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AURORAN

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Vol. 5 No. 30

Week of May 17, 2005

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Briefly

Cadet inspection

The 140 Aurora Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron will use its annual inspection to help celebrate 16 years of air cadet training in Aurora. The inspection will take place at the Aurora Community Centre, Saturday, May 28 beginning at 1 p.m. More than 500 Aurora youngsters have been through the squadron since it was founded by former Citizen of the Year Ferguson Mobbs. The inspection is the culminating event of the Air Cadet year. Several displays, created by the cadets, will be on view. During the event, the 778 Banshee Squadron Band from Richmond Hill will perform. The inspection is open to the entire community. Be there early if you want to see the march on of cadets.

Bus tour

The annual Aurora Historical Society bus tour will carry passengers to the Bowmanville area this year. Scheduled for Saturday, June 11, the tour will visit several historic locations in the Clarington area, including the Clarke Museum. Persons planning to make the \$47 trip, which includes a buffet lunch, are asked to book seats prior to Thursday, June 9. To do that, call 905-727-8991. Meanwhile, a walking tour of old Aurora, will start at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 29, from the historic Aurora railway station.

Fund raiser

Aurora's Devins Drive Public School is planning the community building event of the year. It has scheduled a dinner dance, with live band and silent auction, for Saturday, May 28, at the Optimist Youth Centre, 56 Forhan Drive in Newmarket. In addition, there will be a student art show and sale. Tickets, at \$45 a person, are now on sale at the school.

Probably the man who did more work than anyone to bring York Region's Community Safety Village to the area, Steve Hinder saw the results of his efforts Saturday morning as the model village officially opened. The village - it cost about \$4.2 million to complete; about 25 per cent higher than anticipated - is located in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area and primarily will be a classroom for students to learn about safety. Board of Education officials joined firefighters, police officers and politicians for a day of demonstrations and tours at the Whitchurch-Stouffville facility. The idea for the village was born in Aurora several years ago at a Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting. After several failed attempts to find land for the village in Aurora, officials settled on an offer from the Stouffville Sideroad conservation area.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Council agrees: You're In Good Company

At a recent general committee meeting after almost an hour's debate, the committee selected the tagline "You're in Good Company" to go with the town's recently approved logo. Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed it. Last Tuesday, after more debate, Aurora Council agreed the tagline would stay, but this

time, Councillor Buck got support from two more colleagues. It wasn't, however, enough to change the tagline. Originally, the town's Economic Development Advisory Committee had expressed a preference for "Our Location Has its Advantages" but also favoured "Aurora Within Reach" and in "You're in Good

Company". Senior staff management team members selected "You're in Good Company" as their preferred choice as the words "good company" permitted a flexible interpretation of the meaning of the tagline. Councillor Nigel Kean, who was absent from the committee

Please see page 13



This plain small house on Wellington Street East has a very impressive history. Community planner Michael Seaman believes the house was once a one-room school and is only one of three still in existence in the province. Future of the structure is subject of discussion between the owners and members of the town's Heritage Advisory Committee. Full story on Page 3.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

Merlin's Hollow English garden open houses have been set for the summer. Garden will open Saturdays, June 11 and July 2 and Sunday, July 10 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent.

York Region Food Network invites you to join the Aurora Community Garden. Vegetable plots (10' x 20') are available at no charge. Call Catherine Cook, Community Garden Coordinator, at (905) 967-0428 or e-mail at ccgryfn@bellnet.ca.

Friday nights at the Legion. Wildberry Express Jam Night. Free admission, 8 p.m.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the councillors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

Every Friday night from 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School gym there will be a basketball and volleyball drop-in for ages 14 to 18. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-0205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m. For further information contact Bob Butler at h.butler@sympatico.ca or 905-713-3314.

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

Helping Hand: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-6101.

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

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7.30 p.m.

Towns of York Toastmasters meetings are free and open to the general public. Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. For more information see the club's web site at www.townsofyork.org or phone Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.

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

Operation Catch-Up presents free "Tutoring and Homework Help" for ages 10 to 18 years every Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. during the regular school year at the old Victoria Street library building. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings and special interest groups. Contact Barb at 905-713-3587. Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora.

MAY 19

Aurora Idol open auditions at Theatre Aurora from 5 to 8.30 p.m. for competitors between the ages of 13 and 19. Twelve youngsters will compete June 11th at 1 p.m. on the main stage of the Aurora Horse Show and Fair.

MAY 20/27/JUNE 3

Howard Johnson Aurora dinner theatre production of the romantic comedy "Apologies Accepted" in the newly renovated Queen Elizabeth Ballroom. Doors open at 6, buffet dinner at 6.30 with show-time at 8.15 p.m. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

MAY 25

Aurora Public Library hosts "Analyzing A Series Of Dreams", part 2, with Stephen Crowther, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Registration is limited. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 27/28

Aurora Seniors Art Group Art Show and Sale at the Seniors' Centre Friday from 7 to 9.30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Artists will be in attendance and refreshments will be served.

MAY 28

"Lilac Tyme Luncheon," featuring salads and ham, with strawberry cheesecake, will be held from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Event is sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild. Tickets: \$8 for adults; \$4 for children under 12.

The York Chamber Ensemble, with the Trinity Festival Chorus, tackles the wonderful Dixie Dominus, by Handel, and works by Abos and Suk in a choral concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning. Tickets for the 7.30 p.m. concert at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, cost \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

MAY 30

Lake Scugog Cruise and Casino visit for the Aurora Seniors with the day beginning at the Great Blue Heron Casino in Port Perry. That's followed by a cruise on Lake Scugog. After the cruise, there will be time for shopping in Port Perry. Cost is \$69 for members and \$74 for non-members. Call the centre to register at 905-727-2816.

MAY 31

Aurora Public Library hosts a creative writing workshop with Aurora author and instructor Marnie Maguire. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. in the Marjorie Andrews Room. Registration is limited to 15. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

JUNE 1

Surfing and Searching - a basic overview of navigating the internet

free seminar presented by Aurora Cable Internet and The Aurora Public Library at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the library. To reserve, call 905-727-9493 or visit www.aci.on.ca.

JUNE 4

Street dance on Yonge Street between Murray and Henderson, 7 p.m. to midnight. Advance tickets at \$10 on sale at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office; R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street; Flipside, Yonge and Dunning; Oakridge Outfitters in the Aurora Shopping Centre; and Aurora Canadian Tire.

JUNE 5

Tenth annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Yonge Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from Wellington to Murray. Only 50 booths left.

Aurora Public Library annual book sale in conjunction with the World's Longest Street Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE 7

10th Annual Pain & Symptom Management Conference. PalCare Network invites doctors, nurses and allied healthcare professionals to Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. To register call 905-895-3628 ext. 294.

JUNE 8

Third annual Charity Golf Classic tournament, sponsored by Aurora's Women's Centre of York Region takes place at the Briars in Jackson's Point. To register call Golf Tournament Co-ordinator Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837, extension 107.

Hospice Palliative Care Symposium. PalCare Network invites personal support workers, volunteers and palliative caregivers to Tuscany

Banquet Centre, Edward Street. To register call 905-895-3628 ext. 294.

JUNE 10/11/12

The 83rd Annual Aurora Fair and Horse Show will be held at Machell Park with several equestrian events over the three days including the Grand Prix on the Friday evening. For more information call 905-713-6773.

JUNE 11

Annual Farmers' Market opens in Temperance Street parking lot near Yonge and Wellington. Every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving.

Calling all students for Parks Spring Clean-Up from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre and Fleury and Machell Parks. An easy way to obtain community service volunteer hours. For more information call 905-726-4760.

JUNE 15

To celebrate Seniors' Month, the Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association presents Safe Medication Use for Heart Health with pharmacist Calvin Brown. Refreshments to follow. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

JUNE 18

Aurora Day at Ontario Place. For further information, call Kristen Yemm at 905-727-3123, extension 4228.

JULY 4

Baseball summer camp starts at the Aurora Leisure Complex and offers a full-day camp experience for kids aged 5 to 14 until August 26. Campers will be divided into five age groups and will receive baseball skills training as well as the chance to play in a game each day.

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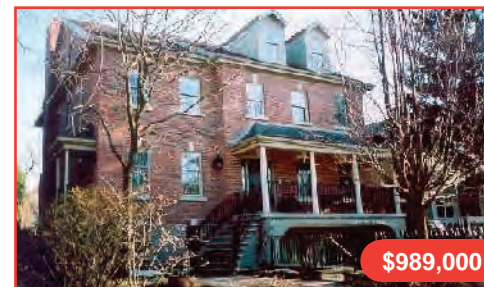
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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



M & M Meats owner Greg Foster gets a kiss from a clown during Foster's fundraising barbecue at his Yonge Street store Saturday. The clown, actually, is staff member Noreen Gardner. Proceeds from the national event went to the Cohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Event raised \$2,339 bringing the total for the year to more than \$4,500. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Former schoolhouse moved here in 1885

It's possible a small, non-descript house on Wellington East could be the third oldest single-room school still surviving in Ontario.

Members of Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee last week heard a request from the owners of the property, located adjacent to Baldwin's Steakhouse, to demolish the building because of water damage.

An official demolition request was put on hold while Aurora's new Community Planner, Michael Seaman, conducted some in-depth research.

As a result of the committee meeting, members and the property owner agreed to continue discussions to see if it is possible to save the structure.

The empty building, at 118 Wellington East, is believed to have been originally built at the northwest corner of Wellington and Bayview, sometime between 1838 and 1860, in what was then known as the community of Hartman's Corners.

At that time, it served as a one-room school and in its first six months of operation, housed 40 students.

It is believed the structure was moved to its current site around 1885.

Seaman, an Aurora resident who was with the Town of Markham prior to joining the Town of Aurora, and historian John McIntyre toured the building before last week's meeting.

While they did find evidence of water damage, both agreed the building did not need to be demolished.

"The historic frame of the building appears to be substantially intact,"

Seaman said.

While the committee did not support demolition, it did agree to continue discussions with the owner in an effort to preserve the structure.

The committee's recommendation will go to council

in a couple of weeks.

There is no question the former schoolhouse is the oldest of its kind in York Region, and it's believed the only other similar buildings still in use in one capacity or another are located at Thorold and Waterloo.

HARTMAN SCHOOL FACTS

The Hartman School could be the third or fourth oldest school building still standing in the province (The Ottawa school at New Edinburgh was built at the same time.)

The Hartman School appears to be the oldest known school still standing in the Greater Toronto Area.

Other early schools in Ontario include 1) Circa 1804 - St. Johns West School, Wood construction, Thorold; 2) Circa 1820 - Waterloo School - Log construction.

Hartman School may have been built as early as 1837/38.

I have been forwarded a reference from an article by Dr. Chris Cooper in Edifice Magazine that sawn lath was available in Ontario as early as the early 1820s, earlier than is commonly thought, which would appear support the c.1837-38 date of construction for the school.

I have spoken to Nancy Eves, a member of the East Gwillimbury Historical Society who is working on a book on East Gwillimbury schools.

She is an expert on York County schools and supports the theory that the school mentioned in the 1838 Journals of Upper Canada Legislative Assembly, is the same school still standing on Wellington Street.

The Vertical Plank method of construction used in the school, although popular in the 1850s, is known to have been used in Ontario as early as 1817 with Butlers Barracks in Niagara-on-the Lake. I am aware of a local example from Oak Ridges which dates from circa 1845.

Michael Seaman



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Environmental report confusing, says Buck

A report from Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee dealt with several issues at last week's council meeting.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said she found the report difficult to read and said it was confusing. She asked what the committee was trying to accomplish.

She referred to one item in the report dealing with the Petro Canada outlet on Industrial Parkway South and wondered why the committee was asking questions.

Coming to the defence of the committee, Councillor Phyllis Morris, said it was the committee's mandate to investigate a fuel leak, possible contamination and how far the contamination might have spread.

Councillor Ron Wallace recalled previous problems experienced at 12 Industrial Parkway South and asked if there was a connection.

Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson said it was part of the investigation and while there was no direct connection currently, the same consultant was

being used by the town.

Last November Councillor Buck gained council support for a review of the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee as it pertained to the tree bylaw.

At that meeting in the absence of Councillor Morris, Buck suggested that any discussion be deferred to a subsequent meeting when she was in attendance.

It was also suggested the terms of reference could be compared with other similar committees.

At a January meeting although listed on the agenda for direction, the item was not discussed and it was deferred once again.

Since that time Buck has not repeated her request in public session and no further action has been taken.

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Poor Richard

Stand up, Speak up, Shut up!

*There are schools for children,
There are schools for adults;
But no schools for politicians,
To help correct their faults.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

For almost 50 years I have been involved in municipal politics in several capacities.

For about 13 years I served in elected office as a school trustee, councillor, mayor and regional councillor.

As a provincial bureaucrat, I was deeply involved with municipalities of all sizes across the province as the Director of the Provincial Municipal Affairs Secretariat within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

I even spent five months in Sudbury to assist in establishing the Region of Sudbury.

In all other regions there was a county with staff to start with, but in Sudbury, Regional Chairman Don Collins and I started from scratch.

Our office was in the Sheraton Caswell Hotel and we held meetings wherever we could find room, usually in the Sudbury Library.

Although the City of Sudbury offered assistance, we thought it best to retain our independence in order to maintain the trust of the other municipalities.

Following the election, I was the acting clerk at the inaugural meeting, a role I had never held before.

At one time I thought of applying for the job as CAO, but Aurora was home and I wanted to get back there.

Since 1985 when I left elected office for the last time, I started a career in journalism and broadcasting covering the municipal scene so I have seen a lot of changes over the years.

It used to be before sound systems and TV cameras were introduced in the council chambers, members of council stood to address the chairman.

They had the floor and as long as they were speaking for all to hear, other members of council listened.

They stood up, they spoke up and they shut up.

Now members of council sit at their desks, mumble their words and sometimes play to the TV cameras, forgetting they were elected as politicians, not entertainers.

With the TV cameras running every member of council believes they have to speak on every issue so that the meetings drag on and on.

Not only that, they often carry out private conversations while a member has the floor, and bicker back and forth without addressing the head of council.

Often when a delegate appears before council to express a need or a concern, rather than asking questions for clarification, some members want to argue with the delegate.

Sometimes the debate carries on with the delegate standing at the podium, rather than council receiving the presentation and then debating it.

In the old days of Aurora Council there would be a heated debate on issues, never personalities, and once the vote was taken and a decision made by a majority of council, it was a council decision and that was the end of it.

Now, if members of council are on the losing side of a vote, it is often brought up again, without a motion of reconsideration and is discussed ad nauseam.

Some members of council believe that just because they missed a meeting of council when a decision was made that they can still add their two cents' worth.

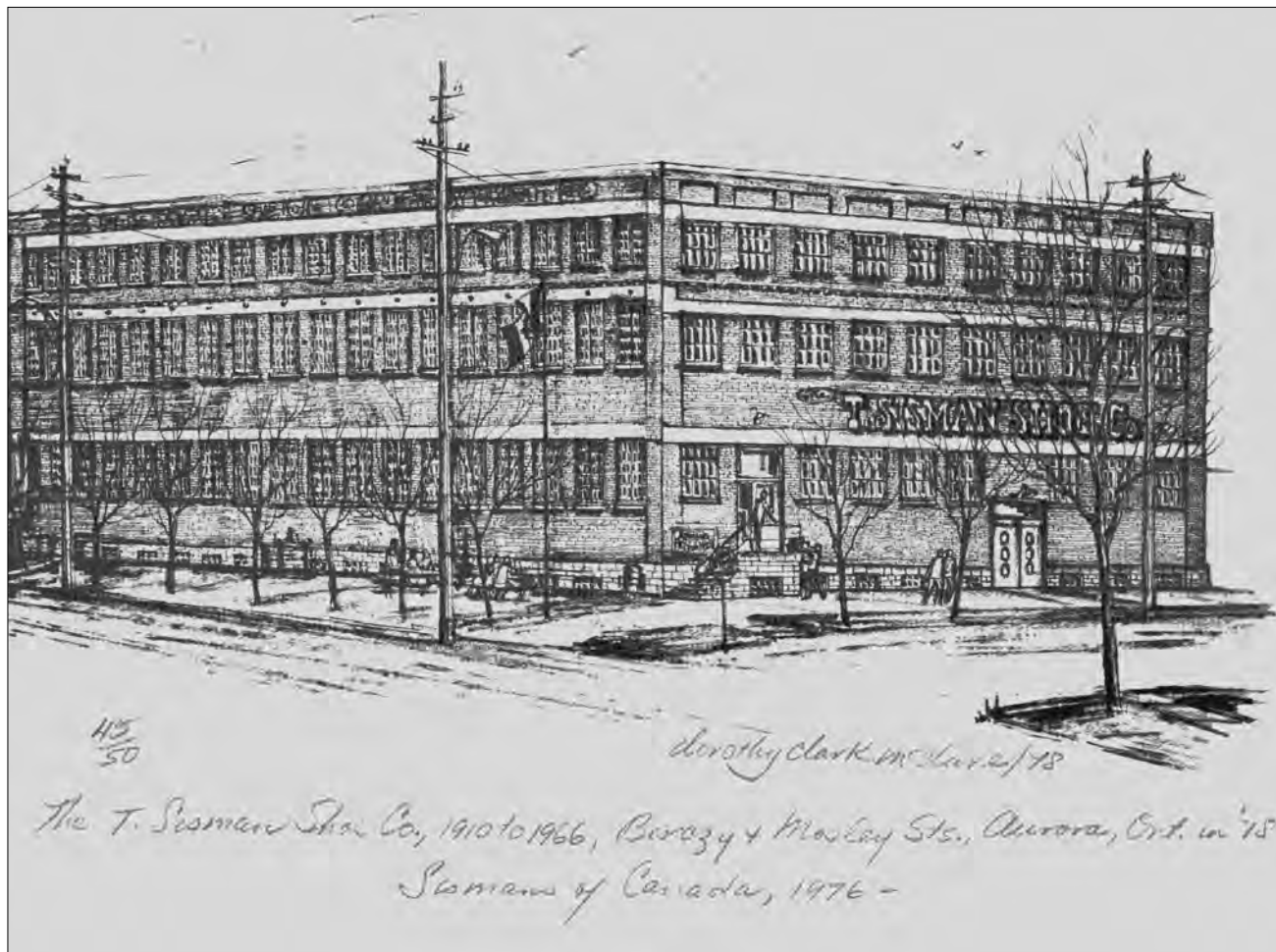
A long as there is a quorum of council, the decision should be final.

Another problem area is deciding what is considered to be policy to be dealt with by elected representatives and what is administrative to be dealt with by appointed staff.

If council has not approved a policy on the issue, it should be a council responsibility but more and more elected members are abdicating their responsibilities to staff and in effect have lost control.

These are just a few of my major beefs with the operations of today's councils, compared to the old days when citizens served for the honour of representing the people of the community.

What is needed is a school for candidates seeking municipal office so they will have a better idea of the role and responsibility of a member of council and the need for rules of procedure that must be enforced.



The stately T. Sisman Shoe Co. manufacturing building, once located at the corner of Berczy and Mosley Streets in Aurora, is captured by renowned Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure. She did the above sepia in 1978. The huge building was demolished shortly after that.

Letters to the Editor

Perusing The Auroran in Temagami

To the editor,

Hello, Rosemary, Ron and the staff at The Auroran (you too, Dick) from the Healy family.

With ice conditions and the resulting delay in mail delivery during the break-up period it happens that tonight I have occasion to read two issues of The Auroran that are delivered to our address here on Lake Temagami.

Happy birthday, Rosemary. What a surprise. I had always thought you were much younger than I and had the misfortune to live with an older man.

The Aurora Hydro sale issue is something I would like to comment on.

It is so easy to toss cheap shots as one former town councillor frequently does on these pages.

My recollections from the Harris 'who does what' days include meetings that went on into the night as to how to avoid getting screwed

during this process.

Of some surprise to me my fellow councillors selected me as their representative on the new Board of this new corporation (I think, as a geographer, I was the only one who knew how electricity was made).

How I agreed to a \$400 per meeting honorarium for other board members I will never understand but as it was explained to me that, without it, we would have no one at the meetings.

I missed that one as I have never been paid to go to a meeting in my life and I have been to a few.

Actually I'd like to congratulate Aurora Council for having staff prepare and approve the summary of the whole process that was published in the April 12 edition.

I did, however, miss the one thing that was paramount when we discussed this in the late 1990s.

At that time we were also offered large sums of

money from various private and semi-public companies.

There was always a deadline that had to do with some special tax that encouraged amalgamation.

It was always a point of pride with me that our Town Council, that I represented as their Hydro Board member, would only support recommendations for sale or merger that included municipal (read 'resident' or 'taxpayer') control of the utility.

Our feeling at the time was that the ballot box was the proper place to evaluate the decisions of our leaders.

Without elective representation on the Hydro Board local residents lose.

Am I missing something? The summary I read implies that in exchange for sale of the Utility the residents received cash and promises of future supply.

There is no Aurora representation on the Board of Directors.

I think the former councillor referred to above, but not named, was correct. You no longer control your source of electrical power.

Your Tigers had another great year but had a real scare in Huntsville during the early playoff run.

All seats in our rink were filled forcing me to sit three deep in the hospitality lounge during home games.

This brought back great memories of home games in the Aurora Community Centre during previous playoff runs.

I can't believe there will be no parking on St. John's Sideroad after reconstruction.

I remember distinctly walking that area with Councillor John West and a representative from the Regional Municipality of York who agreed with us. If the folks who are paying for

all this want to preserve and protect it and have the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful space why not provide suitable parking on weekends?

Sort this out someone.

I parked there when my children wanted to see ducks in summer or skate in winter.

Find a way.

Thanks for the memories Aurora; they are wonderful.

**Peter Healy
Temagami**

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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.

Business acknowledges Welcome Wagon's 75th

To the editor,

We are a proud sponsor of Welcome Wagon, have been for more than a decade, and work directly with hostess Rosemary Ozols.

Rosemary most recently brought to our attention that Welcome Wagon is celebrating 75 years of service in Canada.

We couldn't help but write a letter to acknowledge this milestone and at the same time say how very pleased we are with the Welcome Wagon hostess who represents us.

Rosemary goes over and beyond servicing our business and the visit recipients continually comment on her lovely visits and unique enthusiasm.

As business owners also celebrating a milestone - 25 years - we are so very delighted to be associated with the outstanding service Rosemary provides to us through a truly magnificent company.

Thank you for sharing your success with us.

**Susan & Ron Wales
Pepino's Pizza
Oak Ridges**



Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

York Region Transit - Local Service Update

Recently, the 2005 Annual York Region Transit Service Plan was approved by Regional Council.

The following describes the routes that affect Aurora:

Route 031 - Aurora North is a mid-block collector operating between western Aurora and southern Newmarket.

The service is available in the AM peak, midday and PM peak but not in the evening. It also operates Saturdays.

Major trip generators are Aurora Village Plaza, Aurora High School and the Aurora Public Library. In 2003 the annual ridership was 15,637, with an average of 63 per day.

This route is recommended to be extended in September and realigned which will replace and lead to the discontinuation of Route 220 (Aurora North GO Shuttle).

This will provide direct two-way service on the main collector roads, provide links to local destinations such as Aurora High School and it will connect with Quick Start Rapid Transit Yonge North stations at Yonge and Orchard Heights and Yonge and Wellington.

This route will be extended east along Wellington to service the Aurora GO Station and the John West Way/Berkshire and Spring Farm subdivisions.

The routing along Wellington will be combined with Route 032 to provide more frequent service along Wellington and Route 220 Aurora North GO Shuttle will be cancelled as it will become a duplication of service.

Route 032 - Aurora South is a route operating between Seneca College King Campus and the Aurora Centre Plaza.

The service is available in the AM peak, midday and PM peak, but not in the evenings. It also operates on Saturdays.

Major trip generators are Seneca King Campus, Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, Aurora High School, Aurora Town Hall, Aurora GO Station and the Aurora Centre Plaza.

In 2003 the annual ridership was 32,284 with an average of 160 per day.

This route is recommended to be extended and realigned in September to provide direct two-way service on the main collector roads, provide links to local destinations such as the Aurora Village Shopping Plaza and will connect with the Quick Start Rapid Transit Yonge North stations at Allaura and at Yonge and Wellington.

This route will also be extended east along Wellington to service the Aurora GO Station and the Stone Road subdivision.

Routing along Wellington will be combined with Route 031 to provide more frequent service along Wellington.

Service to Seneca King Campus will be discontinued when Quick Start Rapid Transit Yonge North Service starts and with the introduction of the new Route 22 King/Oak Ridges local leading to the cancellation of Route 221 as it would be a duplication of service. Service frequency will be improved.

Route 033 - Bayview-Leslie is a local one-way loop route servicing eastern Newmarket and Aurora via Bayview and Leslie which will be discontinued and integrated into routes 034, 054, 055B and 058 as part of the Newmarket/Aurora transit restructuring plan.

Route 034 - Industrial Parkway is a local north-south route operating between Yonge and Allaura and Bayview and St. John's Sideroad via Industrial Parkway north and south.

This service is available AM peak, PM peak and evenings with major trip generators at the future rapid transit stop at Yonge and Allaura, Industrial Parkway Business Park, Aurora Leisure Complex and the Aurora GO Station.

There are no statistics as this route has been operating less than a year.

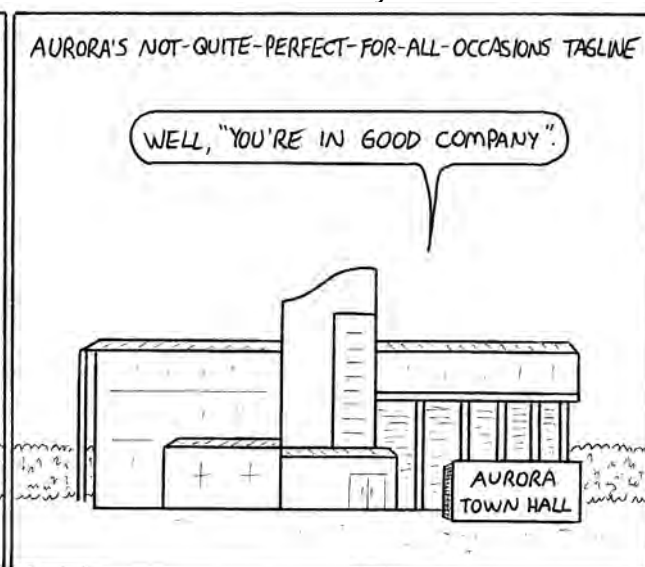
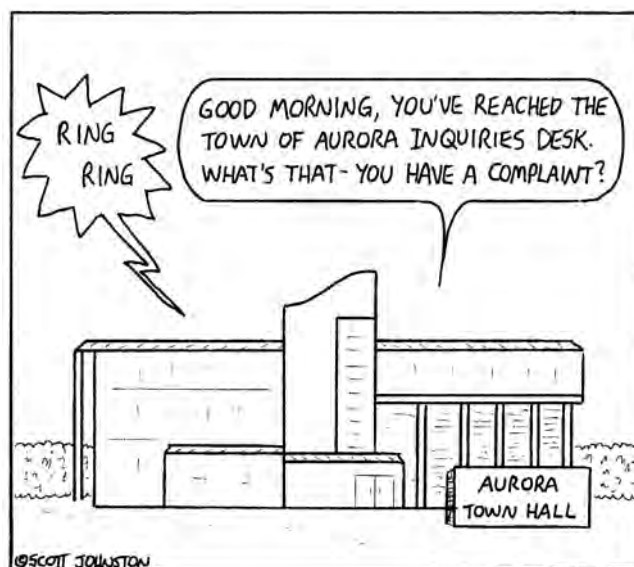
This route replaces the former Route 033 Bayview-Leslie service in the Berkshire subdivision.

I will report on other routes, 054-Bayview North, 220 Aurora North GO Shuttle, 221 Aurora South GO Shuttle, 222 Newmarket Aurora Seneca Shuttle, in a future column.

If you wish more specific information on York Region Transit, I would encourage you to visit their web site at www.yorkregiontransit.com.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca

Machell's Corners



Letter to the Editor

To vote for Harper is to vote for Bloc

To the editor,

Sixty years ago, I was in Appledorn, Holland while the Armistice was being signed to end World War Two.

To be honest, I was on the edge of town at a small man-made airstrip made with some basket weave wire for traction.

Unbeknownst to me, history was being made a short distance from where I was.

I had no idea what was going on until I heard a great commotion.

Firecrackers went off. Some people started dancing in the street, while others burned pylons the police

used to direct traffic.

I asked a person what was going on and he replied the Nor (war) was over and Germany capitulated.

I only mention this because when I reflect I have seen many great changes played out in our great nation.

Canadians are world renowned for their valor and dedication when called to duty.

Of course, we have made mistakes, as in Rwanda and Somalia, because we are not perfect.

We are also the same nation that hung Louis Reil, interned the Japanese and estreated their property.

We also put a head tax

on the Chinese again because we are not perfect.

Which now leads me to another sad dereliction, the Gomery enquiry and the disturbing accounts that just won't go away.

But isn't it being a bit overdone?

For six months, Mr. Harper has been beating his chest using the same shop worn logic about not fit to govern, etc. then suddenly he hit on the idea that governments have to have a platform.

One which all Canadians adhere to like national medicine, the Canada Health Act, child daycare, women's rights, higher education, etc.

If Canadians believe the Reform Conservatives will live up to these ideals if elected, think again.

Just think how they conned David Orchard to get his western votes, then just wrote him off.

Canadians should understand that a vote for Mr. Harper is a vote for the Bloc Quebecois and they should fully understand he wants more ties to the United States Republican philosophy even if it means giving up our fresh water, greater military involvement and, yes, even the break-up of Confederation.

**Ben Kestein
Aurora**



Cathy's Corner



The life of a columnist

Occasionally, readers ask me questions about what it's like to be a columnist.

Having been at it for nearly two years, and given that Ron fired me (again) in the last issue, I feel qualified to tell all.

So, here are the answers to FAQ's about being an Auroran Columnist:

Q: How do you come up with column ideas every week?

A: Once in a while, my muse delivers a sudden flash of brilliant inspiration that causes me to sit bolt upright in bed, and sometimes I have a vague recollection of the experience in the morning.

When that doesn't happen, I rack my brains, scratch my head, tear at my hair, chew off my fingernails, and tap my foot nervously...while consuming copious quantities of coffee.

Q: What does it take to meet a deadline every week?

A: About 12 tins of coffee.

Q: How much time does it take to write a column?

A: About the same amount of time as it takes to consume 12 tins of coffee.

Q: Do you have any rituals associated with starting a new column?

A: Yes. I turn on my computer, rack my brains, scratch my head, tear at my hair, chew off my fingernails, tap my foot nervously...and make sure I have a can opener handy.

Q: How does your family deal with living under a magnifying glass?

A: You mean aside from big hats, dark sunglasses and intensive therapy? Just fine.

Q: Does your family read your column?

A: Yes, of course. How else would they know what's going on in their lives?

Q: Does your family get a sneak preview of your columns?

A: Never! Aside from my editor and my muse, nobody gets to read it until it's too late.

Q: Does being married to a councillor cramp your style?

A: As some readers will recall, I started writing a column incognito during the last election because my editor, my husband, and the mayor (whose space I temporarily filled) were all candidates at the time.

Now that they've all been re-elected, the political pressure sometimes makes me feel...well..."cornered."

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I'm not really sure because The New York Times hasn't called to let me know yet.

Q: How does Dick Illingworth feel about your aggressive pursuit of his "Bouquets and Brickbats" column?

A: Mostly, he ignores me.

Q: Do you plan on tackling any serious issues in the future?

A: No. I'm afraid Dick Illingworth will think I want his job.

Q: How have you been dealing with getting fired?

A: I have a system. As soon as The Auroran arrives, I flip to page 5 to see if it's true.

If my mug shot is still there, I turn on my computer, rack my brains, scratch my head, tear at my hair, chew off my fingernails, tap my foot nervously...and come up with another column.

**Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
laughingmatters@aci.on.ca**

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to all the dedicated volunteers and the contributors to the appeal of the United Way of York Region, that enabled the agency to raise \$6.7 million with more than \$4 million being shared among 37 member agencies.

BRICKBATS to the shameless students of Aurora Senior Public and/or Aurora High School for brown-bagging chocolate milk and pizza into a Chinese restaurant at Haida and Wellington, in complete disregard for the notices on the door.

BOUQUETS to 17-year-old Cameron Lynch of Aurora, a Grade 12 student at Cardinal Carter High School on winning the senior boys 800 and 1,500 metres at the York Region Athletic Association indoor championships

BRICKBATS to York Region traffic engineers for their lack of planning for the construction of the watermain along Wellington Street, without providing alternate routes as traffic is a mess.

BOUQUETS to Cadets of the 2799 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Aurora on winning the Gold Medal at the Ontario provincial marksmen championships in Ottawa. Cadet Brenda Dickenson shot 381 of 400 targets to win the junior and open individual categories and helped her five-member shooting team to a 1,485 score from 1,600 targets for a 93 per cent accuracy rate.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for spending \$443,237 to change the name of the Passport Office to Passport Canada, which works out to about \$74,000 a letter. The money might better have used to improve the service in passport offices.

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach for supporting Canadian beef farmers in their fight to get the United States to open the border to older Canadian beef cattle. She has offered to go to Montana to join the farmers in a court case in July.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario health system for letting a two-year-old boy die, while waiting to be seen in the emergency department at Toronto East General Hospital. After more than an hour of waiting the boy died in his father's arms. The coroner's office is investigating, but where is the Health Minister?

BOUQUETS to the Town of Georgina in joining Toronto and Hamilton in petitioning the province for a special subsidy to help offset property tax increases of more than three per cent. It was pointed out that Georgina was sending \$2.3 million to Toronto as part of the provincial program in which GTA municipalities contribute to the city's social costs.

BRICKBATS to Town of Aurora staff for distributing a report to members of council in public session without releasing a copy to the media even when requested. Public business should be dealt with in public and the press represents the public!

BOUQUETS to the local high school students who delivered flyers recently encouraging homeowners to employ them during the summer months to cut lawns and are willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Free services are available to seniors to fulfill their commitment to community involvement, but if they are a local group, why a 416 telephone number?

BRICKBATS to the federal government for lending an American airline \$230 million to purchase regional jets from Montreal-based Bombardier. The loan was from the \$13 billion Canada Fund, used for transactions too risky for the Export Fund. Anything to help Bombardier!

Letters to the Editor

Several helped us with our marriage

To the editor,

My common-law husband was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer.

After eight years in our relationship we were planning to marry in the fall of 2005, but in one split second our dreams and plans for the future would be lost!

Nonetheless, we decided we would make our dream to marry a reality!

All too often people do not get the credit and recognition for their help and generosity, but I intend to make this an exception to that rule.

With short notice, we managed to pull off a wedding, but not without the help of so many wonderful and caring people. There are two groups in particular I wish to credit.

The first group I would like to recognize is staff from the Town of Aurora,

with whom I've had the privilege of working with for 15 years.

Many of the staff have been like family and whenever I've needed their support, they have always come through.

Their assistance in making our wedding a reality is a perfect example of that unfaltering support.

In particular, Allan Downey of Leisure Services and Karen Ewart of Corporate Services were instrumental in helping us realize one of our dreams.

In order to be by my husband's side, I essentially lived on the cancer floor of Southlake Regional Health Care Centre for 24 hours a day.

Because they knew I did not want to be away from him, staff delivered, picked up, and issued, on their own time, the documents necessary to fulfill our dreams!

The second group I want to thank are the staff and nurses at Southlake Regional Health Care Centre, Cancer Care Floor.

This floor is second to none, allowing families to visit their loved ones at any time of the day, offering private facilities and supportive and caring individuals.

They offer unending support to families, hoping to ease the pain and suffering, while at the same time making their final moments together as pleasant as possible.

I only hope and pray that you and your families do not have to live the experience of so many of the unfortunate people you encounter each day.

When it came to planning our wedding, the nurses assisted us by contacting a minister and connecting us with Pat Miller, the Social Worker for Cancer

Care Programs at Southlake.

Everyone was very enthusiastic and shared our excitement!

I wish to recognize the tremendous efforts of Pat Miller, who sent a letter of emergency to initiate a Marriage License as well as organized staff and volunteers to set up the visitors' lounge with chairs, decorations and other amenities for our ceremony.

My beloved Wayne and I were able to fulfill at least one of our dreams and were married on the Cancer Care Floor 6 at Southlake Regional Health Care Centre on Thursday, April 28th, 2005 at 4 p.m.

It was a special and intimate ceremony with a few close friends, family members, staff from the Town of Aurora, nurses and volunteers from Southlake.

From the bottom of my heart I extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who made our final dream come true.

A word of advice, don't sweat the small stuff for life is too short and can change in a second.

My adored husband passed away at Southlake Region Health Centre on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

To my beloved Wayne: I will miss you immensely. I will always hold you close to my heart and never let you go. I will treasure all our memories forever.

Judy Salmon
Aurora

Debbie Sparks
(Nee Powley)

We admire those who defended us

To the editor,

Last week saw quite a contrast in Canada's values as we watched the WWII veterans being celebrated in Holland and our country's political leaders who showed up a week late only in response to public pressure fueled by Global TV.

Luckily I was born too late to experience the horrors of that war but I did have uncles who served with the army in Italy and a father-in-law with the RCAF in England.

They were quiet, self-effacing men who seldom spoke about their experiences but I saw how the war affected them physically and mentally.

Compare the politicians of today who do so little and never stop talk-

ing about it!

In the late 60s, I was married to an air force officer and spent three years in Gemany.

I was very proud to see how our military was respected especially when they consistently beat the Americans in Top Gun NATO competitions.

Sadly times changed and irreversible cutbacks prevailed.

Realistically we can no longer afford to defend ourselves.

In the words of an irreverent Grade 12 high school teacher "all Canada needs to defend her is the USAF and a few Eskimos".

So we are left to admire these selfless giving men who sacrificed a large part of their youth, many their health,

and still more ultimately their lives in defence of their country and freedom.

In the words of Tom Brokaw, "we shall not see their likes again".

Judy Salmon
Aurora

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Aurora Library: more than just books

Libraries are usually considered to be a place to borrow books or to find reference material on a specific subject.

In the early days of libraries, they were primarily meeting halls or reading rooms.

It was in the mid 1890s when the circulation of books became the primary

focus for a public library.

Over the years, the Aurora Public Library has been much more than a place to borrow books.

It has become an information centre and continues to carry out the mandate of the first Aurora Library as "The Association for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge," formed in

Bishop Poole makes a mark

Last November Father Philip Poole, a priest at Trinity Anglican Church Aurora since 1987, was

Town honoured

During last week's Aurora Council meeting, Rosemary Schumaker, Welcome Wagon Area Manager for the York Region/Simcoe County area, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Tim Jones.

The presentation was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Welcome Wagon in Canada and council's support in promoting the program in Aurora.

She introduced several of the Aurora and area Welcome Wagon hostesses.

In accepting the Certificate, Mayor Jones said the municipality appreciated the work of Welcome Wagon in making new residents and businesses welcome on their arrival to Aurora.

elected the new suffragan bishop for the diocese of Toronto, causing him to give up his Trinity activities.

Bishop Poole now oversees the Parkdale and Toronto West deaneries and recently visited St. Paul's Runnymede.

According to The Anglican, Bishop Poole "brought with him fresh, positive energy that infused the congregation with the desire to carry on and to welcome the surrounding community into their spiritual home".

During the service, 12-year-old James Kahara was honoured to be the first to be confirmed by Bishop Poole.

The refurbished children's chapel was dedicated, as was a new chasuble for the incumbent Rev. Maurice Francois.

Bishop Poole also blessed a large three-fold mural conceived by Rev. Francois and painted by members of the parish.

1855.

The old Victoria Street Library was opened in 1963 as a single-storey building to commemorate Aurora's incorporation as a village in 1863.

Late in 1965, several Aurora movie enthusiasts gathered together to form a film council.

The film council was established in 1966 with Wilf Bridgeford as its first president.

The aim of the council was to provide rental of educational and other film to groups or organizations.

It moved one step closer to realization when a meeting was held with the Library Board to house the film council at the library.

After consideration by board members the dream of a film council became a reality, hosted by the library.

In 1970 in conjunction with the Aurora and District Historical Society, rotating displays were available for visiting elementary classes as part of Young Canada Book Week.

A plaque was awarded annually to the student who best used the library facilities.

In 1973 a service for shut-ins was implemented.

Persons confined to their homes and unable to visit

the library could order books and volunteers delivered them.

In addition, talking and large-print books were available for those with failing eyesight.

In 1974 the ageless fascination between children and puppets became possible through a new program introduced as part of the children's program, and as an alternate form of introducing literature to children.

For students and adults interested in reading books in the French language, the Aurora Library went bilingual in February, 1975.

A collection of more than 5,000 titles in French became available through the Mid-Western and Central Ontario Regional Library systems.

In March, 1976, the library, with the volunteer assistance of three local chapters of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority, prepared a Community Services Directory of community events.

With the library's two-storey addition in 1976 there was room in the Marjorie Andrews Hall for art exhibitions by local artists, and group shows by such organizations as the Artisans of York.

There were also touring

art shows such as the Silkscreen Visions of Canada, which came to the library in 1980 featuring works by A. Y. Jackson, Thoreau MacDonald, Tom Thomson and Arthur Lismer.

A highlight at Christmas time was a children's program called "Christmas Songs and More" featuring Aurora journalist John Lott and his guitar. There were various other programs for children at the library, including a Teddy Bear's Picnic in 1981 and a Pet Show.

For adults there was a Music Appreciation Series, lessons in yoga, guest speakers and movie presentations.

By 1983 the computer age came to the library with courses for both adults and children.

With all the other activi-

ties, the circulation of books was not forgotten.

In 1983, during an average week, 2,500 people visited the library. They borrowed 163,936 items. A total of 8,944 reference questions were answered.

During the year 3,795 new library borrowers were registered, bringing the total number of registered borrowers to more than 10,000.

A total of 523 room bookings were made, 22 arts and crafts exhibitions were displayed and 8,320 people attended 450 programs.

That was in the old library.

When the new library opened with greatly expanded facilities, the opportunities for new and repeat programs were also expanded and the library continued to be "The Association for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge".



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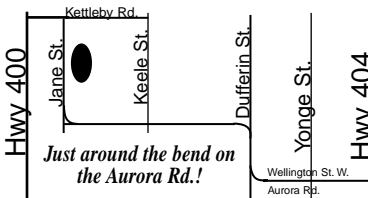
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From the ashes, Optimists now 20 years old

The Optimist Club of Aurora is like the Phoenix Bird of Egyptian mythology, which rises from the ashes to live again.

And judging by the party Saturday night, to celebrate its 20th anniversary, this is a club with a vibrant future.

It was January 23, 1968, when the Optimists were born in Aurora...for the first time.

With more than 44 charter members, the Aurora Optimist Club received its charter, as members of the Newmarket Optimist Club, the sponsoring club, looked on in a ceremony at the now-defunct Aurora Highlands Golf Club.

More than 325 people, including Aurora Mayor and Mrs. Clarence Davis were in attendance for the gala dinner to mark the charter night ceremonies.

Eric McCulloch was the first president of the Aurora Optimist Club.

Following the dinner there were some hi-jinks around the swimming pool with Master of Ceremonies Pete Miller ending up in the water.

At that time, Optimists International was the fourth largest service club in North America, with more than 100,000 members.

The Optimists were soon busy with many programs and activities for youth. In October 1968, they presented Sue Parish, Aurora's famous young marathon runner, with the first Youth of the Month Award.

The Optimists also held an annual oratorical contest and in 1973 included a girl's division. Alan Jones received the winner's trophy with Stephen Martin and Hugh Stewart as runners-up.

In the girl's division, Germaine O'Neill won the trophy with Sandra Pedersen and Anne Mullins as runners-up.

In April, 1975, the Aurora Optimists hosted a social evening for Swedish visitors from Leksand, Aurora's twin municipality.

Optimist President Omar Khamissa presented visiting Roland Lindren with a citation for his work in promoting Canadian-Swedish youth exchanges.

An Optimist Youth Award was presented to Gary Lawrence on behalf of the Aurora hockey team, which had travelled to Sweden to play.

In May, 1978, the club held a Mile of Quarters event as a fundraiser.

The idea was to collect quarters from willing donors along a tape from Murray Drive to Wellington Street on the east side of Yonge Street with all proceeds going to the Aurora Library Building Fund.

The club also celebrated its 10th anniversary as a service club in Aurora with an anniversary dance at the Aurora Highlands with all proceeds going to the Finishing Touch Fund for the Aurora Library.

And then, in the early 1980s, the club died.

At that time the Optimists, like most service clubs, was for men only.

Not to be outdone, the wives of the members banded together and formed the Opti-Mrs Club of Aurora, which is still active.

Over the years the Opti-Mrs. raised funds to purchase play equipment for town parks and a fitness trail in Sheppard's Bush, as well as other community projects.

A brand new Optimist Club of Aurora was officially chartered in June, 1985 with 37 founding charter members.

Ash Sangani was elected the first president of the new club.

Like the Phoenix, the Aurora Optimist Club returned.

It all started at the Community Centre six months earlier when four men met, all with different reasons for being there.

One was a newcomer to Aurora, Ash Sangani, another was long-time resident Alex Ansell, nine-year resident Steve Hinder and Newmarket Optimist Don McCallum.

One of the many activities for youth was the Optimist Student Chess Tournament with the first tournament held in 1997 for Aurora schools with more than 300 chess players from 15 schools participating.

The tournament was the brainchild of Aurora Optimist Steve Granger, an avid chess player.

It was so successful other regional Optimist clubs decided to join and to hold tournaments for students from schools within their municipality.

In April, 1998, the first York Regional Chess Finals were held at the Aurora Legion with the top three winners from tournaments in Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Aurora.

More than 140 student chess players from Grades 1 to 12 competed for the right to represent their home club and the region at the provincial Chess n' Math competition.

In addition to chess, the Aurora Club sponsors a recreational hockey program for 5-6 year-olds known as "Opti-Hockey".

The Club has sponsored a team in the Girls' Hockey Association on an annual basis and teams in the Aurora Minor Ball Association.

The Club has been involved with the town since 1987 in the planning and marshaling of the annual Santa Claus Parade as well as building and entering a float.

The Club supported the Highview Millennium Project to ensure playground access for all children regardless of their capabilities.

Members have been strong supporters through donations and fundraisers for the Community Safety Village and the workhorse behind the Village, Steve



Large audience enjoyed FabFour during Optimist 20th Anniversary celebration Saturday night.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Hinder, was on hand Saturday morning as it was officially opened on a site in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

The Club has also started a band festival for the senior grades of the Aurora elementary schools and Grade 9 bands of the high schools.

Each year, in May the Club honours an individual from York Regional Police for his/her work with the community in their Respect for Law program, an event that happens this week.

A hockey tournament for all the house league teams of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association is held during the Christmas Break with up to 75 teams participating.

Proceeds from an annual

Book Sale held at the Aurora Library go towards providing books and other services for the children's section of the library as well as youth activities within the town.

As the Optimist Club of Aurora celebrates its 20th anniversary of service to the community, the members

look forward to many more years of being a Friend of Youth.

Saturday night's party at the Legion, with the Fab Four entertaining, suggested the reborn service club will be around for some time to come.

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Founding Optimist member Alex Ansell recalls history of the club during Saturday's celebration



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AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aurora's Living in Style Home Show was another successful event sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. We will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Home Show in 2006, so look forward to another great show, featuring some of the exhibits of the past!

Thank you to all exhibitors who participated, the attendees, the Home Show Committee and to our Magicians Ray Anthony and Rick Malette. A good time was had by all, and Dora the Explorer and Mother Goose were a big hit with the younger residents of Aurora. Thanks, also, to Brian Tripp of Bunn-o-Matic for providing "slushies" for the kids.

Join us on Saturday, June 4th as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Street Festival with a "Diamonds and Denim Dance" on Yonge Street. Pre-dance tickets are available at the Chamber office, The Auroran, Oakridge Outfitters, Flip Side and Canadian Tire.

On Sunday, June 5th, thousands will flock on to Yonge Street for the annual Festival which begins at 11.00 am. Be sure to bring the whole family! Free admission, free parking and lots of fun!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the dance and festival.
For further information call the Chamber at 905-727-7262

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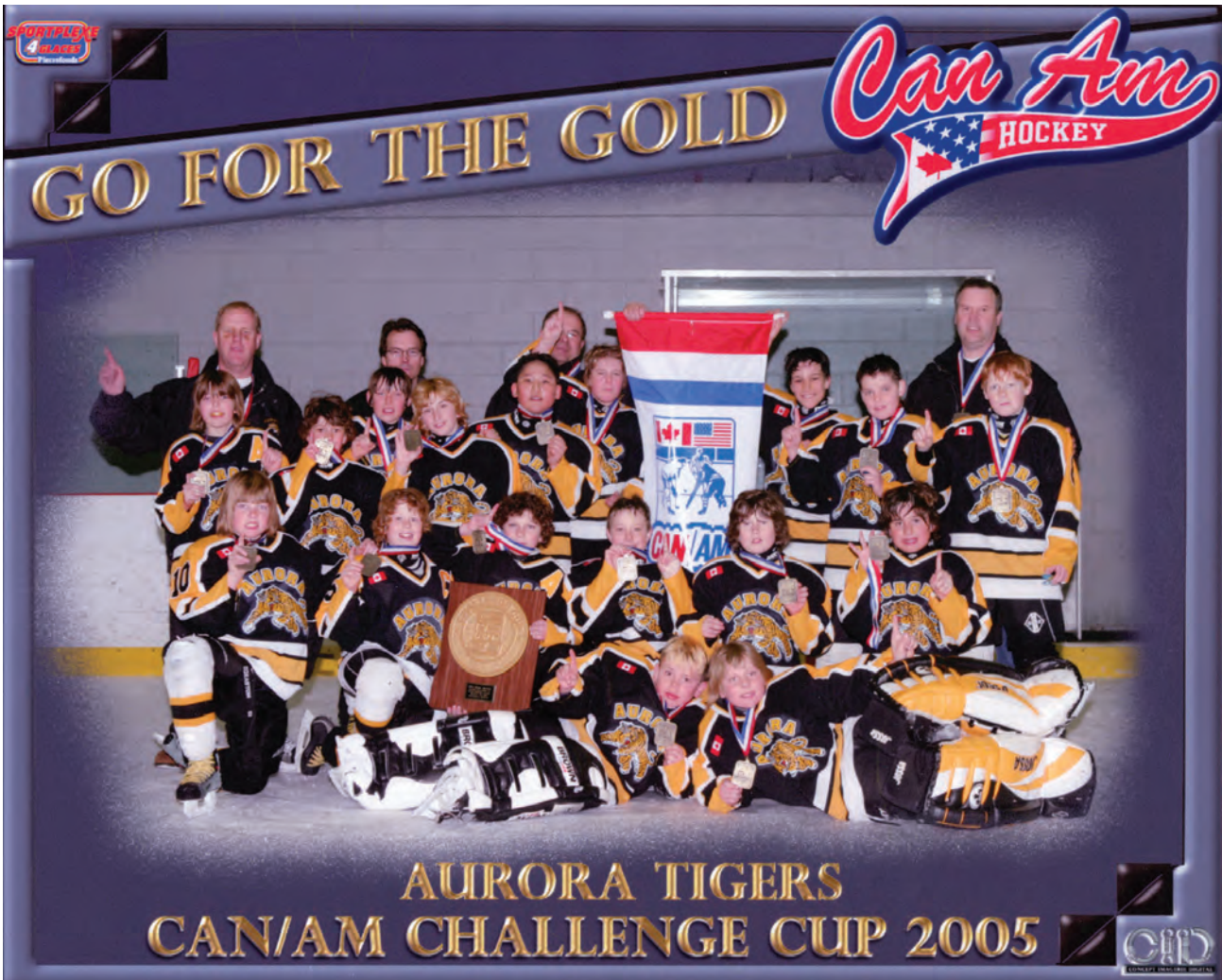
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If we wouldn't take it home why would we sell it to you?



After winning the Can-Am hockey tournament in Lake Placid, New York, recently - their fifth out of six tournament wins this season - Aurora's Peewee AE Tigers also won the above poster-like photograph of the winning team members. Tigers lost the first game of the tourney, but rebounded to play perfect hockey for the remainder and win the gold medal with a 6-2 victory over the Rhode Island Sharks.

Aurora Skating Club results

Following are results of the Aurora Skating Club May tests:

Preliminary Dance

Dutch waltz: Stephanie Ng, Clara Chen, Dylann Miller.
Canasta Tango: Mackenzie Maunder.
Baby Blues: Rebecca O'Malley, Alicia Alberton.

Jr. Bronze Dance

Swing Dance: Shelby Olesovskoy, Melanny Noseworthy, Marilena Perri, Alessia Chiovitti, Emily O'Connor, Shauna O'Connor.
Fiesta Tango: Katrina Thunem, Sabrina Brochu, Shannon Lacombe, Carley Steiner, Molly Oulahan, Alyssa Simon.
Willow Waltz: Courtney Tidona, Zahra Rajan.

Sr. Bronze Dance

Ten Fox: Nicole Calvert.
Fourteen Step: Samantha Galati, Jihayn Cha, Caylin Butler.
European Waltz: Tayler Sim, Sophia Perugini, Kendall Mannella, Julia Chiovitti.

Jr. Silver Dance

Keat's Foxtrot: Malysa Tidona, Jacqueline Relke, Kate Sutton.
Harris Tango: Hailey Riggs, Stephanie Fonceca, Emma Laverty, Janet DeVries, Jordana Goldman.
Rocker Foxtrot: Alysya Nicols, Lauren Bellefeuille, Nicole Relke, Alana Kelly, Amber Cioffe, Amanda Alberton, Jennine Brunton.
American: Meagan Hay.

Sr. Silver Dance

Paso Doble: Amanda Jamison, Fayme Cockshutt, Amy Thompson.
Starlight Waltz: Emma Slimkovich.
Blues: Ariel Kwan, Allie Sutton, Julia Ranson.
Killian: Mackenzie Jordan

Gold Dance

Viennese Waltz: Sarah Gray, Terra Cioffe, Meaghan Jones.
Quickstep: Emma Hayzelden, Maya Goldman.

Skating Skills Tests

Preliminary Skills: Christina Kubin Kalashnik, Samantha Duncan, Zahra Rajan, Kaitlin Van Winckle.
Junior Bronze Skills: Courtney Tidona, Amber Cioffe, Samantha Galati.
Senior Bronze Skills: Jennine Brunton, Malysa Tidona, Janet DeVries, Emma Laverty, Cierra Snell, Jenna Williams, Alex Woodward.
Jr. Silver Skills: Stephanie Fonceca, Allana Kelly, Amy Bellefeuille.

Free Skate Elements

Preliminary Elements: Christina Kubin-Kalashnik, Taylor McDowall, Jihyun Cha, Sophia Perugini, Alana Fabbicino, Kendall Mannella.
Junior Bronze Elements: Janet DeVries.
Senior Bronze Elements: Julia Ranson.

Jr. Silver Elements: Fayme Cockshutt, Emma Hayzelden, Meaghan Jones.
Sr. Silver Elements: Michelle Wong, Jenna Porteous.

Free Skate Solo

Preliminary Freeskate Solo: Jacqueline Relke, Amber Cioffe, Alana Fabbicino, Kendall Mannella, Taylor McDowall.
Junior Bronze Freeskate Solo: Emma Slimkovich, Jordana Goldman, Janet DeVries, Jennine Brunton.
Senior Bronze Freeskate Solo: Julia Ranson, Amber Bowman.
Jr. Silver Freeskate Solo: Fayme Cockshutt, Emma Hayzelden, Meaghan Jones.
Sr. Silver Freeskate Solo: Sarah Gray.
Gold Freeskate Solo: Sarah Gray.

Competitive Free Skate

Pre-Novice: Emma Hayzelden, Maya Goldman, Chelsea Kerr.
Novice: Amy Thompson.

Basketball camp slated for Aurora school in July

Looking to fill some time for your youngsters during the summer break?

The School Council from Aurora's Northern Lights Public is sponsoring a two-week basketball summer camp, complete with professional coaching staff from the United States.

Camps have been arranged for July 4 to 8 and July 11 to 15 and each day lasts from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Money raised by the clinic goes directly to the School Council for equipment and will also be used to subsidize trips and events for students.

Two levels of instruction are available - juniors for participants six to 12 years old, and seniors, aged 13 to 17.

For further information e-mail icecatssports@canada.com or phone 905-727-4224, extension 3001.

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How Taylor Park got its name

Taylor Park is located just north of the traffic circle at the north end of John West Way and Hollidge Boulevard.

It was named after the Taylor family of Aurora.

William Taylor (1829-1914), the founding member, emigrated from Yorkshire, England, and took possession of part of a lot in Whitchurch Township.

While visiting his sister Elizabeth, he was hired to install windows in the first Bank of Montreal, located at Yonge and Wellington Streets, where it is still located.

He liked Aurora and decided to stay and established a painting and decorating business.

He was a member of the Aurora Volunteers and fought in the Fenian Raids near Niagara in 1866.

A bugle was presented to the Aurora Volunteers to commemorate their service. The bugle was a familiar sight at the Aurora Armouries until the late 1960s when it was placed for safekeeping in the Queen's York Rangers Museum at Fort York Armouries in Toronto.

His son, William Henry Taylor (1863-1948), attended Aurora Public School and served with the Aurora Volunteers in the Northwest in 1855.

In the National War Museum in Ottawa there is a display commemorating the Northwest Rebellion, including a hardtack biscuit which had been inscribed with the names Capt. J. F. Smith, Lt. W. J. Fleury, L. Smith, F. Collett and Colour Sgt. Henry Taylor, all members of the Aurora Volunteers.

He and his brother Sam carried on the painting and decorating business. In 1920 he was appointed Town Assessor and acted as the 6th Division Court Clerk. Sam Taylor was Mayor of Aurora in 1931 and 1932.

With the outbreak of World War I, Henry tried to enlist but was turned down and settled for organizing the Home Guard.

He started the Aurora High School (now Dr. G.W. Williams) Cadet Corps and retired as a Major in the Queen's York Rangers.

Friends of Sir William Mulock, the two men headed a committee that was responsible for the construction of the Aurora War Memorial in 1926.

In 1939, Henry tried to enlist again but was turned down. His son Fred, sons-in-law Bob Hodgkinson and Hal Bridgeman, and his four grandsons took up mili-

tary service.

Henry helped raise the five Hodgkinson children, Maude and Bob's family in the family homestead at 61 Wellington Street East, at the corner of Wells Street.

Maude was a member of the first graduating class of York County Hospital School of Nursing and succeeded her father as the 6th Division Court Clerk. She was the first woman member of the Aurora Public School Board.

Bob Hodgkinson enlisted in 1939 and served overseas from 1942 to 1945.

Following the war, he served as President of the Aurora Legion and was President of the War Memorial Board and spearheaded the drive for the Memorial Altar of Sacrifice at the Aurora Cenotaph to honour the fallen of World War II.

Maude was also active with the Aurora Legion and served as an executive member of the Legion's Auxiliary.

Council named the park after the Taylor family in recognition of the many ways family members had served the municipality over the years. Members of the Hodgkinson family were in attendance when the park was officially named.



Richard Housser, a student at St. Andrew's College, and Carol Rose-Kudleka, SAC Outreach Representative, present Steve Falk with \$2,000 which will go towards the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This money will help ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa and is part of the \$3,500 goal the students have set for themselves. They have also challenged the other independent schools in the region to make a similar contribution. Students have been organizing small fundraising events all year long and have hosted guest speakers and the Soul Influence Africa youth choir at a special assembly.

Tagline is approved

From page 1

meeting, resurrected the issue and defended the preferred choice of the advisory committee "Our Location Has its Advantages".

He claimed the general committee's choice was vague, didn't stand for anything and could be misleading. He stressed that location was the key.

He was supported by Councillor Buck who claimed Aurora's location close to Toronto, the airport and major highways was what the municipality had to offer to attract businesspeople like State Farm.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who was also absent from the general committee meeting, pointed out that council had appointed citizens to the advisory committee and council should accept their preferred choice.

Councillor Ron Wallace, who missed the general committee meeting as well, disagreed.

He noted that the term "location" makes him think of real estate and Aurora was much more than that.

Good Company brings back a flood of memories of people and events and is the reason why people move to Aurora. He supported the general com-

mittee's recommendation.

Other members of council added their support for "You're in Good Company" for several reasons but primarily because the words describe Aurora.

Councillor Kean's motion to support "Our Location Has its Advantages" was defeated by a 5-3 vote with Buck and Gaertner supporting him.

A subsequent motion to adopt "You're in Good Company" as recommended by the general committee was adopted by the

same vote with Kean, Buck and Gaertner in opposition.

Councillor Bill Hogg, who was a strong supporter of the general committee recommendation, was absent from the council meeting.

The new logo and tagline are considered necessary to establish a brand to help promote the municipality for economic development.

It replaces the town crest which was used for years, and will still be used for Town pins and other paraphernalia.

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Tree removal slows plans to build home

Frank Luciani owns a four-acre treed property on Ridge Road on which he wants to build a house.

Last month he applied to the Committee of Adjustment for a minor variance associated with the property.

As part of the review process, the Leisure Services department recommended the Committee of Adjustment consider imposing vegetation preservation conditions of approval associated with the application.

As the property is within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area, any development on the lands is subject to an application to and approval by the Committee of Adjustment.

Proposed development of the lands will involve the removal of approximately 54 trees that meet the criteria for protection under the Municipal Tree Protection Bylaw, resulting in an application for a tree removal permit.

The Committee of Adjustment approved the

minor variance subject to vegetation preservation agreement, which included a condition that required the owner to comply with the Tree Protection Bylaw.

The property owner submitted the application for tree removal and according to Deputy Treasurer Paul Dillman paid the required fee.

Town staff advised the committee that the application had been reviewed in detail and they had no major concerns with the process.

The property owner then appeared before the general committee, but during his presentation said a total of 120 trees were to be removed.

He said he had worked closely with staff and that 81 per cent of the trees will remain.

Councillor John West recommended the application be approved but asked whether there was a penalty clause if more trees were destroyed.

He was advised the penalty was up to a \$1,000 per tree.

Councillor Phyllis Morris questioned the discrepancy of the 54 trees shown in the report and the 120 trees mentioned by the owner.

She also suggested the application should have been circulated to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

She noted the application had not been signed by the applicant and there was not enough information in the report for her to support.

Mayor Tim Jones said the town had a policy in the Tree Protection Bylaw and as the

applicant had met the requirements of the policy, it should proceed.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the property owner had met all the requirements, so there was no need of another body becoming involved as it would be harassment.

Morris continued to question the discrepancy between the 54 and 120 trees. In response to a question staff confirmed the application was for 54 trees and if it was planned to cut more, a new application would be required.

It was agreed to approve the application subject to clarification at council with Councillor Morris opposed.

At last week's council meeting, in spite of a report from Parks Manager Jim Tree clarifying the various issues, the committee report and recommendation was questioned again by Morris.

She said she was frustrated over the discrepancy between the 120 trees to be destroyed as stated by the applicant and the 54 approved in the report.

She also questioned the role of the Committee of Adjustment and suggested the parks manager make a presentation on the preservation of trees and the tree cutting policy.

Councillor Nigel Kean said the tree bylaw needed strengthening and referred to trees being chopped down on Kennedy Street and Henderson Drive.

The general committee recommendation to approve the removal of the 54 trees in accordance with the bylaw was adopted.



Over the next three years, a community initiative known as the YouthSpeak Performance Company will have access to a \$200,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to use at its Aurora-based offices on Yonge Street. On hand for the presentation of a plaque recently were Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara, left, Vincent Conville, representing the foundation, and Todd Owens, chairman of the Addiction Services for York Region. YouthSpeak provides leadership and public speaking training to at-risk youth and a forum to share their stories with others.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Shoppers Drug Mart smiling; town okays happy face wall

At a recent general committee meeting, in spite of concerns of some committee members about setting a precedent and the many variances to the sign bylaw, members gave tentative approval to Shoppers Drug Mart's request for a second sign variance for their Bayview Avenue store.

Approval was given to one variance to permit the sign to project above the roofline as previous requests from other big box stores had been approved.

The second variance was to permit an additional 28 square metres on the wall facing Bayview Avenue for the purpose of placing large life style photographs in false windows.

Representatives of Shoppers Drug Mart told committee members it was not their intention to display any advertising but to portray pictures of healthy living, which was planned as an image for all their stores.

It was finally agreed to defer a decision in order to allow staff and Shoppers officials to work out a definition for lifestyle pictures.

Last week, in a report to council, it was pointed out "lifestyle" could mean differ-

ent things to different people.

It was also noted the area to be used was 270 square metres or about 20 per cent of the wall.

It was recommended council approve the request to permit the images as submitted without advertising or lettering and that if the applicant wished to alter the images in any way an application for variance must be brought before council.

A letter from Shoppers agreed with the staff report.

The letter reconfirmed there would be no lettering or advertising.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern that council was being placed in the position of being an arbitrator if the pictures were to be changed.

He suggested the report be amended to delete submitting an application to council and replacing it with "similar lifestyle images" which was adopted by council.

Councillor John West opposed the request as he had at committee.

He pointed out that if councillors approved it they were allowing the company to use 20 per cent of the wall space which set a danger-

ous precedent.

He said council couldn't give to one and refuse another and if it was passed the sign bylaw should be reviewed.

He noted that Richmond Hill had rejected Shopper's request for similar signage at a store on Yonge Street.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said there was nothing beautiful about a blank wall and referred to the former Met store wall facing Yonge Street in the Aurora Shopping Centre, which, she said, was an eyesore.

Vrancic noted that marketing and advertising had changed with the coming of

the box stores and it was time to re-examine the sign bylaw rather than continue to approve variances to it.

He also suggested that building standards be reviewed to prevent more large blank walls.

He noted the town engaged a consulting architect for the downtown core and suggested his services should be town-wide.

His amended motion that if Shoppers Drug Mart wanted to change pictures, they must be replaced with similar images, was adopted by council, so there will be happy faces on Bayview Avenue in the near future.

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Once the road speed limit was seven miles per hour

There's not much doubt that speed is the most controversial issue in the whole question of safe driving.

Homeowners on Aurora's residential streets demand lower speed limits, more stop signs, speed humps or anything that will slow motorists down.

There have even been suggestions cars should be made so they cannot exceed a certain speed.

On the other hand, some motorists believe speeding gets a bum rap and speed control, said to be the most effective means to reduce car crashes is over-emphasized, over-enforced and under-effective and that lawmakers make law-abiding citizens break laws.

With the speed cars travel today, it's hard to believe that at one time the speed limit was seven miles an hour.

At the time motorists were driving at 15 to 18 miles an hour and citizens were getting nervous.

In 1903, there was a heated debate in the Municipal Committee of the Ontario Legislature over a bill to permit cars to travel at 10 m.p.h. in cities, towns and villages and 15 m.p.h. in the country.

Some argued the proposed speed limit was too fast and would put pedestrians at risk. They suggested the limit be set at six m.p.h.

Others said the autos were under more control than horses and were less dangerous and motorists would hold the law in contempt. As a compromise the speed limit was established at seven m.p.h.

By 1904, with the speed limit at 10 m.p.h., there were complaints motorists were travelling too fast. Police officials suggested a bicycle corps to catch the speeders.

The story is told that in the early days of Aurora when "Fish" Durham was Chief Constable, he complained to council about not being able to catch speeders on his bicycle and was told that if he could make enough money in fines, council would buy him a car.

In November, 1911, it was pointed out that any respectable horse could pass a motorist obeying the 10 m.p.h. speed limit.

The pressure started to

build and by April, 1919, another heated debate took place in the Legislature.

The motorists won a close victory when legislation was adopted to make the speed limit 20 m.p.h. in cities, towns and villages and 25 m.p.h. in the country.

In 1913, the Ontario Safety League was established due to the growing threat to life and limb by the horseless carriage.

It was pointed out that hapless citizens were being mowed down by the Model T's and recently introduced streetcars.

In 1968, the speed limit on Ontario major highways was 70 m.p.h. or about 110 km/hr but in 1976 was lowered to 100 km/hr due to a world fuel crisis.

Insurance industry figures indicated that when the speed limit was lowered in 1976, motor vehicle accidents also decreased.

The number of fatalities caused by motor vehicle accidents in 1976 was 1,511 compared with more than 1,700 in each of the five preceding years.

In 1986, more than 5.5 million vehicles were registered in the province and 1,102 people were killed in traffic accidents.

By 1992, Ontario Provincial Police officers were using a new radar gun that can pinpoint a single car at up to 600 metres and makes radar detectors vir-

tually useless.

The ProLaser was to be used to catch speeders on major multi-lane highways such as the 400 series, areas that are difficult to police with conventional radar.

By 1993 it was pointed out that although the speed limit on the 400 series highways was 100 km/hr the average speed for most motorists was 120 km/hr and cars travelling at the speed limit presented a traffic safety hazard.

It was suggested at the time that the speed limit be revoked outside built-up areas and motorists be allowed to set their own speed limit based on the weather and road conditions and their level of confidence, as was the case in some parts of Europe.

In 1996, Transportation Minister Al Palladini suggested the speed limit on the 400 series highways be increased from 100 to 120 km/hr with trucks remaining at the 100 km/hr limit.

Concern was expressed that if the speed limit was increased to 120 km/hr, motorists would travel at 140 km/hr.

Meanwhile engineers build roads designed for higher speeds and car designers compete with each other to build faster and faster cars, as evidenced by their TV ads, and people wonder why motorists speed.



Taking part in the recent plant sale held at the Aurora Library by the Aurora Horticulture Society were, left to right, Karen Fisher, Bobby Pandafsi, and Marjorie Bare. Bobby is president of the Society.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Report creates debate

A report from the Economic Development Advisory Committee created debate and a deferral at last week's Aurora Council meeting.

One recommendation that the Economic Development Officer be included in all meetings and reports with the Planning Department regarding the Provincial Draft Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was adopted.

The second recommendation was, however, controversial.

The committee recommended that the Chief Administrative Officer give immediate consideration to the Economic Development Officer being included in all deliberations and decisions related to town-owned land and property and that consideration be given to assign the function of managing the

town-owned land and property to the Economic Development Officer.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said the item should be referred to a general committee meeting so that the pros and cons of the recommendation could be debated.

Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers said a list of town-owned properties was being prepared and a workshop meeting would be arranged.

Councillors Phyllis Morris and Nigel Kean, both members of the advisory committee, pointed out the committee was only recommending that consideration be given and the Economic Development Officer should be involved in land and property issues.

Vrancic said the report was clear in rec-

ommending expanded powers for the Economic Development Officer on his own.

It was finally agreed to receive the recommendation as information and to discuss it at general committee after receiving a staff report.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Morris referred to the statement by the CAO that a workshop meeting be held and noted that a previous legal opinion had pointed out that a workshop or assembly could not be classified as a meeting.

Rogers replied that as the meeting was to discuss town-owned land it would be held in private.

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At least four companies are selling the mandatory kraft bags for garden waste in York Region, and each has included advertising on the bags. Aurora councillor says the cost is much higher to purchase the kraft bags over plastic ones, but residents have no choice since the rule was introduced by the Region of York.

Mandatory kraft bags expensive: councillor

Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee recommended to council that a media release from York Region regarding the ban on the use of plastic bags for yard waste be received for information, but not before one councillor expressed his frustration with the concept.

Councillor Ron Wallace said that last year citizens could use clear plastic bags, which cost about 10 cents each, but this year they must purchase heavy-duty kraft bags which cost about 60 cents each and have free advertising print-

ed on them.

Although kraft bags hold more than the plastic bags, he said, there was a weight limit of 50 pounds per bag.

"Do we have to have weigh scales in our yards now?" he asked.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out that previously regional officials insisted on clear plastic bags so the collector could see that it was yard waste, but with the kraft bags this was impossible.

Councillor John West suggested citizens forget about the bags and use a rigid container with a yellow

yard waste sticker attached.

A trip around Aurora recently revealed that in general citizens had adopted the use of kraft bags for the collection of yard waste as they lined the curb in abundance.

It was in January, 2004, when regional council approved a contract with Halton Recycling in Newmarket to receive and process approximately 20,000 tonnes per year of yard waste for a term of two years plus three one year extensions at the discretion of the region.

The company offered a 10 per cent reduction in processing costs if kraft paper bags were used for collection instead of plastic bags, as finished compost was contaminated by plastic bags and had significantly less retail value.

As this proposal would reduce the cost to the region of approximately \$200,000 a year, the nine local municipalities, responsible for collection, were requested to eliminate the collection of yard waste in plastic bags upon renewal of collection contracts.

Within the GTA, York Region was the only area still permitting its residents to dispose of yard waste in plastic bags, and this had seriously impaired the region's diversion efforts.

Regional officials pointed out that it had been a common misconception that kraft bags would not stand up to inclement weather but other municipalities had tested the bags with minimal problems.

Concern had also been raised about the cost to residents.

Regional officials claimed the kraft bags would hold as much or more than plastic bags, and the increase in costs would be insignificant, other than for owners of large lots.

Concern was also expressed that the switch to kraft bags would force local municipalities to increase the frequency of their yard waste collection.

Aurora, King, Markham, Newmarket and Richmond Hill approved the elimination of plastic bags.

Georgina opposed the change and East Gwillimbury, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville indicated it was non-applicable to the municipality.

Last September, regional council approved the elimination of plastic bags in spite of strong arguments by Georgina and East Gwillimbury for a month deferral to provide time for the Waste Management Committee to consider alternatives and provide time for public consultation.

They tested a cannon in his back yard

In the November 9 issue of The Auroran last year, the death of long-time Aurora resident Jack Moore was reported.

The news item told of his efforts trying to bring a railroad museum here as a tourist attraction.

But he was involved in Aurora community affairs in more ways than that. For example, he was the first on-air commentator for Aurora Cable's live coverage of the Santa Claus parade when the studios were located on Yonge Street.

There was one community event, however, that was not as well known in which he was involved.

It happened December 14, 1966, when a cannon shot boomed over Aurora.

It wasn't the start of a war or a salute to some important personage, it was a test firing. In fact, there were two test firings.

Earlier in the day then Councillor Dick Illingworth received a phone call from Moore to find out if it was legal to fire a cannon in Aurora.

He explained a friend of his had built a Centennial Cannon to be used for Centennial Year celebrations and he needed somewhere to test it.

He knew that Jack lived in Aurora, which he assumed was in the country, so what better place

for a test.

Jack's home was on Wenderley Drive and the backyard faced empty fields.

To make sure every thing was legal Illingworth checked with the Aurora Police Force and the town clerk and while there was a bylaw restricting the use of small arms in the municipality, there was nothing to control the firing of a cannon.

As a result the 75-pound cannon, built along the lines of a British George III ordinance, was front-end loaded with gunpowder rammed in the muzzle with wet newspapers, but without a projectile.

The first firing didn't produce a loud enough bang, so it was repeated with a heavier charge of gunpowder and more wet newspapers.

This time the bang could be heard around Aurora.

When the smoke cleared after a very successful test firing, the cannon was transported to #2 Canadian Intelligence Corps as a gift to celebrate Canada's 1967 Centennial.

On December 14, 1966, the Aurora Proving Grounds on Wenderley Drive was the site of the first and last cannon to be fired in Aurora.

Collins Crescent construction upsets resident

Wayne Bando, a long-time resident of Aurora and a former municipal engineer with York Region and other area municipalities, was back before council's general committee last week to complain about the reconstruction of Collins Crescent.

He said he was disappointed with the town as residents had asked several questions about the work that went unanswered and the five residents most affected had asked for a meeting with town officials, which was refused by the town.

Back in March, 2003, Bando had objected to the proposed design of the street.

He claimed the change to the crescent would create an unsafe condition for residents exiting from driveways.

He also pointed out that

the change in design had a negative impact on the homeowners due to the increased length of the driveway and the pinching of curb frontages and he sought a change in design.

At last week's meeting, Bando noted the town had previously maintained the green space, but following reconstruction the town stopped maintaining the area without any explanation.

He used a visual aid to show members of the committee the area of the streetscape maintained by the residents and the large area previously maintained by the town, which the residents were now expected to maintain.

Following a few questions regarding ownership and responsibility, it was agreed to receive the presentation and ask the staff for a report.

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Vandorf Sideroad will get a facelift

Motorists who use the road elevation will rise up to 1.4 metres in the section through the valley.

To install the new culvert and raise the roadway through the valley area will require closing the road for as long as three or four months.

Council has awarded a \$2.6 million contract to Miller Paving, the low bidder for the project. Seven bids were received ranging to a high of \$3.4 million.

The reconstruction project involves rebuilding the sideroad to a two-lane urban roadway with curbs, storm sewers, streetlights and sidewalks on both sides and a bikepath on the south side.

To improve the geometry of the roadway the

Construction is expected to begin next month.

Town staff said funds had been allocated from the municipal capital, water/sewer, storm sewer development charges reserves.

It was pointed out that the total cost of the project was \$3.2 million, which includes contingencies, utility relocations and environmental monitoring in addition to the cost of the \$2.6 million for reconstruction.



Detective Ben Hengeveld of the York Regional Police Special Fraud Investigations Unit, talked to Aurora seniors recently about ways to avoid becoming entangled in fraudulent practices. Seniors are a favorite target of scam artists.

Detective provides seniors with tips on avoiding fraud

The CHATS Adult Day Program in Aurora recently hosted an informative workshop on fraud. Detective Ben Hengeveld of the York Regional Special Fraud Investigations Unit, talked to seniors about ways to avoid becoming entangled in fraudulent practices.

Topics included telephone, investment, computer and door-to-door fraud techniques.

Detective Hengeveld cautioned the group not to pay for a prize and some payments requested include duty, taxes, han-

dling and shipping charges. Discussions also included pressure techniques used in telephone sales.

Detective Hengeveld outlined triggers that should set off an alarm, including overnight couriers and having to make decisions or pay immediately.

He talked about the tactics of some fraudulent sales people who try to out-sit or out-talk their victim until they become so weary that the victim eventually agrees just to get the sales person out of the home.

Caregivers can be on

the alert to possible fraud crimes by noting any marked increase in mail or frequent calls promising get rich schemes; cheques to unfamiliar entities, secretive behaviour around phone calls and mail.

Detective Hengeveld noted seniors are more vulnerable to such schemes because they have more disposable income.

Seasoned criminals are aware individuals in their retirement years concern themselves with providing for their future independence as well as for their

children and grandchildren.

He stressed the importance of immediately reporting incidents of fraud to police and family members and said one should not be embarrassed by being tricked.

CHATS clients learned valuable methods to protect themselves and their assets.

York Regional Police has a volunteer run support line called Phone Busters 1-888-495-8501.

Individuals who man these lines are seniors who have fallen victim to fraud.

"They understand and are there to help," Detective Hengeveld said.

CHATS Adult Day Program currently operates Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, but will expand to five days in July.

The program provides various activities such as yoga, relaxation, spa days, and music therapy.

Anyone interested in joining this organization should call 905-713-3373 ext. 7032.

Hall Findlay ready for federal election

Martha Hall Findlay, acclaimed recently as the federal Liberal candidate for the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, expressed her gratitude to supporters and reminded them how close the vote was in the election last year.

A parachute candidate living in Collingwood, although she currently lives in Newmarket, Hall Findlay lost to Belinda Stronach by less than one per cent of the total vote.

"I understand the challenges facing the people of Newmarket-Aurora," she told the audience at the acclamation meeting held in Newmarket. "I know what it's like to worry about mortgage payments, about university tuition, about not spending more than you have coming in. I do understand what it takes to balance work, family and community contribution."

She said the Liberals were ready for an election.

"If Belinda and Stephen Harper want to force Canadians into an election

now, we're ready for it. We'll be armed with policies that even Belinda acknowledges are good for the people of Newmarket-Aurora.

"The current budget contains key Liberal initiatives that Newmarket and Aurora clearly want and stand to gain from including increased funding for communities to improve infrastructure and public transit, the recently announced deal with Ontario on child care, environmental initiatives, and increased funding for health care," she said.

"These are Liberal policies that Canadians clearly want to see in place-if we're prevented from getting them done now, we will be asking for a renewed Liberal mandate to complete the task that we started."

Martha Hall Findlay is a corporate lawyer, businesswoman and successful entrepreneur.

She has also raised three children, is fluently bilingual, and has extensive non-profit and volunteer

community experience.

Newmarket's Charles Beer, a former local MPP, provincial Minister and leadership candidate, will head up the Hall Findlay campaign.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A look at the Town of Aurora in 1982

In December, 1981, the doom-peddlers were out in full and depressing force with dismal projections of economic disaster, nuclear conflict and runaway unemployment for 1982.

But for Aurora, 1982 looked like a pretty good year.

With parts of the town-owned industrial park sold, several large firms would soon start preparing ground for their new home in Aurora.

In the northwest section of town a large housing development was starting to take shape on paper with construction scheduled to start in 1982 with an attractive linked park system.

St. Andrew's theme mall was also scheduled to open in the spring providing a commercial boost to the economy.

In the downtown area the Downtown Business Association was active in saving historic homes by converting them for commercial use and attempting to rejuvenate the core area.

Les Oliver, former LACAC chairman, predicted a critical year for the downtown area with pressures on the commercial and residential areas increasing and making it more important that council take a firm stand on planning for the older areas of the town.

Aurora School Trustee Norm Weller predicted the school board budget would be more than taxpayers could afford, once again, and that it would be a long and troubled year.

In 1982, former Councillor and Mayor Dick Illingworth, recently retired from the Ontario civil service, challenged incumbent Mayor George Timpson and was elected with a vote of 3,339 to Timpson's 2,616.

Elected to council were John West (3,580), Earl Stewart (3,549), Len Ostick (3,393), Evelyn Buck (3,346), Tim Jones (3,174), Norm Stewart (3,061), Martin Paivio (2,877) and Richard Barker (2,421).

Eleanor Stoddart defeated Norm Weller for the public school trustee's position and John Mahoney defeated Lucille Linton to become the separate school trustee.

AURORA FIRM WINS COMPETITION

Aztec Interlock and Landscapes was a winner in the

1994 Entrepreneur Magazine Direct Mail Advertising Contest.

The Aurora company was third-place winner in the Retail Direct Mail category.

The award was for landing snow-plowing winter business not through a mass mailing but a house-by-house mailing to high-income homeowners.

The New York-based magazine selected winners from the 40 per cent of small businesses that use direct mail to sell products or solicit business.

Aztec owner Adam Obradovic received his award at a presentation in New York.

The company is still in business and is listed in the Aurora phone book.

BUMPY CROSSING

Prior to 1986, the railway crossing on Wellington Street East was like riding a roller coaster with every rail a bump.

In February, 1985, in response to many complaints, CN officials advised Aurora Council that they would make some improvements later in 1985 and had scheduled a major overhaul in 1986.

The company planned to remove the wooden planks, eliminate the siding that went into the Baldwin Mills (now the Baldwin Restaurant) and reset the tracks on the main line to eliminate the bumpiness.

The railway crossing was closed for a couple of days while the work was carried out but none of the motorists objected.

WHERE IS LISA BINKLEY?

Back in October, 1986, Lisa Binkley had a dream.

Ever since she was four years old, she dreamed of joining an ice show to skate professionally.

The 16-year-old drew a little closer to her dream when she earned her triple gold dance examination.

She started skating in Haileybury in 1974 after she saw her first Ice Capades show. By the age of 10 she was taking private lessons and really started to come on strong

when she moved to the Aurora/Newmarket area in 1984.

Anyone know where she is today?

JULY FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT

In 1969, Aurora Council adopted a bylaw in accordance with the Municipal Act requiring all retail stores to close on July First in order to celebrate Canada Day in Aurora.

Council didn't have the authority to require all industries to close for the day, but they would have required them to close if they could, as in 1969 council decided to have a Canada Day Birthday Party resulting in the municipality becoming known as Canada's Birthday Town.

The thinking was simple. Council wanted everyone in town to enjoy the party, and it believed no one should have to work that day.

It worked to a point.

Factories in town objected because the cost of turning off huge machinery for a day was exorbitant.

Finally, in 1992 council reluctantly repealed the bylaw which allowed the stores to open as a result of provincial amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act as part of the New Democratic Party's new wide-open shopping philosophy.

Council asked the Ministry of the Solicitor General to let the town enforce the bylaw at least one more time, but was told it was doubtful the bylaw would stand up in court.

Council felt very strongly that July First should be a national holiday and not celebrated on the closest Monday or Friday.

Reference was made to July 4th in the United States, which was never moved to another day!

York Symphony concert draws standing ovations

By THOMAS DAVEY

this work.

Mozart's genius was brilliantly celebrated in a virtuoso performance of his Piano Concerto #24 by guest pianist Yi-heng Yang during York Symphony's concluding concert of the season recently at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church.

The fingers of the diminutive Ms. Yang rippled along the length of the grand piano keyboard blending precision with liquidity.

Under the baton of Music Director Jeffery Pollock, the orchestra responded to the multiple challenges posed by the exuberance of Mozart two centuries later.

If this composition poses challenges to both soloist and orchestra, as it surely does, they were only echoing problems Mozart encountered.

While Mozart was famous for composing masterpieces in his head, before committing them to paper, scholars have now found many passages in the draft of this concerto which had been struck out - and rewritten - like other mere mortals have done for centuries.

But no traces of his creative tumult are evident in

While this concerto is undeniably demanding, both soloist and orchestra responded with a rich palette of tones, moods and precision which did justice to the legendary composer.

The performance evoked a standing ovation from an audience moved to appreciate the great composer and his contemporary musical interpreters two centuries after Mozart composed it.

Ms Yang is the holder of many honours including winning the Mozart Piano Concerto Competition at the Juilliard School of Music in New York where she gained her Master's degree.

The renowned 'Pictures at an exhibition' is commonly attributed to Maurice Ravel but it was originally composed by the Russian

Mussorgsky as part of an effort to create a national school of music.

After a painter friend of his died, Mussorgsky composed a piano suite titled: 'Pictures at an exhibition' which, unfortunately remained unpublished until five years after his death.

While many other musical giants, including Leopold Stokowski, attempted to revive the work, it was not until Ravel's arrangement in 1923 that 'Pictures' went on to achieve iconic status.

York Symphony gave a powerful interpretation of this unique piece which at times evokes the feeling of a dark trek into a subterranean cavern. The thundering notes of the all-enveloping bass instruments are almost discordant at times giving a macabre, somewhat funeral imagery, highlighted by

the shock of the resolute beat of the bass tympanis.

This composition was meant as a musical review of paintings, sketches, stage designs and architectural drawings.

Ravel's music and subsequent orchestration has evolved into a distinctive musical art form, which decades after his death, evoked the second standing ovation of the evening.

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 1) Devlin Place 8 - 1
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