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Vol. 5 No. 49

Week of October 11, 2005

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The ground was officially broken for the start of Aurora's first soccer bubble, being erected behind the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Taking part in ceremonies last week were soccer president Ron Weese, left; Melanie Schouten, a three-year player; Erin Rife, a rep soccer player; Sara Schouten "aka EM" short for Emma, from her middle name; and soccer's colourful mascot Stinger. Bubble is expected to be operational soon.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Briefly

Belinda comes to town

Controversial Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach will open another constituency office - this one in Aurora - this weekend.

Adding to her Newmarket location, Belinda will be on hand Saturday morning to officially open the office at 18 Wellington Street East.

That was the location of Damir Vrancic's law office, until he moved across the street.

Belinda's ceremonies will take place at 10 a.m., but the event will continue until 11.30 a.m.

Now a Liberal representing the Newmarket-Aurora riding, Belinda's regular monthly column in The Auroran appears this week on Page 16.

Let's have a party

Hard to believe but The Auroran celebrates its fifth birthday this month, so, using any excuse for a party, we're having a party. And you're invited.

The Auroran crew will be on hand Saturday, Oct. 22, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the office, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3, to serve you refreshments and stuff.

Five years old!?!?! Yikes!

Committee endorses York Games bid

In July, 2005, York Region decided to launch a bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games by submitting a letter of intent to Ottawa officials.

The actual bid to be the Canadian entry was being prepared by regional officials stressing that the region was in the centre of the GTA and had a diverse multicultural population.

It was learned that Ottawa, Hamilton, Halifax, and Calgary were also interested in hosting the Games with a final decision on the Canadian winner to be made in December. Calgary later withdrew.

Halifax and Hamilton were finalists in the domestic selection process to host the 2010 Games. Hamilton was selected but lost out to India. Canada has hosted the Games on four previous occasions; Hamilton in 1930, Vancouver in 1954, Edmonton in 1978 and Victoria in 1994.

The bid is a two-step process. If the region succeeds over other Canadian municipalities, it must

then compete against international candidates and it was understood that Scotland and New Zealand were interested in hosting the Games.

Regional Chairman Bill Fisch said at the time that a budget had not been prepared but that a lot of the expenses would be covered through community fundraising efforts. It is expected the games will cost in the billions of dollars.

In September, York Regional Council endorsed the bid and authorized staff to continue with the preparation of a formal bid for the Games and that the report be circulated to the area municipalities for information and endorsement.

It was pointed out that to successfully develop a Bid Book substantial expenditures would be involved including external assistance to provide project management, securing corporate sponsorships and other costs estimated at \$400,000.

Additional expenses for public

relations and travel, administration and professional fees and evaluation committee visit is expected to cost another \$400,000 for a total of \$800,000, which was approved by regional council.

Aurora's Don Eastwood, Director of Economic Strategy for York Region, appeared before Aurora's general committee meeting last week to provide information and answer questions regarding the bid.

He told committee members it was not often a municipality had the opportunity to host a World Class event and it would leave a legacy for future generations.

He added that the Commonwealth Games were international and second only to the Olympics with 20 sporting events held over 10 days and the estimated economic impact of the Games for the region would be more than \$3 billion.

Both the federal and provincial governments would contribute for infrastructure and there was no

request for a financial commitment from Aurora.

Councillor John West asked where the athletes would stay and the estimated cost to stage the Games.

Eastwood replied that it was

Please see page 8

Hydro seeks rate hike

Aurora Hydro Connections has submitted an application to the Ontario Energy Board to change its distribution rates.

According to Board officials the application is in line with its guidelines, which includes a public hearing, if required.

The standard electricity bill for residential and small general service customers has four line items: electricity, delivery, regulatory and debt retirement charge. This application affects the delivery and regulatory lines of the bill.

Aurora Hydro is seeking approval of \$8.1 million as the rev-

enue it requires for electricity distribution.

If approved, a residential customer consuming 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would experience a 4.9 per cent increase on the electricity bill.

A small general service customer consuming 2,000 kilowatt hours per month and having a monthly demand of 50 kilowatts or lower would have a 3.2 per cent increase.

Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Aurora Hydro offices on Industrial Parkway North.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 7 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. Next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006. For more information, call 905-713-6773 or info@aurorafair.ca, or see our website at www.aurorafair.ca.

Stellar Productions and Howard Johnson Aurora present the Norm Foster comedy "Sadie Flynn Comes to Big Oak" in the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre on selected evenings until October 21st. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

Every other Friday Night dances at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Main Hall. Singles are welcome. Big band and modern music, prizes, snacks and some light food. Call 905-727-2816 for details.

Aurora Farmers' Market continues every Saturday in the Temperance Street parking lot until October 29th. Event opens at 8 a.m.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps, boys and girls, ages 12 to 18. Camping, canoeing, target

shooting. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

Towns of York Toastmasters Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Park Place Manor, 15055 Yonge St. in Aurora. For more information see the club web site at www.townsofyork.org or phone Elena Silaev at 905-726-9750.

Meditation classes every Wednesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m., at Needles & Knit Wool Shop, 15040 Yonge Street.

Fall fashion show at DiNardo's The Mansion to support Easter Seals Kids. Master of Ceremonies, Gord James, from CHUM AM. Guest appearance by the York Region Fire Fighters calendar guys. For information and tickets call 905-727-0552.

Aurora Seniors' Fall Colour Tour of the Caledon Hills and the Forks of the Credit includes lunch and time to browse a quaint village. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

Aurora theatre audiences who saw Theatre Aurora's "Same Time, Next Year" shouldn't miss the sequel "Same Time, Another Year" which continues the story of the once-a-year lovers George and Doris featuring Dave Sansom and Jacquie Presly and directed by Sergio Calderon. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street. 7.30 a.m.

SOYRA is holding an Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Legion. During the show a painting will be raffled off with all proceeds from the raffle going to the new Cancer Centre in Newmarket.

Men's Breakfast featuring Drew Marshall, radio program host, Baptist minister, and former Canadian Football League player, will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mosley at Victoria Street, Aurora, from 8.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Freewill offering accepted. For more information, call 905-727-6542 or 905-727-9848.

Trinity Anglican Church Christmas Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables still available. For more information, call Linda at 905-727-5675.

Harvest Fair at Wesley United Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the corner of Woodbine Avenue and Aurora Sideroad (Wellington St). For further information call Fran Mason at 905-895-3753.

Musical Review "Voices of Hospice" honours Hospice Awareness Week, at Trinity Anglican Church, 7 p.m. Participating are Trinity Unplugged, Voices for Joy, York Region Community Choir and Blessed Trinty Parish Choir. Presented by Hospice King-Aurora and Doane House Hospice.

Space available for Aurora Seniors' Christmas Tour to Magog, Quebec. Package includes transportation, lodging, meals, local visits, and nightly entertainment. For further information call the centre at 905-727-2816.

Aurora Writers' Club meets in the Holland Room of the Aurora Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. For more information

call 905-898-5484.

Refresher driver course for seniors at the Aurora Public Library, 9:30 a.m. noon. Register at Aurora Seniors' Centre, by calling Diana Dawson at 905-727-2816. For more information, call Barbara West at 905-713-6833.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Business, DiNardo's The Mansion. Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner at 7.15. Call the Chamber at 905-727-7262 for further information.

Friday Night community football event under lights at Fleury Park. First games, in both senior and junior levels, will be against the Huron Heights Warriors.

Aurora United Church Fall Event, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Collectibles, garage sale, silent auction, country kitchen, kids items and more. Church is located at the corner of Yonge and Tyler.

Wells Street Public School ninth annual Fall Fair. At the school, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Auroran's Fifth Anniversary Open House. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., 75 Mary Street, Unit 3.

Doane House Hospice presents its 10th Annual Wine and Food Celebration from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Call 905-967-0259 for details. Doane House Hospice serves Aurora residents north of Wellington Street.

To celebrate Ontario Public Library Week, the Aurora Public Library presents crime fiction author Peter Robertson from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

Aurora Historical Society annual Murder Mystery Dinner at Hillary House. Tickets are limited. \$60 each. Call 905-727-4015 to reserve.

York Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, launches its 2005-2006 concert series

at Trinity Anglican Church. Music includes Grieg's Holberg Suite and Mozart's Symphonetta in D major. Concert begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15 regular price; \$10 for students and seniors.

Oak Ridges Trail Association hike over the Willow Farm, Lakeview and Wimpey Trail System in Aurora at 9.30 a.m. 10 km, moderate pace, 2.5 hrs. Call Gail Morris at 905-479-4225 for further information.

Canadian violinist Scott St. John, accompanied by Jamie Parker, performs in a recital at St. Andrew's College this afternoon. For information and tickets, call 905-727-5727.

Aurora Public Library presents "Finding Your Family History", a four-week course limited to 25 participants. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

York Regional Police Male Chorus hosts 13th Annual Concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Leslie Street, Newmarket at 7:30 p.m. Music by police choruses from York, Halton, OPP, and Ottawa. Guest community choir this year is the "York Region Children's Chorus". Tickets \$10. Contact any member of the YRPMC for tickets or call (905) 727-9676 to order. Advance sale only.

The Trinity Anglican Church Women will hold their Christmas Memories Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring Christmas Gift Items, Baking, Kitchen Cupboard, Jewellery, Attic Treasures and Granny's Treasures.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region Annual Gala Auction at DiNardo's The Mansion on Industrial Parkway South. Reception starts at 6.30 p.m. with dinner at 7.30 p.m., followed by a live and silent auction and dancing. Reserve tickets by calling 905-727-1251.

Santa Claus comes to Town as the annual Santa Claus Parade will be held under the stars from 6 to 8 p.m. Deadline for float applications is November 18th. For further information call 905-727-3123 extension 4218.

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Aurora's sign forest creates more woes

Aurora's sign bylaw has created more problems for council over the years than possibly any other bylaw or issue.

No matter what they do they are caught between merchants who want signs to advertise their business and citizens who complain about the visual pollution.

In addition, with the coming of box stores, requests for signage changed and council started to grant exemptions, resulting in more and more requests for similar action.

Last July, council heard concerns about enforcement of the sign bylaw with respect to businesses that had signs attached to walls and lamp posts on their property and staff was asked to provide a report.

The current town sign bylaw was approved by council in December, 2004, which replaced a pre-existing bylaw that was adopted in 1992.

The bylaw includes provisions that regulate business signs including permanent exterior wall signs, permanent ground or pylon signs and a variety of portable signs.

The enforcement of the sign bylaw is currently administered by two departments, Corporate Services and Building.

Permanent signs such as exterior wall or pylon signs require a permit from the Building Department before installation and any regulations related to these signs including enforcement are handled by that department.

Regulations governing portable, trailer and sandwich board signs are within the jurisdiction of the Corporate Services Department and are enforced by the Bylaw Services Enforcement Division.

In June councillors commented on the proliferation of signs within the municipality resulting in the addition of a new full-time bylaw enforcement officer and a proactive campaign to advise town businesses regarding illegal portable signs on their property and to request their cooperation to comply.

The newest trend is the use of poster signs which are temporarily affixed to lamp posts or exterior walls on the property.

They are prohibited by the bylaw.

Accordingly, officers issued notices to various businesses asking their compliance. Staff also submitted a 41-page report including photographs of the various types of signs.

In the report staff presented three options for council's consideration including the status quo prohibiting the installation of portable signs, repealing provisions of the sign bylaw to permit the use of portable signs or amending the bylaw to permit a limited number of portable signs per business or property.

The report was presented in August and was deferred to a future general committee

meeting, but was deferred to last week's general committee meeting.

When committee members started to discuss sandwich board or "A" signs, staff noted that they had been approved in the bylaw and the problem was wrap-around signs attached to poles.

Questions were asked about small boulevard signs planted beside the roadway usually advertising services provided by out-of-town firms, such as roofing or paving.

Staff members said companies are asked to remove the signs and if they don't, staff picks them up. It was pointed out that in 2004 more than 3,000 signs had been removed, including banners and lamp post signs.

Councillor Ron Wallace admitted that it was a complex issue but he had never received a complaint about car dealer signs and he suggested they be exempted from the bylaw.

There was some doubt as to whether it was legal to exempt one type of business from the bylaw and that was referred to the town solicitor for a legal report.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said that in his opinion the

existing bylaw was adequate as it met community standards.

He suggested council was on a slippery slope and that staff consider all the comments made and bring back another report and to use discretion in enforcing the bylaw.

Councillor Bill Hogg said he had concerns about some of the signage as some presented a safety hazard by blocking the line of sight of motorists exiting from a side street.

It was finally agreed to refer the report back to staff for a further report but in the meantime for staff to continue to enforce the existing bylaw.

At the same meeting, council granted a variance to the Shoppers Drug Mart presently under construction in the former D-mac Furniture store at Aurora Heights Drive and Yonge Street.

The variance permits Shoppers to display life style images on the north wall, on condition that one of the image spaces is to include Hillary House.

The committee approved the granting of the variance as recommend by staff with Councillors Evelyn Buck and John West opposed.

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Fashion at Creative Colours

For Pam Martin, what started out as a part time job has become a life's passion.

About 18 years ago, Pam started selling clothes at Creative Colours Fashions in the Aurora Shopping Centre.

Nine years later, when the previous owner wanted to retire, she bought the store herself.

Now, after owning and operating the store for nine additional years, Pam is still just as passionate about the clothes she sells.

Pam and her staff provide a personal shopping experience for the discerning woman each visit.

"We get to know our customers personally," she said. "In fact, some have been customers since I started 18 years ago."

"When buying each season for the store, we often have specific customers in mind and will order things especially for them," she said.

The clothes carried at Creative Colours are for a "woman".

For the past few years, as a way of giving back to the community, Pam has put on fashion shows for charity, like the one October 12 for Easter Seals Kids.

This is also a terrific way to showcase each season's latest trends.

Pam looks forward to next spring already where she will be working with another charity event, and since she has just finished the buying for Spring/Summer 2006, says it will continue to be a colourful and exciting season!





Poor Richard

Round and round on Library Square

*Blessed are those who go in circles,
As big wheels, they will be known;
The Library Square is a good example.
Of months of work, now blown!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The recent council meeting when the controversial Library Square was discussed was a perfect example of council going around in a circle and getting nowhere.

The Library Square was originally defined as the area within the boundaries of Yonge, Mosley, Victoria and Church Streets, which includes the Church Street School, the former Library, the former fire hall and Victoria Hall.

The controversy started in 1979 when council voted 4-3 to postpone a special meeting of council called to discuss the future of the town-owned properties in the square until more information was available, especially for the Church Street School.

In June, 1985, council authorized town staff to prepare terms of reference and a cost estimate of obtaining professional services to maximize efficient uses for all of the town-owned properties.

In September, 1992, council established the Church Street School Ad Hoc Committee to consider uses for the building in conjunction with other town-owned properties.

During budget discussion in 2001 it was suggested a consultant be engaged to review redevelopment of the town-owned buildings in the square but council rejected the suggestion.

This resulted in council agreeing in April, 2001, to establish a joint council/citizen committee with a mandate of making recommendations for the allocation of space in the buildings in the square.

After meeting all summer and not agreeing on any recommendations council disbanded the committee in December, 2001.

The debate started all over again about hiring a consultant and when council members couldn't agree, the whole issue was referred to staff.

In May, 2003, council adopted a staff report endorsing a request from the Historical Society to become the sole tenant of the Church Street School as a Museum and Cultural Centre.

Staff was directed to investigate the option of replacing the former library and the fire hall, then used as a seniors' centre with a new facility providing both a seniors' centre and a new five-storey seniors' residential building through a public/private partnership.

During all this period although lack of parking was mentioned there was no serious discussion about the shortage of parking.

With approval of the new seniors' centre west of the Town Hall, attention was again directed to future uses of the old library and the soon-to-be vacated seniors' building.

A staff report indicated that it would cost \$377,420 to bring the two buildings up to building code standards and council agreed that the rental rate from user groups would cover the cost of renovations.

A rental rate of \$9 per square foot plus \$2 per square foot for utilities was approved by council.

Council also approved criteria for evaluating applications.

In March, 2005, council approved an Expression of Interest and directed staff to publicly advertise the facilities and rate the applications as defined in the criteria.

This was done by staff and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee and a report and recommendations were presented at the recent council meeting, which degenerated into a shouting match with interruptions, points of order and personal attacks.

The end result was rejection of the committee report and recommended space allocations on the basis there was a shortage of parking and a need for a new vision for the property.

As Councillor Damir Vrancic said, it was a disgusting display, as council turned its back on the work of the committee after telling them what to do.



The two Atom hockey teams from Aurora's Recreation Hockey league were active (top photo) in 1961-62 and (bottom photo) 1963-64. Both photos were taken inside the old Aurora Arena which, until it was gutted by fire, sat on the vacant lot just north of Park Place Manor. The person who loaned us the photos is in both of them, but aside from that, we have no idea who these youngsters are, and neither does he. Do you? For example, in the bottom photo, standing rear right, is that not Eric Smith? Love to hear from anyone who can identify these pictures.

Letter to the Editor

District names confusing

To the editor,

Having just read the proposed "district names" for Aurora's Yonge Street, I'm disappointed with their historical ambiguity.

It's ambiguous to call the area south of Kennedy Street "Fleury", when that area contains neither "Fleury Street", nor the "Fleury Agricultural Works" building, nor "Fleury Park".

Likewise, it could be quite confusing to newcomers to have the area between Kennedy Street and Wellington Street called the "Museum" area when it no longer contains the "Museum", but rather the "Heritage Centre".

The ambiguity continues when one realizes that the only structure

now called a "Museum" is the "Koffler Museum of Medicine", which is one and the same as the "Hillary House", which is actually north of Wellington Street in the "Hillary" area, which is named after the same Hillary House.

I maintain that the average newcomer would be more than a bit confused.

I'm proposing alternative area names that more clearly represent their historical and heritage content.

From Bloomington Road to Vandorf Sideroad... "The Hills", in recognition of both the natural heritage and historical significance of the headwaters of the watershed that gave life to

Aurora's downstream settlements.

From Vandorf to Kennedy Street... "The Fields", in recognition of the old east side Cousins Farm, the equestrian and racing parks that were once located on the south side of Kennedy Street and the cleared fields that in time were transformed into golf greens and greenhouses.

From Kennedy Street to Aurora Heights Drive and Mark Street... "Heritage Core", a timely recognition of the area that comprised the town limits for the longest time, the area's remaining heritage buildings and the newly transformed "Heritage Centre" being developed by The Aurora Historical Society.

From Aurora Heights Drive and Mark Street to north of St. John's Sideroad... "The Orchards", in recognition of the part played by the extensive apple orchards that once graced the hills on either side...and in recognition of the agricultural diversity of the surrounding townships that once held much of Aurora within their boundaries.

I hope that area names such as these will be chosen over the original ones.

Area names shouldn't generate confusion.

Rather, they should be simple and lead to accurate appreciation of what came before...our heritage.

Barry Bridgeford
Aurora

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Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com
Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com
Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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WHY MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP DAYS ARE NOT HELD IN AUTUMN

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SHEPPARD'S BUSH

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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

The spirit of giving

I would have never thought there would be the day when I would be happy to see gas at 99.9 cents, and the same can be said for increasing costs of hydro and natural gas.

With everything not just costing more, but lots more, it is reassuring to also see the spirit of giving also on the rise.

In reviewing my schedule over a one-week span from September 17th to September 24th, I have participated in three events that have returned more than \$500,000 to local community groups in our area.

This is a lot of financial support!

On Saturday, Sept 17th, I attended the 18th Annual Hoedown, sponsored by Magna International. Both Frank and Belinda Stronach have participated and played major organizational roles in these events in the past.

This event alone has raised in the millions of dollars in 18 years.

This year, \$410,000 was split among 10 deserving community groups including our own Aurora Seniors' Association, Aurora Youth Soccer Club, Girls' Hockey and other umbrella organizations such as Bereaved Families and Girls Incorporated.

And what a great party - for the ticket price we received roast beef on a bun, beef ribs and BBQ chicken, salads and dessert.

The entertainment was ongoing with first class Country and Western Canadian entertainers.

More than 3,000 people bid on silent auction items, line danced and had a chance to win a trip to Vienna and a Mercedes.

If you weren't able to attend this year - I strongly encourage you to mark it on your calendar for September, 2006!

We even had surprise visits from Doug Gilmour and Nick Kypreos, former Maple Leafs, boxer George Chuvalo and the current Miss Universe.

After going home from the Hoedown, it hardly seemed as if I had gone to bed and the alarm rang to signal that I needed to be at Sheppard's Bush to assist with the registration for the Annual Terry Fox Run.

And, what a run it was.

Almost twice as many runners than I have seen in the past, and I have volunteered at most runs.

As this was the 25th year of this event, I was made aware that Rod Leonard, an Aurora resident, was running in his 25th Terry Fox run.

I asked the crowd at the start if there were any other runners out there who had been in every run and saw three more hands go up - what great community representation.

My congratulations to Tim Moses, all the other organizers, volunteers and all who participated!

At the end of the day it was reported this event had raised more than \$50,000 for cancer research.

And, on Thursday, September 22nd, I hosted my Eighth Annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament at the Silver Lakes Golf Club.

I have been very fortunate to have a small but dedicated committee to work with and over the eight years we have run this event we have raised more

than \$300,000 for local charities.

This year's event saw Lance Brown, Sports Director of CTV, return for his sixth year of volunteering his Master of Ceremonies talents.

We also were proud to have Wendel Clark, the Character Champion for York Region and former Captain of the Maple Leafs join us for a fun round of golf.

At the end of the day, on behalf of the organizing committee, I had the pleasure of handing over \$10,000 to Community Home Assistance to Seniors,

\$20,000 to the York Region Community Safety Village and \$20,000 to the Aurora Seniors' Association Building fund.

One week, \$510,000 to local groups - what a great community!

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



Cathy's Corner



New and improved!!

The older I get, the less I like it when things change. When we came to Aurora nearly two decades ago, Aurora was small - around 20,000 people.

Back in those days, I did my grocery shopping with three kids under the age of four in tow - and no tantrums!

Today, I can barely make it through the maze of stray shopping carts in the parking lot - the one that doubles as a driver examination centre, without an overwhelming urge to kick and scream and flail.

So far, I've managed to control myself, but I don't know how much longer I can last in this "New and Improved" age...without medication.

"New" means I can't find it, and "Improved" means they ruined it.

"New and Improved" means it comes in a smaller bottle that costs more. "New Fresh Scent" means it comes in a smaller bottle that costs more, but it smells better.

It all stinks to me.

I miss unimproved products so much, I'm afraid that I'm destined to spend my golden years clutching a bottle of Prozac and screaming: "What have you done to my Cheerios?"

The selection is killing me!

Why can't cream just be cream? Cream is fat, so what is this "no-fat" stuff they call "cream"? Is that legal?

Science must have engineered a whole bunch of "Moo and Improved" cows, because I've never seen so many different kinds of milk before.

And what have they done to my coffee?

It now comes in "New and Improved" banana, jalapeno, and sardine flavours!

And these days, "good to the last drop" means you've got to drink the whole pot because it's too expensive to waste!

I tell you, it was a mistake to fight my optometrist on the bi-focals.

Last week, I bit into a bagel slathered with drywall compound and realized there was a four-letter word on my cream cheese: lite. Why can't they just call it drywall

compound?

There's so much lingo to cut through!

"Environmentally Friendly" means paying extra for garbage so you can put it in the blue box without feeling guilty.

"Biodegradable" means you can flush it down the toilet without feeling guilty.

And "Disposable" means you can flush it down the toilet...and nobody will know!

See, I'm catching on!

I've figured out that "Designer" is expensive, "Premium" is more expensive, and "Deluxe" is too expensive.

I have long known that "Child-Safe" equals "Adult-Proof", and I won't fall for "Energy Drinks" as long as coffee is still cheaper than caffeinated Kool-aid.

Oh, and they've got a "New and Improved" name for caffeine now: guarana. It's for people who don't like the sound of caffeine, but love the high.

You'd think we'd be a little more conservative in small town Aurora, but we're so progressive we've got our own dialect going on!

In "New and Improved" Aurora, "Growth" means they're digging up the road, so watch out for the pylons, and "Controlled Growth" means they're digging up the same road - again, so control yourself!

But do stay off the side streets. Aurora has speed humps now. These would be "traffic calming measures" - guaranteed to irritate the heck out of everybody including the paramedics!

Welcome to the age of "New and Improved"!

The only place you can find the "Old and Familiar" these days is on Council.

Maybe I'm just getting old, but sometimes it feels like the only things that don't change are the things I never liked in the first place.

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Donald Spence for his 25 years of service to the citizens of Aurora, as a valued member of the Parks Department. He started in 1980 and was the fourth employee in a department which had 17 parks to maintain at that time and now there are 46. He and his family were recognized at last week's council meeting.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for their ongoing un-parliamentary behaviour with interruptions, points of order and personal attacks on each other. They need a private meeting to work out their problems and if they can't, they should resign!

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Stingers 1992 Boys YRSL soccer team for bringing home the Gold Medal by winning the Notre-Dame de Grace International Soccer Tournament in Montreal.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for rewarding politicians caught with their hand in the cookie jar. The latest is David Dingwall, a former Chretien cabinet minister who lost an election and was rewarded with an appointment as President of the Mint where he continued to milk the taxpayer with huge expense accounts including chewing gum. Now they are negotiating a severance package, the amount of which will be kept secret.

BOUQUETS to Angie Dawson, formerly of Aurora Cable Internet, who is going to "I" channel as a producer dealing with "Issues". "I" channel can be located on Channel 87. Angie was the host of "Plugged In" and other shows at Aurora Cable and was usually behind a camera at Aurora Council meetings.

BRICKBATS to Montreal-based Bombardier for milking the Canadian taxpayer over the years to build air-planes, courtesy of the federal Liberal government. Now they are planning to outsource jobs to cheaper nations like Mexico, China or India with the loss of about 500 Canadian jobs, including 90 at Downsview.

BOUQUETS to Adrienne Chong, daughter of Aurora residents Ken and Christine Chong, on being awarded the 2004 Governor General's Award for Excellence in teaching Canadian history. She teaches at Markville Secondary School in Markham.

BRICKBATS to the unruly Aurora citizen who screamed at and physically threatened Councillor John West following a recent general committee meeting when West left the meeting during a debate on the hydro issue. The citizen had to be restrained by others. This was a disgraceful exhibition and the citizen should be barred from the Town Hall until he makes a public apology!

BOUQUETS to Aurora's 24-year-old Jessica Muirhead, who earned her Master's degree in Music last May, made her debut with the Canadian Opera Company's appeared in Macbeth at the Hummingbird Centre, is understudying the role of Micaela in Carmen and will be travelling to Austria at the end of October where she will make her European debut in Vienna as Pamina in The Magic Flute.

BRICKBATS to the Town of Aurora for being slow in paying an artist for the painting purchased for the town's permanent art collection from the Aurora Seniors' Art Show and Sale last May, as the artist is still waiting. It was believed the thousands of dollars spent on a new financial information system would improve efficiency in financial affairs.

Belated **BOUQUETS** to Norman Hope of Aurora on his 100th birthday, which he celebrated with family and friends recently. Poor Richard has finally found someone older than he is.

BOUQUETS to the Town of Aurora for receiving one of the first awards under the Play Works Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program. The award was for local groups for actively supporting and providing opportunities for the growth and development of youth in the 13-19 age group through play.

Letter to the Editor

Attack backfired: reader

To the editor,

Re: Library Square article,
The Auroran, Oct. 4

As a concerned citizen and one of the many who loves Aurora, I was appalled and embarrassed for my fellow citizens (and my family) to have witnessed the last televised council meeting re Library Square.

It was absolutely the most horrendous, vindictive and childish display of personal agendas that I have ever seen to date.

It was the apex of insanity. Who are these people on Council?

I thought I knew them, but I do not.

Unfortunately, and to my personal shame, I and others voted them in...in good faith. But good faith is a moral contract.

Aurorans have filled their part of the agreement and voted them in.

Some councillors duped us and did not fulfill or honour their side of the deal.

In the private sector, the offending councillor would have been dealt with swiftly and in a curt business-like manner...he/she would have been given the boot. As it is...we have to endure and suffer until the next election.

Council knows that Aurorans have the patience of Job. But like Job, after much suffering and indignation, Aurorans also dare speak and stand up (not to God, as we take His will to be just) but to this fractious council that as a whole has brought their shame to our very own living rooms.

Council has now degenerated to and brought the proud people of Aurora into a quasi-hillbilly state of incompetence, confusion and calamity.

They have regressed all the advancement of Aurora for the past 20 years. For shame!

TV does not hide wrinkles or personal feelings. The camera has a way of telling the truth. The personal venom in the eyes of some councillors, in particular Councillor Evelyn Buck, was the telling saga of where our council has come to.

This venom was directed as a personal assault to Councillor Damir Vrancic, who (despite my not always agreeing with him) was doing

his best to rectify a visibly blatant abuse that council has inflicted on Aurorans and other interested parties in the Library Square.

Mr. Vrancic, a lawyer by trade and a very qualified person who brings some substance to this fractured council was doing his best to vent the pent-up displeasure and angst of all Aurorans on that current issue but more importantly on Council as a whole.

Councillor Buck was bucking the process. She did not agree...after all she's in charge (or wants to take charge) in council...and, if Buck does not agree, then heck, Buck will make it so that no one hears what Vrancic or any other councillor has to say.

I am glad that Mr. Vrancic was a distance away lest a hammer might have landed on his head by accident from the ceiling.

If looks and body language could speak...council's personal hatred of one another was spewed in that meeting.

If some Councillors wanted to shed bad light on Mr. Vrancic and others that evening, in my view the reverse happened...it backfired.

Mr. Vrancic's sound and eloquent actions (and that of two or three others) assured themselves a next election victory.

Councillor Buck was doing her utmost to silence Councillor Vrancic to serve her personal vindications at the cost of Aurorans.

Councillor Buck, with utmost respect, I want a point of order here, when you silence a councillor with inappropriate points of order, you are silencing Aurora.

This is Aurora; not a remnant of a dictatorship of times gone by.

Your points of order had nothing to do with business. They had all to do with your personal agenda, and your actions embarrass us.

If you must bring a point...do not do it when a councillor is criticizing council.

We voted councillors in to put councillors in place when councillors buck out of line against the interest of Aurorans.

Your actions were meant to stifle Aurorans as a whole...and Aurorans will not tolerate this.

The action of council in that meeting has angered me enough to write this letter. The great majority who have not written and agree with my letter, will voice their views at the polls.

As I do not wish to paint all councillors with the same brush, on a personal level, I have noted that one cannot want to meet finer individuals; but place these fine individuals in council, and council turns to circus clowns.

While I thank some of the councillors for their efforts and time on council, one should know when it is time to leave.

Some councillors have contributed much to Aurora during the years, and I thank some councillors for their past devotion, but it is time to move on.

We have thanked you with your names on streets, with a salary, and we have thanked you by putting up with your nonsense.

But now, it's time to move on. You are holding back the inevitable progress of Aurora.

And remember, as we have seen, the names on the streets stay at the pleasure of Aurora. We can always take them out.

This street name thing was your doing and your shame.

I can think of people who have contributed zillions to Aurora, and I can think of some of our next door neighbours who through their quiet and unassuming ways have contributed more to Aurora than this council ever will.

They serve Aurora from their hearts, with their sincerity and they do it quietly with no fanfare. Their names

should be gold plated on the signs, not yours.

You have not enhanced Aurora, you have shamed it.

You get paid for it...you still do an inadequate and arrogant job, plus, you want to dupe us in telling us something else.

I am certain that some of the offending councillors will soon be in re-election mode or they already are, and will commence to show remorse and reconciliation towards council and Aurorans.

Soon Aurorans will see councillors kissing and making up.

Soon we will see politeness, niceties, decency, diplomacy and some of them will even change their demeanors and put on pleasant phony smiles. In fact, some of the outstanding Aurora issues will be resolved in lightning fashion.

Soon you will see stories to garner sympathy as to why they acted so stupid (for a lack of an appropriate word) on council.

They will say that they were victims of watching too much violent Toronto Council shows when they were kids that manifested into ignorance in their adulthood and crying to the camera.

They soon will be kissing our voting "behinds" and bowing from their waists down to appease us, all in the vain hope to get re-elected.

After all, they duped Aurora before, they hope they can do it again.

Admitting wrong and remorse has to manifest itself in a timely fashion...you must apologize and show remorse

Please see page 7





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If motorists followed rules, problems would go away

To the editor,

This is in response to the letter sent in by Stewart Ivov, October 4, regarding the residents who live on Kennedy Street East in Aurora next to the Medical Centre.

We are long-standing residents of Aurora and, in

fact, one of the few natives left since we were born and raised here and Mr. Ivov's letter to the editor left me very angry.

I am not sure if it is a bylaw or if it's just driver's etiquette that when parking in a residential area you are not supposed to park within three feet of resi-

dents' driveways.

I have lived on this street for the last 14 years and the signs for parking no closer than 60 cm. on each side of the driveway have only been up for approximately the past three years.

I am sure the Town of Aurora put these signs up because of the numerous

telephone calls to their bylaw department by myself and my neighbours regarding people blocking our driveways while visiting the medical centre.

Our driveway has been blocked many times before these signs were ever put up, and many times since, by visitors to the medical

centre.

It seems to me that these people who block our driveway do not consider the fact that we may need to get out of the driveway to go to work, shopping, appointments, etc., and that we have schedules to keep and cannot wait for them to move their cars.

If they kept to the rules there would not be a problem.

There is a considerable amount of traffic using this street because of the traffic lights making it easily accessible to Yonge Street.

Caution has to be used in order to prevent an accident.

I have noticed in other locations where medical offices are located in Aurora that parking is not allowed on the streets so if

Kennedy Street East had "no parking" signs then maybe Mr. Ivov would not be so quick to suggest that the Province of Ontario not let us drive a vehicle.

Safety is one of the main concerns about driving today and if Mr. Ivov pulled in and out of my driveway of a regular basis like we do he would understand the need for these signs.

As the old saying goes, "people in glass houses should not throw stones".

Hoping this information will let Mr. Ivov understand our situation and maybe, just maybe, the Town of Aurora might ban parking altogether on this part of Kennedy Street.

Margaret Moore
Aurora

Education programs needed

To the editor,

Statistics Canada reported on the main demographic shifts which are happening in Canada today.

Immigration is now taking just as an important part in the population growth of the country as the natural growth since people are having fewer babies.

Due to a dramatic swing from the high fertility rates from the baby boom era to the present day low levels of fertility, the structure of the

population is aging and Canada needs to import people to offset this trend.

It is true that we must provide the infrastructure of language, re-certification courses and job training for the 320,000 immigrants expected to come into this country to live.

A recent newspaper editorial, however, misses the point that the ethnic composition of the flow of migrants to our land has changed over the past few decades and this trend is having a

significant impact on our society.

The proportion of our population who were born outside Canada reached its highest level in 70 years by 2001.

Then, about 18 per cent of the total population was born outside of Canada.

Up to the late 1960s, countries such as the UK, US, Germany and the Netherlands were the main sources of immigrants to Canada.

Now, immigrants are

most likely to come from Asian countries, such as China, and India.

The face of immigration is changing and most of these new migrants settle in the major cities such as Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Visible minority immigrants often face racism.

Educational programs which deal with racism are needed to improve the public attitude towards migrants in our society now.

The public needs to alter its perceptions toward immigrants to be more positive; as well as the federal government translating their promises for immigrants into action.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Council pulls Aurora down

From page 6

at the time of the error and one must do it with utmost sincerity then...not three years later.

Councillors, today you can apologize for the years of insult until the cows come home...but your chickens have now come home to roost.

Councillors, you serve at the pleasure of Aurora. You have made a mockery out of our beloved town.

By your blind arrogance and actions you have pulled Aurora down and trampled on us...you have demoralized us and for good measure you dragged us through your personal mud of petty issues.

My suggestion to some councillors: get a real part time job in the private sector.

Bring your points of order to your boss who will give you a raise with every point you

make.

Bring your boss's immediate problem to an in-camera meeting and then direct a committee to the problem.

Not to fear...many Aurorans will give you a good reference.

In the alternative of getting a real job, consider retiring with at least some shred of decency and grace.

Stay home, create gossip for those who have the courage to oppose your personal agenda...you're good at that.

Do needle work, paint by numbers to pass your time, donate your time to some worthy cause. Perhaps you can regain some dignity in

those endeavours. But you have failed as representatives of the proud and noble people of Aurora.

You have angered me and others to the point of considering running for council... and like our neighbours in Toronto who took out a corn broom to sweep out the offending material on council, Aurora will go one step more; we will take out an industrial broom and vacuum cleaner to get some of you out at the next election.

To some councillors: wake up, clean off your desk, your 15 minutes are over.

Anthony Pullano
Aurora

Calendars on sale Saturday

To the editor,

Please be advised that for the next three weeks the seniors who posed for their Fund Raising Calendar will be at the Farmers' Market to autograph copies bought.

All but two will be present so please support the fund raising drive to help build the new seniors' centre.

The calendar retails for \$20.

Also thank you for the food drive donations on October 8th. Please continue to bring food to the market for the next three Saturdays.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

**Aurora
hairstylist
receives
prestigious
AWARD**



Giovanpietro Cellitti, owner of Giampierre's Beauty Centre in Aurora, was recently honored with a **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** from **HAIR ARTS & SCIENCE**

This year's conference took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Giovanpietro has been caring for his clientele for the past 28 years.

During this time, he has won many awards for his great work.

"Many thanks to my clientele and great staff."



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Still no sidewalk decision

The widening and reconstruction of Bathurst Street has been controversial since 1973 when York Regional Council petitioned the province to build a Newmarket to Toronto bypass, west of Yonge Street to eliminate traffic congestion on Yonge Street.

At the time Aurora Council approved using Bathurst Street as the bypass due to the bottleneck of traffic on Yonge Street especially the congestion at the Yonge/Wellington intersection.

Residents on Bathurst opposed the proposed reconstruction of the roadway to four lanes and the concept of a Yonge Street bypass, and the controversy has continued off and on over the years.

In September, 1981, the newly constructed two-lane Bathurst Street from the King Road to Wellington Street was officially opened and two years later the two-lane section between Wellington Street and Mulock Road in Newmarket was opened.

Then in June, 2000, the region proposed that

Bathurst Street be widened to four lanes from Gamble Road in Richmond Hill to Highway 9 in Newmarket and the controversy broke out again.

In March, 2002, Aurora Council debated whether a sidewalk was needed on Bathurst between McClellan Way and Wellington Street West.

Aurora's official plan provides for sidewalks on both sides of arterial roads, but as Bathurst Street was a boundary road between Aurora and King, the town would be only responsible for a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway.

As the region was in the process of designing the reconstruction, Aurora was asked to confirm construction of the sidewalk in accordance with the official plan.

Staff recommended a sidewalk be approved for the section between McClellan Way and Wellington Street and approval in principle for the section between Wellington and the St. John's Sideroad.

Some members of council argued that the construction of the sidewalk didn't make

sense and would be a waste of the estimated \$700,000 cost. Others argued that if council wanted to get cars off the road, they had to provide alternatives and a bicycle path was proposed.

The report was sent back to staff for further review.

In May, 2002, it was agreed that the implementation of the sidewalk and/or bikeway with associated illumination on the east side of Bathurst Street be retained in the Development Charges Bylaw.

It was also agreed the implementation would be deferred until reconstruction of the roadway as an urban cross-section had taken place, or when pedestrian and/or cyclist volumes warranted such a facility.

Last week at a general committee meeting, Councillor John West sought a report from the Public Works Department regarding the provision of sidewalks and illumination on Bathurst Street.

Director of Works, Wayne Jackson, pointed out the action council had taken in 2002 and based on that decision the tender documents were prepared and are ready for tendering.

It was also noted that for the most part, Bathurst Street will be reconstructed with a rural cross-section including a shoulder and ditch. A sidewalk and illumination was not included in the design.

He said that to include a sidewalk for the rural section could entail the removal of additional trees and potential encroachment on homes that back onto Bathurst Street.

If council wishes to pursue the matter of the sidewalk and illumination on Bathurst Street, it will be necessary to undertake a design to better ascertain costs and grading/property implications, he said.

Councillor Damir Vrancic suggested that as this was a regional road, the region should share the costs of sidewalk and illumination.

Staff pointed out that the region does not provide sidewalks as that is a local responsibility and development charges would cover the cost.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested that the whole construction program should be reviewed and individual projects not dealt with in isolation.

She also pointed out that in addition to the construction costs there were the ongoing maintenance costs.

After further discussion the committee adopted the staff report and agreed to take no action on the sidewalk at this time.

Games bid endorsed by Aurora

From page 1

expected the Athletes' Village would be in the vicinity of York University and the estimated cost to stage the event was \$1 billion in 2004 dollars.

Councillor Ron Wallace said he wished he could share Eastwood's enthusiasm and noted that the opening and closing ceremonies would be held in the Rogers Centre, the former SkyDome, and wondered what benefit that would bring to the region.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the process as Aurora was being asked to participate after the fact and regardless of what council decided the decision to bid for the Games had already been made.

He questioned the economic benefits to the region and even with federal and provincial financial assistance it was still taxpayers' money, but as the die was cast, he would support it reluctantly.


Mayor Tim Jones and Councillor West endorsed the bid saying the region had a good chance to get the Games.



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By CLIFF DAVIES

LEGION News

Further to our report last week on Youth & Education, it was mentioned at the Convention that one of the students of Cardinal Carter High School will have his black and white poster on display at the House of Commons in Ottawa over the November Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Our Comrade Don Dempsey, past Branch Service Officer has been awarded the highest award for a Legionnaire, The Meritorious Service Medal. Congratulations to Don.

We get enquiries about euchre and which type is being played on certain days, so here is an explanation:

'Progressive' or sometimes called 'Regular' Euchre is played with a deck of cards ace to nine, where five cards are dealt to each player and the top card of the leftover 'deck' is turned face up.

'Bid' Euchre is played with a deck consisting of two sets, aces to Jacks, totalling 32 cards; where all the cards are dealt, each player receiving eight cards.

At the Branch we play Bid Euchre on the third Sunday of the month and Progressive Euchre on Thursday evenings, Saturday afternoons and the last Sunday of the month.

Guests are welcome to participate in these but there are private games at other times.

This week's events:

Progressive Euchre and Snooker games on Thursday night; Shuffleboard at 7 p.m. and DJ Jeff Gilroy at 8 p.m. Friday, Progressive Euchre on Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, Oct. 15th, Glen's Fall Harvest with barbecued pig, roast beef, and salad takes place at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and the meal will be followed by our favourite DeeJay Doug Anderson.

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Tree defies all odds

Many travellers driving along Wellington Street, west of Leslie, are no doubt puzzled by the ragged stump of a maple tree with one branch still surviving.

The tree was fenced for protection by a chain link fence in 1998.

Situated in an empty field on the south side of the road, the protected piece of natural landscape is hard to miss.

Back in May, 1999, there were many questions about the tree and why anyone would go to the expense of erecting the chain link fence to protect it.

At the time Wellington Street East was being reconstructed.

As the tree was located on Magna property, it became known as "Frank's Tree".

Later Magna boss, Frank Stronach, came forward and admitted the tree was his.

He said the tree stump with one remaining living branch symbolized endurance and defiance against all odds.

He added the tree was like life as a person had to hang in and never give up.

The fence was constructed to ensure the tree did not sustain damage during construction on the Magna property or road reconstruction.

Wellington Street East resident Russell Barr was an observer of the tree for the previous 10 years and was impressed by its endurance. He wrote a poem about it entitled "The Family Tree".

Using a bit of poetic licence, he guessed the tree had been struck by lightning.

Barr's poem talks about the many stories the old tree could tell from its young life as a sapling until it reached maturity.

Barr said his neighbour Eric Liversidge had lived across the road from the tree since 1963 and said the tree had been struck by lightning twice, the last time in 1984.

At one time the tree had been tapped for sap every spring.



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Angie Dawson

Angie Dawson

Smiling face leaving ACI

Angie Dawson, the smiling face of Aurora Cable Internet Community TV for the past four years, has left that company to accept a position with ichannel TV.

Angie, who had been with Aurora Cable in various capacities for almost five years, will now become a producer with the speciality channel.

The station is available at Channel 87 on Aurora Cable's digital network.

In the course of her career in Aurora, Angie had, by her recollection, interviewed more than 500 residents.

Some of them stood out in her mind.

Who was the most entertaining or humorous person interviewed? "Any interview with Ron Wallace. (This answer was accompanied by howls of laughter.)

What was your most embarrassing moment?

"The first time reporting for ACI from the Town Hall. The cameraman looked over my shoulder and asked me to interview the mayor. 'Sure,' I said. 'What's his name?' Of course, the mayor

was standing right behind me. The mayor was great about it."

Your proudest moment?

"There isn't just one. I'm proud that people could share their stories. Those moments I'm most

proud of."

What will you miss the most leaving ACI Community TV?

"Aurora. Being connected to Aurora like that."

While Angie will now be working in Toronto,

she and her husband, Derek, intend to remain in Aurora, a town she's grown to love.

ACI producer Steve Mitchell said the company will miss Angie and he wished her well in her future endeavours.



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With five players looking, Aurora goalie Jeremie Dupont has the puck lined up nicely on the face of his stick during action between the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes at the Aurora Community Centre Friday night.

4-3 victory at home Aurora Tigers defeat rival Newmarket team

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team has lost only one game so far this season, but they evened the score Friday night.

That game was to their arch-rivals, the Newmarket Hurricanes.

Playing before an excellent crowd at the Aurora Community Centre, the Tigers turned in a solid all-round game to defeat their Yonge Street rivals 4-3.

A single unanswered goal in the first period spelled the difference, as both teams added singles in the second and two goals each in the third periods.

And that first-period goal came in spite of the fact Aurora outshot the Hurricanes 17-5.

Tigers had control in the third scoring twice before penalties allowed Newmarket to get back into the game late in the frame.

Scoring for Aurora were Jeric Agosta, Cale

Tanaka, Josh McNair and Paul Bortignon.

Bortignon scored his goal while being pulled down lying flat on his back.

Tigers were short-handed at the time.

Tanaka continues to lead the Aurora scoring race with 17 points thanks to four goals and 13 assists.

Captain Agosta is runner-up with nine goals and five assists for 14 points. McNair is third with 11 points.

Jeremie Dupont stopped 27 of 30 shots and was solid in the Tigers' net making key saves when it mattered most including a Ryan Burkholder breakaway midway through the final period.

Aurora travels to Stouffville for their next game this Thursday night and returns to the Aurora Community Centre Friday night to host the expansion Seguin Bruins.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.



Pumpkins, and decorating them, were the order of the day Saturday at the Aurora Farmers' Market on Temperance Street. Taking part in the activity are, left to right, Adina Ellis, Diam Matthew, Karlee Mannella, Kendall Mannella, Keegan Matthew, Matthew Parkin and Michael Parkin. Sponsoring the event were Sean Herbinson from Re-Max and Lisa Cooper from Cooper's Goat & Veggie Farm. Market will remain open Saturdays until October 29th.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin



Belinda Stronach

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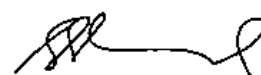
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Fleury became a campground

Who needs a hotel if you have a park?

It takes a special breed of man to be a volunteer firefighter.

He is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He is expected to face all kinds of dangers in all kinds of weather for which he receives little.

The Aurora community was well served by its volunteer firefighters over the years.

In addition, they had their own responsibilities to feed their families and put a roof over their heads.

But they still had time to participate in many community activities and fire fighting tournaments and always gave an excellent performance and brought credit to themselves and to the town.

In August, 1970, they participated in the 69th annual meeting of the Fire Fighters Association of Ontario in Port Colborne and brought home three major trophies.

The Aurora squad won the Overall Trophy and the Horse Race Trophy. The Aurora Ladies' Auxiliary also won a trophy.

A week or so later some town councillors were sitting in the back room of the old Victoria Street Fire Hall (now the Seniors' Centre...soon to be who knows what) with some of the fire fighters when they broached the idea of hosting the 70th annual meeting in Aurora.

Councillors thought they were crazy since Aurora didn't have a hotel or motel to handle such a convention.

It was explained that many of the volunteer firefighters brought families with them as a holiday and liked to camp out.

It was proposed Fleury Park be converted into a campground with meetings to be held in the Community Centre.

Council minutes of the August 24, 1970, record that council approved granting authority to the Aurora Fire Department to make an application to Ontario Fire Fighters Association to host the 70th convention in Aurora in 1971.

In October, councillors were advised the association had accepted.

Councillors Norm Stewart and former Deputy Reeve Bill Trent were appointed to the Fire Department Convention Committee.

On Sunday, November 29th, six members of the association visited Aurora to view the facilities.

They went away impressed as everything was together in one place. It was indicated that approximately 1,000 people would arrive by Saturday night and about 6,000 on Monday, which was games day.

Planning went smoothly and by April, 1971, council had approved three parades to be held during the convention.

To listen to the discussion at council it all sounded so simple. But behind the scenes, volunteers were busy organizing, scheduling, arranging, and coordinating the many events for the four-day event.

Merchants, service clubs, organizations and groups were approached to lend a hand and all were willing to assist.

To get things going the Aurora firefighters hosted the "Firefighters' Ball" at the Community Centre in May and one of the highlights was the selection of Bev Attridge as "Miss Aurora Firefighter" with Dawn Ramsey as runner up.

Bev went on to become "Miss Ontario Firefighter" at the convention.

The first trailers started to pull into Fleury Park on the Thursday preceding the Civic Holiday weekend and continued all day Friday.

By noon Saturday, more than 150 trailers had arrived representing some 59 fire departments from across the province.

On Friday night Fleury Park was alive with excitement and good fellowship. There was a social evening for the early arrivals in the auditorium of the Community Centre and it got the convention off to a good start.

But while the convention was in progress, the fire calls kept coming.

After polishing the trucks, firefighters were called out to a barn fire

and the trucks had to be cleaned again.

Shortly after the official opening of the convention, they were called out again and some visiting firefighters joined them in the race to the fire hall.

They were also called out early Saturday morning when police chased a car through downtown Aurora at high speeds.

The car went out of control and glanced off the concrete steps at the old post office, demolished a telephone booth and newspaper boxes, spun around breaking into the old Yonge Street Municipal offices and finally came to rest on the sidewalk across the street.

The Firefighters' Ball was a smashing success.

Visitors were complimentary in their remarks about the beautiful Community Centre, the park system, the cleanliness of the town and the friendly spirit of citizens and merchants.

There were two parades Sunday; the annual Church and Memorial Parade and at midnight, something new to Aurora, a Pyjama Parade.

Firefighters donned wigs and in some cases baby doll pyjamas as they marched down Yonge Street to the delight of Aurora citizens.

Monday was the big day. It started off with one of the largest parades Aurora had ever seen. Following the parade the games started in Machell Park.

It was a wonderful weekend for all concerned.

In fact it was so good the Aurora Fire Department hosted the 77th convention in 1978 and once again Fleury Park became a campsite for visiting firefighters and there was another pyjama parade down Yonge Street.

It was another hot time in old Aurora.

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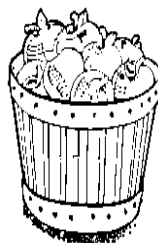
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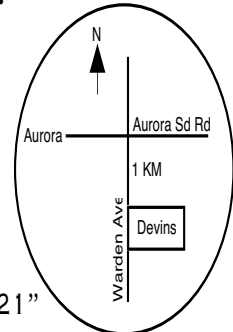
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Politicians including Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, left, and York North MPP Julia Munroe, right, joined principals Sam Panzures and Craig Deasley for ribbon cutting ceremonies as Dundee Securities held its official opening last week. The firm is located on Wellington Street East, in the building formerly housing Lenard Lind Real Estate. Scores of people attended the event, held in and at the rear of the structure.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

No noise on Sunday, committee decides

In spite of arguments from Councillor Evelyn Buck that the work should proceed and get the construction over with in a shorter time, general committee members supported a staff recommendation that the request for an exemption to the noise bylaw to allow construction on Sundays be denied.

That discussion erupted when The York Catholic District School board asked that construction of St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School on Bridgenorth Drive be allowed to continue on weekends until November 6th.

The town's noise bylaw permits construction noise from Mondays to Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. so the contractors can work on Saturdays without an exemption.

Construction noise is not allowed on Sundays or statutory holidays.

Staff advised that they have received a number of noise complaints from residents in the area since construction of the school started.

The most recent complaint involved a truck arriving at 6 a.m. on a Saturday.

In a letter to council, school board officials

pointed out that construction could be completed by October 31st if weekend work was permitted. Without permission, it is estimated the school opening would be delayed two or three weeks.

Students who will attend the school are temporarily accommodated at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School.

Councillor Buck said that if the construction work could be completed earlier the neighbouring

residents would be happier.

She was supported by Mayor Tim Jones who pointed out that it was only for four weeks and the school was needed.

Councillor Bill Hogg argued that people should be able to enjoy Saturday and Sunday without construction starting at 7 a.m.

With the exception of Councillors Buck and John West, he was supported by the committee and the request was denied.

Council rejects CAO's efficiency suggestions

In an effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Aurora Council and committee meetings, Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers submitted three suggestions last week.

All were rejected by committee members.

The suggestions included the handling of reports, the "Other Business" section of the agenda and the conduct of members of the public.

He pointed out that currently the agendas of general committee and council have an item "Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion" where councillors ask certain items be pulled for discussion.

He suggested that when a member of council asks that an item be pulled the member indicate the reason for so doing.

He also suggested that the member be asked to advise the author of the report at least three hours in advance of the meeting that the item is going to be pulled and the reason for it to be further discussed.

When the item is reached during the meeting he suggested that the Department Head responsible be given the opportunity to briefly outline the report and the recommendations prior to questions or comments being made by the councillor.

He said the proposed procedure will allow staff to be better prepared to discuss the concerns of council and, if necessary, bring appropriate material to assist in council's deliberation of the item.

Regarding the "Other Business" section of the agenda, he quoted from the procedural bylaw which states that the section contains items which a member may introduce

which was not circulated with the agenda and due to its urgent nature cannot wait for a subsequent council or committee meeting.

In addition a member may introduce a Notice of Motion or a Motion to Reconsider in accordance with the bylaw.

Rogers asked councillors to advise appropriate staff members at least three hours in advance that they plan to raise a question under "Other Business", to allow appropriate information to be available at the meeting.

He said he had received feedback from the public who watch council meetings who believe staff are put in unfair situations when questions are asked without any advance warning.

Regarding conduct of members of the public he pointed out that there have been some situations in the past where the public, at a council or committee meeting, has made inappropriate, insulting, demeaning, rude or unwarranted comments about staff members.

He said it was his expectation the chairperson of the meeting would immediately stop the member of the public from making such comments.

Mayor Tim Jones suggested Rogers' comments be adopted as presented, but other councillors didn't agree.

Councillor Bill Hogg said the CAO's proposals were significant changes and expressed concern about not being able to ask questions if an item was lifted for discussion.

He suggested the proposed changes should be discussed in private.

He also expressed concern about the conduct of council members and said they should set

an example for the public and council shouldn't expect the public to maintain a higher standard than council sets for its own members.

Councillor Evelyn Buck took exception to the suggestions claiming that it was inappropriate for staff to give direction to elected councillors.

She said councillors were elected by the public to ask questions and not be a rubber stamp.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said councillors should use discretion when asking questions.

He said while he could support the section dealing with "Other Business" he could not support the section on Reports.

He said citizens should have the right to criticize and it was up to the chairperson to maintain control.

He said there were rules in place but they were not enforced.

Rogers replied that he was not trying to stop questions being asked but only that staff be made aware of the question so they will have appropriate information available.

Councillor Nigel Kean pointed out that it wasn't always possible for members of council to ask questions at least three hours in advance and that on many occasions when they did phone for information all they got was the staff member's voice-mail.

He added that citizens should have the right to criticize and that he couldn't support the suggestions.

It was finally agreed to consider the suggestions when discussion took place on the procedural bylaw, but council couldn't agree whether the discussions would be in a public session or in private.

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Neighbourhood group homes: yes or no?

Proposed group homes in Aurora have created controversy over the years with social agencies seeking facilities for developmentally handicapped and homeowners fearing such homes in the neighbourhood.

The issue came before Aurora Council in 1974 when the Salvation Army proposed an 11-bed alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation centre to serve York Region on Mosley Street.

Salvation Army officials said the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services had agreed to partially subsidize the operational costs of the halfway house.

It was explained that admission to the halfway house was primarily on a volunteer basis and the program was designed to assist alcoholics who were sincere in doing something about their problem.

The centre was planned to be in operation as early as March, 1975, but it never happened.

In April, 1980, council held a public meeting on the subject of group homes so citizens could comment, as the town's official plan permitted group homes.

Only six residents attended the public meeting and only three stayed for the council discussion.

Council's proposed official plan amendment was to allow group homes in residential areas, subject to a rezoning of the property prior to establishing the group home. There was only one public comment and that was favourable.

At the time there were two group homes registered in Aurora.

One was the Home for Special Care operated by A. Rose on Yonge Street south with four residents and Blue Hills Academy on Bloomington Road with 16 residents.

In 1981 representatives of the Newmarket and District Association for the Mentally Retarded appeared before council to ask the municipality to amend its bylaw relating to group homes.

The representative said residents are normally afraid of group homes because they don't know what they are and objections are usually based on misconceptions and myths.

To avoid costly zoning changes, council referred

the request to have residential houses to be used as group homes to staff and the planning committee for a report.

The planning committee recommended the request be denied on the basis the proposed procedure would bypass community input. Council indicated it was willing to consider an application for rezoning under the Planning Act, which would require a public meeting.

This presented problems for the association as they rent homes and to be forced to pay rent while waiting for rezoning was not feasible.

In 1983 a unique group home was established in south Aurora. The five-bedroom garden-house sponsored by the Newmarket and District Association for the Mentally Retarded was part of the town's first housing cooperative.

Five adults lived in the 122-unit development alongside young couples, single parent families and middle-aged adults, and were free to come and go as long as they advised a staff member.

In 1988 municipalities became concerned about a proliferation of requests for group homes due to provincial de-institutionalization of many residents and joint efforts were made to restrict numbers in a municipality.

In 1989 several concerned residents attended a public planning meeting regarding a proposal to establish a group home on Mark Street by the Anglican Houses York Region Housing Program.

The organization had purchased 32 Mark Street to establish a group home for eight people with a history of mental illness. More than 1,000 residents signed a petition opposing the proposal.

Anglican Houses officials stressed that nobody with disruptive or violent behaviour or former inmates of correctional institutions would be considered and skilled staff would provide 24 hour-per-day supervision.

Residents said there were already three group homes in the area including the Yellow Brick House, Phase II of the Yellow Brick House at Yonge and Maple Streets and the Canadian Mental Health Association's drop-in centre on Yonge Street between Mark and Maple Streets.

At a 1989 public planning meeting, after more than three-and-a-half hours of presentations and discussion, council voted 5-3 to reject the application for the group home requested by Anglican Houses, even though staff reported the proposed home met all the criteria.

Councillor Evelyn Buck made an impassioned plea in support of the project, noting all the concerns expressed were similar to those presented 10 years earlier when the Yellow Brick House moved to Aurora.

Following council's rejection of the proposal, Anglican Houses officials announced they would appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

But later they quietly dropped the appeal and started to move mentally ill residents into the Mark Street house, despite the town's February decision on the basis the residents had a right to live in the house under the town's existing bylaws.

Later in the month, council sought a court injunction to force Anglican Houses to remove its psychiatric patients from the Mark Street residence.

The case reached the courts in 1990 when Anglican Houses attempted to increase the number of residents from five to eight.

The case set a legal precedent as the arguments in support of the group home were based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

as opposed to planning principles.

In March, 1990, the Supreme Court of Ontario ruled that Anglican Houses had a right to operate a group home on Mark Street, as the town's bylaw did not contain a definition of a group home or how many residents were allowed to live there.

In May, 1990, during an official plan workshop, residents suggested Aurora needed more group homes, high-density residences and rooming houses, a dramatic turnaround from previous comments when residents opposed such facilities.

It was suggested the official plan identify areas

for group homes so people moving into a neighbourhood would know what to expect and that with proper planning, control should be exercised to guard against socially-assisted housing from being concentrated in one area.

In 2003 council received a staff report dealing with the registration of group homes without comment or discussion.

In 2002, following an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board by Cobblestone Lodge Retirement Home for the rezoning of their property at Kennedy and Yonge Streets to permit a boarding or rooming house,

council asked staff to examine the possibility of licensing group homes.

Currently the town's zoning bylaw is silent on group homes as it neither prohibits nor permits such facilities.

In order to require the registration of group homes, council must first recognize the use in the zoning bylaw.

As of now, although group homes are permitted in the official plan, the zoning bylaw is silent as it neither prohibits nor permits such facilities and until council decides to take action, they are unable to establish a registry system as permitted under the Planning Act.

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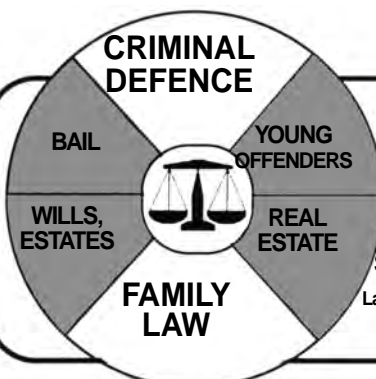
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MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach
(Newmarket-Aurora)

Draft approval gets extension

The Schickedanz Elderberry Trail 19.8-acre property on south Yonge Street was the subject of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing in 2000.

The original application was for 140 apartments, 32 stacked townhouses, and 124 on-street townhouses. This was amended to increase the number of units to about 400.

The proposed density was 15 units per acre which was in conflict with the town's official plan.

Although the application was later reduced to 190 units with council's continued refusal an appeal was launched to the OMB.

The Board's order approved the town's official plan and zoning bylaw for two units per acre with a comprehensive policy excluding development in the most sensitive parts of the site and limiting it in others.

The applicant filed an application for draft subdivision approval in 2001 to implement polices and zoning as approved by the OMB, which was approved.

Since that time the applicant has been working to provide plans and reports required through draft approval.

The conditions of draft approval state that draft approval of the plan of subdivision will lapse if registration has not occurred within three years of the date of draft approval.

Since draft approval will

lapse in January, 2006, owners have asked that council extend the approval for one year.

As staff recommended the extension, it was approved by the committee without comment.

Seniors building gets name

As members of council had no comments or suggestions to add to the proposed name of the seniors building on Orchard Heights Boulevard it will be officially named Orchard Heights Place.

York Region's housing company, Housing York, is in the process of implementing a building naming program for 17 of its properties that were received as part of provincial downloading in 2001.

In each case, these older properties had never been officially named.

The selection of names was the result of a survey of residents in each building, gathering their suggestions and the suggestions of staff to develop a list of recommendations.

Names are designed to be residential in flavour reflecting the character of the community.

The proposed names will go to the Board of Housing York for approval at their November meeting.

Cancer facility is on its way

Dear Neighbours:

Many people in Aurora were delighted to read about the long-awaited announcement of a world-class Cancer Care facility for our local hospital.

I was very proud and excited to be on hand at the official announcement, since I was there not only as the Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, but also as an Honourary Member of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Board of Directors, and as the past Honourary Chair of Southlake's "Nurture the Future" Fundraising Campaign.

As the former Honourary Chair, I can tell you that the people of Aurora played a big role in raising much-needed funding for our local hospital. When the call for help went out to our community, hundreds of individuals and businesses here in Aurora stepped up to the plate and donated their hard-earned dollars in support of a worthy cause.

In total, the Southlake campaign raised \$16.5 million on the strength of approximately 8,000 individual donations.

As someone who lives here in town and whose family uses the hospital as well, I'm also excited to know that Southlake will now have one of the most modern and up-to-date cancer care facilities in the country.

A regional cancer centre will truly help improve the quality of life for many families in our community who have a loved one who has been stricken by this disease.

Currently, many of these people must travel long distances to Sunnybrook and other hospitals in the City of Toronto in order to obtain treatment.

The new cancer centre will provide residents with access to life-saving diagnostics and therapeutics closer to home, and it will assist the government in decreasing wait times for certain urgently required services.

I really enjoyed taking part in this year's 25th anniversary Terry Fox Run on September 18th at Sheppard's Bush.

Hats off to all of the local residents who came out in support of a great cause, with special acknowledgements going to Tim and Terry Moses of the 2005 Aurora Terry Fox Committee

for all of their hard work in organizing this year's event.

I also met many Aurora residents at this year's Hoedown.

Congratulations to everyone in the community who volunteered and contributed; more than \$400,000 was raised on behalf of various community groups and charities.

And please join me in congratulating Norman Hope, who turned 100 a few weeks ago.

I'm glad I was able to join Norman's friends and family at the Aurora Library for his birthday celebration.

Auroran columnist Dick Ilingworth recently interviewed me on ACI's "MP Report", a cable TV show that gives residents a chance to hear about what's going on in Ottawa as well as some of the important issues facing residents here in our riding.

We discussed everything from the launch of Service Canada to increased transit money flowing into Aurora.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A brief look at Aurora in 1968

The Aurora Rotary Club announced plans for a three-day trade show in September with Graham Jinks as chairman.

The costs of the October, 1967, Ontario provincial election were published showing winner Progressive Conservative Bill Hodgson at \$4,192, Liberal Tom Taylor \$7,877 and New Democratic Party candidate Merlyn Baker \$2,136.

Carol McMurchy was crowned "Miss Williams" at the high school's formal dance.

Aurora bragged about obtaining millions of dollars more of industrial development in 1967 than Newmarket.

A total of 215 employees of Sterling Drug returned to work after an 11-week strike.

Thirty members of the Owen Sound Kiwanis Club paid an inter-club visit to the Aurora/Newmarket Kiwanis, with Owen Sound's Miller Christie as guest speaker.

Aurora voted 1,052 "Yes" and 315 "No" for cocktail lounges in town.

No parking was approved for the east side of Temperance Street.

The salary for school crossing guards was increased from \$17.50 to \$25 weekly.

On the national scene the Canadian Navy, Army and Air Force were unified as the Canadian Armed Forces.

Nancy Greene won a Gold Medal in the giant slalom in the Winter Olympics and the minority Liberal government survived a non-confidence vote 138 to 119.

COUNCIL HAS CHANGED

Today Aurora Council operates on what is called a consent agenda with staff and committees making recommendations allowing councils to pick and choose what they want to discuss.

If they disagree with a staff or committee recommendation, it is "lifted" for debate.

Otherwise, everything else goes through as recommended.

It is supposed to improve efficiency and shorten the meetings, as all correspondence, accounts, etc. are not included on the agenda.

The agenda for the February 15, 1971, council meeting included four delegations, 64 items of correspondence, seven reports, four bylaws and nine resolutions.

Yet the meetings weren't that much longer than most meetings today.

AURORA MAN HONOURED

In June, 1985, Nicholas Long of Aurora, a doctoral candidate in psycholo-

gy at the University of Georgia, was presented with the 1984 William Boardman Award.

The award was named for the late Dr. William Boardman who was a psychology faculty member and chairman of the department's clinical training program executive committee.

Long received the award for completing his doctoral dissertation on the topic of how parental marital status and conflict affect competence in young adolescents.

He held a master's degree in clinical psychology from Mississippi State University and a bachelor's degree from McMaster University in Hamilton.

SEPARATE LAWS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

There appears to be different justice rules for the general population and police officers.

An off-duty Peel Region police officer was charged with impaired driving causing death when his car crossed the centre line of Highway 10 killing the driver of the

other car and injuring a passenger.

He was sentenced to 21 months in jail in a Brampton court about 9.30 a.m. and by 1 p.m. was out on \$50,000 bail with no deposit required pending an appeal.

It was also noted that when he was taken through a side door leading to the cells, guards did not handcuff him as is customary for convicted criminals.

When police are involved, it's the victim who seems to pay.

AURORA GETS AURORA HELLO

During the few months prior to November, 1969, Ron Wallace promised that if his first born was a girl, her name would be Aurora and on November 3rd he lived up to his promise.

Aurora Lynn Wallace weighed in at seven pounds, 11 ounces.

At the Aurora Council meeting that evening, councillors extended congratulations to the new parents and a warm welcome to the town's namesake.

Currently, Aurora is a professor at New York University in the heart of Manhattan.

Citizen threatens councillor

At a recent Aurora Council meeting Councillor Evelyn Buck asked if the town had a policy to deal with a citizen who threatened a council member in the Town Hall a week earlier.

She noted that at the previous week's general committee meeting when Councillor John West left the room during a debate on the report dealing with the recommendations of the Ontario Power Authority, a citizen followed him out and screamed at him.

In addition he was physically threatened by the citizen who had to be restrained by others.

Mayor Tim Jones said he was not aware of a policy nor what action might be taken, but would obtain a legal opinion from the town solicitor.

He said afterwards that he would like to find some

way to legally bar the citizen from future meetings in the Town Hall until he made a

public apology and a commitment not to repeat his actions.

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