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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 48 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of September 27, 2011

All-day GO trains is provincial issue

Bringing all-day GO Train service to Aurora has been an issue touted by all candidates in advance of the upcoming October 6 provincial election, but one issue can go hand in hand with that - and one the candidates are also addressing - is traffic gridlock in the riding.

With traffic calming measures in Aurora's northeast quadrant once again being brought to the forefront, an issue of great interest to voters is what to do with the Yonge Street - Wellington Street intersection and traffic corridor when rush hour traffic makes it nearly impassable.

In speaking to her announcement for all day GO Train service earlier this month, Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz said

there has already been a tangible demonstration of the commitment to address traffic gridlock and congestion in the riding, including increasing the number of available parking spaces at the Aurora GO Station so commuters and travellers alike can get their cars off the road and hop onto transit, as well as an increase in traffic infrastructure.

"There has been a tremendous investment made in improving the VIVA and regional transit system as well," said Ms. Bisanz. "There is a tremendous investment that has been made to the Yonge Street corridor so if we make public transit - the VIVA and YRT system - more efficient, then people will be

Please see page 8



In the top photo, candidates in the upcoming provincial election prepare to handle questions from the audience and panellists during last Thursday's debate held at the Aurora Town Hall sponsored by The Auroran. They are, left to right, Robin Wardlaw (NDP), Kristopher Kuysten, (Green Party), Frank Klees (PC) and Christina Bisanz (Liberals). They faced questions from the panel shown in the bottom photo, left to right, former councillors Grace Marsh and Bob McRoberts, Bruce Cuthbert from AuroraClicks.com, and Brock Weir of The Auroran. Moderator was Alison Collins-Mrakas.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Despite last minute changes 120 hear candidates debate

More than 120 residents of Aurora and Newmarket turned out for The Auroran's Provincial All-Candidates meeting at Aurora Town Hall Thursday night, despite a late start to the proceedings.

At the eleventh hour, an unexpected hitch in the plans forced organizers to move the meet and greet for voters to get up close and personal with their candidates from the scheduled location of the Skylight Gallery to the Aurora Seniors' Centre, delaying the start of the debate itself by half an hour.

Despite this setback, a healthy crowd began filling the council chamber over an hour and a half before the new 8 p.m. start time to hear Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz, Green candidate Kristopher Kuysten, Progressive Conservative candidate Frank Klees and the New Democrat candidate Robin Wardlaw face off in a debate led by moderator and Our

Town host Alison Collins-Mrakas.

After drawing lots, the first candidate slated to speak was Mr. Wardlaw, who said his background as a minister gave him a "lifetime of experience" in "dealing with people at every stage of life from their saddest to their happiest moments, from birth to their senior years."

As the former minister of Newmarket's Trinity United Church, he said hundreds of people came into the church looking for help and as a candidate he shares with the people of Newmarket-Aurora a "deep desire for a fair and equal Ontario, a healthy Ontario, and an

Please see page 18

School's fate unknown

The York Region District School board was expected to make its final decision on the sale of the former Wells Street Public School building this week.

The Board was slated to vote on the matter in a private session at their monthly board meeting Monday night as The Auroran was going to press.

The Board had previously indicated that a number of interested parties had put in offers on the historic building adjacent to Town

Park and these offers were to be given final consideration and the outcome decided by members.

A decision on the sale of Wells Street School was expected to be released to the public on Monday evening after the meeting, but according to York Region District School Board spokesperson Ross Virgo, details on the Wells Street Public School buyer as well as the sale price would not be released until the expected deal closes on October 15.



Bob Ince, left, The Auroran's advertising manager, is the new president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. He was signed in at a ceremony last week at the Aurora Cultural Centre. He replaces Robin Taylor-Smith, right.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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COMING EVENTS

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 web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the box office by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca or by telephone at 905-727-3669.

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.

"Freedom of Expressionism" (abstract artist Katja Van den Eenden) and "Moments in Time" (George Boyer) Gallery Show & Sales continue through until October 7, 2011 at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4 pm, or by appointment. For further information send an e-mail to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca or phone 905-713-1818.

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 its homes for its 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.

Celebrate Culture Days at the Aurora Cultural Centre with free programming for the whole family. "Doh See Doh Like a Pro!" - learn to square dance with the ASA Square Dancers in a fun, family friendly atmosphere from 11 a.m. to noon. Create your own "Freedom of Expressionism" Art Collage with Katja Van den Eenden from noon to 3 p.m. No experience is required. The Aurora Cultural Centre is located at 22 Church Street and is fully accessible at the north entrance.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Writers' Community of York Region presents a free Unleash the Writer Within Workshop in celebration of Culture Days. Learn how to capture your writer's voice on the page. Facilitated by Susan Lynn Reynolds, the event begins at 10.30 a.m. For advance registration, or for inquiries, please contact www.wcyork.ca. The event takes place at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Strategic plan consultations will take place this evening at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way, from 7 to 9.30 p.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Strategic plan consultations will take place this evening at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way, from 7 to 9.30 p.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Tonight is the opening reception for "Being Métis" Show and Sale by artist Nathalie Bertin. From images of traditional trades to political statements, tied together by designs inspired from the art of the "Flower Beadwork People", Bertin celebrates her Algonquin and French heritage, honours the Métis tradition, recognizes the courage of early Canadian settlers and acknowledges the debt we owe to our First Peoples. Artist Reception and Walk and Talk at 7 p.m., with guest Métis fiddler Alicia Blore. Admission is free. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street.

The Heritage Sports Art & Memorabilia Show and Sale happens at the Aurora Cultural Centre today. Many original framed sports art pieces for sale by artists including William Band, Nola McConnan, and Tino Paolini of St. Andrew's College. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Show continues through until October 29 at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Admission is free.

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 taboxoffice@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.

Celebrate Ontario Public Library Week, October 17-21. Meet award-winning author Camilla Gibb who will read from and discuss "The Beauty of Humanity Movement" this evening at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Admission is free with ticket. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents former Toronto Mayor, John Sewell with the heritage lecture "William Lyon Mackenzie and the Upper Canada Rebellion." Almost everyone has heard of the fiery rebel, but what did he actually do to lead the rebellion? Mr. Sewell will illuminate the legacy of Mackenzie's actions. Everyone is welcome; admission by donation gratefully received, with light refreshments provided. Activity gets underway

at 7 p.m.

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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

Join Aurora resident Lisa Turner for this 2-part adult craft workshop. Fee includes all supplies. Workshop happens at 7 p.m. and costs \$10 per person. Seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

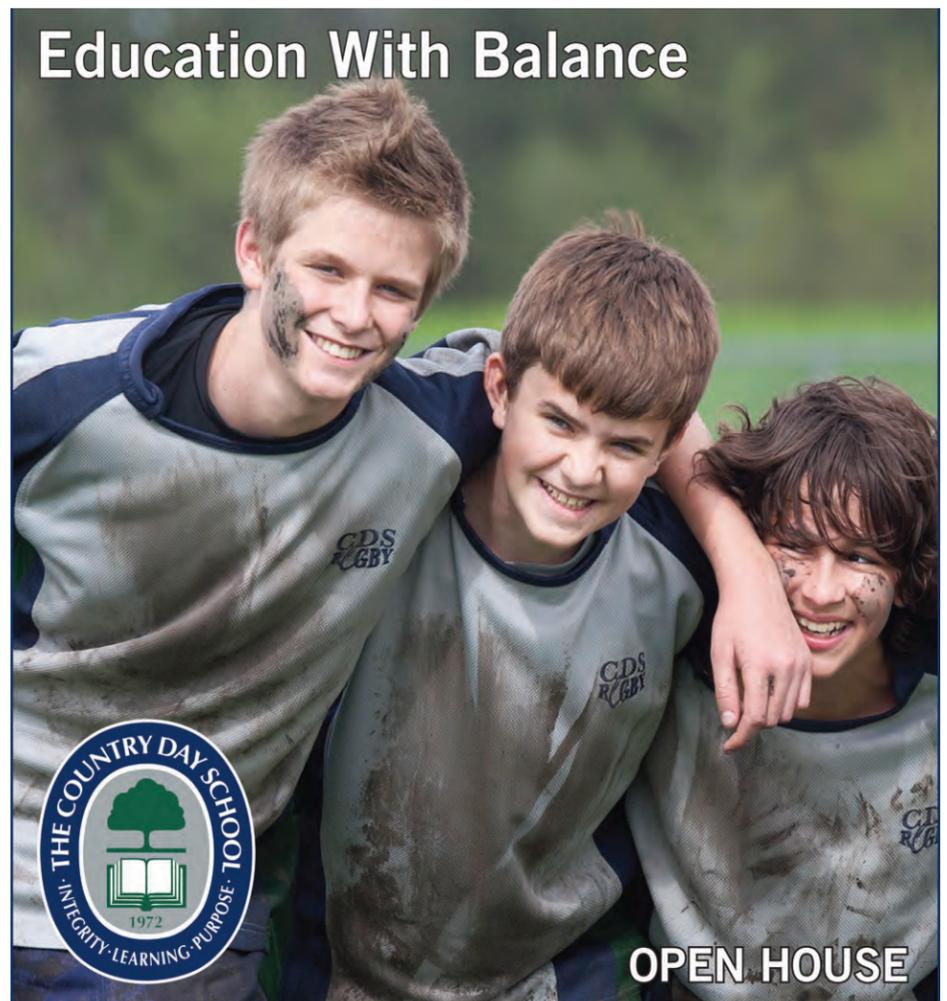
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

9/11: Miracles and Reflections (An Evening With Brian Clark). Brian will speak at the Aurora United Church at 7 p.m. It's your chance to hear his riveting story of survival and hope following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Tickets are \$15 and refreshments will be served. More information may be found at www.auroraunitedchurch.ca. Call 905-727-1935 to reserve tickets.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Join Aurora resident Lisa Turner for this 2-part adult craft workshop. Fee includes all supplies.

Please see page 22



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Dignitaries use shovels to break ground on the new Salvation Army facility, that will eventually be built on Leslie Street in Aurora. Included in the ceremony was Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe,

centre left. Facility will serve as a church and a new multi-use community hub which will boast an auditorium with a seating capacity of more than 500, available for large

gatherings, conferences, and as a performing arts venue. Army still has several hundred thousand dollars to raise.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Salvation Army breaks ground on new facility

Ground was officially broken for the Salvation Army's new Northridge Church in a ceremony on Thursday afternoon, a building which promises to be a multi-use community hub in Aurora.

The new building, which is the centrepiece for the Salvation Army's \$1.5 million Hope for Others campaign will be located on Leslie Street just north of Wellington Street, and it was here that local dignitaries and community partners with the Salvation Army gathered to turn the sod on what was described by the group's John Murray as "a great day for our community and a great day for the people that we serve."

According to Major Brian Bishop, the new building will not just be a sanctuary for members of the church, but a new multi-use community hub which will boast an auditorium with a seating capacity of more than 500, available for large gatherings, conferences, and as a performing arts venue, and provide much needed space for community programs currently offered by the organization.

"There will be a community resource lounge and just a sense even for the seniors to come in and just have a place

to be," said Major Bishop when the plans were announced. "One of the things we are recognizing is that one of the number one needs today is loneliness and that need is only going to increase once the senior population increases, which it is. We want to create more of those senior centre opportunities."

The new facility will also cater to the needs of the younger York Region residents with the creation of a children's wing and a gymnasium, which has been previously identified by the Town of Aurora as a community need, and daycare facilities.

"It's wonderful for us to be able to share in this special occasion on this special day," Major Bishop told the crowd. "Over the last several years, we have been strategizing on how best to position ourselves and prepare ourselves for the growth of this Region and the diversity of this Region. We understand that this Region is growing at an exponential rate annually and we want to do our due diligence in preparing for the future that is ahead of us."

"We have been doing our due diligence to try and work in cooperation [with community partners, the municipalities

and organizations] so we are not duplicating services but rather we're complementing services, understanding that we are better together and that we're not there to compete against one another, and we're there to complete one another."

Thursday's ceremony marked a number of milestones for the Hope for Others and the Northridge Community Church projects, not just the sod turning but the fact that that day, the Salvation Army received approval from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to go ahead with their existing plan after what one official described as an "arm wrestle" for over a year.

"It looks like it is clear sailing from here on out," he said.

But there was also a financial announcement as well. With the presentations of three cheques - one for \$250,000 from Magna International, and two cheques for \$100,000 from Brookfield Developments and Tacc Developments respectively - Major Bishop said they have now raised \$850,000 with \$650,000 left to go.

"We have secured or committed \$850,000 of our \$1.5 million campaign - I don't know

whether I am getting emotional because I have \$650,000 to raise," joked Major Bishop. "Actually, it is because I am moved by the kind of support we have been receiving to date. We cannot do what we do as the Salvation Army without the generosity and support of our communities and for that we're very thankful to each of you who have supported us to date."

At the ceremony, representatives from the Salvation Army were joined by MPP Frank Klees, retired York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Aurora mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen and East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson - the three municipalities served by the Central York Region Branch of the Salvation Army of which Majors Brian and Glenda Bishop lead - who were joined by several sitting and former councillors.

"Around the world and across Canada the Salvation Army works extremely diligently in helping families in communities who are suffering through circumstances that have been imposed on them," said Mayor Dawe. "They are supportive and they are non-judgemental. They come in

and they help and that is what this campaign and this building is about - helping others.

"I am extremely pleased and it is my honour to bring greetings from the Town of Aurora, from the residents of Aurora, to the Salvation Army and wish you nothing but continued success in your mission."

With the ground officially broken, Major Bishop said he

expects construction to commence on the site beginning in March 2012, "based upon some of the approvals."

"We know there has been a lot of media here and we hope this will raise the profile of the campaign for those of the community that would consider supporting us in \$100 donations, in \$500 donations, or even \$1,000 donations," he said.

Engagement Announcement



Peter Dickens and Marion Howell are delighted to announce the engagement of Peter's daughter, Shannon Dickens of Toronto to Mr. Erik Feltmate of Oakville. The wedding is planned for the spring of 2013.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Single-track bridge

Talk these days, it's only a week until the Ontario election takes place, seems to centre around providing all-day GO train service to Trawna.

Noble, to say the least, but it brings up a question.

If, when they replaced the bridge over Yonge Street in Aurora back in October, 2009, why did they replace it with a single track bridge?

If you're planning all-day service to the big city, does that not mean double tracking all the way south?

Or does GO set up a system where single track means only southbound or northbound trains can use the track at a time.

Much like the radial car that used to travel up Yonge Street on a single line from north Yonge to Sutton. The line came to an end in 1930.

There is only a single reference to the radial car ever being here and it's on Industrial Parkway South.

Aurora's Radial Railway Bridge Abutment is historically significant as part of the historic Radial Railway line that linked Lake Simcoe and towns to the south to the City of Toronto.

It was one of numerous electric railway lines, which "radiated" from the city...east to Scarborough, west to Mimico...northwest to Weston, Woodbridge, and Guelph... and eventually north to Lake Simcoe.

Like Toronto streetcars, the "radial" cars were topped by poles, which made the connection to the overhead electrical power lines.

Their passenger cars were a bit heavier than ordinary streetcars...similar to regular railway carriages, but with controls at each end.

One car, I'm told, still exists near Orillia.

It was in 1899, that the Metropolitan Street Railway Company built its radial railway along Yonge Street, joining Aurora and Newmarket with Toronto.

A steam-powered electricity generator was built at Bond Lake to supply power and a station was constructed in downtown Aurora.

From 1853, the intersection of Yonge Street with the Grand Trunk Railway tracks (located at the south end of town) was by a level-crossing.

However, it was at this point in 1899 that the "Metropolitan's" tracks were laid curving away from Yonge Street, raised on curving embankments and "overpassed" the GTR (now the line used by GO) by means of a steel bridge.

The bridge's only remaining stone abutment is located on the property immediately south of the railway, a short distance east of Yonge Street and due west of the grounds of the Aurora Soccer Club.

It is the last large remaining artifact of the radial railway in Aurora.

After "overpassing" the GTR rails, the radial's track ran along the east side of Yonge Street until the built-up part of town was reached, when the track moved to the centre of the road.

Passengers could board at stops indicated by numbers painted on the power poles. Aurora's station was in the heart of town, immediately north of the current United Church.

The line was constructed northward along Yonge Street as far as the current Mulock Drive, and then travelled into Newmarket.

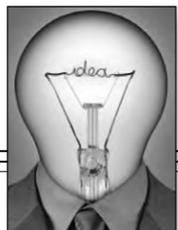
From there it went across open country until it reached the shore of Lake Simcoe, went as far east as Jackson's Point (1907), then turned inland to end at Sutton, which was reached in 1909.

The radial line had a stronger presence in Aurora than in most communities.

Aurora had one of the few stations, originally a single-storey building with an additional storey added as a residence for the station agent.

By 1911, interchanges with the GTR had been built at the site of the radial's overpass bridge.

Please see page 15



100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

The Aurora Museum lies in boxes after being effectively evicted from the Church Street School.

The Canadian Air & Space Museum (casmuseum.org) is facing a similar fate.

It was handed notice last week because someone intends to demolish the site to put in an ice rink.

The building itself is an exhibit of the museum as it housed operations of de Havilland Aircraft of Canada.

Losing it would be a great insult to our nation's heritage, and those who earned their wings to protect it, including Aurora's Lloyd Chadburn DSO & Bar, DFC.

Direct your concerns to M.P. Lois Brown.



Up to its hubcaps in water, this vehicle experienced the wrath of Hurricane Hazel when it struck the Aurora area in 1954. Picture is from "Freddie's Files" and shows truck at the foot of Tyler Street when photo was taken. Obviously, Tannery Creek, located nearby, overflowed its banks. "Freddie's Files", a group of photos taken by the late Fred Bolsby, and made available to The Auroran by his daughter Lesley, was the title of a series run by the newspaper several years ago.

Letter to the Editor

Former police chief hands out awards

To the editor,

Last week I was looking forward to a weekend of "going to the dogs" literally.

Our branch of St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog division held their annual picnic at Bruce's Mill on Saturday.

This year Rev. Lloyd Clifton provided individual dog blessings to those of us who brought their companions with them.

I find it impossible to handle two leashed 80 pound, sometimes stubborn, Old English Sheepdogs at the same time, so I volunteered to take photos.

I am looking for a double-dog cart so they can pull me for a change.

The picnic is a very nice way to say thank you to all the volunteers, dogs and their accompanying persons.

The weather was terrific and the barbeque including salads and gifts from ET TU, a York Region company that produces salad kits and other prepared toppings was splendid. Retired Chief of York Region police, Chief Armand La Barge, who is a volunteer of St. John, made some presentations and handed out some awards.

I think, "the fix was in" because he also won an extraordinarily beautiful birdhouse in the draw on Saturday.

I had overheard him say that he really wanted to win it - and he did.

All kidding aside, a good time was had by all.

I think "the blessing" had an effect on "the four-legged creatures" (even mine who were blessed in abstention) seemed extraordinarily calm, even saint-like throughout the day and into the evening.

The next day, at Lynett Hall, in Aurora (a really nice venue, by the way) St. John Ambulance, Therapy Dog division held their annual awards ceremony.

Again, even though my daughter dog, Two, was to receive her official certificate, I left them both at home.

I had pictures to take.

Presentations were made by Retired Chief Armand LaBarge, Retired Fire Chief John Molyneux and other representatives from St. John.

I was most impressed with the volunteer hours of both dogs and their escorts.

Having been involved in the organization as a volunteer for going on two years, I am just a newbie especially when you

see Paco, the 15-year-old Chihuahua who has 750 visits under his collar and his travel companion, Carol Smith with 11 years service.

I was totally blown away by the dedicated volunteers and their dogs who diligently visit local hospitals, nursing homes, community homes, libraries, schools etc. providing comfort and a bit of contentment to those individuals who otherwise would not have the pleasure of the company of a dog.

I have found, from my experience, these excursions to be

most rewarding, and worthwhile for myself and I think for my two shaggy dogs or for those who remember, "Mr. Mugs" dogs.

Now for my unsolicited plug.

All of the services of therapy dogs are free and depend, like most non-profits, on donations and fundraisers.

There are still biodegradable poop bags available through the Branch Office, 905-773-3394 to order.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges



Carol Smith, and her dog, Paco who has attained an astounding 750 visiting hours receive awards at the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Division at Lynett Hall, in Aurora last week.

Auroran photo by
Bonnie Tiffin

THE AURORAN

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The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8
Aurora, ON, L4G 1L8

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

John Gould
john@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile
905-727-2620

Administration
Patricia Wallace
patricia@auroran.com

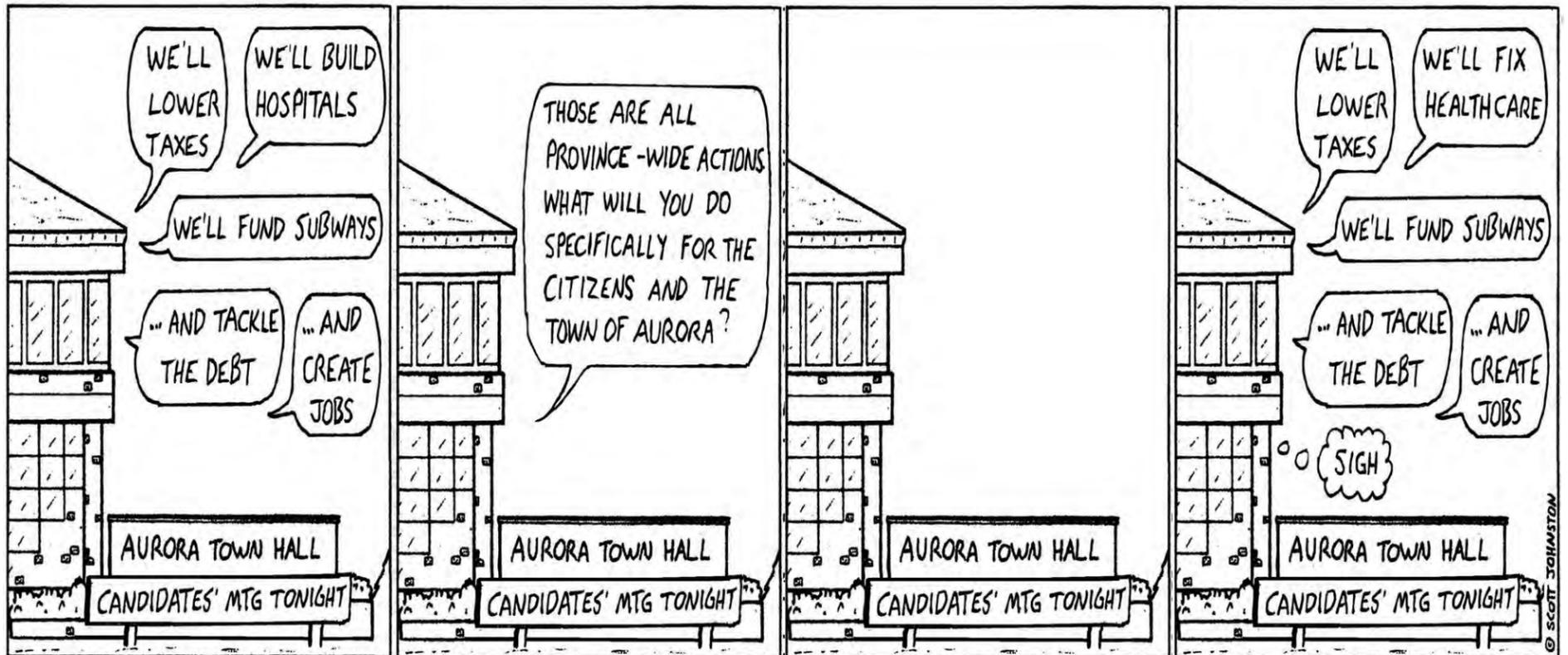
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Letters to the Editor

Underpasses not included in Leslie budget

To the editor,

Re: Leslie Street Underpasses Sept 20 article, page 15.

Thank you for reporting on the issue, which was discussed at council.

The Region of York should not have rejected the inclusion of trail underpasses for their Leslie Street widening project.

But actual construction is at least two years away.

According to Aurora's official planning intentions, more than 8,000 residents will live within one kilometre of the west side of Leslie Street, between Wellington and Aurora's north border.

On the other side of Leslie Street, 6,000 jobs are expected to be created, in various industrial, commercial, and institutional establishments, that will be located between Leslie and Highway 404.

It is quite clear that there will be commuting

across Leslie Street, lots of it, practically around the clock.

Not only will there be places of employment, but there already are many retail outlets, including Walmart, on the east side of Leslie.

So more commuting.

In Aurora we plan to have trails in natural corridors, for commuters as well as the recreation seeking residents.

And that will be the case in the valleys that cross the Leslie Street corridor.

Those are the trails that the residents from the west side of Leslie should be able to use, to get to the job sites, and to shops.

The way the Region of York intends to channel those commuters across Leslie is by having these trail users walk or cycle up to the road, then go to the nearest intersection, walk across at the next green light, and then back to the trail crossing, down into

the valley, from where they came.

Or the Region will arrange for signalized, push button operated crossings, for the trail users, to cross Leslie, right where the valley trail crosses the street.

The Region had some staff member prepare a report which considered those two at-grade options of crossing Leslie, as well as three underpass options.

But while certain pros and cons were set out, for each option, they failed to take into consideration the exceptional circumstances of the Leslie Street planning scenario, with 8,000 residents on one side, and 6,000 jobs plus retail shops on the other side of Leslie Street.

A compelling scenario for generating walking and cycling commuters who need to cross Leslie - practically every day.

The effects of at-grade crossings of Leslie Street were also not taken into

consideration.

Either there will be many less walkers or cyclists because they have to get to the next intersection to cross Leslie, or they will stop the four-lane car traffic every time they push a button, to be allowed to cross Leslie up from where the trail crosses the virtual Regional highway.

Can you imagine the frustrations of the drivers who have to wait while the 'slowpokes' cross Leslie, not to speak of the waste of gasoline and time, of the driving commuters?

In the absence of examining the consequences of recommending at-grade, level crossings of Leslie Street, of the non-motorized traffic, the Region has based its rejection of underpasses just about solely on the costs of building these underpasses.

They estimated the building costs, but did not provide details as to how they calculated the estimated costs.

If cost is the issue, then I could see negotiations with Aurora towards cost sharing.

But to reject the underpasses because of costs, estimated ones at that, and not on their merits, that does not appear the right approach.

After all, when the decision was made that the Leslie Street widening was needed, the costs were a secondary matter - the financing came later.

The money had to be budgeted, and will be there.

But underpasses were not included when the budget for the Leslie Street widening was set up.

That budget needs to be amended, to deal with the consequences that the planning for the project

was not done with enough foresight.

The planning was done with lack of due diligence.

Because the Region has not done a careful examination of the effects of not allowing the underpasses, and refused to consider my suggestion that they at least include the underpasses in the design, so the bidding contractors could quote the real price for building the underpasses, I have now formally asked the Ontario Minister of the Environment to arrange for a deeper examination of the Region's decision not to allow underpasses.

I had to do that now because the appeal period to the Region's decision, in the form of an Environmental Study Report, was going to run out before the Town of Aurora had a chance to get the Region to reconsider its decision to include the underpasses, if Aurora paid for them.

It is still my opinion that the Region should pay for at least the bulk of the costs.

That is especially pertinent since the Region's policies are in support of promoting alternative, more sustainable modes of traffic, and walkable communities, and because the Region's road widening would be the cause of the barrier to trail continuity, if the underpasses are not built. It is time we get serious with funding and building the needed infrastructure for promoting and moving non-motorized, self-propelled foot and bicycle traffic via off-road trails.

The Regional level government has to step up, and stop rationalizing the non-provision of barrier-free trail crossings on the basis of costs.

When it was decided to

widen Leslie to accommodate the motorized traffic the consequences for the non-motorized traffic were treated with a cavalier attitude.

Costs are not the issue - attitudes are.

**Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora**

BBBSY is ready to party

To the editor,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York will be holding our Annual Gala themed Doors To Diversity "Continuing to open doors for the youth of York Region" on November 12, 2011 at the Le Parc in Markham.

Tom Brown from CTV will return as the emcee for the evening.

This memorable affair will celebrate the diversity of our agency and the community that we serve.

A true celebration of the positive difference BBBSY has made in hundreds of lives, be it the children that we serve, their families or friends, and so many others, not just for now, but for the rest of their lives.

Proceeds from the gala event will support the ongoing investment in the lives of kids through BBBSY mentoring programs.

There are many ways to lend your support.

Through sponsorship, the purchase of tickets or the donation of an auction item.

For more information, call the office at 905-726-2149, extension 305 or e-mail us at marylynn.stephenson@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

**Mary Lynn Stephenson
Aurora**

Town does meter its water at various locations: mayor

To the editor,

Re: Reader believes he knows where town's water is going. (Letter, September 20)

In response to Mr. Hanes's letter, I'd like to report the Town does indeed meter water use at Town Hall, the hockey rinks, the swimming pools, the library, the Cultural Centre, the fire station, the soccer bubble and the Seniors' Centre.

And, yes, the water from York Region is metered as well.

In fact, just last month

we released a comprehensive audit report on water usage in Aurora.

In it you'll find a highly detailed snapshot of the Town's water system.

The bottom line is that Aurora is operating a world-class system that is safe and reliable.

Indeed, the Town just received its Municipal Drinking Water License from the Province of Ontario. This is a new program from the province and it is one of the most rigorous of its kind in North America.

Aurora's system is also financially sustain-

able, something required by the government of Ontario.

That being said, we're always looking for opportunities to improve, including reducing the amount of unmetered water losses in the Town.

We've outlined some of those opportunities in the audit report.

I'd encourage anyone interested in Aurora's water system to read the audit report. It can be found at www.bit.ly/p39dzP.

**Geoffrey Dawe,
Aurora Mayor**

Letters to the Editor



These four jugglers brought merriment to the Walk to raise funds for the fight against Ovarian Cancer last week. They are, left to right, Brady Reil, Ben Kissack, Greg Rutherford and Kerstin Palmer, all of Regency Acres Public School in Aurora. Gayle Palmer paid tribute to one of Regency's teachers, Steve Lanning, "who taught this group of jugglers their tricks, loaned out any equipment they wanted and spent after school hours preparing them for this day".

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Walk of Hope raises just under \$20,000

To the editor,

Our 5th Ovarian Cancer Walk of Hope Aurora was a huge success!

From start to finish, all went smoothly with the help of 18 amazing student volunteers.

These kids did whatever was asked of them, eagerly and thoroughly- from set-up, to encouraging children to visit the on-site fire truck (and many thanks to these fine men in uniform!), to superb juggling to entertain the crowds, to assemble 100 swag bags, to registration, to a

Kennedy St. residents use children, elderly, to make point

To the editor,

Traffic calming is another example of the "Me First" attitude that is becoming a blight on the community.

Kennedy Street is an arterial road and its residents knew that when they bought there.

Now they want to make it a private enclave.

Of course, that is not what they say.

Oh no, they invoke children, the elderly and apple pie rather than honesty.

I have experienced the daytime nightmare of driving in the private enclave around Mark Street to visit friends.

I wouldn't want to drive there at night, especially in the rain.

William Duthie
Aurora

nail polish painting station, to keeping track of the money, to leading and cheering on the walkers, to the clean-up.

A warm thank-you to them!

My amazing co-chairs, Brenda and Jackie. The three of us accomplished a fantastic event!

We planned so many fresh additions which made the morning fun, despite the gravity of the cause.

We estimate we had 150 participants.

We far surpassed our goal and have raised just under \$20,000 for Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Thanks to Michelle and her dad, John Lemme for the beautiful singing to begin our event.

Their voices resonated through the park and attracted more attention.

Thanks to Julia who led the warm-up.

Thanks to the many businesses who donated items to our successful silent auction.

Thanks to those who gave

to our swag bags and gave treats for our snack table.

A special thanks to our community who donated their hard earned dollars to support what is so close to our hearts.

And, a big thanks to Anna and the Farmer's Market vendors for making us feel so welcome there.

It is with great satisfaction I can reflect on the day and know we did a good thing.

We accomplished what we set out to do: raise money to help find an early detection tool, provide awareness to the often over-looked symptoms of ovarian cancer, but most importantly, bring hope to all who have been affected by this disease.

I forgot an important thank you! To our MP Lois Brown, for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend our event and cut the ribbon to begin the walk. She is lovely!

We will be back in 2012!

Gayle Palmer
Aurora

Reader sets record straight on Kennedy Street comments

To the editor,

Re: Zero tolerance radar needed on Kennedy.

A number of letters to the editor have commented on my presentation to council's open forum regarding speed along Kennedy. A number of facts should be set straight regarding this issue:

1. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the need to remove the volume of traffic off of Kennedy and onto the streets that are capable to handle the volume.

Council and the region must make the appropriate repairs to the surface of Wellington and to improve the Yonge/Wellington intersection's traffic flow.

People are finding other easier routes of which Kennedy seems to be one of them, to get from Bathurst to the commercial areas of the southern portion of Yonge in Aurora.

Residential streets are not meant to be a bypass.

All this will worsen in the coming months during Wellington reconstruction, a project that will hopefully ease traffic in this residential neighbourhood.

2. In discouraging traffic onto a residential street the presentation specifically asked for additional stop signs, if that did not work maybe speed bumps, and the absolutely last request would be for 'other' speed

reducing measures - at no time did anyone talk about chicanes.

Everyone knows that the north-east quadrant is a difficult situation, but the issue on Kennedy would be reduced if flow through traffic was discouraged.

From a cost perspective the stop signs are the lowest cost and would not impede the bus route or emergency vehicles.

As for speed bumps there are alternatives to the traditional across the entire road type that would accommodate wider axle vehicles such as buses, fire trucks, and garbage trucks.

3. A key point missing in the original article is the fact that the accident that I highlighted (occurred April 19th, 2011) was indeed a rollover in a 40 km/hr. zone - yes a rollover on a residential street. How many other readers have seen a car rolled over on their residential street?

The car stopped on its roof after taking out a cast iron street light sending it 15 metres down

the sidewalk resting against (and broke) the curb of a neighbouring driveway.

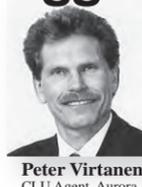
We know that streets are made for cars and sidewalks are made for people, even people walking their dogs, but when reckless driving creates projectile street lights this is a matter of concern for us. It was only luck that the driver survived with relatively minor injuries, that there was not a passenger in the car as the entire side of the vehicle was caved in, and most luckily of all that an innocent pedestrian was not on the sidewalk that evening.

4. Radar, tried several times, in fact the last position of a radar vehicle was exact driveway where the rollover accident occurred.

It is ironic that the car would have indeed landed on top of the cruiser.

John Lenchak
Aurora

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CLU Agent, Aurora

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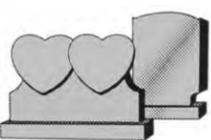


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Letters to the Editor

MOHLTC not responding to seniors

To the editor,

When candidates come looking for voter support, seniors easily see through the claims made by politicians who state they are concerned about the interests of older persons living in the community. They also know there are big problems for residents of nursing homes and that such matters are overlooked in party platforms.

While abuse and neglect of elderly persons continues to be a problem of great concern in the community setting, some of the most disturbing incidents inflicted on vulnerable seniors occur in provincially-regulated institutions where the public expects residents are to be properly cared for and kept safe.

But, one seldom hears of stern measures taken by the government against the institutions

involved or meaningful consequences dealt to those responsible for abusing and neglecting nursing home residents.

Reports of serious systemic issues in long-term facilities have occurred with disturbing frequency throughout the time the Liberals have been in power with similar disturbing situations having occurred under the PC watch.

When the media brings these tragic events forward, typically the public is told by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) an investigation will be conducted, that more work needs to be done, and health ministers announce changes are forthcoming or are underway.

In December, 2003, George Smitherman promised a 'revolution' in nursing homes.

It didn't happen.

In December, 2010,

Deb Matthews said 'people (in nursing homes) are getting very, very good care.' But, the December, 2010 release of the provincial Ombudsman's findings of his extensive investigation into the Ministry's role of oversight of nursing homes, depicts the reality of the situation.

It confirms what families have been saying for years -- there is a serious lack of proper oversight by the Ministry over nursing homes.

Families that have experienced the tragic loss of an institutionalized parent or seen the misery and pain caused by substandard care know how absurd government claims of quality care are, and for good reason, fail to believe that another version of nursing home legislation (Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007 effective July 1, 2010) is going to offer

any assurances things will change.

The MOHLTC has repeatedly failed in their duty to protect residents through an obvious lack of strenuous enforcement of nursing homes legislation.

Police in various provincial jurisdictions continue to lay charges against workers who sexually and physically abuse residents, and with disturbing frequency, stories of tragic deaths of residents are reported by the media because families have no independent, trusted authority they can count on.

A petition read in the Legislature in May, signed by more than 650 Ontarians, expressed complete lack of confidence in the Ministry to ensure proper care and safety of residents, and requested the government grant oversight authority over nursing homes to the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario.

Petitioners are appalled at the government's determined refusal to grant oversight powers over nursing homes to the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman while Canadians in other provinces have been granted access to the services of their ombudsmen.

The need for change is obvious.

Illogical and misleading reasons given by elected members of the Liberal party for not voting in favour of granting oversight, is precisely why change is needed.

On May 5, 2011, Liberal MPPs voted down the NDP Ombudsman's Bill 183, to grant oversight authority to the Ombudsman over long-term facilities and designated public bodies.

While the PC party claim they are in full sup-

port of the Bill, a poor showing of only three or four of their members were present to vote.

Considering the steady erosion of public confidence in the Ministry's ability to protect residents of long-term facilities from harm and provide them with proper care, Ontarians should be asking their elected members and candidates in the upcoming election, why long-term facility residents and their families are not entitled to have access to the assistance of the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman. Considering tragic deaths and subhuman treatment of institutional residents continue year after year, it's ludicrous for any elected member or political candidate to suggest the Ministry or the corner's office provides sufficient, transparent and responsible oversight over nursing homes.

Police charges against workers, media reports, substantial petitions, serious findings from the Ombudsman's office, detailed Ministry reports of unmet standards and complaint and incident reports (not available online) and the dismissive indifference shown by MPPs and the Ministry to the complaints of families, collectively show there is much to be concerned about.

Legislation, change of inspection procedures and residents' rights provides no assurance there will be quality care, much less basic good care, for all residents of Ontario nursing homes.

The province continues to feed the silence about institutional elder abuse when Ontarians are not allowed transparent online access to detailed Ministry nursing homes reports that one

can obtain through the often costly and time-consuming process of access-to-information.

The government reporting website posts outdated summarizations of findings, not the important historical data of nursing homes, reporting of complaints, serious and repeated unmet standards, breaches of regulations or incidences of physical and sexual assaults.

If the provincial government was serious about dealing with institutional elder abuse, their resistance to releasing the various Ministry nursing homes inspection, investigation and complaints reports would cease and free transparent access to these detailed public reports would be easily accessible online.

And, if the government was genuinely concerned about improving the care of seniors in nursing homes, there would be no refusal on their part to expand the mandate of the Ontario Ombudsman's Act to have oversight authority over long-term facilities.

Unbiased and skilled investigations of nursing homes, which is integral to the safety and protection of residents of nursing homes, will only happen under the trusted and watchful eye of the Ombudsman's office.

There can be no excuse for any government to deny Ontarians access to the independent investigative services of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario particularly since the concerns are about the safety of some of our most vulnerable and dependent citizens in provincial institutions.

Ellen Watson
Aurora

Aurora Cultural Centre is not a club, he says

To the editor.

To: Mayor Dawe and Aurora councillors:

Here we go again with Evelyn Buck and her museum.

She has cocooned herself on Aurora Council by voting negatively on anything positive that has to do with The Aurora Cultural Centre.

If she really wants to shrink The Cultural Centre in favour of a museum, then let the taxpayers see some numbers first.

No responsible organization would embark on a project like this without a lot of research into its viability, how much it would cost taxpayers and how many people could be expected to visit it.

If our neighbouring municipalities, with museums, are any indication of visitations, it deserves a long hard look.

I did some research on my own and was astonished at the few "Open" hours they can justify.

Also, it should be noted that these museums offer more than artifacts in one building.

They also have old houses, one-room school house, railway station, etc. that can be toured.

Presently we have a vibrant Cultural Centre that has by far outperformed all expectations of it.

During the first six months of this year more than 9,000 people have

participated in its extensive activities.

That is an increase of 3,000 over the same period last year.

It doesn't sound like just a Culture Club to me.

If a person has never visited or taken in some of these activities, they have no idea of what it is doing for our community of Aurora.

I would suggest that council members go to the Centre and talk to the staff about the variety of programs that are offered to all ages from preschoolers to seniors.

There is designated space for artifacts to be displayed at the Centre, and I'm sure more can be

acquired if needed.

It should be up to The Historical Society, who owns these items, to see that artifacts are displayed, on a systematic basis, so they can be enjoyed by the thousands of people visiting The Centre.

The success of any venture requires more than a warm fuzzy feeling by a few people.

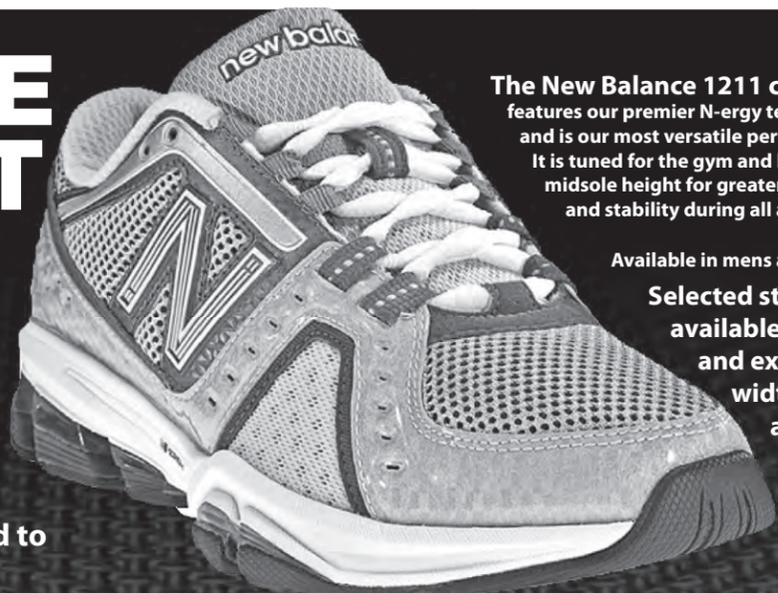
If you listen to other people, you will find that our Cultural Centre is envied by many other municipalities.

David Griffith
Former town councillor
1991 to 2003
Aurora

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Councillors are ready to approve revisions

Methods for receiving input from the public during the course of council and committee meetings could be debated again this week as councillors get ready to approve revisions to its code of conduct this week following a lengthy discussion that kicked off earlier this month.

Among the items discussed at the table on September 6 was how the public should best go about communicating their questions and concerns to their council representatives, including appearing at open forum, applying for delegate status and submitting correspondence for inclusion on council agendas.

After once again running through the issue of whether the statements made by individuals at the podium during open forum should be considered part of the official public record of the meeting - no, said the majority - councillors tackled the issue of just how much time should be allocated to people appearing as delegates.

Under the draft bylaw before council, Town Clerk John Leach outlined that delegates should appear first at committee rather than council, and should apply for delegate status by 4.30 on the Monday before the meeting in question.

The Clerk would also be able to consider the length of the agenda and "recommend" when they should appear at the meeting, and "no person other than the designated spokesperson may speak on the matter and not for more than five

minutes, except that a delegation consisting of three or more persons who are present at the meeting and wish to discuss the same issue may have more than one speaker provided that the speaking time collectively does not exceed 15 minutes."

"I believe in efficient meetings and I believe in leaving the meeting at a respectable time, but I don't know how we can possibly sit here as being voted into this office by the public and say there is a limit of three delegations per council meeting," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner in response to that provision. "That is not open and accessible government."

"That's what we all ran our campaign platforms on and by limiting delegations to three per council meeting I don't think that is appropriate for the democratic process."

Councillor Gaertner moved that that provision be struck from the procedural bylaw, but failed to find a seconder in support of the motion.

Conversely, Councillor Evelyn Buck said she did not see how one person getting more time than others to speak at the podium was fair to anyone wishing to speak.

"I don't think there is any equity in that," she said. "One person gets five minutes to speak, [but] someone else can bring a couple of friends along and get 15 minutes. That's not fair and there is no equity in that. I don't get three people to

back me up on any item I am presenting. Why should they?"

Councillor Buck then moved that all delegates be provided with five minutes, a motion supported by Councillor Abel, who noted that the provision that council could waive the procedural bylaw to allow additional time for an individual should remain on the books.

"I think if the delegate should wish to speak longer than five minutes they can ask council to waive the procedural bylaw," said Councillor Abel. "I think that if one person were to come in under the present bylaw and bring two friends to speak for 15 minutes, no one else would be able to speak under our procedural bylaw because that is three delegations and that is what we've got to allow and that is not fair either."

Councillor Buck's motion was carried.

During the proceedings, Councillor Gaertner also called on provisions to be made to allow additional correspondence received - whether in hard copy or by e-mail - to be included on the agenda in an effort to increase public input on council and committee agendas provided all councillors get a copy of the correspondence.

Other councillors, however, were not particularly receptive to this idea, with Councillor Paul Pirri expressing concern that it would allow individuals to "have a debate within" the agenda.

"I don't think that is necessarily appropriate," he said. "I think if someone has an issue they should approach us, which they do, but to have something added to the formal part of the record which may or may not be fact doesn't make any sense to me. I think they should voice their opinion, and they are being good citizens by voicing their opinion [but] I don't think it is wise for us to allow this to be part of the record."

Councillor Buck agreed with Councillor Pirri's point and said that councillors should not be "sneaking other things" into the public record to "please somebody in the community" and that it would not allow for sufficient time for councillors and staff to be prepared.

"Ours is the Town's business," she said. "It is a serious business. There is a formula, we are bound by the Municipal Act to follow it and that is what the procedural bylaw is about. Councillor Gaertner's idea is an idea of skirting the law and allowing things to be put in when nobody knows it is going to be put on and discussed and decided by council when nobody knows anything about it."

In response, Councillor Gaertner said who she had in mind were seniors who may not want to come out to open forum or parents with children at home who may not want to get a babysitter for the kids to come out and appear at the podium.

"I'm just saying that if someone from the public wants to weigh in on something on the agenda, we should make it as accessible as possible if they want to send one or all of us an e-mail," she said. "I don't understand why we can't let their voice be heard as well. I'm not trying to skirt anything. We all ran under accessible government and I am in favour of anything that makes it accessible."

The idea ultimately did not pick up any steam, but before it fizzled out, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe pointed out that the public has "ample" opportunity to communicate with its public officials.

"If a member of public wants his or her voice heard they have ample opportunity

to contact the nine of us," he said. "They have two opportunities to delegate, so opportunities are there to address. I can't see what benefit is to have one or 100 e-mails on the agenda the day of the meet when no one is going to have an opportunity to respond to it."

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All day train service becomes election issue

From page 1
able to take buses to train stations and not have to take their cars and add to the traffic gridlock and congestion."

For NDP candidate Robin Wardlaw, the issue of traffic is indicative of a "big infrastructure deficit" that has existed "for some time" and something governments "have been pushing back and back and back."

The time has come, he said, to look at roads, sewers, and bridges, and "all the practical things" that serve the people of Newmarket-Aurora.

"There is no quick, obvious solution to the middle of Aurora, as far as I know," said Mr. Wardlaw. "No doubt the Town has been doing studies on what to do, so I would want to be in consultation with local officials and politicians to see what makes sense for the Yonge and Wellington intersection in particular and that is certainly an area where the municipality would have the expertise and the

experience."

If re-elected, PC candidate Frank Klees said he would work with the Regional and Municipal levels of government who oversee the corridor to address the issues.

"I will, as the local representative, work with whatever role I have provincially - if I happen to have one - but I will work with the local government to ensure there is appropriate provincial support to do what we have to do," he said. "In the same way that when I was Minister of Transportation, I authorized the first \$50 million investment in York Region's transit system, I will be there to ensure that our region has what it needs by way of provincial support to address these priority issues."

An issue that needs to be addressed in this discussion is the rapid growth of Newmarket-Aurora, and the gaps in infrastructure funding need to be tackled as well, said Green Party candidate Kristopher Kuysten.

Ways to address this gap include constructing overpasses or underpasses for GO Trains "at all major streets", increasing the number of four or five lane roads in the riding, and making more bike paths.

"This is a difficult problem as we want to preserve Aurora's downtown, however we need to fix these corridors so that buses and cars can move through more quickly," said Mr. Kuysten on downtown congestion. "This would seem to be a municipal issue and the province needs to work with York Region to resolve this."

If elected on October 6, Mr. Kuysten said he would put forward the elimination of parking and stopping on Yonge Street, allowing buses to change traffic lights in their favour ("Buses carry lots of people so it is a big issue when they need to stop at lights."), determining how to put a fifth turning lane onto Yonge, and look at the creation of a bypass road.

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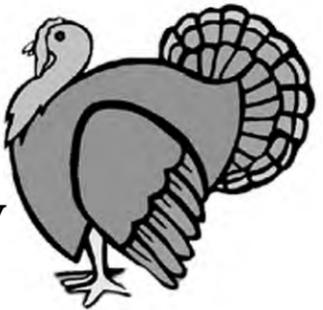
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Finally, four tries later, Aurora student successful

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran writer

It was fourth time lucky for Aurora student Gregory Antono, who jetted off to Geneva, Switzerland, Saturday to see if he has what it takes to join internationally renowned adventurer and environmentalist Mike Horn on an expedition to the Gulf of Mexico later this year.

The St. Andrew's College student said he first heard about the program which brings young people on board Mr. Horn's Pangaea sailboat through various parts of the world - which is billed as a "powerful platform from which young people experience and explore the natural world, learn about its challenges, find possible solutions and act swiftly to change things for the better" - from an article in a local newspaper in his native Singapore and it appealed to his interests in travel and diverse world cultures.

"I had a friend in my old school who actually got into this program and went to the selected camp," Mr. Antono recalled. "I saw his blog post about the camp and what he enjoyed during the camp and even though he didn't make it to the expedition itself, I was just really inspired because after hearing about this program and what they do, I have just grown this thirst for adventure and this passion for the world."

To qualify for the program, applicants need to be between the ages of 15 and 21 and fill out an online application which encourages one to make videos of oneself to "showcase your personality" and interests.

After applying for the program four times, Mr. Antono finally made it to the next step in the process this summer - the training camp in the hopes he advances as a finalist to actually go on the Pangaea's expedition.

"I think they finally realized that I have been trying for so long that they could see that I was really determined to get into it this time, and this time I put a lot more effort into making the videos as well," said Mr. Antono about finally getting selected for the camp.

"I was basically pitching myself as a very international, globally aware person because personally I am Singaporean but I am half Indonesian. I have spent time in Indonesia, so I have been in many places in the world so I can give them new perspectives for this program. I basically showed them that I really want to be a part of this and I really wanted to have this adventure."

When he got word that the next phase of his adventure would begin this month, Mr. Antono said he was "ecstatic" and found out he had been selected while out with friends on a visit back to

Singapore.

"I just had this feeling that I should be checking my e-mails so I borrowed my friend's phone and after I got it I was just really excited because I have been dreaming about this for a long, long time."

But while Mr. Antono was "ecstatic" with the news, the hard part now begins.

Having left for Switzerland on Saturday, he was looking ahead to a gruelling stint in the camp which tests physical and mental suitability for the expedition program including tests conducted by the Mayo Clinic and endurance tests - entailing a 12-minute endurance run and being "strapped to a treadmill".

"Right now I am actually really nervous about that because I know that they will really push you to your limit," Mr. Antono told The Auroran last week, adding he had been training in preparation of it, including being active

on St. Andrews' cross-country team. "But at the same time, while I am just really nervous about it I am still excited because I know that this selection camp is also a great indication of my own abilities and how I can push my limits."

While organizers will be pushing Mr. Antono to his limits, success in this training doesn't necessarily guarantee that he will be joining Mr. Horn on his expedition to the Gulf of Mexico and through the Florida Everglades, but going into this competition Mr. Antono said his biggest assets include his personality and being a team player.

Support is also coming from the home front where his parents, he said, have provided encouragement because they know how long he has been trying to get in.

Although they have reservations on how much school he will be missing to take part in the training camp - he returns on October 9 - particularly as this is his final year

of university, they are ultimately behind him.

Whether or not though pursuing environmentalism or other subjects related to his possible expedition when he goes to university next year is yet to be decided, but the program will provide him with many opportunities going forward, he said.

"I like the fact that this program allows me to do something for the environment because I feel I haven't done much when I was young," he said. "This is a beautiful world and there are so many things on this Earth that we should preserve for future generations, so even though it might be unrelated to what I want to pursue for the future, I would still treat this as a passion on my own and do it on the side."

"If you have a passion for this world, or if you have ever wanted to go on an adventure of a lifetime, as long as you're willing to just apply, you might be in for quite a ride!"

Merkur and Lebovic grants merged into \$25,000 pot

Aurora councillors approved a new plan earlier this month which will see the Town's former Arts and Culture Community Grant and Recreation Grant programs merged into one \$25,000 pot rebranded as the "Community and Cultural Grant Program".

The move came at the recommendation of Town staff who said the new plan would provide clarity for just who is eligible for the program as well as provide a funding source for the grants as a budget item.

"The existing Arts and Cultural Grant funding has historically been provided by the (David) Merkur family and Joe Lebovic," said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation in a report. "Continuation of that funding is not assured; however, the Town is extremely grateful for their past support."

"The integration of both policies is firstly based on the assumption that council desire that grants be made available and that funds will be allocated each year in the existing operating budget to achieve this goal."

Changes to the program will see an upset limit of \$25,000 and that recipients receive no more than three grants within any one five year period, backdated to 2010.

It is this provision that caused concern from some residents, particularly Flo Murray who founded the book club at the Aurora Seniors' Centre in 1998.

Since its inception, the book club has received an

annual grant from the Arts and Culture Fund at the encouragement of the Merkur family.

"Mr. Merkur told me that the book club is exactly the kind of endeavour he wished to encourage," said Ms. Murray. "In fact, he bent the rules and gave us our first grant before the end of the year, even though we had not applied for it in the appropriate manner or the proper time."

"Our grant was for \$400 and in 2003 it was boosted to be \$500 despite the fact we had not asked for an increase."

Ms. Murray said that the proposed changes would affect club members due to the increased cost of books, which the grant money helped pay for in the past.

"These are older women who keep their minds active and healthy through the reading and discussion of literature," she said. "Our members don't necessarily have deep pockets. Currently, if they have the cost of the reading journal, the grant takes care of the rest. I'm afraid if they are asked to pay more, then they would start dropping out."

"The group enjoys being together and the level of their sociability and enjoyment are outstanding. It would be a shame to see the end of this stable cultural organization in our community. I appeal to you to do what you can to save our book club."

According to Mr. Downey, while the book club has received annual funding in the past, that was not the intended pur-

pose of the fund to begin with.

"The purpose of the grant is it would provide temporary financial assistance," he said. "It was never intended to be an ongoing source of funding for programs."

When councillors discussed the program, Councillor Wendy Gaertner argued that the fund should be available only to Aurora-based groups and individuals, which she had put on the table earlier this summer.

But this idea again failed to pick up steam at the table as it was seen to limit those groups that are based outside of Town but serve Aurorans.

Mr. Downey also said that funding from the Merkurs and Mr. Lebovic had not been secured in the long run and it was the position of staff that grants needed to be funded by tax dollars.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said, however, that Mr. Lebovic had sent the Town a cheque for the grant fund a month ago but could not speak on behalf of the Merkurs.

Councillor Buck, on the other hand, said it would be "absolutely insulting" for the Town to ask whether the family would continue its funding into the future.

"They founded it and they have never failed to support it since it started and it is over 40 years old," she said, speaking against merging the two grant programs. "It was Mr. Merkur's dream that when he started that fund that other businesses in the Town would join him and that would become a

great source of assistance to artists and encouragement in Aurora for art. I don't want to see anything taken away from that very fine concept."



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Town needs an Integrity Commissioner, Gaertner

As The Auroran reported last week, councillors decisively rejected the idea of re-hiring an Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Aurora on September 13, voting 7 - 2 against a motion from Councillor Wendy Gaertner calling for the vacant position to be filled.

In speaking to her motion at the meeting, Councillor Gaertner said Aurora's existing Code of Conduct "requires" an Integrity Commissioner as part of the bylaw.

Although she said it could be an "ad-hoc" position rather than a full time one, an

Integrity Commissioner was a necessity.

"One is required, according to that bylaw," she said. "I think it is pretty simple."

Councillor Gaertner's motion called for the Town's CAO to "immediately commence the recruitment process" for an Integrity Commissioner and report back to council with a list of all candidates with their respective proposals, and also information on "appropriate funding sources for the Integrity Commissioner."

Speaking against the motion, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said there would only be one

funding source for an Integrity Commissioner.

"There is only one funding source and it is called the taxpayer, and it is the taxpayer that certain councillors like to protect all the time, except when they want to do things like hire Integrity Commissioners," said Mayor Dawe, referring to a discussion earlier in the evening on grant policies, when Councillor Gaertner spoke of defending taxpayer dollars.

Mayor Dawe said that the Town's flirtation with two Integrity Commissioners has been a "fiasco" and the Town has "nothing to show for it".

Three complaints, he added, had been filed with the Town Clerk under the Town's current Code of Conduct, all of which were filed in the previous term by councillors who were defeated at the polls by voters.

"The people who filed those were judged by more than one Integrity Commissioner," said Mayor Dawe. "They were judged by all the Integrity Commissioners that voted in the last civic election. Those Integrity Commissioners said we don't need this. The people who brought [those complaints] were not re-elected.

The sitting councillor who the Code of Conduct complaints were filed against was not only re-elected, she went up in the standings.

"I think I understand where the residents of Aurora sit on an Integrity Commissioner. There is absolutely zero appetite for an Integrity Commissioner because the residents of this Town recognize that either you have integrity or you don't. I believe that firmly. I believe the rest of council believes that as well, a majority of council, anyway. I certainly will not be supporting this notice."

The Mayor's sentiments were shared by Councillor Michael Thompson who went a step further and said he would be in favour of "revising or repealing" the Code of Conduct.

For the mover of this motion, the comments of the mayor and other councillors did not sit well.

In response, Councillor Gaertner said that the previous council was "a leader among municipalities" in putting a Code of Conduct in place alongside an "impartial and trained person" to make decisions on possible Code violations.

"I find it absolutely unbelievable what I am seeing at this table and hearing this conversation," she said. "In my opinion it is a dreadful shame."

When asked by Councillor Paul Pirri though how an

Integrity Commissioner could be completely impartial as they "can be fired or hired at a council's whim", Councillor Gaertner said it was a "long discussion that I don't believe I want to have at this moment."

Despite the abrupt departure of David Nitkin, the Town's first Integrity Commissioner, who found in favour of Councillor Evelyn Buck in the Code of Conduct complaints brought against her, Councillor Gaertner said that an Integrity Commissioner could not "be fired at whim", a comment that prompted laughter from Councillor Pirri.

"There have to be very good reasons, substantiated evidence, and you can sit there and laugh all you like, but the last council tried very hard to make sure there was an appropriate Code of Conduct around this table towards each other, towards our staff, and towards residents and I don't appreciate you laughing at something the provincial government felt strongly enough about to give municipalities the power to do that," she said. "It's insulting. It's insulting to me and the hard work I have done over the last eight years."

"Councillor Gaertner, I am not laughing at that," replied Councillor Pirri.

With the full complement of council at the table, the only councillors who voted in favour of reinstating the position were Councillors Gaertner and Chris Ballardz

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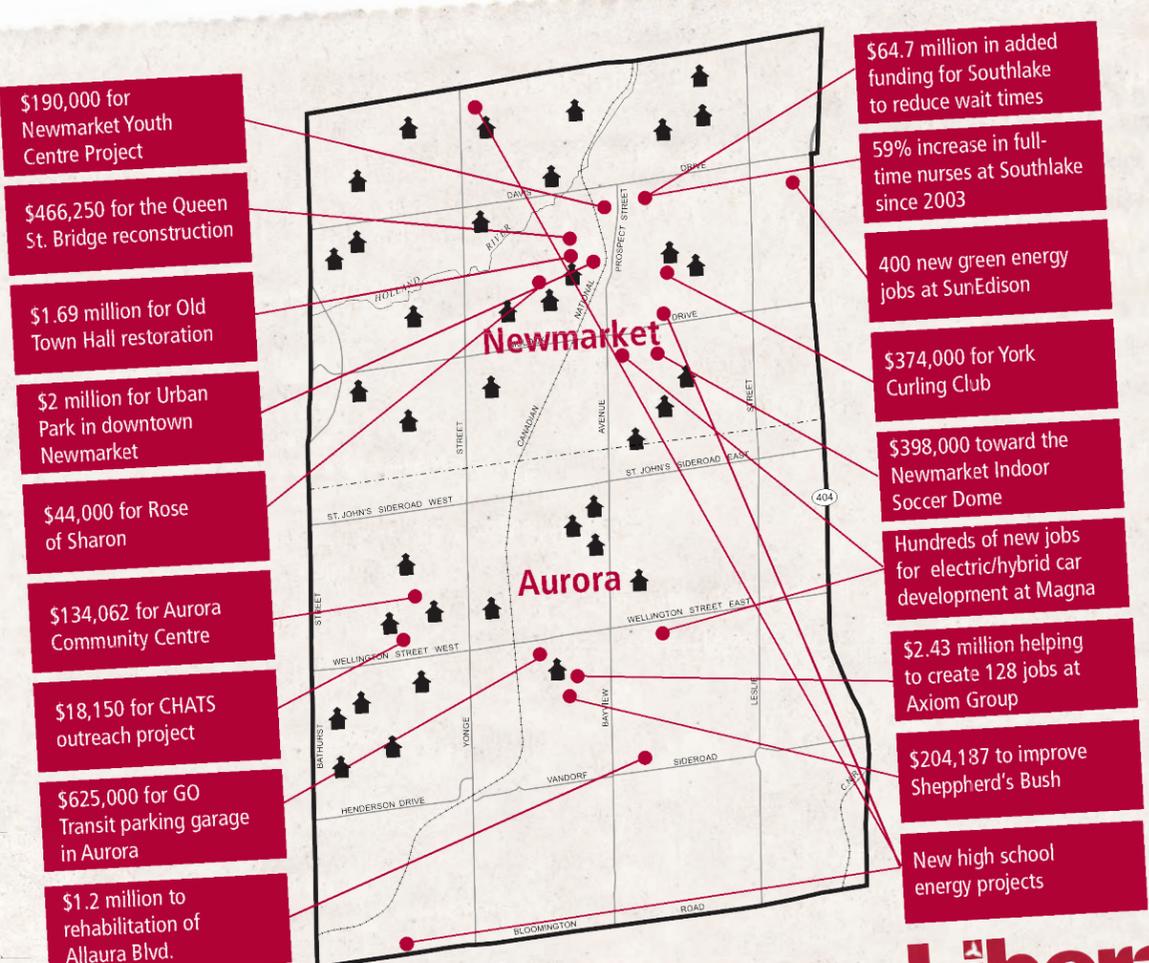
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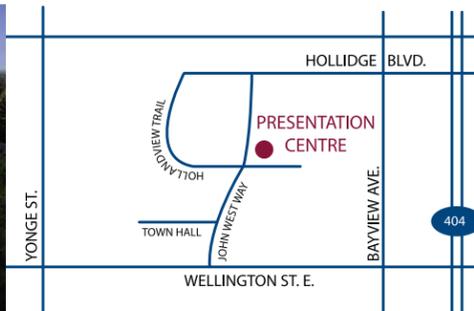


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Immigration incentives cause stir at meet

Whether or not incentives should be in place for Ontario employers to hire new Canadians proved to be a divisive topic at last Thursday's all-candidates meeting following a pointed question from a Newmarket resident.

In his question, the resident asked all candidates whether they supported "Dalton McGuinty's \$10,000 for immigrants who have been here less than five years at the expense of all other Ontario workers."

This discussion was book-ended by responses from Green Party candidate Kristopher Kuysten and New Democrat Robin Wardlaw but, perhaps not surprisingly, the most heated responses came from incumbent PC candidate Frank Klees - who has publically denounced this plan - and Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz.

In his response, Mr. Kuysten said he believed "immigrants play a role in our

society" but said he did not believe the \$10,000 incentive was the "right amount".

"I think we need something to entice businesses to attract quality people from other countries as well as Canada so that we have a prosperous future," he said.

Responding to the resident's question, Mr. Klees, however, called on Dalton McGuinty to apologize to Ontarians for that policy in light of Ontario having "more than 500,000 unemployed people".

"To provide an incentive to employers to create jobs for a very narrow group of people I believe is contrary to the very values that we hold dear as Canadians and Ontarians, namely equality and fairness," he said. "I believe that was a crass attempt on the part of Dalton McGuinty to buy votes. I believe it is backfiring and so it should."

This response should come as no surprise given

the press release on Mr. Klees' site with the headline "Dalton McGuinty Wastes Tax Dollars on Affirmative Action Subsidy While Tim Hudak Will Give All Ontario Workers An Equal Chance To Succeed."

In the press release, it reads "This latest edition of Dalton McGuinty's divisive policy deliberately disadvantages every Ontario worker who has lived in Ontario longer than five years. While Dalton McGuinty plays favourites and practices divisive politics, a Tim Hudak Government will treat all workers with fairness, equality, and respect."

Thursday's question, however, gave Ms. Bisanz an opportunity to fire back at Mr. Klees.

Responding to the resident, Ms. Bisanz said she wanted to put the question in the context of "the recognition that there are a number of things that we have to do and are doing to support

people who are either faced with job loss or have lost their jobs, including a second career transition fund which saw some 47,000 Ontarians being able to participate in the program and some 60 - 70 per cent who have been able to find jobs in a different career."

"There are other job creation and support programs available," she said. "This was yet another one to enable those people who have come to this country who are Canadian citizens to gain training for a year in their area so they can qualify to work in those skilled professions that we need."

"Quite frankly I am appalled by the divisive nature of the information that is coming from Mr. Klees' office and his website that has done nothing but defame and challenge very important citizens in this country and I am appalled and think he should apologize to all the people in Newmarket and

Aurora!"

None of the four candidates responded to various requests between them to apologize either for themselves or for their leaders on any number of topics that were received that evening, but NDP candidate Robin Wardlaw responded to the question with a commitment that his party plans to create 20,000 new jobs with a \$5,000 tax credit to an employer creating new positions which would be open to anyone. That being said, however, more needed to be done to recognize the foreign credentials of new residents and citizens.

"The specific instance you're talking about is people with credentials coming from other countries, so the NDP will work closely with these credentialing bodies - doctors, lawyers, engineers, and others - to speed up the process," Mr. Wardlaw told the resident.

"There is no reason that people with tremendous skills coming from somewhere else should be... I mean, the cliché is driving a cab, but I'm afraid that is often the case. We need their talents here. We need their skills here."

"We need to be able to

speed that process up. So create jobs for everybody, but also help people who are skilled and of use to this part of the world to be able to use their talents."

Mr. Wardlaw's wish to have foreign credentials recognized more frequently and in a more expeditious manner was echoed earlier in the evening by Mr. Kuysten in responding to a question on how to attract more doctors and health practitioners to set up practice in Newmarket-Aurora.

"I don't have a car and I spend a lot of time in cabs and I see that many cab drivers used to be doctors in their home countries and now they are stuck at the bottom of the totem pole and can't seem to get the bureaucracy to help them," said Mr. Kuysten. "I propose that we fast track the schooling so that these individuals can become doctors sooner and not spend seven years back at medical school to receive the same training that they already have."

During "rapid fire questioning", when asked whether the Province should have a more active say in immigration, Ms. Bisanz, Mr. Klees, and Mr. Wardlaw said it should.

Committee defeats absenteeism motion

Councillors, committees, and boards under the Town of Aurora's umbrella should have more stringent rules on absenteeism when it comes to committee and board meetings, according to Councillor Chris Ballard.

Councillor Ballard made his comments at last week's general committee meeting when councillors reviewed a draft policy for Aurora's ad hoc and advisory committees and local boards.

In the proposed draft policy, among several other issues, guidelines for attendance, removal from office, and resignation are spelled out.

Within the draft, a member of a committee or board can resign from office at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the Town Clerk and the resignation would be effective upon receipt. Members can also withdraw from office for a period not to exceed three months, but in terms of attendance "members are expected to attend all meetings".

"Should an appointee engage in a course of absenteeism, as reflected

in the minutes of the Local Boards and Committees, Council may, with or without a recommendation from the Local Boards and Committees resolve to remove said Member from Office," reads the draft policy submitted by Town Clerk John Leach.

But for Councillor Ballard, the document should be clear on what exactly constitutes absenteeism.

"I recall that we have some direction as to what absenteeism is, and I believe it was three meetings in a row," he said. "My concern is we might have one committee that says three in a row constitutes absenteeism, another committee might say four in a row, and another committee might say two meetings in the year."

"I have a feeling that we should define it and I believe in the past it has been three consecutive meetings and I would like to see that or a similar alterations".

Councillor Ballard moved a motion that the wording should indicate a three

meeting limit which would be constituted as absenteeism.

When asked by Councillor Paul Pirri, however, whether his stipulation would also apply to councillors appointed to committees and boards, Councillor Ballard said it would.

"If you're appointed to a committee or a board and you're not interested enough or able for whatever reason to attend the majority of the meetings then there should be some serious consideration as to whether or not you should be there," he said.

One councillor who was not in favour of such a change, however, was Councillor Michael Thompson who said that the change works under the assumption that there will be a certain number of meetings per year for every committee, which is not necessarily the case - particularly in ad hoc committees that are formed or ones that meet on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

"The reference here is that it would come back to council to make a decision

so I am comfortable leaving it at a case by case basis," said Councillor Thompson.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the motion was "redundant" as if an elected member of council misses council meetings for a period of three months the seat is "automatically declared vacant".

When Councillor John Abel asked how it would be applied when a member is absent due to health reasons, Councillor Pirri questioned whether council should be the "jury" in those cases to determine whether an absence is warranted.

"So if an individual chooses to attend the first [meeting], miss the next two, attend the fourth, miss the next two, attend the sixth, miss the next two, there is a clear demonstration of absenteeism but they wouldn't be missing three meetings in row," said Councillor Pirri. "I think it needs to be on a case by case basis. I like the idea that if we're voting on it there is too much grey to be doing it as a general rule."

Councillor Ballard's motion was defeated.


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Traffic calming whether good or bad depends on who you're talking to

Traffic calming issues in northeast Aurora remain divisive for residents if the first council meeting of the month was any indication after neighbours with significantly different viewpoints on the calming measures took to the podium at open forum.

The residents spoke their minds prior to a vote being taken by on a motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck calling on staff to provide a plan to review the traffic calming program in the area and devise a "method to obtain an accurate reading of the neighbourhood's support for the program."

Councillors passed the motion at the meeting and if the response at the podium is reflective of the com-

munity, Town staff may have their work cut out for them in accurately gauging the temperature of the neighbourhood.

"I would submit to council that any inconvenience or opposition [from traffic calming measures] is expected," said resident Paul Veugelers. "In fact, that is the whole point of that whole traffic calming methodology - to make it an inconvenience for people to use that residential neighbourhood as a bypass for Yonge and Wellington."

Mr. Veugelers said that before the traffic calming measures were implemented the traffic at Yonge and Wellington was found to be a "significant problem" for surrounding

streets from cars wanting to cut through to get to their destination faster.

The problem, he said, has been "largely resolved by virtue of the traffic calming measures" implemented.

"Yes, it is inconvenient, absolutely," he said. "It is inconvenient to the people who live in that community because now to get to Wellington, you have to make large loops around the neighbourhood, but that is a small inconvenience to pay for the price of some peace of mind and safety on our streets."

Other factors that have helped in this "improvement" include the expansion of St. John's Sideroad, he said, but a problem still remains with

traffic volume at Yonge and Wellington.

One problem with the traffic calming measures as implemented, however, is the chicanes on Mark Street, he said. Speed bumps would have solved the issue "just as effectively", he added.

"Certain people will just speed down the middle of the street to avoid the chicanes and avoid the hazards of a different nature, so perhaps if council deems that worthy to reconsider, that could be reconsidered but with respect to closing off Spruce and Centre, all of those measures that were taken on those streets have been very successful and resulted in the neighbourhood being what it

was intended to be, which is a relatively quiet, residential neighbourhood."

In his remarks, Mr. Veugelers said he was speaking on behalf of resident who "clearly supported" the residents and that traffic calming measures were inconvenient "to people that live outside of [their] community" because it hinders their access to a bypass of Yonge and Wellington.

But one resident he did not speak for was James Wood, a resident for 56 years, who gave the opposing viewpoint.

"This calming device, as far as I am concerned, was an absolute waste of money and everything," said Mr. Wood, voicing particular opposition to the

move which made one stretch of Centre Street a one-way thoroughfare.

"That was absolutely absurd because going out of my driveway to go onto Yonge Street to go south, I can sit there for 20 minutes at 8 in the morning trying to get onto Yonge Street because of traffic backed up on both sides," he said. "I come around and go up the other way and they've got the streets blocked off."

"It should never have been done. We have lived there for many years and we never had a problem with [traffic]. Everybody lived with respect. The whole part of it is common sense. The drivers of today don't have common sense because they don't have respect for anybody else."

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Week of September 27, 2011

Tigers lose two to Stouffville

Stephen Cook was the good guy and the bad guy Thursday night as the Aurora Tigers suffered a 4-3 overtime defeat to Stouffville, their first of two losses last week to the Stouffville Spirit.

Cook assisted on Aurora's first goal but was in the penalty box for hooking in the overtime period when Stouffville won the game with a powerplay goal less than three minutes into the frame.

For the Junior A Tigers, however, they did gain a single point and pulled off the comeback of the season to force the game into overtime.

Trailing 3-1 with under 90 seconds left, the Tigers rallied with two quick goals to knot the score at three.

Halfway through the five-minute overtime session with Stouffville on the power play, a screen shot by Paul Geiger (his third point of the game) got past Brett Sinclair to give the Spirit the victory.

Scoring for the Tigers were Dylan Hutton in the first frame.

Evan Fong and Daniel Lisi scored late in the game to force the overtime.

Aurora tried the same trick Saturday night in front of fewer than 200 fans, but it wouldn't work twice as Stouffville scored into an empty net to win the game 6-3.

In the second game of a home and home series with the Stouffville Spirit, the Aurora Tigers were defeated at the Aurora Community Centre.

The story of this game was the difference in

penalty minutes: 13 for Stouffville and 34 for Aurora.

After the Spirit fired three unanswered goals in the second period, Aurora trailed 5-1 in the third period

The Tigers attempted another rally similar to Thursday's game but could only close to the gap to a two-goal difference before the Spirit iced it with an empty-net goal in the final minute.

Scoring for the Tigers were Adam Moody, Ryan Johnson and Jeff MacPherson.

A third game, played against the Buffalo Junior Sabres in that city Monday night, happened after The Auroran's deadline. Results will be available next week.

Meanwhile, the Tigers will meet the Orangeville Flyers in Aurora Friday night at 7 p.m., then will play host, one more time, to the Stouffville Spirit Saturday night.

That game begins at 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

The two losses left the Tigers in third place in the north division, five points behind second-place Stouffville.

Aurora has two victories in five attempts.

The Newmarket team is undefeated in six games so far this season, and is in first place, a point ahead of Stouffville.

Newmarket's Adam Moody leads the Tiger scoring race, He has one goal and five assists so far this season.

Hot on his heels are Ryan Johnson and Evan Fong.

Both have five points.

AURORA 3

First Period

A - Dylan Hutton (Cook) PP 16.32

Second Period

S - Brandon Gaudette (Doyle, Robinson) 0.53
S - Michael Robinson (Doyle, Geiger) 10.16

Third Period

S - Marko Brelah (Geiger, Najafi) PP 2.10
A - Evan Fong (Lepine, Hutton) EA 18:39
A - Daniel Lisi (MacPherson, Lepine) EA 19.00

Overtime

S - Paul Geiger (Brelah) 2.44

STOUFFVILLE 6 AURORA 3

First Period

S - Alex Botten (Finch, Tsicos) 7.14
A - Adam Moody (Nice) 10.14
S - Christian Finch (Doyle, Brelah) PP 12.01

Second Period

S - Chris Porter (Geiger, Kruss) 1.50
S - Christian Finch (Brelah, Doyle) 7.10
S - Kory Kennedy (Finch, Geiger) PP 15.06

Third Period

A - Ryan Johnson (Sikura) 11.19
A - Jeff MacPherson (Johnson, Moody) 13.16
S - Chris Porter (Kruss, Finch) EN 19.00

STOUFFVILLE 4



Aurora Minor Hockey Association Results, Sept 25, 2011



REP LEAGUE

Novice A - Orillia 6. Aurora 0.

Novice A - New Tecumseth 2. Aurora 0.

Minor Atom AA - Aurora 3 - Josh Lombard 1G 1A, Zach Kolm 1G 1A, Jake Adams 1G, Carter Beswick 1A. Stouffville 1.

Minor Atom AA - Aurora 3 - Ethan Cameron 1A, Liam Mahoney 1G, Jake Adams 1G, Evan Vierling 1A, Daniel Gaeta 1G. Markham 2.

Minor Atom AE - Aurora 4 - Zachary Grant 2G, Joshua Torres 1G, Jonathon Gagnon 1G, Alexander Arcuri 2A, Curtis Manley 1A, Carson Tidd 1A, Liam Graham 1A. Caledon Hawks 1.

Atom A - Brampton 4. Aurora 1.

Atom A - Aurora 7. Amherstburg 0.

Atom A - Orangeville 2. Aurora 1 - Sam Ashton 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Andrew Park 1A.

Atom AE - Aurora 11 - Ryan McCartney 2G, Matthew Gram 1G 1A, Jack Patterson 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1G 2A, Luke Catania 2G, Russell Tanaka 1G, Carson Williams 1G, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Alex Sandras 1G 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Joseph Kuchicki, shutout. Richmond Hill Stars 0.

Atom AE - Aurora 2 - Tyler Sawyer 1G, Russell Tanaka 1G. Oakville Rangers 3.

Atom AE - Aurora 3 - Tyler Sawyer 2G, Jack Patterson 1G. Flamborough 3.

Atom AE - Opponent N/A 4. Aurora 3 - Thomas Childerhose 1G, Luke Catania 2G, Tyler Sawyer 2A, Russell Tanaka 1A, Matthew Gram 1A.

Atom AE - Aurora 4 - Ryan McCartney 2G, Jack Patterson 1G, Matthew Gram 1G, Alex Sandras 1A, Cooper Judson 1A, Luke Catania 1A, Carson Williams 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Daniel Babcock 1A. Georgina 4.

Minor Pee wee AA - Aurora 5 - Jaedon Jackson

1G, Julien Aben 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1G, Ty Boisseau 1G 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1G 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1A, Nate Legros 1A. Richmond Hill 2.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 2 - Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Braden Reid 1G, Fin Reeves 1A, Lucas Surace 1A, Mathew Hastings 1A, Peter Chimienti 1A. Richmond Hill 4.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 5 - Fin Reeves 1G 2A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 2G 2A, Peter Chimienti 2G 1A, Max Lombard 1A. Oshawa 1.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 7 - Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A, Fin Reeves 1G 1A, Andrew Cundari 1G, Carson Venneri 2A, Francesco Scuglia 1G, Mathew Hastings 1G, Lucas Surace 2G 1A, Colin Windle 1A, Michael Fodero 1A, Anthony Palmieri, shutout. Belleville 0.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 7 - Braden Reid 1G, 1A, Mathew Hastings 1G, 1A, Lucas Surace 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Fin Reeves 1G, 1A, Michael Fodero 2A, Carson Venneri 2G, Thomas Morra 1G, Fraser Ciocca 1A. Markham 1.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 3 - Mathew Hastings 1G, 1A, Lucas Surace 1G, 1A, Michael Fodero 2A, Carson Venneri 1G. Stouffville 1.

Pee wee AE - Aurora 3 - Ryan Thornhill 1G, Jared Duthie 1G, Alexander Simardone 1G, Andrew Sutherland 1A, Eric Pears 1A. Markham 3.

Pee wee AE - Aurora 5 - Andrew Sutherland 2G 1A, Cameron Dyer 2G, Hayden Edwards 1A, Eric Pears 1A, Troy Campbell 1G. Ajax 3.

Pee wee AE - Aurora 2 - Hayden Edwards 2G, Troy Campbell 1A, Jared Duthie

1A. Stoney Creek 1. Minor Bantam AA - Markham 4. Aurora 2 - Taylor Kauffeldt 1G, Evan Woodhead 1G, Bryan Manweiler 1A.

Minor Bantam AA - Aurora 2 - Bryan Manweiler 1G, Jordan Zammit 1G, Michael Shum 1A, Deven Dugura 1A, Jack Pecora 1A. TNT 1.

Minor Bantam AA - Aurora 1 - Jordan Zammit 1G, Tyler Williams 1A, Evan Woodhead 1A. Barrie 1.

Minor Bantam AA - Plymouth 3. Aurora 1 - Evan Cherubini 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Jared Reeves 1A.

Minor Bantam A - Aurora 1 - Alistair Johnston 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Connor Downs 1A. Dundas Blues 1.

Minor Bantam A - Barrie 4. Aurora 0.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 1. Burlington 1 - Nicolas Pearce 1G, Jack Bryant 1A.

Minor Bantam AE - Brampton 3. Aurora 1 - Ian Rucker 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 1A.

Minor Bantam AE - Opponent N/A 3. Aurora 2 - Jeff Mckay 1G, Brendan Ramsay 1G 1A, Jack Bryant 1G 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 5 - Daniel McConnell 1G, Jeff Mckay 1G, Jack Bryant 1G, Spencer White 1G 1A, Brendan Ramsay 1G, Ian Rucker 2A, Nicolas Pearce 1A, Christian Pearce 1A, Nicholas Sansalone 1A. Georgina 1.

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 4 - Graham Robinson 1G, Joel Gouveia 1G, Brett Bond 2G, Nathan Nealon 2A, Ben Ashton 1A, Parker Baile 3A, Kevin Spiering, shutout. Newmarket 0.

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 5 - Brett Bond 1G 1A, Jonah Blaser 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G 2A, Harry Smith 1G 1A, Mitch Arnew 1A, Joel Gouveia 1A,

Johnathan Read, shutout. Georgina 0.

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Aurora Peewees are the Markham Waxers Early Bird Champions. After going undefeated in pool play with an impressive 19 goals for and only one against, these kids knew they were in for a tough final against Belleville. With the continuation of consistent play and excellent teamwork the boys won 3-0 in the finals to cap an excellent weekend. "All the coaches and parents are proud of the boys for their team play and representing Aurora on and off the ice proudly," said team manager Joe Chimienti. In the photo are back row, left to right, Vito Palmieri, Scott Reid, Drew Reeves, Don Lantz, Joe Chimienti and Pino Fodero; kneeling, left to right, Colin Windle, Andrew Cundari, Max Lombard, Fin Reeves, Peter Chimienti and Francesco Scuglia; bottom row, left to right, Parker Lantz, Braden Reid, Mathew Hastings, Michael Fodero, Anthony Palmieri and Nicholas Vamvakaris.



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

From page 4

A spur from the radial's Yonge Street line was constructed west along Wellington Street, to serve the Fleury Foundry.

In 1919, this spur was extended along the east side of Mill Street and south to the Collis Leather Tannery on Tyler Street. The foundry received freight cars of scrap directly from the GTR. Conversely, Fleury ploughs were loaded into freight cars right at the foundry and sent directly to the GTR.

So the gauge was the same.

In 1922, the Yonge Street underpass of the GTR was built, complete with the relaying of the radial's tracks alongside the road. The radial railway bridge was no longer used and was subsequently removed.

The exchange facility was threatened in 1927 when the gauge of the electric railway line was changed to make it compatible with the downtown Toronto Streetcar line allowing passengers to travel on one line from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe.

A length of the old track was retained through Aurora so that freight cars could continue to be moved from the electric railway to the main line railway.

Imagine being out shopping on a nice morning, and being passed by a freight train on Yonge Street.

Advertisorial

Aurora rower, 28, going to games

Twenty-eight-year-old Aurora rower Peter McClelland has been nominated to represent Canada in next month's Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

McClelland, a former student of St. Andrew's College, began rowing while studying at the University of Western Ontario and has won accolades in international championships including the Commonwealth Rowing Championships.

As a student at Cambridge University his team also faced off - and won

- against Oxford University in its 156th Boat Race rivalry. McClelland will row for

Canada in two events in Mexico between October 15 and October 19.



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Play it Again Sports Opens for Business in Aurora

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Play It Again Sports has opened its newest location in Aurora, right next to Goodlife Fitness on Bayview Ave, north of Wellington. The Grand Opening was Thursday September 22 but the store has been open to curious and anxious customers since the beginning of the month. "The feedback from the community has been great!" says owner Farzin Ansari, "with positive comments about the top-notch service and great variety of merchandise. We offer 10 skate sharpenings for \$40 and that has been a hit!". This new 3000 sq. ft. location is ready for business.

Play It Again specializes in buying, trading, consigning and selling

used sports equipment. Your old equipment has cash value but make sure your items are clean, in good condition and include all the necessary parts before bringing them in for resale. No appointment is necessary - just bring in your goods and be out in just a few minutes with cash in hand. Alternatively you can take a store credit or trade for something in the store for a 10% higher value than the cash option.

Kids grow like weeds, teens want name brand everything and parents want affordable prices! Play It Again Sports staff know what's cool and what brands are in demand in all sports. We buy, sell and trade new

and used sports equipment and fitness gear and pass along the savings to the customer. Used equipment is approximately 40-45% of our business, the rest is new sporting goods that are available in major sporting stores. You will find a wide variety of equipment for year-round and seasonal sports such as hockey, golf, baseball, lacrosse, snow sports and fitness equipment.

Play It Again Sports is open 7 days a week - Monday through Friday 10:00 am until 9:00 pm, Saturday 9 am until 6 pm, and Sunday 11 am until 5 pm. Located at 15480 Bayview Ave., Unit 114 Aurora. Telephone: 888-717-7427.



Owner Farzin Ansari, at left with employee Mark Wilson, are shown here in front of a huge assortment of skates and other hockey equipment.



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Park may be site for snow disposal

Curbs and catch basins could be installed and asphalt laid as early as next year at a Lambert Willson Park parking lot as a permanent snow disposal area in an effort to keep salt and other contaminants out of Aurora's waterways and wells.

The idea was presented at last Tuesday's General Committee meeting by Anca Mihail, the Town's Manager of Engineering.

In her presentation, she said Town staff were tasked with the objective to secure a location to build a snow disposal site that would ensure "efficiency" in disposal, have minimal impact on the environment, comply with a number of pieces of legislation and "to ensure that the location set up for this snow disposal facility minimizes the adverse effects to the environment given the fact Aurora is within the Oak Ridges Moraine and takes municipal water from the underground aquifer."

Presently at Lambert Willson Park, snow taken from narrower streets in older parts of Aurora is dumped on a crushed limestone parking lot,

which is a permeable surface.

According to Ms. Mihail, in the spring thaw the snowmelt requires the Town to repair the site - including five to ten tons of new crushed stone - annually, an expense which can bring an annual cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

With the permeable surface, water is absorbed into the ground, increasing risk of groundwater contamination, she said.

"Lambert Willson Park is located within the aquifer for groundwater from that location to arrive at the municipal well," said Ms. Mihail regarding the park's location within the well-head protection area. "Snow disposal operations are noted as potential threats to the drinking water under the communal water acts."

If the proposed plan is passed in November, outfitting the site will include paving and widening the access road to the parking lot, installing a continuous concrete curb around the perimeter of the storage area "to contain snow melt within the footprint of the parking lot for treatment purposes", and

restore a system of catch basins and storm sewers under the paved parking area "to intercept the snowmelt and storm water runoff".

When the matter came up for discussion though, of concern to councillors was the proposed location of the snow disposal area within the two year wellhead protection area, versus other locations in the five and 10-25 year zones.

When asked by Councillor Michael Thompson whether it would be more "advantageous" to have it in the currently proposed location rather than in an area where it takes more time for the groundwater to get to the well, Ms. Mihail said the longer the better.

"It's better to be in the 10-year zone, but of the sites, three could be in the Town lands, two of which are ideal sites but are private property, so the cost of construction in this facility would also have to include the cost of acquiring the land, provided the owners want to sell," she said.

"We looked at three sites which are Town property and this was one of the best in terms of size, access, and

when we discussed it with other agencies all three of them voted for this location. The third location was Scanlon Court which is a five-year wellhead protection area, so it is much better than the others, but it doesn't have the capacity to store the required volume."

Another location considered was part of town lands on Leslie Street, but as the land is part of the Oak Ridges Moraine, policies in place could put further restrictions on construction, she added, but Councillor Thompson said he was still not convinced that Lambert Willson Park was the ideal location for the snow disposal area.

According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, however, consultants retained to do an environmental assessment report for this project were hard pressed to find a suitable location for what is proposed and the best locations identified were privately held lands.

If councillors approved the project last week it would have come up for final approval at council this week, but after fur-

ther discussion, they opted to defer the matter until November when they expect a report to come back regarding amalgamating some of the Town yards and operations facilities.

"From my perspective, I don't hear and I don't see the sense of urgency," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes. "I would feel more comfortable in getting a full report."

If council ultimately decided to see if a snow disposal facility could be combined with an operations centre, additional consulting fees could be required to make an amendment to the existing environmental assessment of the project, cautioned Mr. Simanovskis.

But from the perspective of Councillor John Abel, the very need for such a facility might not exist.

"I would just as soon get a snow melter in from Richmond Hill and look after that street when it happens because we may not have to remove as much salt year after year depending on the snow fall," he said. "I would rather we didn't invest in paving a parking lot; it is a lengthy drive from Industrial Parkway all the way down into the valley, creating the barriers

and then finding out that we may have had another alternative and we have this big footprint of asphalt and concrete right beside the park.

"We do have alternatives to consider and at this time I would either defer the motion or I just won't vote with it today."

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Another dog bitten in Aurora

Another dangerous dog designation has been levied in Aurora, this time against the owner of a Doberman after an attack on a golden retriever at Fleury Park at the end of August.

The incident will be the subject of a special council meeting next month where councillors will decide on whether this designation should stay in place after the owners of the dog in question launched an appeal of the designation.

According to Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications, the attack took place at Fleury Park on August 30 when the Doberman, which was off its leash, ran up to a golden retriever on a leash and caused two puncture wounds on its

right rear side.

"The golden retriever was being walked by a dog walker, not the owner, so the dog walker called the Town and we later got a call from the actual owner," said Mr. Ballantyne. "Through the investigation, we located the owner of the Doberman and two charges were laid under our bylaw - permitting a dog to run at large, and allowing a dog to bite another domestic animal.

"Subsequently we issued the dangerous dog designation similar to cases in the past where it has to be muzzled under the control of an adult at all times when of the property, and when it is on the property it has to be either in the home or in a fenced area and under the control of an adult."

While the golden retriever has made a full recovery, the owner of the Doberman had five days to make an appeal, which they have done, and the Town had 15 days to put an appeal in motion, resulting in the special hearing on Monday, October 3 at 4 p.m. in the council chamber.

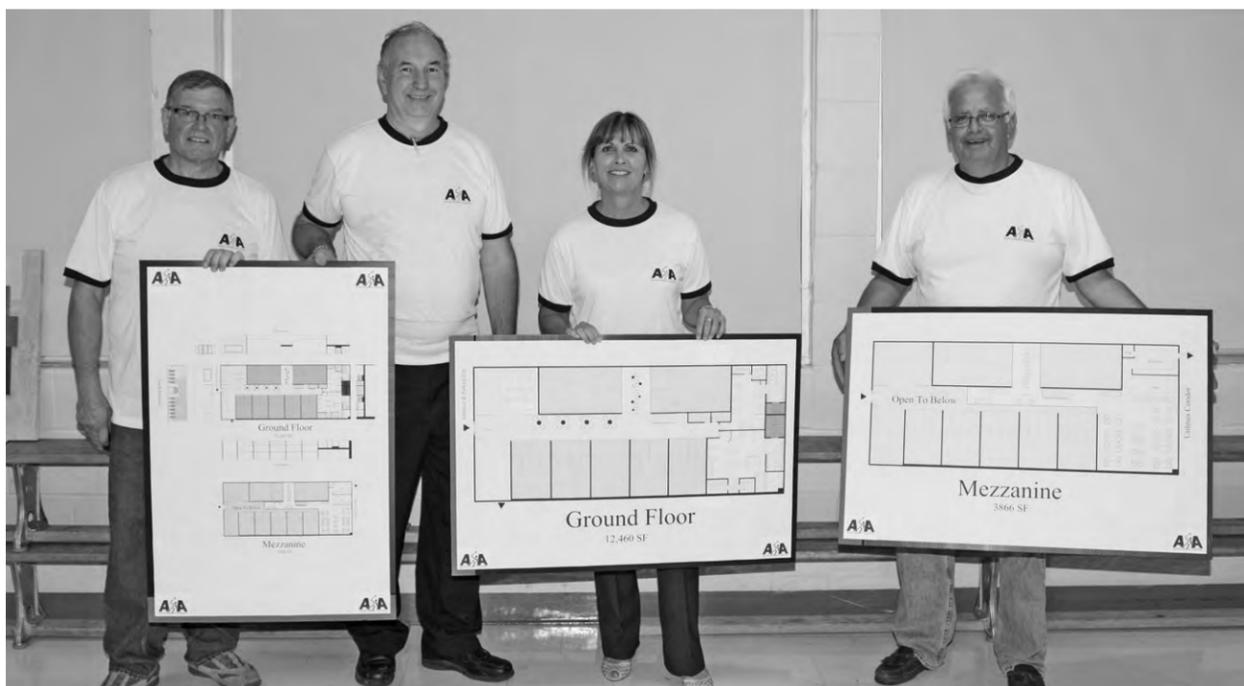
"The Town will submit evidence that the dangerous dog designation should remain in force and the owner will have a chance to cross examine and then present their side of the story and then it will be up to council to make a determination as to what to do," added Mr. Ballantyne.

The October hearing will be the second in three months to deal with the appeal of a dangerous dog designation.

Last month, councillors opted to loosen some of the restrictions placed on the owner of an unleashed German shepherd after they received similar charges and fines after the animal bit a small dog.

They amended the restrictions to allow the dog to be confined to a "secure part" of the owner's property rather than specifically inside the home and changed the restriction requiring an adult to walk the dog to allow someone who can demonstrate control over the animal.

The owners of the dog committed to taking their dog to a certified dog training program recognized by the OSPCA and the remaining restrictions were made subject to a six-month review.



A total of 70 people showed up and 50 people have signed to date to join the as yet to be built Aurora Squash Association. The ASA will consist of five singles and two doubles areas, a fitness section to allow players to warm up, a pro shop and a bistro. Holding the plans are, left to right, Graham Wood, Gord Kerr, Anita Kennedy and Steve Braceland. Before construction starts, the group hopes to have 200 signed up. ASA also plans to have several programs for young and old, house leagues and a juniors program. If you're interested in joining, click on www.aurorasquash.com and the team of Gord Kerr, Steve Braceland, Graham Wood and Anita Kennedy, can help.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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MPP Frank Klees, left, listens as Aurora businessman Peter Harrison, right, explains how his PowerStream bill will increase next month when his business is switched over to "time-of-use" billing. Harrison told a gathering last week that his bill would go up because he can't turn off power during the day. Klees said a PC government would stop the mandatory time-of-use pricing and pointed out that even companies like PowerStream had appealed to the Ontario Energy Board to defer the billing for small commercial businesses.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Decision to sponsor deferred to later date

In final plan giving the Town of Aurora guidelines on how it can sponsor third party events like the Aurora jazz+ Festival has been deferred until a later date to get more answers from Town Staff after a lengthy discussion at council earlier this month. Under the proposed new criteria, eligible third parties must be non-profit and/or charitable organizations that serve the residents of Aurora and represent Aurora provincially, nationally, or internationally.

For individuals looking for third party sponsorship, one must be an Aurora resident and represent the Town provincially, nationally, or internationally.

For Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, it was once again a matter of trying to restrict money to Aurora-based groups rather than those that simply serve Aurora.

"I want to make sure that any sponsorship we're giving to third parties for their activities and programs actually are going to be taking place in Aurora to benefit the community," she said, but she could not get another councillor to second her motion.

"We could be giving third party sponsorship to groups to conduct programs outside of our Town. I don't understand that. Why would we be giving taxpayer money to groups who are then going to go and do an activity outside of our Town? How is that going to benefit us?"

While Councillor Paul Pirri said that the policy was explicit in that groups and individuals must represent Aurora in other jurisdictions, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks

and Recreation, said that a third party sponsorship policy is difficult to administer because it is "unusual".

"When we did the research there aren't any other municipalities out there that do this, so we had to come up with a criteria we thought was going to be fair and transparent and also provide some measure of accountability for what we are spending the money.

"I'm not quite sure when we would venture from a grant opportunity to a sponsorship opportunity but we may have a runner or a kid in Town who is performing and may want to have the Town's crest on a sweater and we may think that it is a good sponsorship opportunity

to get the name of Aurora out there," he said.

"Do we think that is appropriate? I don't know but that is something that can come to council."

Councillor Michael Thompson made the motion to defer seeking further information.

From his viewpoint, the form to apply for a third party grant is not as detailed as the form for those seeking grants.

"I really think that the criteria for the Town sponsoring an event should be more onerous than just to give them a grant," he said. "I would like to see where the other funding is coming from for an event. It's great that we have a scoring system but I think there must be a minimum score there to be eligible."

Is the lowest tender best deal: Thompson

Greater consideration should be given factors other than the lowest price offered in the tender process undertaken by the Town of Aurora, according to Councillor Michael Thompson.

The discussion about whether the lowest price should almost always be given top consideration formed part of the discussion at last week's general committee meeting when councillors considered a number of tenders including purchasing a new Zamboni ice re-surfacer, and streetscape planting for Yonge Street.

"When this was presented during the budget deliberations we heard about the 2005 model and the fact it didn't last us very long compared to the Zamboni model," said Councillor Thompson regarding the recommendation to award the \$76,129 tender to the company.

"I guess the general framework is when it comes to these processes why don't we use a weighted scorecard system so that in addition to the value of the object we should also take into consideration some of the things like service record, reliability, and some of the other pieces that weigh into the deci-

sion making process.

"I remember we had a lot of comments about the fact that we wanted to go with Zamboni because we weren't confident about the reliability of the Olympia model - so I am glad that Zamboni won and they were the lowest bidder - but it is just about the process taking into consideration some of these other factors."

In response, Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, said he "fully agreed" with Councillor Thompson's assessment and said he would be happy to work with the Town Clerk for purchasing "to see what options we have to still comply with the purchasing bylaw to factor those things in."

Regarding the Wellington Street planting, a \$466,215 tender for streetscape improvements, Councillor Thompson asked whether previous work with landscapers - such as the quality of work they have provided - factor into the tendering decision.

"Certainly the lowest tender is the golden rule but it is built into the system and into the process that if staff feel there are good reasons for something not to be awarded to the

lowest bid they come forward with that main recommendation and then it is council's decision - regardless of the provisions in the purchasing bylaw - to award a tender to the lowest bid or to a higher bid because of the reasons presented in the staff recommendation," said Town Clerk John Leach.

"We ought not to lose sight of that because it is important because there are often reasons whether it is prior performance or other issues that come to the fore with contractors and all that, staff might feel that the lowest bid is not the appropriate one."

According to Parks Manager Jim Tree, however, while Iron Trio Inc. which won the tender, has not done work for the Town in the past, they presented a number of references which all came back positive with no negative feedback whatsoever.

"Just for this record as well, we have been issuing tenders for many, many years and we have not always recommended the lowest bidder," he said.

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Candidates tee off at The Auroran's debate

From page 1

Ontario that works as a society."

Taking aim at the HST brought in by the Liberal government and the cuts of the previous PC governments, Mr. Wardlaw said the New Democrats would take the HST off home heating and gas at the pumps and generally "make life more affordable."

Other commitments offered by Mr. Wardlaw and the NDP included "putting Ontario Hydro back together" to save money, an investment in conservation and green energy, the creation of 20,000 jobs per year, rewards for companies that invest in training, support for full day kindergarten, protection of daycare space, a tuition freeze, and putting some of the tax burden "back to big corporations."

"[They] have been getting no strings attached tax breaks for 15 years," he said. "It turns out they have been simply putting money in the bank where it creates no new jobs, no new prosperity for Ontario."

For Green Party candidate Kristopher Kuysten, a priority for him and the party is to eliminate poverty, and this can be achieved through introducing policies to "shift people away from social assistance and onto stable jobs."

"I want to represent the Green Party in creating twenty-first century jobs, improve health care, and feed our communities by reviving local farms," he said. "We will have a responsible government to reduce our deficit by 2015. We're the only party committed to do that, and [will] approach hav-

ing safe and affordable energy for the future."

His top priority, he said, was energy and providing leadership for the 21st century which he said has been lacking, such as suitable programs in place for the environment and resources, and "lowering taxes across the board and, in the meantime, charge the polluters".

In defending his seat, incumbent PC MPP Frank Klees said he has been dedicated since first taking office of the new riding in 1995 to making the community "a better place to live, work, and raise a family" and that he is proud of his accomplishment "on the community's behalf".

"It's not by accident that we have a world class cardiac care centre in Newmarket, and a world-class cancer care centre,"

he said. "I fought hard to bring those services to our community and I will continue to ensure that our health care and social services are accessible and of the highest quality."

As Minister of Transportation, Mr. Klees said he approved the "first major provincial investment in York Region's VIVA transit system" and that he "won't rest" until the riding enjoys all-day GO Train service.

But as the incumbent, Mr. Klees touted his track record as the MPP for the area and said residents have found him to be an accessible member and one who "gets things done" for his constituents.

"We continue to have serious challenges in this Region," he said. "Our rapid growth continues to put pressure on our healthcare system and on our social services. We still have many people in this Region who are unemployed as a result of the economic downturn, and we have far too many seniors who are waiting for long-term care accommodation and adequate home care. There are solutions, but it will take experience, hard work, and determination to bring those solutions about."

The last candidate to give their opening remarks was Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz, who is facing off against Mr. Klees for the Newmarket-Aurora seat for the second time.

She and her family have lived in Newmarket-Aurora for over 30 years and she said she is proud to be able to call both communities home.

In speaking to her previous work in the health care sector, she said she has seen "tremendous change" over the last eight years and wants the province to stay the course with a Liberal government.

"I am running in this election because I am very concerned that a change in government will take us backward," she said. "It is progress that I have seen right here at home, that I am hearing from people in the community - the moms and dads that send their little ones off to full-day kindergarten for the first time, the wife whose husband just finished receiving treatment for cancer at Southlake's cancer centre, the time not having to

drive to Toronto for those treatments has meant so much for those families."

"I know that there is still a lot more work to do and as your MPP commit that I will work hard on your behalf and work hard to make sure Newmarket and Aurora count. I want to continue the track record of bringing high value jobs to this community and build on the progress we have made in health care and education. The Ontario Liberal Party has a serious plan to keep moving forward together the Ontario way. We're going to create jobs while investing in things that improve people's lives."

Following opening statements, a spirited debate between the candidates ensued where they were

faced with questions from the panel, questions submitted by e-mail, and questions from a healthy lineup to the podium ranging from property tax to the uploading and downloading of services between the Province and the Municipality, from the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Ontario Municipal Board to green transportation and technology, and from education to the recognition of foreign credentials.

In the pages of this week's Auroran and in the October 4 edition, reporters will go in-depth on how each candidate faced up to these and other hot button issues on voters' minds.

To watch the video of the debate, visit www.theauroran.com.

Oak Ridges Moraine protection is an issue

Protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine, particularly as the legislation in place to protect this land feature will come up for review during the term of whichever party forms the next Provincial government, has been uppermost in the minds of many residents of Aurora during this election campaign.

This concern demonstrated itself in the lead up to and during the all candidates meeting hosted by The Auroran at Aurora Town Hall last week.

In its online solicitation for questions to ask the candidates in advance of the Thursday meeting, 25 per cent of the questions received pertained to the future of the Moraine.

Right off the bat, however, during the rapid fire session where candidates were required to limit their answers to simply yes or no, in response to a question by former deputy mayor Bob McRoberts which asked whether the candidates, if elected, "would push to have a review of the conservation plan of the Oak Ridges Moraine done sooner than the planned date of 2015," three out of four candidates replied in the affirmative with the only dissenting voice coming from Green Party candidate Kristopher Kuysten.

While one of these questions was pulled in the random draw of e-mailed questions to ask candidates, the issue was brought to the fore in person at the podium by resident Catherine Marshall.

In her question to the candidates last week, Ms. Marshall asked the candidates what they would do to "provide stronger protection for the Oak Ridges Moraine."

Although he was the lone

dissenting voice when the first Moraine question came up, Mr. Kusten, who was first to answer, said he recognized the importance of the unique land feature.

"I believe that the Oak Ridges Moraine is a key foundation to Ontario's Green areas and I would stop any projected public sale of any part of that property while promoting higher density and better transit so people can live and move without building on the land."

In response to Ms. Marshall's question, Progressive Conservative candidate Frank Klees said he was "proud" of his track record having "championed" the existing Oak Ridges Moraine legislation during the last Progressive Conservative Government, and that is something the Party would like to build on if they re-take power October 6.

"What we would do is ensure that the review of the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation has in fact done what it was intended to do under the original legislation," he said. "It was the McGuinty government, as you are probably aware, that decided to defer that review by three years. I believe that is wrong. I believe that it is important that we accelerate that review to ensure that we address those issues that are allowing some of the gaps within the protection that was intended and that is our commitment."

Next up to speak was Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz who said candidates and voters need to ask why Oak Ridges Moraine legislation, which was "supposed to be so protective of a very important natural resources" allowed grandfathering.

"[We need to ask why it] was allowed to encourage

and accept grandfathering of applications from developers in the future," she said. "Yes, I think we need to look at reviewing that, but also review the grandfathering provision which never should have been allowed to happen in the first place and [which was] advocated against during the passage of that legislation."

The strongest words were saved for last when NDP candidate Robin Wardlaw stepped forward to answer the question.

He said that Mr. Klees "should not be taking pride" in the legislation but rather be "apologizing for the holes he left in it that you can drive a dump truck through and people do that."

"The Moraine is symbolic of an approach to our environment that is our whole future. If we don't have that rain barrel for a province, where are we? I would like to say to you and others who I have met at the door, other citizens of Aurora who are passionate about the moraine, to keep up what you're doing on people like me when I get elected. The best thing you can do is elect an NDP government to help protect the Oak Ridges Moraine."

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Aurora has plenty of talent

There were many opportunities this summer to see firsthand the budding talent Aurora boasts, whether it was at the Canada Day Celebrations or even Ribfest, but the talent came out to shine once again at Town Hall this month as the winners of Aurora Teen Idol and

Aurora's Got Talent were honoured by mayor and council.

On hand last Tuesday was Aurora's Special Events coordinator Shelley Ware who introduced the first and second runners up and the grand prize Aurora Teen Idol winner, who was crowned on

Canada Day in Lambert Willson Park.

"This is the fifth year for this event and the response from the community continues to grow," said Ms. Ware. "If you were lucky enough to have seen the talent presented that afternoon you would certainly understand why.

There are indeed many talented youth in our community."

The second runner-up was Bianca Corrado, who, according to Ms. Ware, has performed throughout York Region.

"Bianca not only sings, but she also plays the piano

and drums," said Ms. Ware.

Next up was the first runner up, Christina Debney, an avid soccer player who loves to write music.

"She has no formal training in singing but has had guitar lessons for about three years," said Ms. Ware. "She is passionate about her music, writing her own songs, and singing. She always finds a way of incorporating music into everything she does, such as presenting her final Grade 10 English assignment as a song, which she composed and performed in front of her peers."

The 2011 Aurora Teen Idol was Amanda McDonald, who accepted her certificate from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

"Amanda is an internationally competitive Irish dancer and has qualified in Canadian, North American and World Irish Dance championships," said Ms. Ware. "She has performed in many theatrical performances and

absolutely loves it.

"I would like to take this moment to thank all three ladies for the hard work and dedication it took for them to compete in this competition. They did an amazing job. They not only competed in this competition but all three ladies earned the right to perform at Ribfest in front of thousands of people. That is a lot of courage for ladies of this age and it is pretty exciting to have that ability within our community. We look forward to seeing this trio of talented young ladies perform at our many upcoming special events."

Ribfest brought two further winners, this time in the Aurora's Got Talent Competition.

The first runner up was Samantha Ryan, who, it was noted, was no stranger to the spotlight having sung on television before, and finally the grand prize winning "captivating" contortionist Anastasia Charyk.



The 2011 Aurora Teen Idol, Amanda McDonald, left photograph, and Samantha Ryan, right, first runner up in the Aurora's Got Talent competition held at this year's Ribfest event, receive a certificate and token of appreciation from Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe on behalf of council this month. Mayor Dawe made the presentations to Amanda and Samantha and the other finalists in both competitions in the Council Chamber at Aurora Town Hall on September 13.

Auroran photos by Diane Buchanan

Aurora planning its autumn events

The Town of Aurora presents a series of fall events which should bring excitement and fun for the entire family.

On Thursday, October 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Aurora Town Park the family can start Thanksgiving

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, September 19: North/South - Gloria Smith and Rose White; Shirley Laurin and Suzanne Nunn; Lucille Sequeira and Dave Legallais. East/West - Lisa and Simo Piil; Carole Watkins and Mitzi Brown; Dennis McFadden and Frank Lablans.

festivities at the Colours of Fall Concert.

This is your opportunity to enjoy one last concert in beautiful Town Park as an early celebration for Thanksgiving.

The concert will feature Tom Leadbeater with his "Spirit of Nova Scotia".

The concert is free of charge but food donations for the local food pantry are greatly appreciated.

On Saturday, October 29, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sheppard's Bush, Mary Street entrance, the Town will sponsor the annual Haunted Forest event.

Planned in the event are Aurora's haunted trails with scary surprises that lead up to the best Hallowe'en party.

Enjoy a bonfire, ghost stories and some witches' brew.

Tickets are \$4 per person and are on sale for residents as of October

7th and for non-residents and residents October 14th at either the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex or the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

On Saturday, November 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Yonge Street, from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive, the annual Santa Claus parade, known as Santa Under the Stars, takes place.

The Sixth Annual Tree Lighting ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall and Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Live theatre will be performed in the Town council chambers, as well as a special reading of T'was The Night Before Christmas by Mrs. Claus herself by the fireplace in the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

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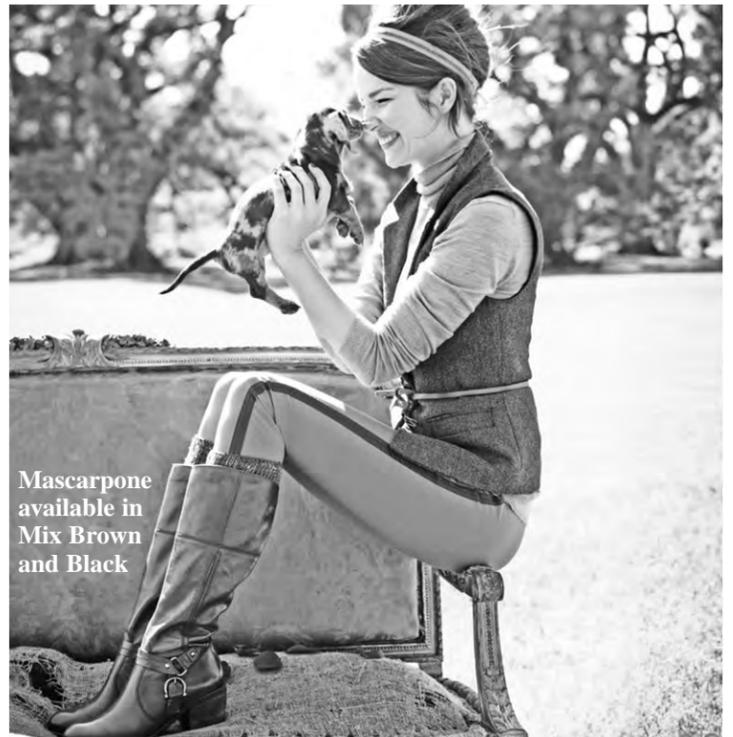
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More Aurora and area seniors will be able to get to and from medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies and other places, thanks to a donation made to Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) by PACE Credit Union last week. PACE has provided a donation to CHATS that includes the lease of two vehicles, which will assist with meeting the transportation needs of the charity's 6,800 clients. Taking part in the ceremony were, left to right, Tim Jones, CHATS Director of Development; Derek Murray, PACE Executive Director, Business Development; Wyn Chivers, CHATS CEO, Dan Coldwell, PACE Vice-President, Business Development and Frank Klees, MPP for Newmarket-Aurora.

PACE donates lease of vehicles to CHATS

More local seniors will be able to get to and from medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies and other places, thanks to a donation made to Community & Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) by PACE Credit Union last week.

PACE has provided a CHATS donation that includes the lease of two vehicles, which will assist with meeting the transportation needs of the charity's 6,800 clients.

"The demand for transportation is growing tremendously," says Carol Edward, CHATS' Director of Community Programs.

Four years ago, CHATS provided about 26,000 drives per year, while last year, close to 69,000 drives were provided.

CHATS' Transportation

Program is essential for clients like Aurora resident, Andrea Thompson.

"For me, it is a necessity, a god-send. Being legally blind, and now living on my own in a seniors' apartment, my connection to the world has been transformed from one of helpless isolation and dependence on neighbours, to independence - thanks to CHATS," she said. "I don't know what I would do without CHATS' transportation."

"We are very grateful for PACE's donation," said former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, CHATS' Director of Development. "As a charity, we depend on the generosity of the community, and PACE's support of CHATS has been outstanding."

"This has a major impact on CHATS' ability to serve seniors

who wish to live independently in their own homes and community", added Wyn Chivers, CHATS' CEO. "We are grateful for the thoughtfulness of PACE, as well as MPP Frank Klees who expedited this gift."

Transportation is one of more than a dozen programs provided by CHATS throughout York Region, Bradford West Gwillimbury and New Tecumseth.

Other programs include in-home help and care, Meals on Wheels, telephone reassurance, home medical equipment, hospital-to-home transition, caregiver education, and seniors' social/wellness programs.

For further information, call 1-877-452-4287 or visit www.chats.on.ca.

New theatre play opens

On September 30th, The Drawer Boy opens at Theatre Aurora.

The Drawer Boy was Canadian Michael Healey's first full length play, and was a winner of four 1999 "Dora" Awards, including Outstanding New Play.

It is a touching drama of two boyhood friends Morgan and Angus; one a tough-minded, stubborn man, the other who suffered brain damage and memory loss during the bombing in the Second World War.

Glenn Sumi, of NOW, said, "Healey's created a magnificent work, rich in compassion and universal in scope. Shows every sign of becoming a Canadian classic".

John Bemrose of Maclean's called it "Sheer magic" and observed "that the crowd stormed to its feet, cheering with enthusiasm usually only found at rock concerts".

The cast includes Chuck Therrien, a Theatre Aurora veteran, recently seen in last season's Theatre Aurora award winning production of A Streetcar Named Desire, Frank Johnston and James White, a Theatre Aurora youth program alum.

The show is produced by Kay Valentine and directed by Andrea Emmerton.

Music of well-known Canadian artists such as Gordon Lightfoot, Neil Young and Murray McLachlan will be played during the pre-show, intermission and post-show.

Opening night will feature a special presentation. Theatre Aurora will be receiving a donation from the Investors Group.

The production runs selected dates between September 30 and October 15.

Visit the Theatre's website for specific dates and tickets at www.theatreaurora.com.

Tickets are also available by calling 905-727-3669, or by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

For more information, contact Andrew Kipfer, Marketing and Communications Director, at 416-930-9441.



Friday Night dancing is a huge attraction among seniors, many of whom attend at every opportunity. Dancing in the Seniors' Centre resumed in September and continues Friday, October 7th and 21st, with Line Dancing at 7.30 and regular ballroom dancing starting at 8 p.m.

Almost all of us danced with our spouses as part of established courting behaviour, and enjoyed the dance as much as the close contact with the loved one.

Memories formed on the dance floor, remain with us forever as fond now as the day we formed them.

Possibly our distant ancestors, dancing in the distant past formed similar memories, possibly more powerful and meaningful than today.

They would value them highly as we do today.

Each of us expresses dance with personal and private imaginations, and while many expressions of dance may be similar; each is unique in expressing tender feelings for partner quietly and superbly. Seniors keep the dancing traditions alive, fresh and animated and in doing so, keep each other alive, fresh, wanted and able to succeed in life so much more easily.

The 'Let's Create' group have Christmas preparations locked securely in their immediate ambitions, and desire for success in their endeavours, beats as strongly today as it ever did.

At this time, they work on greeting cards, particularly Christmas cards, but every manner of greeting card receives attention as required.

The 'Lets' Create' group make Christmas poppers also, and they will redo the Seniors' Centre Christmas decorations, updating them and making them almost as fresh as when first made.

The Holiday Bazaar November 12th will receive freshly fabricated St. Nicks, and this project should be underway now.

You can find each month's schedule posted on the display area by the reception desk, so please join the 'Lets Create' group and add your handiwork to the common cause.

Call Carole Hedenberg at

905-713-2573 or e-mail her at carolhed@sympatico.ca.

Please note that if you have expertise in handcrafts, you will be very welcome and if you desire to learn how to make such items, you are equally welcome to attend and learn whatever you require.

Members of the Seniors' Centre Chess Club return from holidays with batteries recharged and ready to take on anybody.

Several of them plan to compete in a Chess Tournament in Alliston in October.

For those interested, you need to be a strong club player to win this event, but to enter and enjoy the chess winning and losing some games, you need only be an average club player.

If you entertain doubts, feel relieved to know you express the same doubts as everybody else and you probably do belong in the tournament; you will only find out by experiencing it.

Results of these games will start the process of building your chess rating; if this commentary intrigues you and you have reached 55 years or older, visit the Seniors' Centre Tuesday between 4 and 8 p.m. and if you can compete with any of the Seniors' Centre chess players, you belong in the tournament.

The best players in the tournament will probably beat you, as will the best players in the Seniors' Centre.

Practise and pleasure playing chess will improve your ability, and if you prove

to be the best player, you will be very welcome among the seniors.

Senior chess players respect good chess, and they certainly enjoy the other seniors who enjoy chess as they do, so probably you will win some games and lose some and fit right in doing so, and the same goes for the Alliston Tournament.

Light-hearted fun designed to present challenge enough to maintain interest but not to overtax members' skills or ability to enjoy activities in progress, find channels in the Seniors' Centre to accommodate everybody.

Each Friday afternoon at 1 p.m., the card games of Canasta and Rumi-Cube commence, Bingo draws its adherents and the more physically active Pickle Ball players relish their opportunity to show what they can do.

In each of these groups, some excel and others enjoy the company and the quiet entertainment of associating with others.

Often so-called quiet activities show amazing resilience to persevere year after year, never dominating the social scene or demanding great resources to maintain their require equipment in working order.

Nevertheless, without the activities noted above and others who operate in similar fashion, the Seniors' Centre would not be the vibrant, essential social entity that it clearly is, and with these words, all activities regardless of size together with the members who enjoy them are recognized.



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Watch for new community videos each week. If you have an upcoming event and would like it covered by theauroran.com please have your event co-ordinator email cynthia@auroran.com
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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

Workshop happens at 7 p.m. and costs \$10 per person. Seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Aurora's Pine Tree Potters' Guild announces that it will be hosting its second annual Empty Bowls fund-raising 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.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

At the request of its director, Richard Heinzle, the Evergreen Choir's time of practice will be increased to 90 minutes. Registration is now available at the front desk of the Aurora Seniors Centre for the season commencing September 7th to June 2012. The fee for the coming sessions remains the same: \$50 per member. New members are always welcome. If you can carry a tune and like to sing we would be happy to have you come and join us. It is not necessary to be able to read music, nor will you be asked to audition, to enjoy being part of this happy experience. In addition to its regular Christmas and Spring concerts, the group will also perform at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, January 29th, 2012, and take part in the 'Big Sing' at Roy Thompson Hall on Sunday, November 6th, 2011. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

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

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

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

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

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

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

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

Come for lunch and a sense of community at Martha's Table, based in St. Andrew's Hall at Aurora's Presbyterian Church. The thriving, volunteer-run program reopens September 1. Lunch, featuring soup, sandwiches, and dessert, is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Net receipts go to local charities. The hall is on the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

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

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepingsing@rogers.com.

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora

location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

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

Scottish Country Dancing on Friday mornings mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome.

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

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

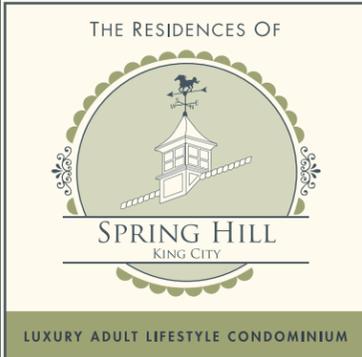
Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

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

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**David Fell, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C),
Physician Leader,
Regional Cardiac Care Program, Southlake Re-
gional Health Centre, Newmarket**

"I am proud as a retired police officer and Chief of Police to lend my voice of support for Frank Klees. I have known Frank as a friend and a strong supporter of community safety and community values for many years now. As an MPP, Frank has represented all of the citizens of the riding of Newmarket-Aurora with pride and passion. He has demonstrated through his hard work and dedication that he truly cares about the future of this community and the future of this province".

Armand La Barge

"Frank Klees has always been very accessible to our seniors. He continues to have an active role in the seniors centre, and is a strong advocate in promoting better living for seniors. Whether it be issues such as community pharmacy, VIVA transit, the OSPCA, the recent Foodland closing issue, or individual resident concerns, he's taken a stand to support our seniors and ensure they have a voice in our community."

**Charles Sequeira
President, Aurora Senior Association**

"I have known Frank Klees for a number of years, and have always found him to be very interested in the needs of the residents of Aurora and very responsive to those needs. I very much appreciate Frank's "let's get it done" attitude!"

**Mayor Geoffrey Dawe
Aurora**

"I've known Frank Klees for many years, and he has always worked hard for our community. He's a very level-headed guy and his experience will serve our community well in the future".

Frank Stronach

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