total of \$27,863.55.

On the other side of the spectrum is Atkinson Park, which comes in at \$6,819.75.



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Aurora artist ready for Cultural Centre

The public is invited to join Aurora artist Marcelo Suaznabar, as the Aurora Cultural Centre presents the debut of the solo exhibition *Mensajes del Tiempo* (Time Messages), that will run until October 1, 2011, with a free Reception and Artist Walk & Talk on Wednesday, September 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. This

show - the first of its kind in Aurora - showcases 11 of Suaznabar's recent large scale oil on canvas pieces, including the debut of a number of new pieces.

The exhibition presents an opportunity for the community to enter a world of ideas and imagination built from the artist's historical, social

and cultural surroundings.

Born in Bolivia, Marcelo was a passionate young artist, with a particular interest in drawing.

He was also known to paint on any surface he could find.

The rich surroundings of his birthplace, including folkloric traditions

dating back to the 1600s in his home city of Oruro, helped to inform his early work and develop his passion.

After touring with his family throughout Bolivia, he continued on to Chile where he studied at the Art School of the Catholic University.

In 2007 Suaznabar and his partner moved to Aurora; they have since had two children. He has exhibited widely throughout the world, including at the Artist Project 2011, the Projects Gallery in Philadelphia and the Museum of Art in Leon, Mexico.

Mensajes del Tiempo is his first exhibition in York Region.

Themes in these huge works focus on the subconscious, and the artist's particular concern with man's obsession with power and ambitious human nature.

'Time Messages' warns of the impact on nature because of society's quest for progress.

"I try to seek answers and then to contemplate them. I need to express something...with the language of colour. In my figures there is symbolism of life, nature, the environment, progress...the universe and the confusion of the human mind," he said.

The repetitive images of clocks found throughout the show reminds people that the cycle of life is fragile.

An Artist Walk & Talk is planned for Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m.

A warm invitation is extended to the public for this event; complimentary

refreshments will be on hand.

It will be an opportunity to hear a passionate and world-celebrated voice in the surrealist style discuss these avant garde works - and a wonderful occasion to celebrate the diversity of artistic expression found in Aurora.



One of the works by Aurora's Marcelo Suaznabar which will be on display for the next month at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, is shown here.



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Aurora woman finds sister overseas

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran Writer

April White-Stesco and Eileen Engels were born worlds apart.

April was raised in Canada during the baby boom while Eileen was born in a Dutch prison while The Netherlands forged ahead after the Second World War.

That's not to say there weren't any similarities.

Both women are April babies, with April born on April 13, 1953 and Eileen on April 30, 1946.

But after settling comfortably into adulthood - April in Aurora and Eileen in the Dutch province of Gelderland - the two women discovered a remarkable similarity neither had been aware of: they shared the same father.

When April received the fateful phone call from Project Roots - an organization which seeks to reunite European children born to Canadian fathers during the war with their natural families - in 2002 she said a part of her was in "total disbelief" as she processed the idea that she very well might have an elder sister, a fact never even hinted at by her father who died in 1995.

In the intervening years, April's disbelief has turned into one of welcoming acceptance, and she and her younger sister are en route this week to meet Eileen for the very first time.

Although she has reconciled herself with the idea, April told The Auroran last week that she isn't leaving Canada free of apprehension about the meeting.

"To tell you the truth, I am quite nervous about meeting her," she said. "She writes to me that she feels the same way, nervous."

But for April, it has been a long road to get to this point.

When she and Eileen first made contact nine years ago, April said their correspondence went well for the first year but their relationship initially went off the track due to circumstances in April's life as well as a reticence to divulge personal information to this relative stranger.

"She was at the point of wanting to make a connection and I was at the point of not quite knowing whether this was true or not," said April of Eileen. "She wanted a lot of personal information concerning my father and I wasn't at the point then of being willing to give her that information. Things soured between us."

A little over a year ago, April made the first steps to reconnect.

She said she told Eileen that she had been thinking a lot about her and Eileen was willing to make the connection once again.

Since that point, the two sisters have been emailing each other almost daily and April said she has approached the situation from a different angle than



APRIL WHITE-STESCO

their original contact in 2002.

"I have come to know her as a person and I think as a friend, first of all, which is the way we should have done it the first time," she said.

This approach has led to acceptance and once she wrapped her head around to the fact she was actually her father's middle daughter after considering herself the eldest for the majority of her life, her nervousness was then accompanied by excitement.

Through their correspondence and exchanging photos, April said she has started to notice similarities in Eileen to various other family members - and even personality traits that are similar to her own.

April and Eileen's father served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during the Second World War.

Having graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1943, he was determined to serve in the war and did just that, eventually attaining the rank of Major by war's end. During that time, he participated in the Canadian liberation of Holland, particularly in Almelo in May of 1945.

By April 1946, Eileen came into this world.

According to April, Eileen's mother collaborated with the occupying Germans during the war and was sent to prison as a result, where her daughter was born.

While her mother served time, she was sent to live with her grandparents before her mother's sentence was commuted by Queen Juliana in 1951 and she went back into the outside world.

"When she was let out of prison, though I don't know if you would say that she was a second class citizen of The Netherlands, but basically she was stripped of her rights to vote and she would never be able to have a visa for travelling outside of the country," said April.

Her mother having died at a relatively young age, Eileen eventually embarked on a nursing career, becoming one The Netherlands' leading authorities on post partum depression.

When she tried to find her Canadian family, Eileen went to The Hague to see her mother's records, much of which were blackened out but her mother did give the real name of April's father as the father of her child, which gave a significant lead to Project Roots in making the connection.

When April arrives in The Netherlands this week, there are many questions she hopes her trip will answer.

Eileen has arranged a DNA test with a leading laboratory in the country to confirm beyond a shadow of a doubt that they do share the same father, but they also hope to follow the path of

their father's wartime service together.

"I always thought my father led an interesting life and it will be great just to see some of the places the stories show in his war album," she said.

But there is also a sense of disappointment about this trip - disappointment that their falling out led to so much lost time with her new-found sister.

"Eileen has been searching for me for such a long time [and was] wholeheartedly ready to jump into this and find her Canadian roots and her Canadian family, and I think I was the one putting up the roadblock because I totally could not get my head around this," said April. "I think I needed time to come to terms with this myself. I do feel sorry that there were a few years we kind of wasted simply because I was trying to come to terms with this myself."

This feeling, she said, is shared by her younger sister, both of whom were trying to grapple with the reality of the situation, something her father never shared with his daughters let alone other close relatives.

"One lesson I did learn was the second time around we were willing to try to find out about each other as people before we even brought my father into the picture,"

April added. "I got to know her as a person and I think she got to know me as a person and I think we became friends. After that, it was easier for us to then discuss the story of my father."

"I think that was the biggest lesson and we both talked about this and we both share the idea that it is better late than not at all."

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Senior population is concern of candidates

As we get closer to the October 6 election date, local candidates continue working to put their platform planks in place and get the message out to the people and across party lines, and if the views offered by Newmarket-Aurora candidates are any indication, a key driver of the 2011 campaign will be a focus on taking care of Ontario's aging population.

That this is an issue close to Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz' heart should not be surprising as she has spent a significant portion of her career working in areas of advocacy and comes into the election on the heels of her time as CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care association.

"I have been very blessed to have had some amazing opportunities in my career to work with organizations in the health-care field," she said. "I think that all of the elements of jobs...I have had really have contributed to allowing me to have a broader perspective on what is important not only to the business community, the not-for-profit sector, the health sector, but also to the people in the community that I live in."

From Ms. Bisanz' perspective, the current Liberal government's investments in long-term and home care are significant and should be allowed to continue, "making sure that seniors who are able to stay in their homes can do so in a way that provides them with support to live independently."

"I'm on the board of directors for CHATS in Aurora and we have been working with opportunities through the government to provide support for seniors for when they are discharged from hospital, so that they get well faster with reduced potential of ending

back in the hospital because they haven't had those supports.

"The government has invested very significantly in that area. I think, too, that we need to look as a government and community at other ways we can provide support and services to seniors right here in our communities and neighbourhoods. At the same time, I think we have to recognize that there are family caregivers who often have to give up jobs or who have to take additional time to provide support and care to their senior family members. That is another area that we have a huge opportunity to look at: how can we support those people who are providing care to family members to help them stay healthy and well?"

As the incumbent in this election, Progressive Conservative candidate Frank Klees said that as MPP he has been a "strong advocate" for seniors, particularly healthcare and long-term care.

There is an "unconscionable" wait list for seniors trying to get into long-term care homes, he said, and that is something that will be tackled under a new Progressive Conservative government.

"Under the previous PC government, we built some 20,000 new long-term care beds," he said. "Under the current government, although they cut the ribbon on a number of the long-term care beds that we initially introduced and planned for, not one single long-term care bed has been opened. That is the reason we have the problem today within our long-term care facilities. There are seniors who are being forced to take up residence in a long-term care home outside of Newmarket and

Aurora and sometimes as far away as Kitchener and London because of facilities that just aren't available here.

"We're going to commit to a new round of renovations to existing long-term care homes so that the standards can be increased and so that will be a major focus."

Seniors, he said, need to be treated with respect and providing the "accommodation they deserve" is a key component in this.

Tackling this will also address the problem of freeing up acute care beds in hospitals that are presently occupied by those who should be in long-term care facilities, he said.

A number of constituents have also come forward to him with concerns over home care where individuals are healthy enough to remain in their homes but need basic support in their

homes rather than moving to a long-term care residence.

"All they would need are the basic supports within their home of someone coming in on a regular basis to provide care or provide assistance with the cost of a hospital bed that has the appropriate ability to provide the mechanisms that we need to remain healthy, or to provide a wheelchair or whatever the facilities are that someone would need so they could live in their own home. But the funding hasn't been there. We're going to prioritize that."

NDP candidate Robin Wardlaw shares the opinion that more beds need to be freed up, ensuring that everyone is receiving the appropriate level of care.

To tackle this problem, one of the things he said is needed is a minimum standard of care, something the Liberals have

"failed to enact".

"That concerns the New Democrats," he said. "We want to eliminate the waiting list for long-term care for those with complex medical needs. We want to support minimum standards of care so the health and wellbeing of seniors are protected."

"At the moment, for example, the ombudsman has no jurisdiction over long-term care facilities so there can be no independent investigation and in some cases even the coroner, the police, and the Ministry of Health investigations have not been adequate. It seems like it would be nice if the ombudsman had his mandate extended to cover school and function care facilities. There are some big gaps in his mandate."

From his perspective though, home care is the "ideal".

If seniors are able to

stay in their homes and receive some care, Mr. Wardlaw said the majority would "probably prefer that".

"People don't really look forward to going into a long-term care facility when there is certainly no other choice. The NDP will provide a million more hours of home care per year in our plan."

For Green Party candidate Kris Kuysten, his primary goal is to have better access to care - whether it is health care or long-term care - closer to home and make it something that is more locally driven rather than driven by the province.

"We are going to cut out the middleman so local communities such as Aurora can make their own decision on how to best design and assist their aging population by giving them supports so they can stay in their communities as they get older."

Aurora donates \$100 to town damaged by fire

The Town of Aurora has joined forces with a number of municipalities across the province in lending a hand to help those affected by wildfires that devastated Slave Lake, Alberta this spring.

This summer, council approved a \$100 donation through an initiative lead by the Townships of Carling and North Stormont to assist.

Stephen P. Kaegi, CAO of the Township of Carling, forwarded to Aurora a motion passed by his municipal council in June which saw Carling support the position of the Township of North Stormont in authorizing the donation of \$100 to the Town of Slave Lake.

In their motion, the Carling's council called on their resolution to be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities with the

request that they match the donation and Aurora council approved their request on consent with no further discussion.

The spring wildfire hit Slave Lake, Alberta on May 15 and by the following day, officials estimated that 40 per cent of the town had been damaged - and over a third of the Town destroyed - by the blaze, including numerous homes and infrastructure ranging from the local library to the Town Hall. No injuries or death were reported in the wildfires.

The devastation at Slave Lake was propelled back into the nation's consciousness in early July when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited the community to meet people involved in the fires, including residents and emergency workers, and to view rebuilding efforts.

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Northeast traffic may be investigated

Neighbourhood support for existing traffic calming measures in northeast Aurora could soon be investigated, if councillors pass a motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck this month.

In a notice of motion which was given at last month's meeting, Councillor Buck calls on staff to provide a plan to review the traffic calming program in north Aurora and devise a "method to obtain an accurate reading of the neighbourhood's support for the program."

According to Councillor Buck residents have approached her expressing dissatisfaction with the traffic calming measures in the area, and this was particularly evident during the municipal election campaign last fall.

"They want to get rid of that traffic calming," she said. "A lot of people who live in that neighbourhood are seriously affected and inconvenienced by it and they hate it. That is the logic behind this resolution. They have had it there for three years and as late as last October it appears to me that the dissatisfaction is growing."

Dissatisfaction first became evident from Councillor Buck's per-

spective with the area's local ratepayers association "clambered to get traffic off their streets".

Traffic coming off of Yonge Street diverted onto residential streets to avoid busy intersections and the situation was worsened during the reconstruction of St. John's Sideroad, she said.

"People were denied that other avenue to get down to the station or down the 404 or wherever they were going, so they took to the residential streets and some of the neighbours in those streets decided they weren't going to stand for that and went to the Town for a traffic calming plan."

Councillor Buck said at the time the council of the day voted in favour of the traffic calming measures a large majority of the neighbourhood "had no idea what was going on over their heads" until it was a done deal and "watched in horror as it happened".

"It is a huge mess," she said. "People have to drive around the block to get to their homes with all the closed streets and it was never intended to be anything else but to obstruct traffic and discourage a person from using the streets, which, from their perspective,

was a rightful thing to do from the perspective of the people who are paying the bill to repave. We spent millions repaving those streets and then we couldn't use them."

In addition to the street closures, the chicanes have been the source of additional headaches, she said, as evidenced by the damage to their curbs.

The calming devices have provided an obstacle in firefighters responding to emergency situations and have been driven over by the response vehicle drivers, she added.

After considering suggested traffic calming measures that were brought to council during open forum last month by residents of Kennedy Street West, Councillor Buck told The Auroran that she doubts those particular residents envisage anything the likes of which have been experienced by residents of the northeast quadrant.

As a collector road, Kennedy Street has been designed for through traffic and while they have noticed both an increase in traffic as well as increased speeds, the Town should turn to police enforcement to alleviate the latter prob-

lem, she said.

"It might take a car sitting there for a week and a couple dozen tickets issued and the problem is solved for a while," she said. "Then in a while it starts up again so you have to do it all again. It is just one of those ongoing problems and the solution is exercising control of it and it is police control."

"They're drawing council's attention to the problem, which they should. They live on the street, they are the ones who see it, so they should come to council and alert us to the problem and it won't get better unless the foot gets put down. They put their feet down on the gas and somebody has to put their foot down on their neck and give them a ticket for it!"

In the end though, the motion which will come back to the council table for further discussion on September 13 is primarily in response to the concerns of constituents.

"I voted against it then, I have watched it since, I have listened to people, and I am satisfied it was a horrendous mistake," she said. "It was a horrendous expense and we need to start looking at ways of reducing the inconvenience."

Roads work update slated to begin soon

Work is slated to begin this month on an update to Aurora's Master Transportation Operations study following council approval in August to retain a consultant to compile the study as part of the ongoing efforts to improve

Town roads.

The nearly \$60,000 contract, the money for which was allocated as part of the 2011 capital budget approved by council, has been awarded to HDR Corporation.

"The main reason for the study is to review the

traffic operations of the Town's road network and to make recommendations for improvements and enhancements where deemed necessary," said Ilmar Simanovskis, the Town's Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services,

in a report.

"[The Request for Proposal] was issued June 28 by the Customer and Legislative Services Department and on July 19, 2011 the Tender Opening Committee received six proposals.

A review of the proposals was undertaken and each proposal was evaluated based on criteria defined in the RFP.

The proposal from HDR Corporation received the highest combined score based on staff's evaluation."

Youth can tell town what it will look like in 2031 and win iPad

What does your Aurora look like in 2031?

That's the question the Town of Aurora is asking local youth as part of the development of the new strategic plan.

"We're asking anyone under the age of 18 to use any type of artistic medium to best describe their vision for our Town," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "We encourage people who have a vision of the future to use this contest to share their ideas with us."

The winning submission will win an Apple iPad 2 and a certificate of recognition from the Town of Aurora.

Submissions will be judged based on the fol-

lowing three criteria:

-Relevancy to Aurora: How effectively does the design illustrate your vision for the Town of Aurora?

-Composition / Arrangement: Are the subjects in the artwork arranged in a meaningful and pleasing manner?

-Creativity: Does the design show creative thought or original idea?

All entries must be received no later than October 17 this year.

For full contest details as well as rules and regulations, visit www.aurorastrategicplan.ca.

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Locals agree with decision to change name

Local veterans have welcomed the recent decision by the Department of National Defence to restore the historic "Royal" designations to the Canadian Forces as a step in the right direction.

On August 16, the Department announced the decision to restore the names "Royal Canadian Navy", "Canadian Army", and "Royal Canadian Air Force" to the three branches of the Canadian forces, after they were re-named the "Maritime Command", "Land Command" and "Air Command" respectively in a reorganization of the Canadian military in 1968.

Cliff Davies, a long-time member of the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, who served in the British Royal Navy before coming to Canada said he was "definitely happy" with the decision and said it went towards righting a wrong.

"It was a bad thing in the first place to put all the forces together," said Mr. Davies of

the 1968 reorganization. "It didn't work as such and I think the sensible thing is to go back to the original and split them up, but the chopping of the 'Royal' off of them was an insult. The Queen is in charge of all forces and it is her right to give the word 'Royal'."

"It is only from the Monarch that you can get the name 'Royal' and having got it you should always keep it. It is an honour."

Mr. Davies served in the Royal Navy from 1943-1957, and served as a Chief Radio Electrical Artificer, ending his career as the Chief Inspector for Radio in Northern Ireland before moving into civilian life.

When the Royal Canadian Legion spearheaded the drive to have the historic names of the Canadian Forces restored to each of its branches, Mr. Davies said he trusted the Legion's Dominion Command to get the job done.

"We accept the situation that they are doing the right

thing," he said. "We let the Dominion Command handle it, they've got our vote. They have got our backing that they're doing the right thing."

Aurora's Ben Kestein, who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, however, said the restoration of the names was a "bit like imperialism again" and reminiscent of the forces pre-1945 but while he said that was not necessarily good or bad, the name change honours those who lost their lives for the allies, which is important in keeping their memories and Canadian heritage alive, he said.

"I do think that as Canadians we should leave it at that," said Mr. Kestein. "Of course, we're not worried about the imperialistic idea but at the same time I think Canada did so much good because lost so many brave young men in both wars...and I think they should all have their true measure. Anything that shows that Canada has

been a great benefiting nation and a great benefactor definitely deserves recognition."

The decision to restore the names was announced at a ceremony in Halifax last month presided over by Defence Minister Peter MacKay.

In a statement, Mr. MacKay said restoring the historic names is "an important way of reconnecting today's men and women in uniform with the proud history and traditions they carry with them as members of the Canadian armed forces."

"A country forgets its past at its own peril. From Vimy Ridge to the Battle of the Atlantic and from Korea to the defence of Europe during the Cold War, the proud legacy of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force will once again serve as a timeless link between our veterans and serving soldiers, sailors and air personnel."

The move was also her-

alded by General Walt Natynczyk, Canada's Chief of Defence Staff, who said he was "honoured" to be marking the "rich history of our military".

"By restoring the historic designations of the Canadian Armed Forces we are continuing to show unified strength here at home, and abroad," he said.



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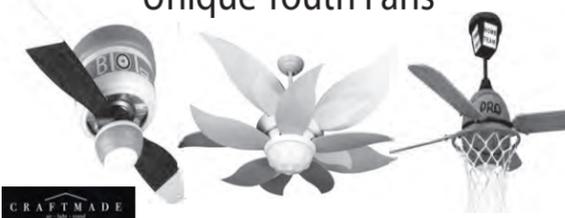
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Public invited to participate in creating plan

The Town of Aurora has recently initiated a process to create a strategic plan to guide future directions in Aurora over the next 20 years.

Now, the public will be able to access the strategic plan information or provide input online by visiting www.aurorastrategicplan.ca.

"Launching the Strategic Plan website is a great opportunity to engage residents from the comfort of their home or office," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "Our hope is to receive a strong response from the com-

munity by providing several channels of communication such as the strategic plan website, public consultations and community events. Together, we will be able to shape the future of Aurora."

The website covers several topics on the strategic plan including a description of the planning process, a draft community vision and goals and a preliminary strategic plan structure.

The site also provides an opportunity for residents to submit their comments on the

draft plan through a series of community forums and an online survey.

Over the next few months, the Town will be inviting residents, community groups and businesses to share their views and perspectives on the Aurora they would like to see in 2031.

Residents will be invited to take part in a variety of activities, including interviews, surveys, community consultation sessions, workshops and special activities for youth and seniors.

Visit Aurora's Strategic Plan

website at www.aurorastrategicplan.ca to stay up-to-date regarding consultation information, dates, locations and ongoing updates.

Consultation sessions are scheduled to run until the end of October and a draft plan will be presented to council in November.

For more information on the Strategic Plan, call Anthony Ierullo, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, at 905-726-4742 or by email at aierullo@aurora.ca.

Meet your Candidate

at THE AURORAN'S Candidate Meeting

Thursday, September 22 – 7.00 p.m.

at the Aurora Town Hall



NDP Candidate:
Robin Wardlaw



Green Candidate:
Kristopher Kuysten



Progressive Conservative Candidate: **Frank Klees**



Liberal Candidate:
Christina Bisanz

Discussion begins in the council chambers at 7.30 p.m.
Panellists, asking questions, to be announced.
Hosting the show is Alison Collins-Mrakas

"To submit a question to be asked during the debate, please send your name, question, and the name(s) of the candidate(s) to whom your question is directed to brock@auroran.com."



The Friday Night Dances resumed September 2nd and the next dance will take place Friday, September 16th.

Variety in music and dancing pleases the majority, and light refreshments at 9.30 p.m. provide a source of fresh energy to dance until the close at 11 p.m.

For lovers of good opera, and almost everybody loves fine music of all genres, the Opera Club starts September 8th at 10 a.m.

The members will discuss the history of the lute and the violin, which

can provide surprising interest, besides listening to opera, sure to enthuse and delight everybody.

Fine opera reaches deeply into awareness of what is beautiful offering fulfillment to respective capacities to enjoy music.

Beauty in all its forms lures feelings of profound happiness moved on this occasion by musical excellence.

CORN ROAST

Planned for Friday September 9th, at 6 p.m. is a Corn Roast, designed to bring together

er good food and good company, while allowing seniors to express in action their dedication to a retired life of pleasure.

This event will provide an evening of good food, and good company who will enjoy Corn on the Cob, Pulled Pork on a Bun, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Apple and Peach Crisp and ice cream with chocolate sauce.

Cost is \$8 per adult, \$4 for children. A cash bar will serve wine and beer.

Invitations are extended to seniors, families and friends, and an evening as good as seniors make it will rule the day.

The Corn Roast on the deck of the Seniors' Centre overlooking the Aurora Arboretum should accomplish this goal

Dances resume

By BRIAN WARBURTON

handily.

Plenty of outdoor space invites those with abundant energy, and in the West McKenzie Hall, a video concert appeals to all who choose a less vigorous evening.

CHOIR

The Evergreen Choir meets Wednesday September 7th between 1.45 and 3.15 p.m.

Please arrive early to collect music.

Registration for the choir sessions will take place at the front counter before practise starts.

If you can carry a tune, the choir will welcome you.

Reading music is not a requirement but the ability to read music certainly helps.

Choral music is a pleasure shared among those who make it and those charmed to listen

to it, and it is a healthy occupation providing direct exercise to the heart and lungs of the choir members.

The healthy, stimulating effect on thoughts, feelings and brains of all nourished by choral music is real, even though difficult to quantify.

This season the choir will perform at many functions including Christmas and spring concerts, perform at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and take part in the "Big Sing" at Roy Thompson Hall.

DOG SHOW

Showtime for dogs is Saturday, September 17th, rain or shine, and promises to be a great day for dogs and their owners.

Dogs are pack animals

and love mixed company and the great outdoors, where their pleasure is a good sniff around.

The dogs do not understand the judging that takes place but the owners certainly do and prizes will be awarded for the following: Largest dog by height; Smallest dog by height; Shortest tail; Shiniest coat; Funniest trick; The dog that most resembles its owner; Best costume; Best behaved, (stays in down position longest).

The judge will be Tim Jones, former mayor of Aurora.

The entrance fee for members is \$5 and non-members \$8.

Please register in person at the Seniors' Centre, and for further information call Michelle Stemer at 905-727-3123, extension 3611.

Speakers lined up for inaugural event

The hub established for writers of all genres and experience in York Region will hold its inaugural event in Aurora in October.

The Writers' Community of York Region (www.wcyork.ca) is modelled after the highly successful Writers' Community of Durham Region (www.wcdr.ca), which has grown to over 400 members. WCYR will provide support, information and useful links as well as regular opportunities for networking, professional development, workshops, reading and contests.

It will also be partnering with local libraries, cultural associations and other groups promoting the arts and the written and spoken word for youth and adults.

Membership is open to authors of fiction, biography, poetry, song-writing, technical writing, copywriting, editors, publishers, critics and more.

For \$50 a year, members receive a reduced rate on WCYR events and those offered by sister organizations in the GTA and Simcoe County.

Members also gain access to a wealth of resources, as well as opportunities to offer workshops, sell their books and promote their work.

The group's inaugural event is scheduled for October 2nd, at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

In conjunction with Culture Days, the group will sponsor a free writing workshop with Susan Lynn Reynolds in the morning, which will be followed by lunch and a presentation by feature speaker, author Richard Scrimger.

Everyone is welcome, but seating is by advance registration.



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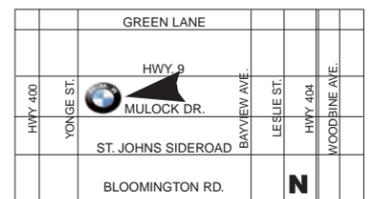
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NEW POLL With the Aurora Public Library set to start looking at ways to expand to better serve the needs of the growing community, what direction do you think they should go? (Suggestions received will be published in a future edition of The Auroran)

To participate in this POLL please go to www.theauroran.com and scroll down the home page -- it's on the right side.

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DEATH NOTICE

Dennis Mills- Obituary- Aug 18, 2011

MILLS, Dennis Anthony passed away in Toronto on Thursday, August 18, 2011. Born in Toronto, Ontario on June 3, 1938; raised and attended school in Aurora; beloved son of Stuart and Eleanor Mills (both deceased); brother of Stephen (Pat); and uncle of Peter (Gail) and Loree Meneguzzi (Michael); and grand uncle of Kelsie, Ethan, Meghan, Madeleine and Isabella.

Dennis had many artistic and musical interests, but most of all he loved the written word. He read voraciously and ran a successful copy-editing business from his home in the Annex (Toronto). In the last years of his life, Dennis contributed significantly to the Pathways to Education program in Toronto tutoring and mentoring young students. Dennis will be missed by all who knew him and who had the privilege of spending time with him.

A celebration of Dennis's life will take place at Fuzion restaurant, 580 Church St., Toronto (one block north of Wellesley on the west side), Sunday, September 11 from 1 to 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Pathways to Education, 6 Adelaide St. East, Suite 800, Toronto M5C 1H6.

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Friday, September 9th

"A Taste of the Blues... and Great Food"

- 4:00pm - 7:00pm Children's Activity Zone
 Sponsored By: State Farm
- 5:00pm Restless Neighbours
- 6:30pm Stars United Baton Club
- 8:00pm Lou Moore and Grant Lyle

Saturday, September 10th

"A Taste of Classic Rock... and Great Food"

- 11:30pm Community Sauce Judging Competition
 Sponsored By: GLAD
- 12:00pm McLaughlin & Friends
- 2:30pm The Fleetwood Nicks
- 3:30pm - 6:30pm Children's Activity Zone
 Sponsored By: State Farm
- 5:00pm Glenn Marais
- 7:00pm - 10:00pm Electric Bull Rides (\$2/ride)
- 8:00pm Tribute to Bon Jovi
Livin' On a Prayer

Sunday, September 11th

"A Taste of Country & Swing... and Great Food"

- 11:00am Aurora's Got Talent
- 12:00pm Professional Rib Teams Judging
 Sponsored By: GLAD
- 1:30pm The Dustaleros
- 3:30pm Rebecca Reeves

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