

**WILD WILD WEST
HOEDOWN**

HOEDOWN PROSPECTOR'S RAFFLE
**\$75,000
GRAND PRIZE**

www.hoedown.ca
(DONATED BY MAGNA INT'L)

 **Happy Hearing Centre**
HEARING ENRICHMENT FOR A HAPPIER LIFE

905-713-3199
mail@happyhearing.ca

**WILD WILD WEST
HOEDOWN**

HOEDOWN PROSPECTOR'S RAFFLE
**\$75,000
GRAND PRIZE**

www.hoedown.ca
(DONATED BY MAGNA INT'L)

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 12 No. 37 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE

Week of July 24, 2012



You may or may not know the name or the face, but the spotlight is now being shined on Aurora resident and long-time volunteer Dean Turner. Mr. Turner, pictured above on Thursday with a portrait of himself by artist Karen Merk, is one of seven York Regional volunteers and philanthropists featured in her third annual Portraits of Giving exhibition, now on at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Please see page 13.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Does Aurora have too many retail jobs?

By Brock Weir

Quality of jobs which could come in a new commercial development once again dominated the conversation when Council took another crack at approving a proposed development from Smart Centres in east Aurora.

Questions over whether this development, which will bring four office Towers to Aurora, but also some retail space within the development, provides the "high quality jobs" Aurora needs has dogged this development since developers asked for an official plan amendment to permit retail space on the site, which was previously designated business park land. When the project came up on Tuesday, that was no exception.

Since the change was proposed, Councillor Wendy Gaertner has been one of the most vocal critics at the Council table against the plan and, again, this was the case on Tuesday. What was different, however, was the heat of the discourse going around the table on whether this development is going to bring the kinds of jobs Aurora needs to the Town.

According to Josh Kauffman, representing the landowners in question, this development for mixed office and retail space will bring in \$2.4 million in annual taxes to the Town, an additional \$3 million in taxes on full build out, \$15.4 million in development charges both at the Regional and Municipal level, and provide over

Continued on page 16

Morris makes case in costs hearing

By Brock Weir

Arguments for costs in the case of former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris' aborted defamation lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others, concluded in a Toronto courtroom on Tuesday.

It could turn out to be the final hearing in the ongoing case between the parties which started in the final weeks of the last municipal election in October 2010. In that time, Ms. Morris, then serving as Mayor, served local bloggers Richard Johnson, Bill Hogg and Elizabeth Bishenden with a \$6 million defamation lawsuit which named the three, along with several anonymous posters on the Aurora Citizen blog, in the suit.

Ms. Morris alleged that the three named individuals had, as alleged moderators of the blog, information that would identify the anonymous posters she claimed defamed her. The lawsuit got the go-ahead the previous December after a late-night Council meeting where Councillors voted to "take any and all actions to bring a resolution to this matter."

This resulted in the lawsuit, which was discontinued last year. Two of the three individuals, Mr. Hogg and Mr. Johnson, are seeking a further \$38,000 in costs from the former politician.

In his defence of why the bloggers are not entitled to further costs, Ken Clark, the lawyer for Ms. Morris said that unlike the arguments that were put forward by the other side in April, this was not a "story of the mayor trying to stifle dissent of political speech just before an election."

"We were telling the story of a public servant...and the effort that the Town went to [in order] to protect the reputation of what we submit is

Continued on page 7



ROYAL LEPAGE

YOUR Community REALTY

BROKERAGE, INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED



Izzi Popat

Sales Representative
Top 5% in Canada*

*Out of 13,000+ Royal LePage Real Estate Agents in Canada (2009)

"...passion, relationship skills and commitment to follow up are outstanding...Izzi is best in class & a committed professional..."








905-727-3154

izzipopat@rogers.com

www.izzipopat.com

In this week's issue:

- 4 Columns and Letters
- 12 Sports
- 13 Arts & Culture
- 14 Know Your Merchants Contest
- 15 Crossword
- 16 Classifieds
- 17 At Your Service

COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

JULY 3 - 24

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a four week program: Guidance and Assistance for Family and Friends of Those Striving to Overcome an Eating Disorder Support Group with Flora Svinarenko. The group meets for four Tuesdays starting on July 3 from 6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Support for family and friends is vital in the recovery of a loved one. A family member or a friend needs to be a strong, safe and consistent source of support and needs to take care of themselves in order to do so. It is good to know that you are not alone when you experience stress, frustration or anger. An eating disorder affects the whole family. Meetings will take place at 300 John Street, Suite 300, Thornhill, ON. L3T 5W5. Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email support-group@edoyr.com.

JULY 4 - JULY 24

Aurora artist Herbert Pryke will host Plein Air Summer Painting, a four week outdoor art program starting July 4 at the Oak Ridges Community Centre (12895 Bayview Avenue). Each week is a new location and outdoors every time. Cost for the program is \$67.10 for residents, \$77.10 for non-residents, and \$46.97 for seniors. To register, contact Kim Smylie, Adult Program Coordinator for the Town of Richmond Hill at 905-882-4295 x.3153 or ksmylie@richmondhill.ca.

JULY 9 - AUGUST 20

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a six week program, Life without Ed, an eating disorder support group. It will meet for six Mondays beginning July 9 (excluding the long weekend) from 5 to 6 p.m. It will take place at EDOYR's headquarters in Aurora at 15213 Yonge Street, Ste. 15 (Just south of Wellington in the old Post Office building). Eating Disorders of York Region is a registered non-profit organization. Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email support-group@edoyr.com.

JULY 10 - JULY 31

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a four week program, Healing and Emotional Eating: Using or Refusing Food to Cope, with psychotherapist Marilyn Strauch. It meets for four Tuesdays starting on July 10 from 4 to 5 p.m. Individuals with eating disorders may restrict, overeat or emotionally eat in an effort to numb out or not deal with uncomfortable negative emotions, or to reinforce a positive mood. Unfortunately, after each episode, there is generally increased self-criticism around weight, body image and lack of control; in addition to long term negative physical conditions. The program will take place in Richmond Hill at 115 Wertheim Court, Suite 511 (East off West Beaver Creek, North of Hwy 7). Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email support-group@edoyr.com.

JULY 19 - AUGUST 31

Merk Photography and the Aurora Cultural Centre present portraits of giving in the upper atrium of the Aurora Cultural Centre. The exhibition is the work of York Region Photographer Karen Merk and writer Heather Ann Lambert. It features portraits of inspirational people who have given back to their communities in amazing ways. This year's honorees include Frank Stronach, Steve Kearley, Lucille Abate, Rita Theil, Dean Turner, Nic Ahola, and Steve Forman. For more information, visit www.merkphotography.com.

JULY 23 - AUGUST 17

The Down Syndrome Association of Toronto presents "A Step Up", a socially transformative and empowering program for "Uniquely Precious People." The program is a holistic, activity, nutritional, and arts based teen and post high school summer day program for persons with Down syndrome. You are just in time to volunteer for something fun and worthwhile this summer and make a difference with your unique skills. Spread the word and tell a friend who you know would love to join us or make a financial contribution to help reduce costs to our members. There is a great need for social, special interest and activity programs in the GTA for those who are specially abled and finished high school. This program is about developing a Dream Team which will be supported and will learn life skills such as safety, social interaction, planning and travel via public transit. For more information, visit www.astepup.ca or call 416-771-4844.

TUESDAY, JULY 24

The Aurora Cultural Centre will host the first of two free, family friendly "Star Parties" this afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Drop in and paint three specially created bisque-fired stars,

created and donated to the Centre by the Pine Tree Potters' Guild. One of your stars is to take home. The other two will be placed on sale this December in support of the Centre's annual Starr, Starry Night fundraiser. All proceeds raised in December will support ongoing programming initiatives. Painting tips and techniques will be guided by the Centre's art instructor Helen Rodriguez. It is a good idea to wear something art-ready - painting can be messy fun. No advance registration is required. For more information, contact the Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Garden Aurora! Invites you to hear Peter Gill from the Ontario Water Garden Society speak about 'Container Water Gardens'. You can enjoy water gardening even in a small space. Join us 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora. More information at www.gardenauro.com.

Chartwell Seniors Housing Reit is hosting a Cooking for a Cause BBQ in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association today at Newmarket's Seniors Meeting Place. Members of the public are invited to attend a fabulous diabetes-friendly BBQ prepared by chefs at Alexander Muir, Barton, and Park Place Manor Retirement Residents. You will have an opportunity to learn easy recipes while enjoying a healthy meal in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association. The benefits of good nutrition and wise food choices lower your levels of the risk of diabetes. The barbeque begins at Noon. For more information, contact Maureen O'Leary at 905-727-2952.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

The Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House will host "Camp Dig It! Nature Detectives" the second event of Camp Hillary for kids ages seven - 11. Cost is \$15 for the day or \$35 for all three camps. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 kids per camp. Camp runs from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991. (Rain Date: August 11)

The Red Shoe Event will be held this afternoon and through the night in honour of the late Aurora realtor Marilyn Redvers to benefit the Southlake Regional Cancer Program. Women, wear your best red shoes to honour Marilyn and what Southlake meant to her. The event will feature a silent auction, live music, and food with all proceeds going towards the cancer program. The event will be held at 118 Aubrey Court in Newmarket. To register, visit www.southlakefoundation.ca or call 905-836-7333

TUESDAY, JULY 31

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the Making Professional Art Prints without a Press Workshop (adult ages 16+). Artist-instructor Valerie Kent will provide an enjoyable day-long introduction to a process of printmaking that can be replicated at home. Paint a series of images on sanded Plexiglass, and then transfer them to specialty papers. Once completed, your print can be framed or taken to the print shop to create a note card series. Workshop fee includes all materials For info or to register please call 905-713-1818; full details at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

AUGUST 3 - 5

The Aurora Festival of the Arts will host the Aurora jazz+ Festival Friday to Sunday at Town Park. The Aurora jazz+ Festival (Aj+F) is produced by the Aurora Festival of Arts (AFA), a not for profit Ontario corporation. The Aurora jazz+ Festival showcases & supports local talents offering three days of music and art in the park. AFA's mission includes, in general, the development of local cultural community by building a diverse Arts/Music Festival network attracting artisans and patrons to the heart of York Region annually. Jazz+ means the Aj+F includes all possible arts and music genres from Reggae to Rock; First Nations to World Music, Canadian Funk, Blues and Jazz. Local visual artists display and perform live painting in park, while diverse vendors prepare and serve foods of the world. Enjoy great music, art, culture, food, beer/wine, kids' crafts, shopping and the ambiance of the beautiful heritage Town Park setting located in the cultural core of Aurora, in the centre of York Region. For more information, visit www.aurorajazzfest.com.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

Bayview Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine Clinic officially opens its doors today at the Wellington Business Centre (Suite 200) at 244 Wellington Street East. The clinic specializes in pain or problems from an orthopaedic condition or sports injuries, especially spines, knees, and shoulder conditions. They have helped many Olympic athletes and others with their pain. Bayview Physiotherapy was established in Toronto in 2010 and is now expanding in Aurora. For more information contact 905-713-1209 or visit www.bayviewphysio.ca.

AUGUST 14 - 25

Theatre Aurora presents "Private Lives", Noel Coward's 1930 romantic comedy. It focuses on a divorced couple who discover that they are honeymooning with their new spouses in neighbouring rooms at the same hotel. Despite a perpetually stormy relationship, they realise that they still have feelings for each other. What happens next? Directed by Sal Aguila and produced by Natasha Viskosky. The show runs August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25. Curtain at 8 p.m. This is the first show of the 2012-13 season, our 55th season. Visit the Theatre Aurora web-site www.theatreaurora.com for further information. Tickets are currently available by buying a season subscription. Public sale of individual show tickets began July 3. They will be available online through the web-site, by phone at 905-727-3669, by email at taboffice@bellnet.ca or in person at the Theatre. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

The Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House will host "Camp Map It! Olympics" the third and final event of Camp Hillary for kids ages seven - 11. Cost is \$15 for the day or \$35 for all three camps. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 kids per camp. Camp runs from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991. (Rain Date: September 2)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

The Aurora Cultural Centre will host the second of two free, family friendly "Star Parties" this afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Drop in and paint three specially created bisque-fired stars, created and donated to the Centre by the Pine Tree Potters' Guild. One of your stars is to take home. The other two will be placed on sale this December in support of the Centre's annual Starr, Starry Night fundraiser. All proceeds raised in December will support ongoing programming initiatives. Painting tips and techniques will be guided by the Centre's art instructor Helen Rodriguez. It is a good idea to wear something art-ready - painting can be messy fun. No advance registration is required. For more information, contact the Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SEPTEMBER 7 - 9

Aurora will hold its annual RibFest at Machell Park at the above dates.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The Aurora Cultural Centre at the Aurora Farmer's Market presents the Ontario Plein Air Society (OPAS) Plein Air Challenge, with an invitation to local artists to join this exciting outdoor painting opportunity in the Aurora Farmer's Market neighborhood. Register at our booth at the Market at 8.30 a.m., where you will receive your map and instructions. Paint within a designated area from 9 - 11 a.m. Return to the Market in time for judging; all paintings then available for sale to the public from 11.30 - 1 p.m. Free registration for members of the OPAS; \$10 fee for all other artists. For info please call 905-

713-1818, or www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SEPTEMBER 8 - 9

The Richmond Hill Live Steamers host the second of their 2012 Open House weekends this weekend from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Steamers are a small non-profit hobby club whose members own/operate/build miniature operating steam and diesel locomotives. The group will be offering train rides pulled by miniature steam or diesel locomotives on their outdoor train track through the woods for train lovers of all ages. Snacks and souvenirs will be available to purchase. Admission is free and donations are gratefully accepted and used to help maintain the track site. 15922 McCowan Road, Whitchurch-Stouffville (north of Aurora Road at the corner of St. John's Road). For more information, visit richmond-hill-live-steamers.tripod.com.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Peter Miller Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament benefiting Southlake Regional Health Centre will take place today at Silver Lakes Golf Club. This tournament has supported Southlake since 2007, raising \$120,000. Held the second Thursday in September each year at Silver Lakes Golf Club, this year the tournament will be held on September 13, 2012, and will support priority needs at Southlake. This long running event is organized by The Peter Miller Charitable Foundation and Family in memory of their father, Peter Miller. Family, friends and local community attend this event and are provided with tax receipts per the allowable amount. This is a fun, relaxed golf event. Foursome participation is welcomed. Price: \$200/golfer. For more information, call 416-363-2614.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The GIG Centre presents the Cruising Acappella Quartet today at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Music, 19 Civic Street, Stouffville. Free coffee and munchies. The event includes a sing-a-long, open mic and jam with many talented musicians. You will be glued to your seats as the CRUISIN QUARTET brings 30 years of experience in their entertainment throughout all of North America. For more information visit www.alyetman.com/theigcentre.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

The Aurora Historical Society presents The Hillary House Ball this evening at The Mansion (DiNardos) on Industrial Parkway South. The Hillary House Ball will be the highlight of the 150th anniversary year of Hillary House. In honour of 1862, the year Hillary House was constructed, The Hillary House Ball will transform "The Mansion" with a Victorian-era theme. Guests will be encouraged to let Victorian trends inspire their own attire for the evening. More than 300 guests will enjoy a seasonally-inspired four course meal, dancing to the rich sounds of the After Hours Big Band plus special guest entertainment, a silent auction and opportunities to support Hillary House. The event will raise much needed funds for restoration and ongoing operations of Aurora's heritage gem, Hillary House National Historic Site. For more information, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991.



Irene Blas and her daughter, Amelia, arrived at the Aurora Post Office on Wellington, just east of Yonge Street, Friday morning on their regular circuit of banking, mailing, and shopping. Ms. Blas is one of many residents of Aurora and the surrounding area that have expressed dismay over the post office's closure on August 17.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Post office closure met with mixed reception

By Brock Weir

After nearly 100 years, Aurora will be without a main post office next month.

Canada Post made the decision last week to close the Aurora post office on Wellington Street East, just east of Yonge Street, posting a notice on its window and letters to the many residents and business who pick up their mail daily at the facility. For some, it was a sad conclusion of a campaign to keep the post office open, which began in May with a similar notice that Canada post was "proposing" to close the retail section of the outlet.

Canada Post encouraged residents to contact them with their thoughts and concerns about a possible closure and that's just what they did. Several people also contacted The Auroran with their concerns, the majority of which was in favour of the retaining the post office.

But, despite these submissions, and support of keeping it open from both MP Lois Brown and the Aurora Town Council, the closure marches ahead and the Post Office will be closing its doors at the end of business on Friday, August 17.

"We regularly review our network of post offices to address a number of issues, including population, housing and business development, and shopping patterns of Canadians and right now we're in a situation where our traditional mail volumes have been dropping considerably," Eugene Knapik, a spokesperson for Canada Post told The Auroran. "Over the past five years [there has been a drop of] approximately 20 per cent and that means fewer people are buying stamps and fewer people are going into our post offices so in this case it is a situation where there a number of other post offices in the vicinity."

Some of these locations include the Aurora North Convenience Store located on the east side of Yonge Street just north of Aurora Heights Boulevard, the Regency Convenience located at the Aurora Shopping Centre, the Shoppers Drug Mart at Bayview Avenue and Hollandview Trail, and a few locations in Newmarket.

Considering the feedback in the community on the Post Office's closure, Mr. Knapik, however, said he didn't have any specific feedback on hand but it was all reviewed prior to making a decision. He did not have have specific comment on the weight Canada Post placed on this feedback.

"It's difficult for me to answer a question in terms of [how it was] weighted," he said. "We do review all the feedback [and] at the same time we review what's available in terms of post offices in the area, the state of business, and our mandate to be sustainable as well as provide the level of service that is expected."

One resident not satisfied with the weight Canada Post placed on this feedback was Annabel Black, a regular user - and neighbour - of the main post office.

"I certainly sent my

email in, but I am very disappointed," said Ms. Black of the decision. "All I can say is it shows how much influence we have here in Aurora. Who listens? Now we'll have one more empty place in Downtown Aurora."

In a survey of users of the post office one morning last week, residents had mixed feelings over the office's closure.

"I'm sort of sad about it, but I hope their jobs are okay," said Nancy Rathlou. "It's not a convenient place to stop, but we have been using the same post box for 30 years. [When we moved to Aurora] I think it was the only game in Town. We had a farm on the outskirts of Town at the time and it is where the mail came."

"I don't think there is any post office that is really, really convenient in Aurora but it is not the most convenient Town layout is it?" she said, casting an eye to the Yonge and Wellington intersection a few metres away. "I'll miss this, but it is a change."

During this time, the post office was visited by Irene Blas, a resident of King Township, with her daughter Amelia in tow. She has regularly used this post office for five years.

"I'm very upset," she

said. "This was convenient and [I come] to this area because I do all my business over here and the staff is amazing. Now to go to Newmarket, this is just so much more convenient. You stop and you go in, but now you have to go."

One person less upset about the closure was one man who was doing a mail run on behalf of his cousin. Although he declined to give his name,

Continued on page 15

Briefly

AURORA IS 48th BEST PLACE TO LIVE

Aurora has been named the 48th best place to live in Canada in a survey by MoneySense. The Town was ranked third in household income, seventh for low crime, 12th in new cars, 17th in culture, 32nd in discretionary income, 47th in weather, 81st in population growth, 96th in jobless rates. The survey evaluated 190 towns and cities nation-wide in 22 categories and Aurora figured in the bottom third when it comes to doctors per 1,000 residents, walking and biking to work, and affordable housing. "While we can't gauge many of the elements that people enjoy in their cities, the nearness of family, the friendliness of neighbours, or even great subsets, we have measured what can be measured and compared what can be compared from towns and cities across our provinces and territories," wrote MoneySense. Newmarket came in 13th place overall, scoring high in household income, new cars, population growth, low crime, weather, and culture.

VOTER INFORMATION BREACHED

Elections Ontario could be subject to a class action lawsuit over voter information that was "improperly accessed" at the organization. The privacy breach came to light midweek when a list of 49 potentially affected provincial electoral ridings - including Newmarket-Aurora - were listed. The information was contained on two USB keys, according to Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario.

"This information is limited to full name, gender, birth date, address, as well as administrative codes used solely for election purposes and any other personal information updates provided to Elections Ontario by voters during the last election period," he said. "The information also includes whether or not an individual voted in the October 2011 provincial election."

The information does not include SIN, health card, drivers licence, banking or contact information.



DAMIR VRANCIC
LAW OFFICE
BUSINESS LAW,
REAL ESTATE,
WILLS & ESTATES

905-841-6411

Providing valued and trusted legal advice since 1983

Quality VANITIES at Aurora Home Hardware



FREE MIRROR

with the purchase of any vanity & top until August 31, 2012*
*while supplies last.

RS ROCK SOLID

► Chestnut 60" Double bowl with two 24" mirrors

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
24", 30", 36", 48" & 60"

Example
24" vanity and top starting at \$399.99



Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre
289 Wellington Street East
Aurora L4G 6H6

905-727-4751



Home Owners helping homeowners

T.C.'s BURGERS

Since 1993

Weekly Specials!

Homemade Souvlaki
Fresh Salads
Value Combos
Fish & Chips
Gyros
Wraps

Call ahead for faster service!

15198 Yonge St., Aurora Call us at: 905-841-1380
(South of Yonge & Wellington on the west side)

Letters to the editor

Hydro Funds: Spend It!

In response to your article in the Auroran week of July 17, I have a suggestion on how to spend some of the Aurora Hydro legacy money.

As "the other" paper reported July 19, Aurora and York Region are falling behind in broadband communications infrastructure. In other parts of Canada - Fredericton, New Brunswick, Stratford, Waterloo and Windsor - the successful implementation of broadband infrastructure has led to

increased numbers of jobs, job security, attraction of new businesses and growth of the economies in those municipalities.

Since Aurora Hydro would have been a prime contributor to such an infrastructure had we not sold it, I think it would be appropriate to use some of the proceeds from the sale to fund some of the required infrastructure.

David Daniel
Aurora

Hydro Funds: Save It!

Instead of spending, how about saving?

I suggest we put the money toward an "Aurora Heritage Fund". Never spend the capitol, only the earnings.

Remember, had we kept Aurora Hydro this is what we would have had anyway, a yearly dividend to spend from an investment in a company. I suggest we purchase BMO shares - on \$33 million that would give us a perpetual cash flow of about \$1.5 million a year from its dividends.

Further, I would suggest that 10% of this be invested in its dividend reinvestment program to capture a bonus discount to market and slowly build the value of the fund.

Finally, it could be opened up to donations and, in time, could be large enough to reduce or eliminate property taxes.

Now wouldn't that be great! So let's save, not spend!

Wade Mukli
Aurora

Councillor wants committee for Hydro Funds

Aurora Town Council has approved a community-wide education and awareness campaign regarding potential options for disbursement of Hydro funds. The approximately \$33 million in Hydro funds were generated by the sale of Aurora Hydro in 2006.

We are not asking the residents how we should spend \$33 million dollars. There is a bylaw, put in place to safeguard how the funds might be spent.

The funds have basically sat idle for the last 8 years. The only project thus far was the refurbishing of the Church Street School. \$2.5 million was taken from the fund for the project, which has greatly enhanced the community as a whole.

This fund could finance several projects, with a replenishing component so that the fund is rejuvenated for future projects over and over again.

The resolution at Council on Tuesday is key, to make the Community aware of the funds. To explain how the funds came about and what they

Continued on page 6

Machell's Corners



To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to letters@auroran.com - deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Ultimate Endurance Test



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

During yet another marathon session of Aurora's Town Council last Tuesday, Councillor Paul Pirri finally had a chance to talk about his long-planned and long-delayed motion to take the "show on the road" and arrange for two meetings of Aurora brass to take place at local high schools.

The idea is to get local students more engaged in the municipal political process. It is a terrific idea and seeing governments in action is always - well, typically - more exciting than reading about it in a textbook.

However, having sat through the latest Council meeting, it was a little bit disappointing to see that instead of this idea being snapped up by Council immediately and made a reality for the upcoming school year, it was yet another issue which became bogged down in minutia.

It wasn't that these concerns were invalid, however. Some rightly pointed out that there may be additional details to consider before it comes up for final approval, including making sure each venue is as accessible as the Council chamber when it comes to things like audible devices, screens, and microphones, as well as ensuring that there is an audience for such a laborious effort.

Councillors Evelyn Buck and John Abel pointed out that for high school students sitting through a general committee meeting could be an endurance test, and if high school audiences were faced with what was on Tuesday's agenda, they were probably right.

Chances are, if Councillors and Town Staff schlep to high schools and bring everything they need with them, they will face a gradually dwindling audience as they get comfy for a long jaw about pending lists or spend over 20 minutes talking about the fate of two cedar hedges on Kennedy Street, which made their semi-annual appearance at the Council table last week.

While Councillor Michael Thompson suggested what should NOT be on a committee agenda if they

get to high school (public planning matters), it was unfortunate that not one Councillor made any suggestion on what SHOULD be on an agenda for high school audiences.

If done right, such a meeting could have the potential to engage students not just in a one-off meeting but in ongoing issues. What better audience could be found for a debate on the Aurora Youth Centre...err, "Community Space for Youth"? Surely this audience would have some valuable input on the matter; inspire some great debate at the table, and actually tell Councillors what Aurora's youth want.

Councillor Pirri's second motion of the evening to increase Aurora's international ties with the developing world would have also been a perfect topic. Teachers could even form some lesson plans around this one so students would come fully prepared to delegate.

How about saving a debate on what to do with the Hydro funds for the student audience? Chances are, they could come up with some creative suggestions on how to spend or invest the money that might never occur to councillors or other people who might be drafted the municipality's "education" campaign on what to do with the dough.

Food for thought - if done right, our leaders of tomorrow could cite their high school encounter with Aurora's Council an influencing factor in entering the public arena.

A MOMENT FOR OUR SOUTHERN COUNTERPARTS

I'm sure many of us were in the same boat on Friday morning when we woke up to the news.

If you're like me and you hate to wake up to the sound of an alarm, or a particularly raucous song, you set your clock radio to a talk or news station.

If you were in a bit of a sleep daze when you came in midway through a news report on that tragic shooting in Aurora, that sleep haze was quickly shaken off. You were likely holding your breath awaiting confirmation that it did take place in another Aurora, thankfully you were probably able to exhale rather quickly but chances are the lump in your throat hung around for a lot longer as the brief relief that this didn't happen in your town but the reality set in that this did indeed happen in another Aurora several hundred miles away.

It was, of course, the tragic shooting of over 70 people in a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado, leaving 12 dead at a midnight screening of 'The Dark Knight Rises'.

Sadly, Aurora, Colorado, will forever be marred by the havoc allegedly wreaked by a 24-year-old university student as they pick up the pieces of this tragedy.

I don't know about the rest of you, but every time the news networks - both Canadian and American - broke away to update us on the "Massacre/Shooting in Aurora", I couldn't help but feel a bit sick to my stomach. Despite being fully conscious of the proximity between this Aurora and the Aurora in question, for people who have lived in this Town, the words just simply don't go together. But now they do.

I hope everyone was a little bit more appreciative of their loved ones on Friday night, but also took a moment to pause and remember our fellow Aurorans in the southwestern United States and the people left behind to pick up the pieces.

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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

Founder

Ron Wallace

Publisher Emeritus

Rosemary Schumaker

Editor

Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

General Manager

Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Production Manager

Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Advertising

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

Photography

David Falconer
falconerdavid1@gmail.com

Classifieds

905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Main Number 905-727-3300 • Facsimile 905-727-2620

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 700 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

AURORAN POLL

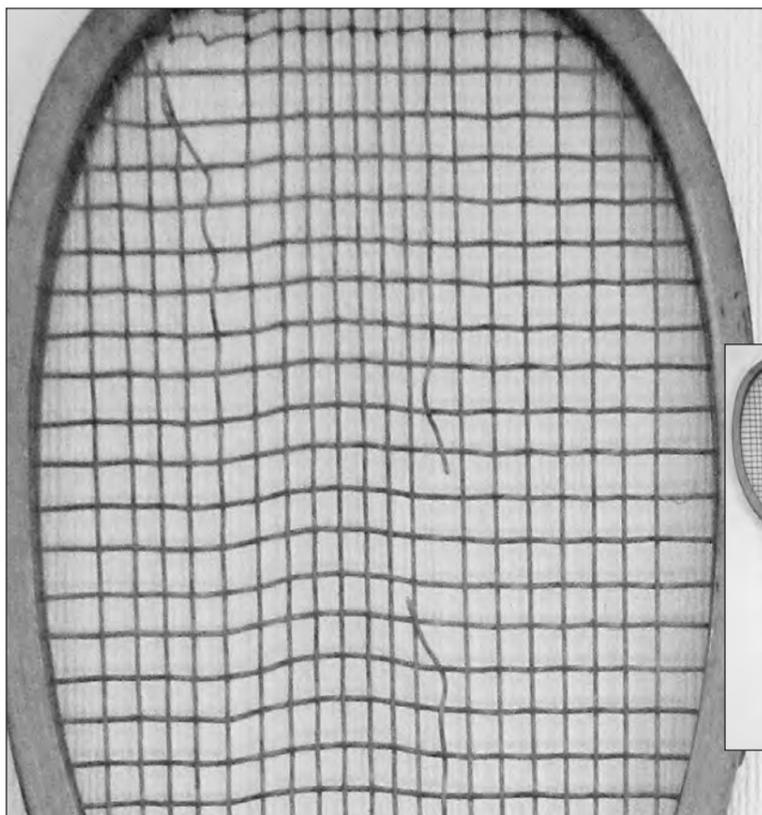
RESULTS AS OF JULY 23, 2012	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
	86%.4	8%.5	5%.1

FINAL WEEK TO VOTE www.theauroran.com

The Aurora jazz+ Festival will soon be upon us. Do you plan on attending the three day festival in Town Park at any point from August 3 - August 5?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Undecided

Please participate in our POLL - go to www.theauroran.com, scroll down and look to the bottom right of the home page to VOTE.



This Wright & Ditson tennis racquet is believed to have been owned by Mary Hillary and is now housed in the home which bears her family's name. The company was founded in 1871 and dominated the US market well into the mid-20th century. This particular "Champion" model was patented on January 3, 1905. While the racquet's face may have seen better days, it is one of a number of items now up for "adoption" as part of the Aurora Historical Society's "Adopt an Artefact" fundraising program. If you are interested in adopting this or any other item in the Aurora Historical Society's fundraising initiative, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991.

Ottawa Report

It may be summer, but our government remains hard at work on your behalf. Here are a few recent highlights.

Honouring our Vets and Troops

I am pleased to report on two new initiatives to honour our troops. The first is an official honour to recognize Canadian Veterans of Bomber Command. A special bar will be created and worn on the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. The efforts of the approximately 50,000 Canadians who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Bomber Command operations over occupied Europe were one of our country's most significant contributions to the Second World War effort.

The second is a Canadian Forces War of 1812 Commemorative Banner and Commemorative pin, which will be presented to Canadian Forces units, formations, and establishments whose heritage embraces service in the defence of Canada during 1812-1815. The War of 1812 was instrumental in the development of Canada's military and tells the story of the Canada we know today - an independent and free country in a constitutional monarchy with its own parliamentary system.

The 1812 Canadian Heritage commemorative pin will be worn by all Canadian

Forces members for the three-year commemoration period. The banner will be displayed throughout the 2012-2015 commemorative period and paraded thereafter by units on anniversaries of events of the War of 1812.

National Transplant Research Program Funding

On July 17, Canada's Health Minister announced a commitment of \$10 million dollars to support a national transplant research program that aims to improve the health of transplant patients in Canada. This is also a great reminder that any of us could one day, be in need of an organ or tissue transplant. The few minutes it takes to register as a donor can end up saving eight lives. You can register at www.beadonor.ca.

Protecting Canada's Water Quality

New Wastewater System Effluent Regulations were established on July 18. These are the country's first-ever national standards for the treatment of sewage, one of the largest sources of pollution in our waters. Safe and reliable wastewater infrastructure is essential to ensuring the health and well-being of our communities. These



LOIS
BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

regulations will contribute to Canada's economic future and help ensure our water is clean, safe and available for future generations.

Go Canada Go!

The Olympic Games will take place from July 27 to August 12, followed by the Paralympic Games from August 29 to September 9. As athletes from around the world gather in London for the

2012 Olympics - I'd like to congratulate Canada's team on becoming Olympians, and wish them luck and success in the events ahead.

Canada's team comes from coast to coast to coast and I am sure they will make us proud, by once more showing athleticism, sportsmanship and dedication. In Vancouver two years ago our athletes stunned the world with a record-setting performance at home. In Canada's Games our athletes won 14 gold medals - the most ever by a single country at a Winter Olympics. Canada's Paralympians also had their best-ever performance in 2010, placing third in both total medal count and gold medals won. Now Canada's summer athletes travel

across the Atlantic to test their skills against the best in the world.

The Newmarket-Aurora riding will be represented by Sheila Reid, who competes in the 5,000 m run. I know everyone in Aurora and Newmarket is very excited for her and wishes the very best as she represents our country in this gruelling contest.

Our government is a proud supporter of Canada's Olympians. That's why we so strongly support the Own the Podium program, which enables the training and competition that give Canadian athletes the opportunity to achieve their gold medal dreams.

We also support athletics and an active lifestyle at all levels of skill. I encourage residents to take every opportunity to get outside - between watching Olympic events - and enjoy our beautiful towns, and all the amenities and facilities they have to offer. Sports are part of Canadian identity and culture, and a fun way to improve overall health for you and your family.

Please join me in wishing Sheila and all our Olympians the very best of luck. Go Canada Go!

If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I would love to hear from you.

And the "Favourite Column" is...

Loyal readers will recall that a few weeks ago I wrote about my second favourite column out of the two hundred and fifty seven that I have penned since 2006.

In trying to identify my favourite column, I had to think about this for a while as I have had the opportunity to meet lots of different people and write about some interesting issues; but one particular column did stand out.

And the reason for this choice was based on the hilarious exchange that I had with my son and two nephews and also how cute my son looked in his cow costume. My brother-in-law was good enough to frame the column along with some pictures of Ryan in his costume; this sits proudly on the wall in the hallway of my home:

Halloween 2007 (November 2, 2007):

Two weeks ago I saw the advertisement in the Auroran for the Haunted Forest event. I knew that my family and my in-laws would be anxious to participate.

On that faithful Saturday afternoon, I was wondering what my almost four-year old son would wear for the evening. What follows is a partial transcript of the conversation:

Dad: Ryan, what are you going to be for Halloween?

Ryan: I want to be a cow.

Dad: A cow?

Ryan: A cow.

Dad: You can be *SpongeBob Squarepants, Harry Potter, Dora The Explorer, Spiderman, Bob The Builder, Captain Jack Sparrow, A Fireman...*

He cut me off.

Ryan: I want to be a cow, Daddy! (He stated rather exasperated.)

My ten year old nephew Brock, who was with us at the time, then chimed in with, "Uncle Steve, he has wanted to be a cow his whole life".

Ryan: It is my dream to be a cow Daddy.

That sealed it.

My son is a cow.

My wife - as per usual - had the last word here.

She stated that, as Ryan is comprised of "probably 50% Somerville DNA, he will be no doubt be known as a Mad Cow." Badda-boom!

Probably my DNA?

Hmm, that may be fodder for a future column. But I digress.

One of Julie's friends called her around noon on Saturday and said that all tickets had been sold. Julie then got on the phone to the event organizers and they said that they had been deluged with the response and might not be able to handle everyone. The lady suggested



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

that we come early.

So we did, which turned out to be a good call.

I was told that the organizers expected maybe five hundred people; according to last week's Auroran, over 3,000 people attended.

So we arrived at about 5.30 p.m. and registered. The price was certainly right - a bargain at \$4 per child.

My son was strutting around proudly in his cow costume and meeting up with his friends Jake, dressed as a Spiderman, Matthew dressed as a Dead Zombie and Emily dressed as Tinkerbell.

There was still light when we went initially entered the forest which was fortunate because, once the darkness hit, Sheppard's Bush really was transformed into a haunted forest. My munchkin might have been too afraid (ok - yes, me too).

On the not-so-scary side of things, along the trail M&M Meats had hamburgers and there was a station with a special witches' brew for thirsty revelers. There was also a barn where the little ones could do arts and crafts.

The Mayor was also there in her witches'

costume meeting and greeting everyone. A number of her fellow Councillors were also in attendance.

There were obviously some very scary things to behold.

The person with the chain saw hiding behind one of the shacks comes quickly to mind. In the darkness the person kind of looked like Evelyn Buck.

There was also scary storytelling in one of the shacks.

One kindly suggestion for Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, who is the chair of the Town anti-graffiti task force:

If you really want to frighten those children and young adults who have been responsible for defacing property in town - instead of storytelling in the old shelter - why not hold an actual Town Council Meeting in there and have these kids sit through it.

Tell the kids, "If you persist on your present course, you will end up having to attend these meetings for one solid year!". Talk about scared straight!

The most frightening thing in the haunted forest was the man who was "hanging" from a tree.

One town employee commented to all and sundry, "That's what happens if you don't use your green box!"

You've been suitably warned.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

If you're patient and look hard enough you'll find them

Last week, I discovered more of those elusive seniors. A handful were playing chess, a bunch were carpet bowling, and a sizeable number of die-hards were playing bingo. And, if my ears didn't deceive me, some were playing Pickle Ball in the gym.

On Tuesday, more of our regular players showed up for Scrabble. Then on Friday when we usually play Rummi-Kub, an infrequent player who seems more interested in playing a version of Canasta showed up. He joins us now and then as the urge strikes, I guess, or he pops in and out to see what's happening.

Last week he brought in a new game for us to try.

I'm all for trying something new, so I was pleased. The game is called Aggravation for good reason. If you are easily frustrated, you probably won't like playing this game for very long. The rules are simple, but it took us over an hour to play one game with five people.

The general idea of the game is to move your four marbles around the board, taking shortcuts whenever possible, and getting them into your home strip.

Sounds easy, but the frustrating part is that if someone lands on the spot where you're sitting, you get knocked back to the start. When I was within about 20 spots of winning the game, my heart began to race. "Am I actually going to win?" I thought. "No one is near me, except for 'him'," the one who brought the game.

With each throw of the dice, I felt the tension rise. "Five more spots and I'm home free! But then there 'he' is, racing up behind me. I refuse to let him knock me back yet again. I have to roll a five and no more. What are the chances?"

It was his turn, and he sat about 10 spots behind me. Two moves and he could knock me off the win.

You will appreciate my fears when I tell you that he frequently threw sixes. Six or one gets you started. Six

gets you an extra turn. At one point, he threw three sixes in a row and was speeding around the board with ease, knocking people off in the process.

Despite the tension and his ability to catch up quickly, I won. "Whew!" We'd had enough, so he and I proceeded to play three rounds of Rummi-Kub. I've seen his keen abilities in this game, so when I won the first round, I was surprised. I proceeded to win the next two games.

While I headed for the exit, he and his game of Aggravation joined his card playing friends. I wonder how he feels about getting beat four games in a row?

Knotty Knitters welcome you

This group is currently



SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

working on plans for the upcoming Aurora Senior Farmers' Market Day on August 11. If you're interested in participating, you can drop into the craft room

any Monday at 9 a.m. or ask for Rozlin at the reception desk.

Walking Club outings

Next up is the August 1 walk through Sheppard's Bush/Oak Ridges Trail, south to Vandorf Road. This is a great walk because most of it takes you through deep forests that run behind a subdivision off Vandorf. It's generally cool and quiet. Half way, there is a comfortable park bench where you can rest.

More Winners

The York Region 55+ Summer Games has produced two more winners from the seniors' group.

Lorna Nadeau and Bill Summers achieved gold in carpet bowling.

Cooling Centre and a Movie

Don't forget that the Aurora Seniors' Centre is a designated cooling centre. If the heat is getting too much for you, or you'd just like a reprieve from it, you can drop in anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

On Tuesdays, you can stay later to enjoy the movie at 6.30 p.m. These are quality movies. On July 24, it's "Being Flynn" starring Robert DiNero, Paul Dano and Julianne Moore.

On July 31, they're running "The Three Stooges" starring Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos and Will Sasso.

Members pay \$1.50, non-members pay \$2.00, which includes the movie, refreshments and popcorn. What's a movie without popcorn?

Check Your Smoke Alarms

Over the summer, Central York Fire Services runs its Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Campaign across Newmarket and Aurora. This is your chance to have a smoke alarm installed or to replace an old one at no cost. As well, you can have your carbon monoxide alarm checked.

To have your smoke alarms and their batteries checked, call 905-895-9222 to book an appointment. Or you can add your name to a sign up sheet located on the seniors' center's bulletin board.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.aurorase-niors.ca, email aurorase-niors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Letters to the editor

Chamber celebrates "Jewels of Aurora"

We read and hear so much bad news about the state of the economy and the problems of business, particularly small business these days, that we wanted to share some really good news.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has recently completed the nomination and judging process for the Business Achievement Awards and the winners will be announced at the awards dinner on October 4th.

The theme this year is "Celebrating the Jewels of Aurora", and the Judging Committee wanted to share with your readers how impressed and excited we

were with the quality businesses and passionate business people in Aurora we had the good fortune to meet: they were really jewels.

We can honestly say that every one of the nominees was a worthy candidate, so it made the final decisions extremely difficult.

Without commenting on any specific nominee, we were amazed at the passion, commitment, and personal integrity of everyone we met. There were definitely some key themes that emerged which might be instructive reminders to other business people. Everyone we met went right over the top when

it came to memorable customer service.

We heard story after story of people going out of their way to meet customers' needs, often when those needs had nothing to do with the business at hand and were not likely to increase sales. The people we met were also very resilient. Some had been in business for many years, and they had weathered all sorts of changes and challenges. Often, it meant changing their business model or approach, but they were very strategic in the changes they made.

That said, they were also risk takers. Many had put their own homes at risk to launch or expand their business, and they did so with the unwavering faith that they would and could make it work. They managed to do that while maintaining a

healthy work-life balance and providing incredible support to their employees. Finally, they were really committed to the community.

On behalf of the Judging Committee I would like to say how much we enjoyed the process of getting to know our business people and their businesses better.

It is a real privilege to live and work in a town that attracts and retains such a high caliber of business people and the energy their businesses bring to our community. We want to encourage everyone to come out to the event on October 4th and, when the winners are announced in The Auroran, to make sure we support our local businesses and organizations.

Peter Dickens
Business Achievement Awards Committee

Committee needed: Abel

From page 4
can and cannot be utilized for.

I believe the next step would be to seek the input from the Community at large. A standard form for their suggestions would include the awareness and education component of the Hydro fund.

By doing this, we can manage expectations.

Once the residents have had an opportunity for input, it is imperative that an

Ad Hoc Committee be formed to process the information gathered. The Ad Hoc Committee would be comprised of residents only, at arms length, free from any political involvement. The Ad Hoc Committee would then prepare the potential options for Council to consider.

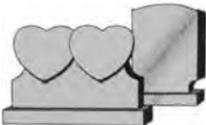
After all, this is your money.

Councillor John Abel
Aurora

MONUMENTS BY THOMPSONS

A New Approach to Memorial Design.

- * Granite markers and monuments
- * Cemetery lettering and restoration
- * Bronze markers and vases
- * Serving all cemeteries and nationalities
- * Portrait Etchings



Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed
Day, Evening and Weekend Appointments
905-727-5421

530 Industrial Pkwy S., Aurora L4G 6W8

Thompson Funeral Home is proud to be part of
Service Corporation International (Canada) Ltd.

**Sending your teen to us
for 4 days this summer
could save their life.**

July 28, Aug. 11, 18 & 25

(4 Saturdays)

Aug. 14 - Tues. Fri. (4 Days)



**YOUNG DRIVERS®
of Canada**

905-726-4132



CROWN PAVING LTD.

ASK US ABOUT THE HST

Specializing in
Asphalt Paving

Driveways • Interlocking • Concrete • Excavation • Farms

CHARLIE Toll Free: 1-888-695-7283
Toronto 416-783-7283 • Oakville: 905-337-7283

PETER E. REISS B.A., LL.B.

- Commercial/Business Law
- Corporate Law
- Real Estate

Tel: 905 727 2500 Email: law@p-reiss.com

Results-Focused Service

100's of LIGHTING IDEAS



with 100's
of styles to choose from!

Lampshades, Repairs & we can arrange for installation

THE LIGHT SPOT

The Light Spot

15570 Yonge Street
Aurora, On
(905) 727-7347

HOURS

Mon - Fri - 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 5
Sun 12 - 4

All major credit cards accepted

Aurora's # 1 Lighting Store

www.thelightspot.ca

Decision for costs could take up to 60 days

From page 1
a hardworking politician."

Mr. Clark added the "motion record showed the unanimous resolution which approved the defamation lawsuit" to protect her reputation as Mayor.

Citing case studies, Mr. Clark argued that contrary to arguments from Mr. Goldblatt, Ms. Morris' suit was actually a bona fide case as set out in case law, in particular The Bagwell case, which outlined three criteria that need to be met in order to prove defamation - that the words in question "tend to lower the plaintiff's reputation in the eyes of a reasonable person", that the words actually refer to the plaintiff, and were communicated to at least one person.

"I think, without a doubt, we have those three conditions," said Mr. Clark, noting that in the case established by Bagwell, damage is presumed and the onus shifts to the defence. "Falsity and damage are presumed so to have a bona fide case in defamation you don't have to

allege that damage was suffered as my friend suggests. You don't have to allege that these words are considered to be defamatory. They only have to be defamatory if they tend to lower the plaintiff's reputation in the eyes of a reasonable person. It's an objective test.

"There's no subjective element to that. We don't have to allege specifically that Ms. Morris' reputation was, in fact, diminished, although we do allege that."

Mr. Hogg and Mr. Johnson are seeking approximately \$38,000 in costs from Ms. Morris for the proceedings that have evolved since they were served in October 2010. Ms. Bishenden has since settled privately with Ms. Morris. Ms. Morris' lawyer argued at Tuesday's proceedings, however, that this number is excessive and pointed to a number of items in the opponent's documents that, in his opinion, illustrated the costs sought were more than necessary.

A key plank in this argument was that Hogg and

Johnson went "on for pages and pages" attacking Ms. Morris' record which was, in his view, defending the anonymous individuals rather than themselves. Mr. Clark also rejected Mr. Goldblatt's argument that this was a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) case designed to chill public discourse, and one that was "frivolous and vexatious", an argument in favour of awarding them full indemnity.

"I have on an abstract level some sympathy for the concept that the town or a mayor should not stifle dissent just before an election by bringing frivolous lawsuits," said Mr. Clark. "However, in this particular case, the other side of the story is that Ms. Morris was being subjected to an unremitting barrage of negative commentary without the ability to deal with that in any sort of meaningful way.

"The abusive commentary was being done anonymously on the internet and people were not listening to

reason and stopping this behaviour. The courts have held that a public servant is permitted to sue them for defamation and to determine their identities."

Mr. Clark then addressed one of the key planks in the other sides' argument that Ms. Morris having public funds put towards her lawsuit in its early days - with a \$55,000 cost to taxpayers before the current Council formally terminated its funding last year paying bills up to December 2010 - put her at an unfair advantage compared to the private citizens. He argued it is "not unreasonable" for a Town to fund a lawsuit assisting its mayor "in defending her reputation when criticism gets out of hand, when it becomes defamatory, not legitimate political criticism."

"No one is arguing in this case and no one has ever argued in this case that legitimate political criticism should be suppressed and quite frankly, in some places, it might be difficult to draw the line...but in Canada we

draw the line at certain forms of speech and the courts have held that state resources may be used by then public servants and elected representatives [to protect their] reputations."

While a number of factors and case studies were cited during Tuesday's proceedings, the overarching argument put forward by Mr. Clark was that Mr. Hogg and Mr. Johnson's "gold plated" case for costs had a final number that was racked up by "incessant" emails sent to lawyers by Mr. Johnson and going beyond what he argued was their own simple defence of they did not say the words in question.

"You don't need to cite 500 articles saying the mayor was a bad mayor to go to the specific words," said Mr. Clark. "Nowhere in the statement of defence do they actually parse the words and say, 'This is true because...'. They

go into the defence and attack to smear the mayor."

Although the Master pointed out to Mr. Clark that the courts do not require litigants "to raise one defence and no other," he pressed on.

"We submit that a lot of work was done, not all of the work, some of the work was properly focused, but a significant portion of the work was not done in defence of the claim, but was done with ulterior motives to attack the mayor politically," he said. "It is not an expense which should really be borne by the plaintiff."

While he argued that no costs should be awarded at all, Mr. Clark told the courts if they did decide costs were in order, they should take into account the fact Ms. Bishenden has settled with Ms. Morris. Therefore, he said, any costs should be reduced by one third.

The Master has reserved his decision.

Lawyer for Hogg, Johnson replies to Morris case

By Brock Weir

While Tuesday's hearing in Bill Hogg and Richard Johnson's cost case against former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris was dominated by her lawyer's defence, the other team had their chance to reply.

Having made his case before the courts on April 26, the two local bloggers were once again represent-

ed by Jordan Goldblatt. In his reply, he reiterated his position that Ms. Morris' \$6 million law suit against the two men, among others, has elements of a SLAPP lawsuit, which stands for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, in order to stifle dissent. This is reason, he said, for his clients to be awarded substantial indemnity costs. He also addressed the "three

prongs" of defamation which Ken Clark, the lawyer for Ms. Morris, argued she had in the case "without a doubt."

"I say there is more than doubt," said Mr. Goldblatt. "What there is not is any evidence, which a court, let alone at this stage after discontinuance, can make a finding that the words were defamatory. [The words cited from the anonymous

bloggers] call the plaintiff 'stupid', they call her 'ignorant', they call her a 'liar', the call her a 'hypocrite', but defamation law doesn't allow you in the absence of any evidence to make a finding that those words are prima facie defamatory."

The Master, however, appeared to disagree with Mr. Goldblatt's premise.

"Wouldn't calling someone, 'the stupidest, most ignorant, lying hypocrite it

Continued on page 9

Water warnings issued for York Region

A low water advisory has been issued across York Region in response to low precipitation and stream flows.

The notice of a Level 1 Low Water Advisory for all areas of the Region came Friday from the York Region Low Water Response Team and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

"The Ontario Low Water Response indicators identify that average precipitation and flows are below the required Provincial seasonal thresholds," said Kristen Yemm, Manager of Corporate Communications for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) in a statement.

"All water users and residents in the Lake Simcoe watershed are requested to reduce water use by 10 per cent and comply with the municipal outdoor water use restrictions in the area. This applies to non-essential water use such as private swimming pools, lawn watering, public and private fountains and vehicle washing. By doing this, it will help ensure an adequate supply remains for essential use [such as] firefighting and to sustain aquatic ecosystems"

The LSRCA also says that rainfall from May through last Thursday, July 19, was 60 per cent of the normal three-month total values. Flows in local waterways, including

the East Holland River, are "between 40 and 70 per cent of the lowest average summer flows, based on 30-day average flows."

Outdoor water use bylaws are now in effect through September 30. For Aurora, outdoor water use is permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., and in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one month grace period provision for new sod and seed.

"Before you put out the sprinkler and let it soak, be sure you know your local municipality's outdoor water-use bylaw," said the Region of York. "All Regional municipalities stipulate that odd house numbers may use water outdoors only on odd numbered days of the month and even house numbers may use water outdoors on even numbered days of the month."

FAN MAN

ORDER YOUR COTTAGE FANS NOW!!



Trendy Cottage Fans

Introducing Lavie by Design Interiors

Phone for an Appointment

Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10am to 5pm

Thursday & Friday 10 - 6

www.thefanman.ca

905-841-2832

220 Industrial Pkwy. S

Fibromyalgia: Natural Approaches for Lasting Relief

Fibromyalgia is reaching alarming levels and ineffective treatment is common. If you suffer from Fibromyalgia you need to know poorly known facts about the condition in order to avoid years of pain and suffering.

You have probably been told by your doctor you have constant, unremitting joint pain ... tender, achy spots all over your body... including your neck and upper back... pain between your shoulder blades ... chronic fatigue ... and maybe constant or intermittent headaches. You can't sleep at night and are exhausted all day.

You can't even enjoy the simple things in life anymore, such as playing with your children. Getting out of bed every day is an unbelievable challenge.

Life Has Become Unbearable...

Your doctor does an exam...negative. He takes some X-rays...nega-

tive. Does a few blood tests... negative. Maybe even an MRI... negative. Then he tells you you have Fibromyalgia and gives you anti-inflammatory drugs. You find that the approaches you try do not help and often make it worse.

So you go back, again and again, and your doctor gives you different drugs to try to make you feel better.

The doctor eventually may say... "I've done all I can do, you just need to learn to live with it..."

After exhausting the list of medications you may also be told it's "all in your head" and they may even send you to a psychiatrist for anti-depressant drugs.

You may have gone through months, if not years, of grueling tests and drugs with horrible side effects.

It is clear that sufferers need much more information on what Fibromyalgia really is and how they can help

themselves.

Sufferers also need to know there are many natural ways of helping themselves feel better by improving the function of muscles and nerves to help the body to heal.

The medical system has essentially three major choices: drugs, physiotherapy or surgery.

There are other approaches that are sensible, natural and safe that have helped many Fibromyalgia sufferers improve their life forever.

To help sufferers, a workshop is being offered as a community service to reveal effective ways to feel better, increase energy and improve the quality of life. The workshop is free.

The workshop will be held on Wed Aug 1, 7.30 - 9 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd Unit 10 Richmond Hill Seating is limited. Call to make reservations (877) 334-2785.

Walrick walrickdisposal.ca

Our Service:
Using Mini-Bin Services is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Call 1-877-782-5865 and speak to one of our Service Reps to arrange a day and time for delivery.
2. On the day of service one of our Drivers will come and deliver the Mini-Bin.
3. Once you have filled the Mini-Bin, call and our Driver will come back to pick it up and take it away.

It's That Simple!

For pricing in your area please call
1.877.782.JUNK
5865

We accept Visa & Master Card

Mini-Bin Services Are Ideal For:

- Home & Business Renovations
- Carpet Removal
- Yard Waste
- And almost anything else you can think of...

We can not accept the following materials in our Mini-Bins: tires, chemicals, solvents, oils and hazardous waste. If you are unsure please call.

Mini-Bins are available for delivery and pick-up:

Monday to Saturday:
8 AM to 6 PM

Our service guarantee
Mini-Bin Services guarantees a friendly and professional service by both our Service Reps and Drivers.

Advertisorial

Hydro Fund options subject to "education campaign"

By Brock Weir

Whether you want to spend it or perhaps even re-invest it back into the Town funds, an "education" campaign is due to hit Aurora streets on all the possibilities for the \$33 million in Aurora's hydro fund.

Councillors made the decision to go forward with an education campaign last week, despite a recommendation from Town staff to spend up to \$35,000 on a consultant - or "neutral third party" - to canvass the residents at Town events, facilities and through other means to gauge their opinion on the fate of the money and "analyse the results of a community survey to determine resident priorities for the Hydro funds."

The money in the fund comes from the sale of Aurora Hydro back in 2006. The revenue from that deal was put into an account and interest has accrued to its current balance. The Council of the day, however, placed stringent rules on just how the money could be spent and how Councillors could approve the disbursement. Councillor Michael

Thompson made the first move to scrap the third party consultant idea.

"What are we going to do differently this time so that the same results aren't repeated?" he asked of Town staff referring to a 2005 study on the sale of Aurora Hydro. "I don't want to repeat the same thing that has been done in the past."

While Councillors were largely in favour of scrapping the plan for a third party consultant, others were less convinced that an "education" campaign in the community without a clear idea on what this "education" would entail.

"We have to put something out there for the community to react to," said Councillor Evelyn Buck, noting changes were also suggested on the procedures surrounding how Council can spend the money. "How can it be right if you're not setting out ramifications of how you're going to do that? There's no substance to it."

This view was shared by other Councillors around the table, including Councillor Sandra Humfryes who said that public "brainstorming" is

a great idea, but such dialogue needs to have structure. There needs to be a clear guideline established, she said, before going forward with taking these ideas to the public which outlines what Council believes are the projects on the table, issues identified as potential future concerns facing the Town from Aurora's finance department, and other priorities.

"[\$33 million] is a lot of zeroes to take in," agreed Aurora CAO Neil Garbe. "You may be saying, 'Should we look at options for renewing infrastructure, building recreation facilities, cultural facilities,' and we might put these large, broad categories out there and then generate ideas more like a brainstorming exercise with the whole community - no wrong answers, just trying to prompt some thoughts."

However this "education" plan turns out after some further consideration over these last weeks of summer by Town staff, Councillor Chris Ballard said it is important not just to manage the message but also the expecta-



The Carpet Frogs played to an audience of over 1,500 on a perfect evening last Wednesday – and concert –goers were even able to enjoy a cool breeze along with the music. Having played as a back-up band for Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman, this band played the great hits of the Guess Who including American Woman, These Eyes, No Time, and even threw in a few Beatles tunes. This concert, sponsored by Home Hardware, will be followed this Wednesday at the Town Park band shell by the Bob Marley Tribute Band, sponsored by Crabby Joe's. Showtime is 7 p.m. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Resident collects sports gear for Aboriginal kids

By Brock Weir

The season may have come and gone, but if you're tackling your spring cleaning a little bit late this year, spare a moment for your unused, disused, or underused sports and leisure equipment.

You don't have to put them in a yard sale or send them off to the Salvation Army or Goodwill - one local teen has teamed up with a new real estate company in the area to ensure that all these items will end up with a good home in northern Ontario.

Donations of new and used sporting equipment - anything from high end hockey and broomball equipment to the humble Frisbee - are being accepted at Upper Hill Real Estate at 78 Wellington Street East.

The collection is the brainchild of Brooke Harrison, a recent graduate of Aurora High School who has an impressive track record of philanthropy across the province, having been recently named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20.

The initiative is a renewal and expansion of her earlier work with Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario, which was inspired by a talk given by Mark L. Macdonald, National Indigenous Bishop for the Anglican Church of Canada, who spoke at

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church. He told the congregation that if all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples formed their own country it would be one of the poorest nations on earth. That message struck a chord with her, and helping Aboriginal communities has been a key force in her life.

Her family decided last year a good way to help these communities was by sending backpacks filled with school supplies and toys to these northern communities. They eventually became involved with the North South

Partnership for Children on the advice of former Ontario Lieutenant-Governor James Bartleman, and focused their efforts on four Aboriginal communities.

Their home was soon packed to the gills with toys, equipment, and other goodies for these northern communities, so they might be breathing more than just a sigh of relief that Mirella Greco of Upper Hill has offered to use their business as a drop off location this time around for the sports equipment.

Continued on page 11

tions of residents.

"We have already let things get too far ahead of us," said Councillor Ballard. "I think in the public's eye we have set expectations that we're about to open up the cookie jar and everyone who has a special project - and I suspect the rest of you have received phone calls - have been lobbying on how the [money] could be spent on their special project."

"I'm glad to see we're not going forward with a \$35,000 consultation [but] we need to take a few steps back and make sure we're managing the expectations of the public that we're not about to open the tap and spend \$33 million

on a variety of different projects. We have a significant infrastructure deficit that our treasurer reminds us of at every opportunity and I would be very concerned if the public gets it in its mind that we make it look as though we're going to be building a lot of special projects with this money

"Whenever you ask the public what they want, are you prepared to do it? I'm suspecting the people of Aurora, when they are educated and informed and making input like that will give us some very good feedback, but we as a Council need to be prepared to act on what we hear."

Yen Nails
Professional Nail Care

Hollidge Blvd.
Wellington St. E.

Bayview Ave.

- Manicure
- Spa Pedicure
- Bio Gel
- Solar Nails
- UV Gel Nails
- Acrylic
- Air Brush Design

Walk-ins welcome

130 Hollidge Blvd. • 905-727-6030

ON SALE NOW!

TRAILER
HITCHES...

We Sell Them!
We Install Them!

YORK SPRING & RADIATOR

60 Industrial
Pkwy. North, Aurora

905-727-3121

Upper Hill Real Estate Ltd. Brokerage

Full Service Boutique Brokerage

Dedicated to one thing - YOU, our client

HOME OF OUR NEW OFFICE
AURORA'S HISTORIC BUNGALOW
CIRCA 1929

- We offer **Free** Market Evaluations
- Ask about our comprehensive commission package

"THE BUNGALOW" 1929
HISTORIC COMMITTEE TRUST OF AURORA

Mirella Greco -
Broker of Record

www.upperhillrealestate.com

Office: 905.503.7000
Fax: 905.503.7003

Council undecided on "taking show on the road"

By Brock Weir

It is intended to engage Aurora's youth in issues facing our Town, and soon Councillors could be packing up their papers and pens and bringing the business of the Town to them.

At least, that is what's hoped from some members at the table as Town staff consider ways of making Councillor Paul Pirri's motion to "take the show on the road" a reality.

The move came in a notice of motion from the Councillor which was introduced last month, but finally had a chance to be discussed at last week's Council meeting. In it, he argues that "providing access and allowing participation in the political process is a means to engage students" and alternative locations such as high schools might encourage more residents overall to attend general committee meetings.

Following the motion's introduction, Councillor Pirri told The Auroran in June that holding one meeting at a high school in

the York Region District School Board system and one in the York Catholic District School Board would improve students' access to their local government while encouraging them to delegate to Council to speak about the issues that matter to them.

"People often complain that youth are disengaged with politics, but by the time the students go to school, go to band practice, or go home and eat dinner, a lot of times they are just too tired and they don't have the time to attend something like this," Councillor Pirri said.

The matter is now in the hands of staff as Councillors voted to send the motion to them for a full report on the ins and outs of taking meetings away from the Council table and putting them in the schools. What was on the table initially, however, in Councillor Pirri's motion was to schedule to General Committee meetings in the schools. Although Council was generally in favour of "anything" to engage youth and

residents as a whole in civic life, it was the small details which led them to hit the brakes rather than going forward in earnest.

"Anything that gets youth involved and interested in what we're doing is a good thing," said Councillor Chris Ballard. "I would have a practical issue for those residents who attend our committee meetings who may require some accessibility help, particularly the auditory [system] that we have...so we don't make meetings

more accessible to our youth but inaccessible to members of the general public."

Councillor John Gallo agreed and said Council should be doing anything to engage youth, but he also expressed concerns over the timing. Having a general committee meeting at the school during the day is an obvious choice to get a captive audience but said a daytime meeting might hinder the attendance of others in the community.

"Quite frankly, I don't know how to get around that because they're at school in the day, and if we

have one at night, what are the chances of them com-

Continued on page 15

NORTH YORK
HEATING, PLUMBING &
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

All types of Filters, Humidifiers,
Air Cleaners, Water Pumps

Tel: (905) 727-6401
www.nyhp.on.ca

8 Industrial Pkwy.S.
Aurora, Ontario

SALES CENTRE
2175 King Rd.

THE RESIDENCES OF
SPRING HILL

905
833-9030

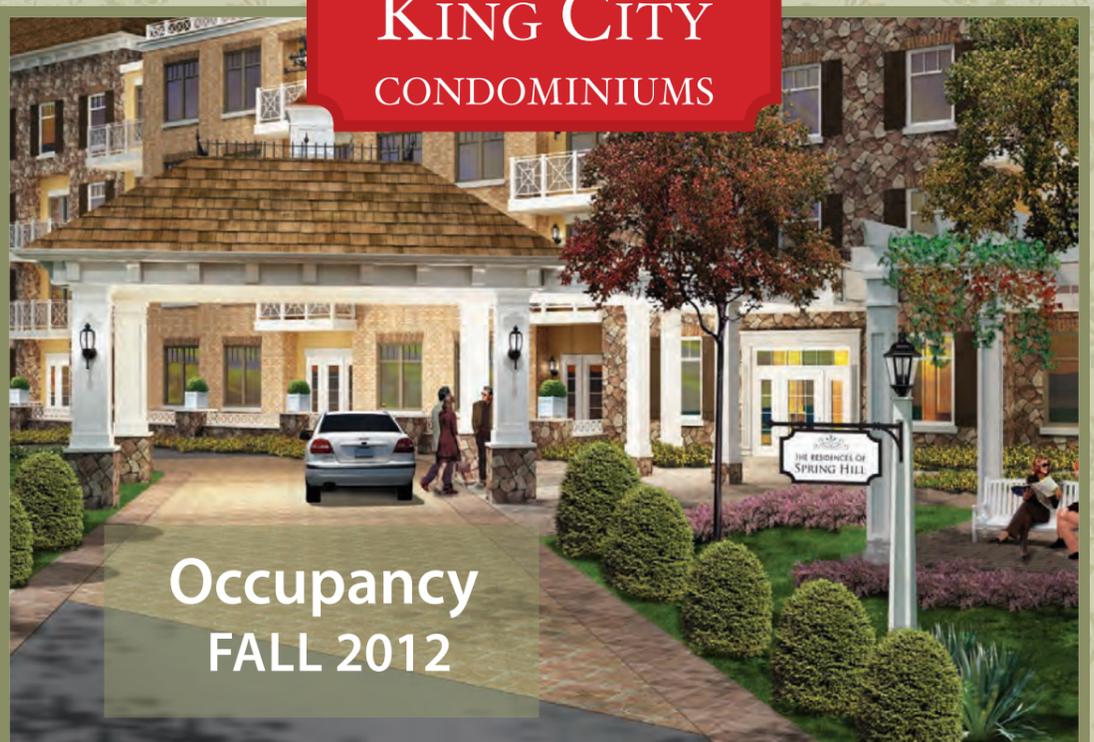
RESORT INSPIRED CONDOMINIUMS

ONLY A HANDFUL OF SUITES REMAIN!

Suites include top of the line appliances, granite counters in the kitchens and Caesarstone counters in the washroom, 9 and 10 foot smooth finished ceilings with recessed lighting and crown moulding in principal rooms.

The Residences of Spring Hill prides itself in having one of the most luxurious and spacious common areas of any condominium in York Region. This includes an Indoor Pool, Fitness Centre, Great Room, Fireside Café, Billiards Room, Guest Suite, Party Room, Landscaped gardens and much more.

KING CITY
CONDOMINIUMS



Occupancy
FALL 2012

www.residencesofspringhill.ca

"Unanimous" vote questioned

From page 7

has been my misfortune to see and hear, wouldn't that tend to lower the plaintiff's reputation in the eyes of a reasonable person?" he asked.

Mr. Goldblatt, however, argued that there is no evidence on what a "right thinking" person in this context would consider would lower Ms. Morris' reputation. He then went on to address Mr. Clark's claim that the lawsuit in question had the unanimous approval of the outgoing Council.

"That's not actually a complete answer," said Mr. Goldblatt citing an article in The Auroran which reported on the evolution on the matter. The article outlined how neither Councillor Evelyn Buck or now former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas participated in the meeting and how councillor Bob McRoberts had reconsidered his decision and joined the other two in voting against the motion.

"That is hearsay in the newspaper," said Mr. Clark. "I don't know how truthful it is. In my experience [it was] the Town minutes that were approved. I don't disagree that they probably were not there, but I'm not sure about the other stuff."

Mr. Goldblatt then tackled Mr. Clark's assertion that what was before the

Master was a "gold plated" case where costs sought were inflated by improper pleadings and excessive communication between lawyer and clients, and seeming to defend the words Ms. Morris alleged were defamatory. This, said Mr. Goldblatt, was appropriate in a defamation case.

"In defamation law you can defame somebody, you can be found liable for defamation, but damages could be a dollar or perhaps even less if there is no reputation worthy of compensation by the court," said Mr. Goldblatt. "You have to look at the statements as a whole and there is nothing inappropriate in my submission with defending all aspects of what has been pled against you.

"My clients are seeking \$38,000. [It was reported] that the Town paid Ms. Morris' legal bills up until December 15, 2010 in the amount of \$55,000. We asked for confirmation that that was accurate and the question was refused on the basis of irrelevance and asymmetry of work done. I don't know what asymmetry of work done means, but when we talk about proportionality...where the plaintiff spent \$55,000 within the first two months of this claim and my clients are seeking \$38,000 for full indemnity for a full year...I think this is a salient point."

 **ONTARIO NEW DRIVERS**
Aurora

• Aurora's First Choice For Driver Training
905-713-3733

• MTO Licenced & Approved Course Provider

JERRY COLLINS, OWNER/OPERATOR
www.ontarionewdrivers.ca



FOR SALE

SOLD

*A name you know...
people you trust!*

Continually Referred!

Susan • John • Andrew
COWEN
Sales Representatives

Direct: 905-727-1961
info@susancowen.com
www.SusanCowen.com
Top 1% in Canada

RE/MAX[®]
York Group
Realty Inc. Brokerage
Independently owned and operated

LifeTime Achievement Award
Chairman's Club Award
Hall of Fame Award

Aurora Neighbourhoods - Part 2

Last month, we took a look at some of the great neighbourhoods we have here in Aurora. In this column we will continue to profile three other areas to live and work in this beautiful Town.

These areas are divided by the Toronto Real Estate Board and are how agents and consumers identify boundaries between each. Please note that school districts have separate boundaries, as do civic services like voting.

Aurora Village

This is where it all began for Aurora, where Yonge Street and Wellington Street meet.

Today, this intersection and the surrounding area is still the centre of Town and where you find the most diverse residential real estate in Aurora. Known for its Victorian homes and quaint village feel, the Aurora Village area attracts people who want to live in a village with all the amenities of a busy town or city.

It is a fairly busy trading area with 52 trades to date since the beginning of January with an average sale price of \$579,075. Most properties have detached homes but there are some link and townhomes as well offering some diversity in housing styles.

This area is also where you find the highest priced homes that have sold in 2012 for well over \$2 million. The average days on the Market in the neighbourhood sits at 52 days, with some properties selling much faster (1-2 days) while others take over 170 days to sell.



STEFANI P. KONIDIS

Real Estate Insights

Aurora Grove

This area in Aurora lies south of Wellington between Bayview and Industrial and is the most affordable neighbourhood to buy in. With most of the housing stock being attached/townhomes, this is seen as an 'entry' point for purchasers. The average sale price in Aurora Grove is around \$450,000 and days-on-market is a staggering 14 days.

With easy access to the Aurora GO station and proximity to Hwy 404, location and, as mentioned, affordability are motivating factors to buy in this area. Also, three trail systems co-exist in this neighbourhood; the Municipal Trail, the Holland River Valley Trail and The Klaus Wehrenberg Trail. Moreover, Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area lands in the centre of this neighbourhood and is a treasure for Aurora. It should also be said that there isn't as much volume being traded here with only 32 transactions being reported since January of this year.

Bayview Wellington

The Bayview and Wellington area of Aurora is active and growing! With over 100 reported transactions since January and an average sale price of around \$450,000 - this is an area to jump into as a first-time buyer or a purchaser wanting to live in an active and accessible area. This area provides a very good mix of properties for consumer choice with semis, townhomes and detached all very much represented. But you have to act fast, as the average days-on-market is just 10 days and properties have been selling an average of 101% of the list price!

Bayview Wellington also boasts some lovely natural areas for recreation and access to great golf courses. The Holland River Valley Trail winds its way from St. John's Sideroad south through this area right into Aurora Grove. Also, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Aurora Seniors' Centre and Aurora Town Hall are all housed in this neighbourhood.

We will take a look at a few more neighbourhoods in the coming issues of the Real Estate section.

Stefani Konidis is a Sales Representative with Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited, Brokerage, Exclusive Affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate. Stefani has been trading in real estate for 12 years and works with partner, Kim Nichols, Sales Representative and they both live and work in King and Aurora where they are raising their families. She can be reached online at www.localagents.blogspot.com.

*all data collected from TREB from January, 2012 until date of article.

Basement Versatility

These days every inch of space in the home counts. So, when considering building a new home, it makes sense to consider building both "up and down" to maximize your living space.

"Basements are like 'found space' in the home because they're so versatile that you can make a well-built basement an extension of your living areas," says Jim Costello, president of Superior Walls. "To maximize basement space, it's critical to construct the area below ground

with a pre-cast insulated foundation system that's energy-efficient and damp free. This way the basement area is a welcoming, active part of the home rather than a 'dump all' storage area."

Costello recommends constructing a basement with Xi wall panels. Each precast foundation panel is constructed with a concrete face shell, backed by 21/2-inches of DOW Styrofoam insulation. Steel reinforced concrete walls create a permanent barrier against sidewall water penetra-

tion, making the basement system damp-proof.

"These foundation systems are very popular with homeowners because you can create door and window openings in them to access natural light," says Costello. "By making the right decisions at the time of construction to use pre-cast insulated foundation systems, homeowners are making a long-term investment in their family's happiness and in the resale value of their house."




HERITAGE GROUP LTD. BROKERAGE*

HERITAGE 2011 DIAMOND
HERITAGE 2010 EMERALD

Direct: 416-258-9579
Office: 905-883-8300 Ext. 3074
Fax: 905-883-8301
Email: judy.kendall@century21.ca
www.JudyKendall.ca

11160 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1H5

SRES[®] ABR

Working for you!



FLEXIBLE COMMISSION PROGRAM



Steve Thomas
Sales Representative
"Manager Aurora
Branch Office"

- Full MLS Service
- Consultation with home stager included with MLS listing
- Over 30 years industry knowledge
- 12 years experience as a realtor
- Top Producer 2011 with Sutton Group – Solutions Realty Inc.
- Friendly, honest service
- Aurora resident for 25 years

Thinking of Listing?
Call Steve Thomas first for information on lower fees.
Full MLS Service For Less



Sutton

**Sutton Group – Solutions
Realty Inc., Brokerage**
Independently Owned
& Operated

905-841-5405 steve@stevethomas.ca

WWW.STEVETHOMAS.CA



Demand More Out Of Your Home Search

Mike Bishop | Sales Representative | RE/MAX York Group Realty Inc Brokerage | Direct 905-392-6587 | Office 905-727-1941
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Upper Hill helps with donations

From page 8

"I have to say Brooke is a very strong influence in her mild-mannered ways," said Ms. Greco. "She's just a wonderful human being and I couldn't say no. It is really no pressure for me. It's a worthy cause and I think that anything we can do to help people who are less fortunate than us is why we're here."

Donations collected in this drive will be going directly to the kids in Summer Beaver, which is located almost in direct alignment with James Bay and the Manitoba border.

"This is one of the communities I actually helped last summer and they have requested different types of sporting equipment to keep the kids busy and allow them to have fun and I think it is a

great opportunity to help," said Ms. Harrison. "Some of the items they requested were hockey equipment, that was a big one, broomball equipment, baseballs and Frisbees. Hockey and broomball were number one on the list!"

Right now she has a growing pile of equipment in her living room ready to go over to the business, but it has yet to approach the organized chaos of last year. As well, unlike last year, the community itself approached Brooke for assistance. While donations of all sorts are gladly accepted, one thing Ms. Harrison said might not be the best donation are roller skates and roller blades which are probably not the most practical thing for a community with few paved roads.

"I think the biggest thing is having a bit of variety," said Ms. Harrison. "It might sound a bit weird saying that, but these kids who are so far removed from the culture here in Southern Ontario where you can just drive to Walmart and you can drive to the mall and get something. I feel that if they had the opportunity to play hockey or they had a baseball and a glove and they like to play lacrosse, just to break the monotony of their day and have a variety of things would be the greatest gift."

Donations are accepted at Upper Hill during regular business hours between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. By contacting the office, however, you can also arrange a drop off location and time in the off hours.



Aurora High School grad Brooke Harrison, pictured above this spring with her award after being named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20, has joined forces with a local realty company to collect sports equipment and other items for kids in Summer Beaver, an Aboriginal community in northern Ontario.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

view our model suite

NOW OPEN




CENTRO

CONDOS ON YONGE

All suites include expansive Balconies or Terraces



Move to Centro and enjoy Aurora's most central location.

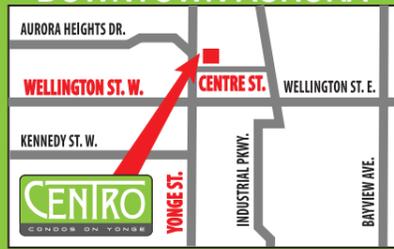
Aurora's newest condo address is also its most centrally located, with a wealth of luxury features and lifestyle amenities that makes it an irresistible value too.

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 12pm - 7pm.
Friday by appointment. Sat., Sun. & Hol. 11am - 6pm

call 905-503-2063

from \$299,990

DOWNTOWN AURORA





For more information visit our website at
kaitlingroup.com


KAITLIN GROUP
Renderings are artist concept. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. E. & O. E. All bonus, promotions, and incentives are subject to change without notice.

KIA
KIA OF NEWMARKET
 17415 YONGE ST. 905-898-3661
 kiaofnewmarket.com
 NEWROADS
 Automotive Group

THE AURORAN

SPORTS

RICHMOND HILL
 SUBARU
 11645 YONGE ST. 905-883-3555
 RichmondHillSubaru.com
 NEWROADS
 Automotive Group

Vol. 12 No. 37 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE

Week of July 24, 2012

Jays lose heartbreaker

By Kevin Michie

The Aurora Jays are headed to the North Dufferin Baseball League playoffs.

The Jays lost an extremely tight 1-0 game to the league-leading New Lowell Knights last Tuesday, however, a Midland Indians loss last week secured the Jays a playoff spot.

The goal now, however, is to crawl up the standings into a position where the club can secure home field advantage in at least the first round of the playoffs.

The only run of last Tuesday's game came in the top of the fifth inning, when a questionable non-call at first base on a bang-bang play loaded the bases, which led Ian Rettie to walk the next batter, allowing a run to cross the plate.

It was the only run needed.

"It was a good baseball game," said Jays coach Rob Wilson. "They scratched one across, we didn't. Yeah it was a big call at first, but you know what? That's baseball!"

"I don't think anybody is blaming an umpire for this one. Both teams hit the ball hard and both teams

were fielding the ball well. We had [some] chances to cash [Jays runners] and just couldn't do it."

The only unanswered question for the Jays now is where they will finish and if they will have home field advantage in the first round.

The Jays had six days off before their next game against the three-time defending North Dufferin Baseball League champion Bolton Brewers, which was slated to go Monday night at press time.

The game was expected to be one of the biggest of the year for the Jays, as the Brew Crew has shown quite a bit of dominance over the Jays in the past couple of years, including a win earlier this season.

"They are a hot team, they've had our number lately, but we're going to get pumped up, no doubt," said Wilson. "I think of if play the same game as we did tonight, against Bolton, I think we'll come out on top."

The Jays will follow up the Bolton matchup with a game Tuesday, against the Creemore Braves, another team hovering around the top of the standings.

Following a game in Angus against the

Black Sox on Thursday, the Jays will end their regular season with another home date, this time against the Clearview Orioles, another ball club battling for a top spot in the league.

The final four games will decide where the Jays finish in the standings and if they get home field advantage in the first round.

Heading into action on Monday night, the Jays were four games behind New Lowell for first place, and a game behind Clearview for fourth spot – and home field advantage.

Even though the schedule is less than preferable down the stretch, Wilson is still happy with how this season is concluding for the ball club.

"It's shaping up to be a big last week, and frankly, playing Bolton, Creemore, and Clearview [is] a great way to tune up for the playoffs because every game matters now," he said. "It's a great measuring stick for us."

First pitch for Tuesday's game against Creemore is scheduled for 7.30 p.m. at Lambert Willson Park. Saturday's game is set to get underway at 1 p.m. again at LWP.



Aurora Jays' Ted Beadle struck out during last week's game against New Lowell and apparently did not like the umpire's call.

Auroran photo by Kevin Michie

Surfside Pool Services
 POOLS • FIBERGLASS • VINYL
 REMODELS • SERVICE • RETAIL
 225 Pony Drive, Unit # 3
 Newmarket, Ontario
 905-895-1755 www.surfside.on.ca

CHITTA
CHITTLE HOCKEY ACADEMY
SUMMER CAMPS

AUGUST 13 - 17
HALF DAY CAMPS
 Ages 10 - 14 9 am - 1 pm
 Ages 7 - 9 10 am - 2 pm
\$260.00 HST INCLUDED

AUGUST 20 - 24
 Ages 10 - 14 9 am - 11 am
 Ages 6 - 9 11 am - 1 pm
\$200.00 HST INCLUDED

Please phone Len/Janine
 905-939-7962
 www.chittlehockey.com

Lifeguards make waves to save lives

Two local lifeguards will be diving into the pool to save lives, beginning this week's National Drowning Prevention Week.

But this time, they will not be diving in to drag someone out who is experiencing an emergency, they will be getting their feet wet as part of the Lifesaving Society's 500 Metre Swim for 500 Lives campaign.

Oliver Koh will be taking to the pool at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and Greg Peri will be handling things at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

"Almost 500 people drown in Canada each year, and thousands suffer near-drowning experiences," said the Lifesaving Society in a statement. "This event is dedicated to the many Canadians who lose their lives due to drowning each year."

Adds Kelly Manoukas, Fund Developer for the Society: "Ontario's aquatic staff is being proactive by educating their communities and raising funds for the Society's Water Smart Drowning Prevention Campaign that supports educational programs and

local communities."

National Drowning Prevention Week kicked off on Saturday and continues through this Sunday. In advance of the week, the Lifesaving Society passed along these tips:

1. If you are not within arm's reach you have gone too far. Parents, be your child's lifeguard!
2. Choose it. Use it. Wear a lifejacket or PFD. Always put a life-jacket on your child!
3. Be Water Smart – Everyone should learn how to swim. Enroll your child today!

PROUDLY SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORTS



NEWROADS
 Automotive Group™





This year's Portraits of Giving exhibition, which is currently on display at the Aurora Cultural Centre is a team effort between Karen Merk (left) and Heather Ann Lambert (right). The exhibition is the brainchild of Ms. Merk, an acclaimed portrait photographer with Merk Photography, who wanted to highlight the contributions of philanthropists she has met in her travels. Ms. Lambert of the Writers' Community of York Region tells their stories in the accompanying exhibition book.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Portraits shine a light on community "givers"

By Brock Weir

When the then-teenage Dean Turner left his cramped, but modestly comfortable life with his family in southern Ontario for job opportunities out west, he followed what he thought was a promising path.

Fast forward to his arrival in British Columbia, the jobs he expected were not there and this aspiring musician wound up on the street. Such an unexpected experience gives a person a unique perspective on the plights of others, and might just be one of the reasons he has dedicated his life to others.

Now a resident of Aurora, Mr. Turner is one of the unsung community heroes in York Region who are getting their moment in the spotlight in the exhibition "Portraits of Giving", a showcase featuring the work of York Region photographer Karen Merk. Through Portraits of Giving, Ms. Merk seeks to shine this light on people in our community who have invested their time and efforts back into it.

Now in its third year, this exhibition honours seven outstanding individuals whose philanthropic work - even if it is behind the scenes - has benefited many people around the world and here at home. Among those featured are Aurora residents and business leaders Frank Stronach, Rita Theil of JacKryn France, and Mr. Turner.

"There is a moment in everyone's life that is their 'Aha!' moment that triggered them to say, 'I want to do something,'" said Ms. Merk of her work which, as well as through the sale of an exhibition book written by Aurora author Heather Ann Lambert, benefits the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"For me, it was my father-in-law who passed away a few months before the first exhibit three years ago. He had a heart attack and that was my 'Aha!' moment where I wanted to do something

for the foundation."

Since that "Aha!" moment, Ms. Merk has taken the people she has met through her work, as well as her own charitable endeavours, to pay tribute to those she has seen give back.

"I thought it, 'wouldn't it be great to shine a light on these people who work so hard to give back and to make things happen?' Then I invited Heather Ann Lambert to write a book about what inspired them to give back. It's not just the when and the what. I find that 'why' is the most fascinating thing to discover about these people.

"If you look at Frank Stronach, he has done so much over the years it was just a privilege and an honour for him to even agree to be in it and he has done the Hoedown, he has helped Hurricane Katrina survivors, and he has done a tonne of giving back that all of York region has benefited from."

Mr. Turner, however, might be an exception to Ms. Merk's rule that everyone has their, 'Aha!' moment. Giving back, he said was something that had been instilled in him by his parents from an early age and it has been something that has carried with him through much of his life.

"My mom and my dad are just great, down-to-earth people and it is just the right thing to do - you

help other people," he said.

From living on the streets of Vancouver, Mr. Turner said he found his lifeline through the military. He found himself at a Canadian Forces recruiting centre which led him on a 22 year journey with the armed forces which included time with the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Canadian Airborne Regiment, and a stint with the United Nations.

After leaving the military, Mr. Turner worked with the Red Cross before founding F.A.S.T. Rescue (First Aid Safety Training), a for-profit company which focuses on, as the name suggests, training companies and developing company safety policies. It is through this work he has become a tireless supporter and volunteer with the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"I was sitting on these committees with lawyers and people who were part of the York Region Food Network, homeless initiatives, and people from all facets of life putting their minds together to help and I thought it was just won-

derful we're all focusing on helping people.

"[My work was] an easy fit. I would go to the meetings and learn, so at first I wasn't saying too much, but learning how to get along and help out. With Heart and Stroke I do a lot of volunteer work with them. It is my position as an educator teaching people about defibrillators to sort of relieve the fears it is going to hurt you and the importance of having that in the community. I took that as a good fit to advocate what the Heart and Stroke does as well as save lives. If you're doing an event and need someone to talk, ask me and I am there.

"Giving back is probably one of the most rewarding things you can do. It's important and we all should do it. Many people find it is easier to give their money than their time but I think that a little bit of time, if everyone was to do that, the world would be a better place."

Portraits of Giving runs at the Aurora Cultural Centre through August 31.

PRIME TIME
416-571-7510
primetimerob@live.ca



EXTERIOR

Masonry | Brick Repair
Interlock Concrete Driveway
Stairs | Patios
All Sealing
Waterproofing

Kid's Bowling DAY CAMP

Aug 20th - 24th

Only \$75 per child

Ages 5 - 12

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Bowling Every Day



Also Swimming, Games,
Sports, Music,
Drama, Puppets,
Faith Lessons & Much More
Children - bring your own lunch

To Register call or visit Gateway Lanes

905 727-2900

\$20 Deposit Required

Hosted by: The Gathering Place

210 Edward Street, Aurora

905 841-0172 - www.tgpoa.com

BPS Bob's Plumbing Service
EST. 1972
PIPE LOCATING/CCTV INSPECTIONS
Hydro Vac Services
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
905-727-3210

Pinnacle Insurance

Providing for

ALL Your Insurance Needs.

Call or Email Earle

for a **FREE QUOTATION**

on any of our products

905-841-6436

earlel@pinnacleinsurance.com


Sandy has been with
A & F Hair Elite
Barbershop & Hairstyling
for **27 years!**
In the Aurora Shopping Centre
Next to No Frills
14800 Yonge St. Aurora Ont. L4G 1N3 • Tel: 905-727-6212 ~Since 1970~

Air Conditioner
Sale **NOW ON!**
Call for details


turn to the experts



OLIVER
HEATING & COOLING
Service You Can Trust. Since 1924
www.tholiver.com 905.727.4258

Summer's bounty available at Market

Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, currants and gooseberries, oh my!

Then there are beets, lettuce, radishes, zucchini, onions and garlic and a multitude of delicious greens to adorn your dinner table all available now at the Farmers' Market.

We are well into the summer portion of our season at the Market and the farmers' tables are groaning under the weight of the fresh, local, healthy produce they grow and bring to us here in Aurora. If you have not had an opportunity to visit us yet this season, now would be a great time to come.

As you all know, we pride ourselves in having an exciting and diverse group of farmers and artisans. One of our vendors combines the flavours of France in both baking and Provencal home décor. We're talking about Meaghan and her mother, Madeleine, of Cocoa Cannelle.

When asked about the story behind Cocoa Cannelle, Meaghan quoted John Lennon's saying that "life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans".

She had just finished a degree in architecture and fine art, with a diploma in graphic design. While searching for a job, she started baking macarons. Finding the challenge of making macarons rewarding, she decided to join her two passions, baking and all things French, to create her own business.

Her original product line begin with her favourite gluten free desserts, such as macarons and meringues, but quickly grew to include other French favourites such as madeleines, mini canneles, and lemon tarts. As the meringues and macarons are made with egg whites, it was only natural to begin to make lemon curd, a delicious jam made from egg yolks and butter.

Their flavour list keeps growing and every Saturday they bring both new flavours and old favourites for their dedicated customers. Thanks to other vendors at the Market, they made salted caramel macarons from Pascal and pear/ginger from Jan's Country Pantry. They now have 65 different macaron flavours, more than eight meringue flavours and seven different fruit curds.

Try a different flavour every week and see which is your favourite. Mine is the chai macaron.

Madeleine keeps the French flavour alive with her wide variety of Provencal home décor items including table runners, pillows and aprons created from authentic French fabric sourced from various regions of France.

Curious about the business name? It's quite simple, Meaghan says. It's a combination of her two favourite flavours-chocolate and cinnamon, en Francais!

We are delighted to

announce that we have a new farmer joining our Market. He is Peter Simmonds, a second generation farmer, who was raised on his family's farm in Uxbridge.

He is a graduate of Trent University where he studied history and international development. His farm, Oakridges Finest, is now in its third growing season, and is chemical free. They grow several fruits and vegetables, but their focus is on strawberries and a variety of raspberries, including the golden ones.

Peter is striving to use aspects of what he learned from his studies to find low cost and low environmental impact techniques to enhance the growing of premium quality, chemical free produce. Please drop by his booth to see what he



MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

grows and welcome him to our Market family.

On July 28 and August 25 the Aurora Public Library will be setting up in the Town Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for a children's reading programme. They will have stories for the young and demonstrations for techno-savvy users and the curious novice. They will present "stories under the tent" from 10 to 10.20 with props, rhymes, stories to inspire the imagination in this introduction to early literacy. You can find out about the Library's Electronic Resources: databases to eBooks from 10:30-11:30.

You can even sign up for a library card, with identification, should you not have one. The Aurora Public Library offers food for thought and fresh ingre-

dients for lifelong creative learning. Bring the whole family and enjoy the reading programme in the park.

Our next special event is on August 4, when we share the park with the jazz+ Festival until 2 p.m. In the morning, the entertainment will include Aurora Farmers' Laughter Yoga, Zumba and the Jaymor Dancers.

Once the Market has packed up and gone home by 2 p.m., the Jazz Festival musicians will take over. We thank the Jazz+ festival for providing the fantastic music to the Market on several occasions so far this season and we're all looking forward to the exciting lineup in this year's festival.

As a result of an incident that occurred last weekend at the Market, we do not welcome aggressive dogs at the Market and all dogs must be under complete control while visiting. We appreciate your cooperation to ensure there are no accidents.

See you there!

New works site inches forward

By Brock Weir

Aurora took one step forward last week towards a new joint operations centre.

The move came at a Special General Committee meeting on Tuesday evening where Council considered the purchase of a 10 acre site on Industrial Parkway North to accommodate the works from both Aurora's parks and public works departments.

10 acres of space are needed to keep Aurora fully operational in the future, according to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Manager of Infrastructure in a presentation to Council last week. The existing site on Scanlon Court, which is also on Industrial Parkway North just north of Centre Street, has been under scrutiny for the past year for its current conditions. Not only is the current site inadequate in terms of rundown conditions, proponents of the proposed

new building argue, but it is also inadequate when it comes to space and addressing the needs of the changing workforce.

A new building would also go towards replacing a building which has been widely decried as being insufficient, substandard, and inappropriate by Town Staff and by both Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and a large number of Councillors.

"Current operations are being delivered through inadequate buildings and multiple locations," said Mr. Simanovskis in his report to Councillors. "As the Town approaches build out, additional services will be required to accommodate the increase in planned roads, infrastructure, and parks facilities."

Putting operations together would not only support community growth, but also make the delivery of services more efficient and accommodate heritage artefacts.

Continued on page 15

Know Your Merchants Contest



Can you identify any of these people?

'Identify these local business people and have a chance to WIN \$250 cash prize'

<input type="checkbox"/> RAZ KHAMISSA Omars	<input type="checkbox"/> BRIAN NORTH Ellis Studios	<input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS ISSARIS T.C.'s Restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/> STEVEN HO Chinook
<input type="checkbox"/> BOB CLUBINE Home Hardware	<input type="checkbox"/> ALFREDO TAMBURINI A & F Hair	<input type="checkbox"/> FARZIN ANSARI Play It Again Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> ELISE DESJARDINS T.H. Oliver
<input type="checkbox"/> LEE HURST Hurst Bakery	<input type="checkbox"/> DAVID MINTZ Edward Street	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM YANG Bonsai Hill	<input type="checkbox"/> RANDY WINSTONE McAlpine
<input type="checkbox"/> BRANDON PELUSO Highland	<input type="checkbox"/> LENARD LIND L.H. Lind Realty Ltd.	<input type="checkbox"/> DIANA BLANK Happy Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> LINDA MAUNDER Maunder's Food Shop
<input type="checkbox"/> INGRID KULBACH fraktals Chocolates	<input type="checkbox"/> HOWIE BERMAN Crystal White Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/> PETER VIRTANEN State Farm	<input type="checkbox"/> SOPHI GEORGOPOULIS Jonathan's
<input type="checkbox"/> STEVE DAVIES Harvest Meats	<input type="checkbox"/> LISA OLIVER Maid To Shine	<input type="checkbox"/> DAMIR VRANCIC Vrancic Law	<input type="checkbox"/> DOUG ADAIR Rec Sports

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Must be 19 years of age or older

Keep this participation coupon – you have six weeks to figure out all the names for the draw.

The winner will be drawn from all the correct responses received.

The promotion ends August 27, 2012

A random draw will be held at the newspaper's office on August 28, 2012.

To participate, you must be 19 years of age or older.

Write the number corresponding to each name in the space provided.

Please drop off or mail the participation coupon in an envelope to:

The Auroran Community Newspaper
 15213 Yonge Street, Ste. #8
 Aurora, Ontario L4G 1L8

Aurora needs full time, well playing jobs with benefits: Gaertner

Continued from page 1
 1,200 employment jobs in the long run.
 "Councillor Gaertner has always argued that these jobs are not good enough," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "I respect Councillor Gaertner's consistency in that argument [but] I am sorry I can't support it. Any jobs in a time of high unemployment are good enough for me. They are certainly good enough for people who don't have employment who need to be taking care of their children, who need to be paying their mortgage and there are no jobs available. Any jobs we can provide is part of our mandate to make this a reasonable place to live for ordinary people, not just the highly paid, high salaried, highly educated people.
 "As far as I am concerned, if we take care of the ordinary people, the people in the high income pitch can pretty much take care of themselves. They usually do. I reject the arguments that have been presented in opposition to this proposal."

These arguments were reinforced by Councillor Gaertner who acknowledged her consistency, and pressed on with the issue.
 "[The existing] SmartCentres was prestige business park to bring high quality employment to Aurora. There is nothing wrong with seasonal, part time, low-paying jobs without benefits. We need those and we have a lot of those. As a matter of fact, we may have too many of those. All you have to do is look at the SmartCentres across the way.
 "What this community needs is full time jobs that pay well, that give benefits, that will service our residents. That is not what we're doing here, folks. We're giving the developer more retail. Everybody has their opinion around this table. I am not going to change anybody's opinion and I don't expect to, but I'm saying if we're here to do what is best for the community we will vote against this proposal and we will be on record."
 Councillor Gaertner

then went on to recount an instance from a previous Council where Mayor Geoffrey Dawe appeared at the podium as a business owner who said he had to move his business to Newmarket due to inadequate office space in Town.
 "By approving this as it is, it is going to make it just that much harder for people like the then-Mr. Dawe to find appropriate office space," she said.
 Addressing the Councillor's comments, Mayor Dawe said he made the comments in 2005 asking the Council of the day to do whatever it could to create more space. At the time, he said, he had his office in retail space but had to move after his rent shot up.
 "If we just look at this on the merits of developing space in Aurora then this is a good thing," he said. "It is creating more opportunities for people to locate their business here."
 The motion was carried 6 - 3 with Councillors Chris Ballard, Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo voting against the motion.



Cathy Meyers (back row, second left), general manager of Aurora's Filly & Firkin, was joined by her staff over the weekend getting into the celebratory spirit of their Beer Festival. The local eatery raised about \$3,500 through the Beer Festival for both Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada.
 Auroran photo by David Falconer

THE AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

THE AURORAN, TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012

Deadline: Sunday at 1 p.m., week of publication
 905-727-3300 Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CAREER

ONE OF NORTH AMERICA'S largest financial services companies is rapidly expanding in this area. If you desire a dynamic career with excellent income potential, call Ruth Greaves at 1-888-240-4767.

NOTICE OF LIEN

THE PERSON - ALL PROPERTY, household goods, and contents of the following rental spaces will be sold for cash or otherwise disposed of to satisfy rental liens for unpaid rent in accordance with Ontario Statutes Chapter R25 and our lease agreement on August 2, 2012 at 10am sharp, at Northern Self Storage, Aurora. Unit Number; A56, A49, P03, H11, K17

HELP WANTED

Embassy Cards located in Aurora Ont., is seeking a motivated Full-Time General Office Assistant-Inside Marketer.

Advanced skills in Windows, Excel and E-marketing a must. Working knowledge of graphics-printing would be a bonus.

Please submit your resume to cards@embassycards.com
 We thank all Applicants but only successful candidates will be contacted.

Embassy Cards creates, publishes, and markets custom greeting cards and other stationary throughout Canada.

Advertise in The Auroran Classifieds
 905-727-3300 ext. 102

RENTAL NEEDED

MOVING TO AURORA a retired couple (professionals) requires rental residence 905-852-0452. Non-smokers, non-drinkers, no pets.

FOR SALE

VINTAGE PAIR of golden woven tweed bucket chairs from the early 1960s. Perfect for the yuppie! \$150 for the pair or best offer. Call 905-727-6497.

ANTIQUe SIDeBOARD Maple Queen Anne style buffet, great condition. Mahogany inlay. \$750. Additional antiques for sale as well. Call 905-727-6497.

HELP WANTED

MINEsushi. 125 Pedersen Dr. Aurora. Specialty Chef \$23h 40wk. ryanko729@gmail.com.

Watch **OurTown**

WEEKLY SHOW
 with Alison Collins-Mrakas

Alison Collins-Mrakas - THURSDAY nights at 7 p.m.

THEAURORAN.COM

JOB WANTED

CAREGIVER looking for employment. European background. Cooking & cleaning experience 647-955-4375. After 6 p.m.

Advertise in **THE AURORAN Classifieds.**
 905-727-3300 ext. 102

IDEAL FLOORING CENTRE YOUR **1 STOP SHOP** FOR ALL YOUR FLOORING NEEDS
 Hardwood • Laminate • Carpet • Vinyl • Tile
 160 Wellington St. E. **905-841-3400**

SPAR-CLEAN
 — Takes pride —
CLEANING SERVICE
 Servicing Aurora/Newmarket over 15 years
 INSURED/BONDED
 Privately Owned and Operated
905-967-0445

Crystal WHITE DryCleaners Aurora
 905-841-6969
 Hollidge and Bayview

\$10 OFF
 ANY SERVICE \$40 OR OVER
 Excludes shirt laundering.
 One Coupon per visit. Present with incoming order.
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.
 Crystal WHITE Dry Cleaners

\$5 OFF
 ANY SERVICE WITH \$25 AND OVER
 Excludes shirt laundering.
 One Coupon per visit. Present with incoming order.
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.
 Crystal WHITE Dry Cleaners

50% OFF
 ANY SERVICE FOR NEW CLIENTS
 Excludes shirt laundering.
 One coupon per visit. Present with incoming order.
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.
 Crystal WHITE Dry Cleaners

30% OFF
 ALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
 Excludes shirt laundering.
 One coupon per visit. Present with incoming order.
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.
 Crystal WHITE Dry Cleaners

25% OFF
 FORMAL WEAR
 Excludes shirt laundering.
 One coupon per visit. Present with incoming order.
 Cannot be combined with any other offer.
 Crystal WHITE Dry Cleaners

AT YOUR SERVICE

A directory of who does what in your community

AUTO

AURORA TRANSIT AUTO GLASS
INSURANCE CLAIM SPECIALISTS
WE CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY & WE DO ALL THE PAPERWORK

NEW Winshields From \$169* **HERNAN ROSE 905-713-6420** **Guaranteed Chip Repairs \$49* or FREE**
15296 Yonge St. (NW side of Wellington) **www.transitauto.ca**
*Call for details *Call for details
SAME DAY SERVICE • FREE ESTIMATES • SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS

FUNERAL SERVICES

SIMPLE cremation™ *Dignified. Respectful.*
Complete cremation service for \$1,960.55.
This service is provided by Roadhouse & Rose Funeral Home
www.simplecremationaurora.com | 905.895.6631

PAINTER

S & S PAINTING
TOP QUALITY GUARANTEED
20 yrs. experience
FREE ESTIMATES
905-841-8949 416-520-6252

PLUMBER

Joe the Plumber
416-568-6928
Licensed, insured 25 years exp.

BUSINESS SERVICES

You might not be able to do everything at once, but you can do everything in one place

- Fax Service • Digital Printing & Copying
- Document Finishing • Mailbox Rentals
- Courier Service • Packaging Supplies & Service

The UPS STORE® in Aurora, 14845 Yonge St. Unit 6, Aurora
905-713-1632 Fax 905-713-1632

DRIVING SCHOOL

firstchoice DRIVING SCHOOL 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!
MTO APPROVED
\$299+
Lowest Price Guarantee**
Drivers Education Course
905-737-2484
FirstChoiceDrivingSchool.com

POWER WASH

MOBILE POWER WASH
GTA • AURORA • NEWMARKET
Eco-Friendly **AQUA-FX**
Hot water
905-235-2037 416-558-5646

REAL ESTATE

Townhome Listings Needed! **Selling?**
Qualified buyers ready to negotiate right now!
Get **SOLD** and move up!
Don't delay - call Linda today!
Keller Williams Realty Centres, Brokerage
LINDA STEPHENS
Sales Representative
Direct: 289-221-5999 / Office: 905-895-5972 x 816

CARPET SERVICES

CARPET SERVICES
Sales • Installations • Repairs
REPAIRS: Ripples, Burns, Stains, Flood, Damage & Much more
SENIORS 10% OFF Est. 1985
All Work is Guaranteed! **416-399-4868**

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN SERVICES
For all your household needs.
Call Tom: 905-717-0517

HOME RENO

HOME RENO PLUS
Any Projects Big or Small 1 Call, We Do It All!
Basements ~ Bathrooms ~ Kitchens
Painting, Flooring, Electrical, Plumbing, Drywall Taping, Framing, Additions, Enclosures, Tiling, Chimney & Masonry, Decks, fences, brick replacement
905.235.7357

TREE CARE

SUNSET BEECH TREE CARE
Pruning • Removals
Consulting • Bracing
647-989-3509
irbryant@gmail.com

TREE CARE

CLEANERS

CRYSTAL CLEANING
Commercial/residential
...any day any time
FREE ESTIMATE
905-392-1589

MAID TO SHINE
Professional cleaning with a personal touch
~Serving Aurora for 15 years~
Insured & Bonded • Owner Operated
Call for an in-home consultation
905-713-5636

HEALTH

REDUCE STRESS REDUCE ILLNESS
Did you know that your energy field is affected by all that you experience?
Try **ENERGY HEALING** or **FOOT REFLEXOLOGY!**
See Christina at Alternative Physiotherapy
www.healingcurrent.com
or call 647.678.0742

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH
BOOST YOUR ENERGY!
IMPROVE MENTAL CLARITY!
ACHIEVE YOUR HEALTHY WEIGHT!
IT'S EASY - SAFE - NATURAL
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PERSONALIZE A PROGRAM THAT IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOU CALL
KRISTINA (289) 234-9484

TREE CARE/LANDSCAPING

ADVANCED Tree Care
905.478.2300 toll free 866.478.2301 email@advancedtreecare.ca
Consulting | Tree Pruning | Structural Reinforcement
Pest & Disease Control | Soil Enhancement | Tree & Stump Removal
www.advancedtreecare.ca

Why take a chance... go with who you know!

MOLLY MAID (905) 841-6243
www.mollymaid.ca

LIMOUSINE

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION
(Aurora based) **ECO-LIMO**
Eco-friendly hybrid vehicles
Hire an eco-friendly Lincoln hybrid for your next airport or downtown transportation - Only \$75.00
Call Alan @ 905-727-8600 or 416-992-3811
e-mail: eco-limo@bell.net • Website: www.eco-limo.ca

WATER

BENEFITS OF A REFINEOSOFT WATER SOFTENER
• Removes harmful chemicals & calcium build-up.
• Removes chlorine, prevents stripping hair colour & dry skin.
• Easy effortless programming capabilities.
\$100.00 OFF
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Water Depot (905) 751-0845
FREE WATER TEST - CALL TODAY

DANCE

Ballet • Jazz • Tap • Acrobatics • Modern Hip Hop • Lyrical • Musical Theatre
Northern Lights Dance Studio
905-713-0555
265 Edward St. Units 14 & 15, Aurora
E-mail: Studio@northernlightsdance.com
www.northernlightsdance.com

STONE MASONRY

Hanlon & Hanlon Construction

- Custom Stone work
- Stone Restoration
- Flagstone
- Brick Repair
- Window Sills
- Fireplaces
- Chimney Repair
- Block Work

Fully insured / est 1972 / Free estimates
Dennis Hanlon Cell 905-955-6451 Home - 905 898 6451

WOODWORKING

Mike THE WOODWORKER
* Kitchens
* Libraries
* Doors
705-305-7572
woodwork.magic@gmail.com

DENTAL

Aurora Gateway **DENTAL Care**
NEW PATIENTS AND EMERGENCIES WELCOME
905.503.CARE (2273)
www.auroragatewaydental.com

MOVING & STORAGE

A.C. Moving & Storage Ltd.
Moving Families & Businesses Since 1986

- Heated Units
- Packaging & Storage Supplies (Buy or Rent)
- 24 Hr Monitored Security
- Video Surveillance
- Indoor & Outdoor Storage

905.775.6363 • 1.888.332.3438 • Cell: 905.252.2406
www.acmovingstorage.ca

MEMORIAL

LUESBY'S MEMORIALS
GRANITE • MARBLE • BRONZE
905.895.4931 Bus.
1.800.334.0563 Toll Free

YOGA

QIGONG & YOGA
Radiant health, & inner peace.
Andrea Roth
905-505-1324
www.yogaforlife.ca

Not everyone needs your services all the time, but, it you want to be there when they do...
Advertise in **THE AURORAN** At Your Service directory.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION PLEASE CALL THE AURORAN OFFICE AT 905-727-3300

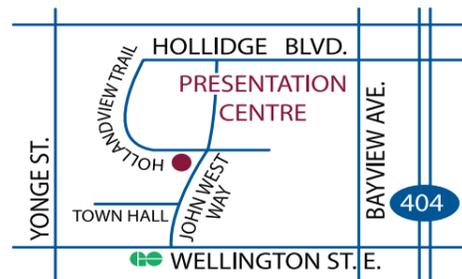
Move in Next Year!



Ridgewood II is the ultimate expression of carefree resort-style living - a place that feels like the weekend... everyday. An intimate 6 storey condominium with exceptional recreational facilities including a sumptuous outdoor saltwater swimming pool and indoor hot tub. Miles of area trails and ravine parks. Nearby cafés. Fabulous shopping and minutes to GO Transit. Incredible suites with equally incredible views. An oasis of gracious tranquility in the heart of historic Aurora. Come home to Ridgewood II and leave the world behind.



NEW DEPOSIT PROGRAM*
1 YEAR FREE MAINTENANCE*



rockportgroup.net

NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Elegant Suites from the **\$300's***

Presentation Centre: 180 John West Way, Suite 103, Aurora, Mon.-Wed. Noon-6 pm, Closed Thurs. & Fri., Weekends & Holidays Noon-5 pm
905 841 1004

ROCKPORT®
ESTABLISHED 1957

* Limited time offer. See sales rep for details. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Illustrations are artist's concept only. Rockport® is a registered trademark of Rockport and used under license. ©Rockport 2010. All rights reserved. E.&O.E. 2012. Brokers protected.

Funding details lacking on Joint Ops centre: Councillors

By Brock Weir

Although Councillors have yet to report out on their final decision regarding the purchase of a 10 acre plot of land on Industrial Parkway North for a new joint operations centre, funding appeared to be a hurdle to clear.

In a half-hour discussion last week, Councillors expressed concern over just how this project will be financed. Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, indicated in a report that purchasing the land in question is estimated to cost \$4 million. This does not include \$12 million for the actual building of the joint operations centre for an estimated grand total of \$16,982,000.

The Director, however, proposed a number of different ways the project could be funded which would not result in a hit on the taxpayer. This included garnering \$3 million from the sale of the existing works department site on Scanlon Court, \$3.8 million from development charges, \$7 million from the sale of business lands on Leslie Street, and the balance coming out of other reserve funds at the municipal level.

Some Councillors, however, said more - and firmer - details were needed however, before they could render an informed decision on the proposal.

"Part of the deliberation has to be the funding

sources," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "Part of the decision making process has to be not just the anticipation or the guessing of where the money might come from but where the money will come from."

"I'm not prepared to make a decision to put the Town into a situation providing that this kind of funding for that kind of facility without knowing where it is coming from and what the impact is going to be."

This was a viewpoint shared by Councillor John Gallo, who said these preliminary details were subject to change.

"At some point prior to making a significant decision I would be very interested in having more information on things like development charges, why we chose \$3.8 million there, some balances on those accounts and how we expect to be able to recover those funds from those various funding sources."

"Fundamentally I have an issue with spending money on a project prior to actually having the money now. If it is well planned out with a good plan behind it, I can support that."

According to Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, however, the further information Councillors Buck and Gallo seek all comes down to timing to gauge the "adequacy in the reserves."

Other members, such as Councillor Michael Thompson, had their fingers crossed that funding

for a project such as this would be available from other levels of government. Other towns and cities that had undertaken similar projects, he said, were able to secure federal and provincial grants and loans. Mr. Simanovskis said that a funding program leaning towards low interest loans is available to help offset things.

Further opportunities might be available through the joint Federal and Provincial Building Canada Fund as well as funding for green initiatives on the site, according to Mr. Garbe.

"At this point in time we want to say here are the funding sources and what this demonstrates is there is no need for any tax rate increase to support the construction of this facility," said Mr. Garbe. "We can find other revenue and whether that right number works in water and wastewater given our other infrastructure, maybe something else has to be adjusted."

"Opportunities for real estate don't come up very often and this is an opportunity that presents itself and we're asking Council to consider making [a decision] at this point in time - subject to other detailed financial work that needs to be done - to support this project."



GROUPS UNCOVER LOCAL FARMING HISTORY

Local historical societies throughout York and Durham Region have joined forces to showcase the area's rich agricultural history. Their efforts can now be seen at the Aurora Room at the Aurora Cultural Centre in the exhibition curated by the York-Durham Association of Museums, of which the Aurora Historical Society (AHS) is a member.

Aurora's contributions are several pieces of farming tools, including a famed Fleury Plough, and other ancillary items ranging from wheelbarrows to cutters.

Pictured above loading

in their artefacts are, left to right, Jamie Peers of the Cannington Museum, Maggie MacKenzie of the Richmond Hill Heritage Centre, Claire Layton and Christine McClure of The Aurora Historical Society (with Larry Doble of the

Sunderland Museum behind them holding a rake), Ted Foster of Cannington, and Melissa Matt and Earl Murray from Georgina Pioneer Village.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Chris Hrynyk
Insurance Representative
Tel: 289-466-5196
chrynyk@monarchwealth.ca
www.monarchwealth.ca
Insurance Products
Term Life • Whole Life
• Critical Illness
Disability • Segregated Funds
For a free life insurance quote please visit
www.canadacoverage.com

150th party planners chosen

By Brock Weir

Seven people have been chosen to take on the planning of Aurora's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The seven people selected to form an ad-hoc committee tasked with overseeing the planning of Aurora's sesquicentennial were chosen after Council rejected an initial plans to hire a project manager to oversee the planning, and then a plan to have a committee comprised of stakeholder groups like Aurora Historical Society, Sport Aurora, and the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee.

What they decided on, instead, was a committee comprised of citizen members at large, and steering this committee following Council approval last week are former mayor Tim Jones, former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, Lindsay McGuire, Stewart McLaren, reigning Citizen of the Year Brian North, Greg Smith, and Brian Trussler.

These seven will be given many tasks in order to make the sesquicentennial celebrations a reality

including forming a year-long plan for Council's consideration, researching what other towns and cities have done to mark the same milestone, look into grant and other funding programs that would assist in costs, help other community groups mark the occasion, and actually go out to residents and see how they would like to see Aurora mark its 150th anniversary.

One of the primary issues to consider, and one which has been debated around the Council table, is whether sesquicentennial events should be held on their own - either for one week- or weekend-long blowout - or perhaps piggybacked onto some existing Town events like the Canada Day Parade, Santa Under the Stars, or other events in Town Park.

Have your say - how would you like Aurora to mark its 150th anniversary? Would you want a week-long celebration or prefer to keep the good times rolling scattered throughout 2013? Send your comments and suggestions to brock@auroran.com.

THE ART OF THE CRAFT.



AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL LCBO
HOCKLEYBEER.CA

12th Annual **SPORTS** *SALE*

STRAIGHT LINES

THURSDAY - FRIDAY

9:30 - 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY

9:30 - 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

11:00 - 4:00 p.m.



**ALL WINTER WEAR
ADULT & JUNIOR
50% - 70% OFF**

Jackets, Pants, Hats,
Gloves, T-Necks, Base Layer

**20% - 50% OFF
TENNIS WEAR**

Shirts, Shorts, Tops, Dresses

**20% - 50% OFF
SWIM WEAR
& Accessories**

Up to **90% OFF**

- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Clothing
- Accessories



DIAMONDBACK
BICYCLES/EST. 1978/WWW.DIAMONDBACKBIKE.CA

Ongoing
25% OFF
Sale on bikes

**ADULT & JUNIOR
BOARD/SKI HATS**

\$3⁹⁹

**ATTENTION
ALL SWIM CLUBS
20% OFF**
Swimwear & Accessories

LUCKY DRAWS
6 MONTH KARATE PROGRAM,
A TENNIS RACKET
AND A BIKE!



ROBINSON KARATE
Visit us at our
OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday and try a class for

FREE!

(Juniors - 10:45am, Adults - 11:30pm)
Now Accepting Fall Enrolment.
Ask About Our After-School Program
Now Teaching Authentic Gracie Jiu-Jitsu!



Rec Sports
905-841-5757
www.recsports.ca

Robinson Karate
905-713-1774
www.teamrks.com

Straightlines
905-841-0949