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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 43 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of September 4, 2007

Library Square still an issue

What to do with the library square and the parking problems around the new library and renovated Heritage Centre in

Church Street School has been a controversial issue for Aurora Council since 1979.

The area in question is bounded by Yonge, Mosley, Victoria and Church Streets.

At that time council voted 4-3 to postpone a special meeting which had been called to discuss the future of the various town-owned properties in the library square until more information was available, especially for the Church Street School.

Then in June, 1985, council authorized staff to prepare terms of reference and an estimate of the cost for professional services to report on the maximum efficient uses of all the properties in the square.

Three firms submitted proposals and one was selected to study the area, including the Browning property which had recently been purchased to provide a Yonge Street entrance to the Victoria Street Library.

In April, 2001, council established a joint council/citizen committee to conduct a study with a mandate of making recommendations for the allocation of space in the library square facilities.

After meeting all summer and not being able to reach any recommendations, the committee was disbanded in December, 2001.

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

Discussions have since taken place about demolishing the former library and seniors' centre to provide more parking, but

Please see page 16



More than 140 local children, of all skill levels, participated in a fun road hockey tournament designed to raise money for the Aurora Tigers Novice AA hockey team. Competing in brutal heat, clubs played a total of 64 games at Confederation Park in Regency Acres last week. From Q107, Andy Frost acted as master of ceremonies. More than 30 volunteers, including the team's head coach, Jay Malowney, helped make the day a success and organizers are hoping the event will become an annual fund raising device for the team.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

BRIEFLY

All-candidates' meeting

The Auroran will team up with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to present an all-candidates' meeting for the upcoming provincial election.

On Wednesday, September 12, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Hotel, at least three candidates will seek your support at the October 10 election.

Running so far, in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, are current Oak Ridges MPP Progressive Conservative Frank Klees; Liberal Christina Bisanz and New Democratic Party candidate Mike Seaward.

Tenth year

The Women's Centre of York Region, with its head office in Aurora, is launching its tenth year with the Enterprising Women program.

Enterprising Women is a unique training program in which women develop a viable business plan and learn key business management skills to start and build their businesses. The Women's Centre is located at 15208 Yonge Street in Aurora, just south of Wellington Street.

Call 905-727-5837, extension 203 for more information.

Children of Eden

To support Welcoming Arms, Aurora's Ecumenical Outreach Centre, Children of Eden is coming to Trinity Anglican Church, Sunday, Sept. 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be obtained by calling 905-727-6101 or purchased at the door.

Produced by the Aurora Opera Company, the show features Michael Barkowski, Joe Likuski, Sarah Kyle, Dave Greig, Judith Thompson-Bouchard, Jan Soltz, Mario Fraccaro, Brittany Jamieson, Jillian Clarke, Brian Gidlow and Sandra Whetham.

Pig roast

It's a huge event at the Aurora Legion and it happens this Saturday night.

Billed as "Glenn's Fall Harvest", a giant barbecue pig roast will begin with dinner served at 7 p.m.

The dinner will be followed by entertainment and spot dances in the lounge.

Tickets are available at the Legion on Industrial Parkway North.

The Auroran has a website

It's a long way from being finished, but The Auroran is finally on-line.

Complete with a look at the most recent issue, the seven-year-old Aurora community newspaper may be viewed at www.auroran.com.

The site, designed by Aurora resident Rob Schuetze, allows the viewer to place classified ads, view every newspaper back to 2002, and search for anything that once appeared in The Auroran.

The site also provides an opportunity for citizens to confirm the

availability of used books, through a link to the newspaper's used bookstore, R & R Revisited.

Potential advertisers have an opportunity to promote themselves on the pages of the website, and contact numbers for them to do that are available on the site.



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COMING EVENTS

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its third season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., comfort food and a sense of community will be available in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

York Regional Police Male Chorus, which rehearses every Tuesday evening between September and July each year, resumes its rehearsal schedule Sept. 4. The chorus desperately requires men who sing in the First Tenor range but also invites men who sing Second Tenor, Baritone and Bass. Chorus rehearsals take place in Newmarket. You will be provided with quality teaching, uniforms, transportation to events and be involved in a family atmosphere which, in most cases, includes member's spouses. For further information call the Chorus Volunteer Supervisor Lowell McClenny at 905-727-9676 or email mcclenny@aci.on.ca

Aurora Agricultural Society meets the first Monday of every month from 6.30 to 9 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practices under the direction of Tom Rainsford every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors Centre.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Martha's Table opens its doors again from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Comfort food, much of it donated by Presbyterian church members, and a sense of community is available at St. Andrew's Hall, Mosley and Victoria Streets.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Aurora Historical Society presents the 2007 Candlelight Tour of Homes from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tickets at \$20 are available by calling 905-727-8991.

Barbecue pig roast at the Legion. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Battle of Yonge Street returns hosted by Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach to raise funds for the Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Event features an NHL Oldtimers game and a hockey game featuring the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes. Call 905-727-8874 for

more information.

SEPTEMBER 7-9

Second annual Aurora Ribfest at Machell Park featuring five rib teams from across North America competing for town titles. Each team uses a different flavour and their signature sauce. For those who don't enjoy ribs, chicken, pulled pork, yam fries and more will be available. Aurora Rotary Club will run the beer garden and live entertainment will begin at dusk.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Aurora/Newmarket SuperWalk for Parkinson's Disease takes place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Taoist Tai Chi demonstration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc. and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. at the Water Street entrance. The walk begins at 10.30 a.m. For more information call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774, or e-mail krp@acanac.net.

At the Aurora United Church (9 and 10:30 a.m. services), Janine Maxwell will speak about her work in Africa. Author of 'It's Not Okay With Me', she has just returned from spending 42 days in the interior of Africa, helping to set up an orphanage.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Aurora Film Circuit presents "Mon Meilleur Ami" (My Best Friend), starring Daniel Auteuil. French with English subtitles, rated PG. Tickets are \$10 and available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with a door prize at 6.45 and film at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Probus Club of Aurora meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Legion, Industrial Parkway North, at 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be Jennifer Lam of Scotia Bank discussing fraud. Annual elections will also be held. Guests are welcome.

All-candidates meeting for the upcoming provincial election.

Aurora's Howard Johnson Hotel at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and The Auroran.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast hosted by MPP Frank Klees at 7.30 a.m. at Graystone's Restaurant, 14889 Yonge Street. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

VARIOUS DATES SEPT. 14 TO 29

Theatre Aurora presents "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for further details.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

20th annual Wild Wild West Magna Hoedown on the Magna grounds, Wellington Street East.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Second annual Aurora Historical Society golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Fewer than 60 spaces available. Known as the KSG (Kiss Summer Goodbye) tournament, the event will feature dinner and a silent auction at DiNardo's, The Mansion. \$150 gets you the package; dinner only is \$50. Tickets available at Hillary House, Westview Golf Club and The Auroran. Tournament gets underway at 11 a.m. and will not use the "shotgun" format.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Regular meeting of the Aurora Historical Society with guest speaker Jackie Stuart on the topic "Then and Now" at 8 p.m. at Hillary House.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Amnesty International meets at 7.30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. New members are welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce invites its members to Hillary House at 5.30 p.m. for a presentation of the 2007 audited financial statements, followed by complimentary food and

refreshments. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Clear Aurora's streams and ponds of trash by participating in the TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. To work on the McKenzie Marsh, contact Rebecca Camino at 905-660-6529. For other areas contact the Town of Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee: auroraec@hotmail.com or call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Business After Five meeting hosts members from the Aurora and Newmarket Chambers of Commerce at Skyview Dental Care, 372 Hollandview Trail. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Four Months of Blooming Iris" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

Aurora Council public planning meeting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The first ever Words Alive Literary Festival will be held all day at the Sharon Temple and features several people from Aurora. The festival celebrates a rich literary heritage providing a showcase for contemporary local authors. Words Alive is a non-profit organization. The festival will feature Aurora's Marina Nemat, Dr. John McIntyre, and Ron Wallace. Also making an appearance are Roy MacGregor, Eliza Clarke and Barry Dempster. For more information, visit www.wordsalive.ca.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Blessing of the Animals at the Rectory lawn of Trinity Anglican Church. Bring your pets, large or small, for a blessing as church celebrates St. Francis Day.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Aurora and Newmarket members of the Chambers of Commerce will host a Business After Five meeting at Georgian Downs race-track in Innisfil from 5.30 p.m. Cost is \$10

which includes buffet. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Aurora Seniors Association has teamed up with Opera York's Concerts for Seniors to present the live, tour-de-force production of Rossini's comic opera, "The Barber of Seville".

The one-hour show will be held at the Seniors' Centre, Thursday, at 2 p.m. Tickets, at \$10 each, are currently on sale at the centre, but are limited to 200. Call 905-726-4767 for further information.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Provincial election and Referendum Day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Business Excellence evening in Aurora. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

OCTOBER 19 and 20

Aurora United Church Fall Rummage Sale, 15186 Yonge Street. Hours on October 19: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on October 20, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call 905-727-1935.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Festive Entertaining" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

York Chamber Ensemble begins a four-concert series with a Bach motif featuring renowned guest violinists Gerard Kantarjian and Gayane Bareghamyan. The concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors.

NOVEMBER 4 to 19

Aurora seniors will take a 15-day Hawaiian cruise. Call Pam at 416-630-3499 for details.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York presents its Annual Gala "Catch A Dream" at DiNardo's Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South, with reception at 6.30 p.m. and dinner at 7.30 p.m. Evening includes cocktails, dinner, raffles, live and silent auction and dancing. Tickets are \$150 per person and may be reserved by calling 905-895-0289.

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Kelly Malehmir, bottom photo, can barely see picture of herself and sister on a billboard that was ordered covered by the Town of Aurora last week. The sisters have been operating a mortgage company from a sales pavilion for several months, but the building isn't zoned for the business. Town is also saying she may have to remove the sign from the front of the building, top photo, and in order to remain on the site, she needs to apply to the Committee of Adjustment for a zoning change. Approval from the committee will take at least 60 days and could cost as much as \$1,800.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Mortgage company's location zoned wrong

For a town apparently interested in saving its downtown, Aurora seems to be trying to put a mortgage company out of business.

Northwood Mortgage, also known as The Mortgage Sisters, opened for business in a portable building adjacent to Park Place Manor on Yonge Street in Aurora's old town, several months ago.

Recently, they added a billboard advertising their location, which is on property once occupied by Aurora's old arena.

However, The Sisters, Debbie Stencell and Kelly Malehmir, learned last week, the company is operating in a location not zoned for such an operation.

And, according to Aurora building official Thom Van, Northwood Mortgage must apply to the town's Committee of Adjustment if it wishes to seek a change in zoning.

Because of the long weekend holiday, Mr. Van could not be reached for comment.

In addition it was ruled the billboard must be covered, and there is a chance the Town will order the company to remove the name of the firm from the front of the building.

The portable building was put on the site when it was believed an apartment complex, containing 42 condominiums, was going to be built there, but a little known easement which affected property to the north, caused

the deal to stall.

The structure was never removed, but has been used as a campaign office by various people seeking election.

The Mortgage Sisters have the legal rights on the land, and Ms Malehmir said the firm invested more than \$30,000 to bring the structure up to standard.

They would like to install bathrooms but because of bylaw issues "we can't. Instead we have an agreement with the neighbours to be able to use their facilities", she said.

Ms Malehmir, and her sister Debbie have the Legal rights to the land and have intentions to build the condominiums in the future.

Ms Malehmir said she understood it would cost about \$1,800 to go to the Committee of Adjustment for a zoning change that could take up to 60 days to implement.

"We had a mobile sign in front of the building that was really good for business but a town employee ordered the mobile sign removed without notice to us," Ms Malehmir said.

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Poor Richard

Traffic calming plan now biting Aurora Council

*Actions of council come back to haunt,
As Aurora Council is about to find out;
Traffic calming pleases some residents,
But others can come back with clout!*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

In an attempt to please one group of citizens, council has stirred up a hornet's nest with a lot of other town residents and when the project is complete, they will no doubt hear from many more and possibly from some residents who complained in the first place.

It all started in October, 2004, when residents of Spruce and Centre Streets complained to council about speeding and traffic safety concerns on their streets and asked that a traffic calming study be carried out.

Rather than deal with individual streets, which often transferred the problem to adjacent streets, staff members recommended the study be extended to the northeast quadrant north of Wellington Street to Mark Street and east from Yonge Street to Walton Drive.

In hindsight, this was a mistake as the study should have been extended to Batson Drive on the north as it will receive the major impact of the many changes in traffic patterns as a result of the study.

In February, 2006, a traffic consultant was retained to carry out the study at a cost of \$30,000.

The final design used various techniques to deter motorists from using streets such as Centre and Spruce Streets and get them back onto collector roads such as Mark Street and Walton Drive or get them out of the area all together.

The recommended traffic calming devices included a combination of speed humps, speed cushions, diagonal diverters, curb expansions, chicanes, one-way streets, removal of some multi-way stop signs and restricted turns during peak periods.

The cost was estimated at \$100,000.

Council approved the report in principle and authorized the consultant to conduct a poll of households in the study area to ascertain their views of the proposal, and in general there was support for the project.

Again in hindsight, this was another mistake as the consultation poll should have been town-wide.

While residents live on the streets, they don't own them and all citizens have the right to use them.

Five firms submitted bids to the tender call and by this time, the cost of the traffic calming portion of the road projects had escalated to \$200,814, more than double the original estimate.

In May, 2007, council approved awarding the tender at a price of \$200,814 on a 7-1 vote with Councillor Evelyn Buck in opposition.

She questioned why council spent taxpayer's money to build roads and then spent more money so that people couldn't use them.

Although traffic volume was part of the complaint, the major concern was speeding on residential streets.

This is a police enforcement matter, not a traffic calming issue and the police have been negligent in this regard.

Before approving the expenditure, an Auroran reporter in May, 2006, suggested council should attend a York Regional Police Service Board meeting as a delegation to demand speed enforcement action, but it was never done.

As a result, taxpayers are stuck with a bill of more than \$230,000 that will merely shift a problem from one area to another.

Although construction is not yet complete, the area is an unholy mess. Driving those streets at night will be almost impossible.

We shudder to think of the results the first time a fire truck or an ambulance speeding to save a house or a life on Mark Street has to navigate around the curb expansions on that street.

The delay could result in the loss of a house or a life. Garbage collection and snowplowing will be another problem.

It is doubtful if the residents or the seven members of council fully understood the impact of the approved traffic calming measures once the drawings were transformed into reality.

When fully operational, we think this project will haunt members of council over their decision to listen to one small group of ratepayers without concerning themselves with other residents of the municipality.

There's a lesson to be learned here as council is elected to serve the town as a whole, not just parts of it.



Two Aurora children, Brenda and Michael Rice, use the shafts of hockey sticks as fishing rods in the waters of the Salamander Pond, located on what was once the Vandorf Sideroad and is now Henderson Avenue. This summer, extremely dry weather has caused the pond to all but dry up. This photo was taken 31 years ago, in 1976. Photo was provided by Eileen MacDonald of Aurora.

Letters to the Editor

Debbie responds to water issues

To the editor,

In response to recent letters to The Auroran concerning water supply and outdoor water use restrictions in the Town of Aurora, I would like to offer the following information to help clarify the points I made recently to Aurora Council:

1. York Region is investing millions of dollars over the next 10 years to ensure that all approved development has adequate water supply over the coming decades.

2. Aurora and Newmarket will have an increased supply of water through to 2036, when new supply projects are completed next year. While this supply was anticipated to be in place this year, delays stemming from a lengthy property acquisition process, and local appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), pushed the timetable for completion back.

3. This supply delay, combined with the driest summer in 50 years (as confirmed by Environment Canada), high outdoor water use, and local water pipe maintenance issues

led to a shortage of water in the northwest part of Aurora, prompting the Region to issue a Stage 2 Outdoor Water Use Ban.

4. The Region's water system is designed to meet maximum daily demands based on past water use trends, not average demands. Despite this prudent planning, during periods of unseasonably high temperatures and low rainfall, even these maximum demands can be exceeded.

5. Development has not been a factor in water restrictions. Between 2006 (no water ban) and 2007, Aurora has only grown by approximately 200 homes.

6. Neither York Region nor the Town of Aurora owns the groundwater that supplies our homes and businesses. Permits to take water are issued by the Government of Ontario. The Region is only one of many water takers to receive approval from the Province, and is consulted when appropriate.

7. Recently, the Magna Golf Club has approached the Government of Ontario for a

permit to take water. This is not a new request, but the renewal of an existing permit.

York Region takes water restrictions very seriously, and only issues them to ensure that emergency services, such as fire protection, are never placed in a compromised position.

The Region will continue to invest in water supply for our growing communities.

York Region would like to thank Aurora residents for their ongoing commitment to water conservation during our volun-

tary outdoor water use advisories and mandatory water use bans.

While there is never a guarantee in any community that there will be no outdoor water restrictions, with a new water supply in place next summer, and ongoing conservation, the need for water restrictions in the Town of Aurora should be greatly reduced.

**Debbie Korolnek
General Manager
Water & Wastewater
Region of York**

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Editorial policy

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Advertising policy

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

Wanna play golf?

To the editor,

On Tuesday, September 18, the Aurora Historical Society will be holding its second annual golf tournament at Westview Golf Course with dinner to follow at DiNardo's Mansion.

Last year the group raised about \$17,000.

This year it hopes to raise more, with the funds going to the restoration of Hillary House.

We are still looking for sponsors at various levels in order to make this tournament successful again

this year.

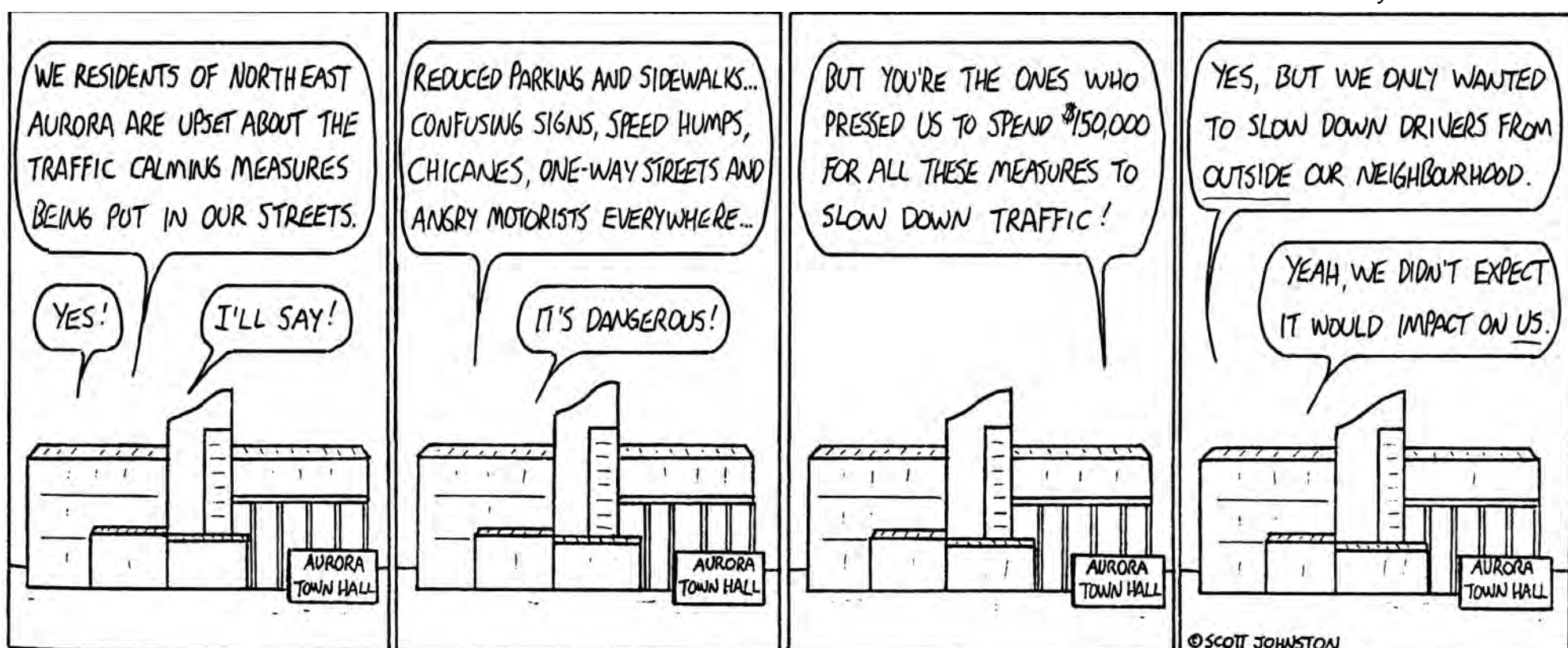
You can sponsor a hole for as low as \$100 or get to a higher level by sponsoring lunch, dinner, a golf cart or other activities during the day.

You can also golf for \$150 each or enter a foursome for \$600.

Last year we had a great day of golf and fun.

Please call either myself at 905-751-0790 or Ron Wallace at 905-727-3300 if you would like to be part of this eventful activity.

**Nigel Kean
Golf committee**



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

I'm getting off the front porch and coming to see you. I'm not sure though, if that should be considered a promise or a threat.

It is that special time of year again.

No, it is not only the beginning of the school year or the start of the NHL pre-season.

It is much better than that.

The provincial election is coming!

That means it's time to be visited by your newfound political friends and their volunteers.

Stop with the groans already - I can hear you from in front of my computer.

There is nothing in a campaign that beats door-to-door canvassing. It is where the action is.

It is that time when the candidates and their emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

One can also gain a better understanding of the candidate by watching them deal with rejection, tough questions, voter anger or the occasional embarrassing situation.

I state my bias off the top.

I, along with Bob Callow of Aurora, am the co-chairman of the Progressive Conservative Frank Klees campaign team.

The Liberals have nominated Christina Bisanz while the NDP have nominated Mike Seaward.

Do all us canvassers a favour - stay home.

Too many times already we have had to place the notation

"Not Home" on our canvass sheets.

It seems that many of you actually have lives.

Please stop going to the movies, the gym, or to pick up groceries, for the duration of the campaign.

The October 10th election day is not that far away. You can go without deodorant or your favourite ice cream for that long.

So far, the only interesting information that I have gleaned, from my very limited sample of going door to door in the neighbourhood where I live, is that a lot of you claim to be 'house sitters' and thus ineligible to vote.

In 24 years of canvassing I have heard these two words uttered a few times, but to hear it a number of times on the same street is extraordinary. I will have to use this with telemarketers next time they call me!

A plea if I may. On behalf of canvassers everywhere, Mr. or Mrs. Homeowner, today please make a joint decision on lawn signs.

It is great to visit a home and receive permission from the man of the house to erect a sign on the front lawn.

The canvasser then relays this information to the sign crew and some time later they come and while they are putting it up the lady of the house asks the sign crew what they are doing and who gave them permission.

The sign crew chief checks his sheet and says Mr. "X" gave the permission.

Mrs. "X" then proceeds quickly into the house and, after a few minutes, comes out of the house (usually alone) - while the hus-

Here come the canvassers...

band nervously lurks in the front window partially concealed by the curtains - and says her husband did not give permission.

As the campaign has not officially started and signs are not allowed to be erected until the writ is officially dropped, do us a big favour, and among family discussions, please collectively decide on what sign goes up in the front yard.

That was a paid political announcement from the canvassers for a hassle free lawn sign erection environment (or "CFH-FLSEE" for short).

Other than the good news that no dogs have chased me (yet), people are slowly catching on that a provincial election is just around the corner and they are also hungry for information on the issues.

Maybe, just maybe, Aurorans will collectively surprise us all and go to the polls in record numbers this October.

Let's hope so as there are a number of important issues on the table that affect our community.

Political canvassers are part and parcel of the wonderful democratic process that provides the voter with a choice.

It is that simple.

They deserve - irrespective of party affiliation - your respect and courtesy.

So be ready to greet your canvasser with a smile, a big hello and two, but only two, policy related questions.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

This week is one of the most important in the lives of the children of Aurora.

Some of them will be yours for a season - a glimmer of time that can make the difference of a lifetime.

There is no way of knowing where your influence will end, but it is certain that this is where it begins: In your classroom...

Perhaps you are blessed with spacious state-of-the-art facilities.

But maybe you will spend the whole school year in a cramped, overcrowded portable that appears to be designed to test your endurance, your sanity and...your anti-perspirant.

Life isn't fair! But remember that just as life is less kind to some teachers than to others, for some of your students life is also less than fair...less than kind.

They say that tiny houses full of love and laughter have elastic walls - and so do classrooms.

Even in the smallest of spaces, education opens the world to eager, young minds and creates an illusion of space such that the whole universe can fit on a chalkboard!

Show your students what lies beyond the door.

You can take them on a safari. You can take them to the moon. You can even take them on a journey back in time. So, what was life like before cell phones?

What will you teach them this year?

Will you teach them to follow the rules? Or will you teach them to follow their dreams?

Will you prepare them for tests and exams? Or will you prepare them for the world?

Will you counsel them: "Just Say No!" Or will you tell them: "Just Do It!" Or will you let them in on the real secret of success: Knowing when to do which.

Will they be the only ones who learn? Or will you welcome them to enrich your life with the greatness of their being and open yourself to stand humble in the wisdom of a child?

When you look at your students, will you see empty minds? Or will you pour knowledge and understanding into open minds?

Will you reward the right answers? Or will you celebrate the right questions?

There may be times when you feel powerless - bound by the curriculum, Ministry mandates, disinterested parents, a heavy workload...migraines.

These constraints are real, but your power is even more indisputable!

You can encourage strengths, passions, talents. You can inspire dreams, greatness and a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.

You can foster compassion, acceptance and a sense of belonging. You can motivate good deeds, achievement, honest effort. You can see the best in your students, believe in them...and bring out the best in them.

You might be the only person in a child's life who is reliable, compassionate and caring.

You might be the only person in a child's life who can see

Dear teacher:

that buried beneath the faults and shortcomings are undiscovered gems and treasures...

You might be the only person in a rebellious, poorly behaved child's life to listen, understand, set boundaries. You might be the only one who has earned and deserves the respect and admiration that will become their model.

Yes, you have that power.

You know this because you already have been and seen and done these things. This is why you are a teacher.

So as you immerse yourself in these first few days of pouring your heart and soul into making your classroom a beautiful, joyful place, know that everything you do and give is worth it.

Yours is perhaps the most important, meaningful and worthwhile of purposes.

Today, your influence begins to echo into the future. And there is no telling where your influence will end...or if it ever will.

May you awaken every school morning inspired by the part of your spirit that chose to become a teacher.

May the richly rewarding and fulfilling experience that you create for your students bring your spirit wealth, abundance and joy to take into the next school year...and the next...and the next.

And may Advil always be on sale whenever you run out!

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



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the Town of Aurora staff who represented the municipality in the Dragon Boat Race to kick off the annual United Way of York Region fundraising campaign with a target of \$9 million, up a million from last year. The event, held at the King Campus of Seneca College, raised \$110,000.

BRICKBATS to whoever was responsible for leaving the street lights on at noon hour on the west side of Yonge Street, south of Wellington Street. It was a waste of electricity and served no useful purpose.

BOUQUETS to Judy Salmon of Aurora for her excellent letter to The Auroran about the make-up on the all-powerful Ontario Municipal Board as the answers to her questions are desired by many and although many promises have been made to curtail their powers, no politician has the political will to challenge the development industry.

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for giving a **BRICKBAT** to the construction company for taking so long to complete a project believing it was an inconvenience to the residents, but according to Andy Closs the residents are quite happy with the contractor and his work.

BRICKBATS, however, to whoever is responsible for failing to put up an advance warning sign on Yonge Street to alert southbound traffic there is no left turn on Mark Street due to construction leaving motorists stuck in the left turn lane with nowhere to go.

BOUQUETS to the member of council who will find out what happened to the plaque provided by the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee to Shoppers Drug Mart, Doane Hall, marking the site of the home of Charles Doan, the first Reeve when the village was incorporated in 1863.

BOUQUETS to the City of Atlanta for considering the passing of an ordinance making it illegal under the city's indecency laws to wear sagging, baggy pants that show boxer shorts or thongs, in the same ordinance that outlaws sex in public places. School boards could consider similar action.

BRICKBATS to the York Taxi driver who pulled up on Cousins Drive in broad daylight, got out of his cab and urinated against a tree, then climbed back in and fell asleep for about half an hour before driving off. The lawn needed watering, but not this way!

BOUQUETS to the Supreme Court of Canada for dismissing an application to strike down provisions of Ontario's Safe Streets Act, which placed controls on so-called squeegee kids and aggressive pan-handling.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario government for adding to Corporate Welfare by giving a \$5.5 million interest-free loan to a multi-national candy company for what was said to create a Confectionary Centre of Excellence in Brantford to aid in the production of Tic Tac mints and other treats.

BRICKBATS to the same government for hitting taxpayers with a bill of almost \$750,000 for Ontario Crown Attorneys and judges to stay at several luxury Muskoka resorts as part of their annual professional development. Professional development is fine, but does it have to be at five-star resorts?

BOUQUETS to the federal government for adopting regulations to stop all watercraft on all Canadian waterways from dumping toxic raw sewage by requiring all newly launched boats to have a sewage holding tank on board.

BRICKBATS to the vandals who attacked the granite cairn at the centre of the Hamilton waterfront paying tribute to the bloody sacrifices of Canadian soldiers at Dieppe by prying off a bronze replica of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry collar badge.

Letters to the Editor

Green Bin: It's a start

To the editor,

It is encouraging seeing there has been interest to the start of the green bin and recycling programs in the local newspapers.

One reader made room for the Green Bin flyer on their fridge and consults the environmental chart to see what goes where in the different recycle

buckets.

Others think that the bin is not large enough and that council was facing the wrong way when developing the Green Bin plan.

Residents may soon start to see the results from sorting their garbage and putting refuse in an appropriate recycle bin.

Instead of taking three to four garbage bags out

to the roadside, people have now reduced the number of bags destined to a landfill dumpsite by 50 to 100 per cent.

Garbage quotas and educational programs on garbage and recycling will continue to lower household waste.

This is a start, but there is more to the green revolution than recycling.

Residents struggle with

an enormous amount of junk mail, flyers inserted in newspapers and the plastic wrapping from our products each day.

It seems the residents are forced to consume the "garbage" and to waste resources in our society.

It is now important for industries to stop wasteful packaging.

Marketing products as 'throw away' objects has got to stop. There are limits to our natural resources.

We must promote more serious ecological programs and to improve conservation of our materials, at the source of this vicious cycle.

The Green Bin is a start, but we must curb the amount of waste from the source.

By the time the "waste" gets to our house, it is too late to conserve.

Trees have been chopped down, carbon based fuels and thousands of litres of water have been used to produce the product.

Governments and businesses need to develop better environmental plans in our society and local residents need to change their lifestyle of waste.

In order to be effective, the green revolution should be viewed as a partnership.

This is a responsible goal to achieve.

New election system "worth a try", he says

To the editor

I was pleased to see Dick Illingworth's column containing his comments about the electoral reform referendum being carried out in conjunction with the forthcoming Ontario election.

I agree there is a need to provide the voting public with more information regarding the proposal, and his comments are certainly a step in the right direction.

As I understand it, the electoral reform proposal attempts to modify the method by which we choose our government

by marrying two separate methods of representation: by riding, and by party.

While the current system of election of representatives solely by riding has served us well, there is a sense among the electorate that the determination of the number of seats each party holds in the provincial parliament, which in turn determines which party forms the government (and the Premier), also requires a measure of direct input on the part of the electorate.

By ignoring the popular vote, our current system

does not allow for the adequate representation of each party's position on policies of importance to all of us.

In his column, Mr. Illingworth poses the question as to whether a system where some MPPs do not represent ridings is more democratic than the current system.

Given the power that a majority government holds in the parliamentary system, I believe that a system which gives recognition to the overall popular vote, as well the voting in each riding, is fairer and represents an improvement over the current system.

It is at least worth a try.

Intern says thanks to town employees

To the editor,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the hard working individuals who have dedicated their careers to serving the residents of the Town of Aurora.

I have worked in the Communications Department for the Town as an intern for the last four months, and these very special individuals have made my experience, enjoyable and memorable to say the least.

As a recent graduate, finding professional and pleasurable work is hard to come by, let alone finding lifelong friends along the way.

To Kristen Yemm-Brodie, Michelle Outar and Azilda Robinson, your constant support will never be forgotten.

To Mayor Morris and Council, thank you for your hard work and dedication to this town.

To the residents of Aurora, thank you for your attention, participation and passion for community events.

You can all rest assured that you have good people with warm hearts, working daily to make your town, and your lives, a better place.

Alana Russell
Aurora

Colin Guenther
Aurora

Jim Jackson
Aurora




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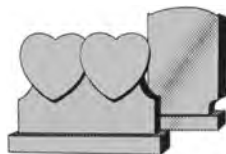


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Traffic plan approved by two councils

To the editor,

The only flaw in Rosalind Gonsalves' righteous argument against the Traffic Calming Measures is that it should have been made before the project was implemented. There was ample opportunity.

The plan was processed by two councils with an election intervening.

The last council, at a cost of \$30,000, provided a consultant to residents to create a plan to deal with traffic problems.

It eventually came to

council for approval with an estimated price tag of \$100,000.

I demanded written confirmation from Public Works and the Fire Department to ensure the obstructions to safe and efficient movement of traffic would not create difficulties for snow removal and Emergency Measures.

A subsequent letter from the Fire Chief indicated there were no concerns.

Wayne Jackson, the Director of Public Works, also submitted a letter.

I was unable to accept his advice either which

prompted him to declare "this is not a Public Works project. It was designed by residents with a consultant provided by council."

The plan was accepted.

The expenditure was referred to the 2007 budget.

Only two councillors voted against the motion. The editor of this publication was one of them.

A revised estimate of \$80,000 was included in the budget of 2007. The new council approved it.

Tenders were called.

The price came in at a whopping \$200,000. A

majority of councillors decided against the project on the basis of cost.

Subsequently, letters were hand-delivered to residents advising them of the committee decision.

At the council meeting, members were outnumbered by furious residents who demanded the contract be awarded.

Citizen delegates have the floor to themselves in advance of council's debate.

They are not governed by any rules of order or conduct. One after another, under the force of the

attack, councillors changed their minds and voted to accede to the demands.

I deplore the practice of allowing citizens to have the jump on councillors prior to the formal debate.

I believe it totally defeats the purpose of electing a council.

In the last election, a Coalition of Ratepayers and a Sports Coalition were actively involved.

They chose a slate of candidates.

They were not successful with their entire selection.

Yet even to a casual observer, it can be seen they are achieving their objective.

The Traffic Calming Measures are almost complete.

Speed humps will be added in the Spring of 2008,

when the second coat of asphalt is in place.

In my view, at some point, this plan will need to be undone. Considering the cost of what's there already represents one per cent of the 2007 budget, it is not a cheerful prospect.

It is cold comfort to me that I tried to stop it.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: The editor of this publication has always believed the real problem is at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington. If that corner could be fixed, it would not be necessary to spend money diverting traffic elsewhere. His plan to fix the intersection has never been tried.

Give traffic calming a sensible trial period, resident recommends

To the editor,

It is interesting that all the letters casting negative comments about the traffic calming initiatives are non-residents of the streets involved.

It is true that the installations are unusual and not seen before in Aurora or any other town to my knowledge.

However, let's give it a try and see how it evolves over the following months and winter.

I believe that any problems that may occur in the next few months are caused by the following:

1 - motorists who are driving too fast for the existing conditions.

2 - motorists are not yield-

ing to oncoming traffic as a mutual courtesy.

3 - motorists who are driving irresponsibly and are totally unaware and disrespectful of the residents and children who live on these streets.

I urge everyone to give this situation a fair and sensible trial period.

How can anyone predict what may or may not happen in the next few months?

If any motorist cannot tolerate this inconvenience, then I suggest he/she adjust or find an alternate route to travel through our area.

**Ken Chong
Aurora**

Our neighbourhood has been reclaimed, these residents state

To the editor,

Today (Monday, August 27, on Spruce Street, north of Catherine Avenue) at 5.15 p.m., a very young boy (Spruce Street resident), learned how to ride his two-wheel-

er bicycle for the first time with the help of his mother by riding down the street (the sidewalks are too uneven).

This NEVER could have occurred in the last 15 years due to the cut through traffic.

Thanks to traffic calming, we are now able to sit on our front porches, open our front windows, walk safely down the sidewalk, and occasionally learn to ride a two-wheeler or play street hockey.

THANK YOU, MAYOR

PHYLLIS MORRIS AND COUNCILLORS (excluding Evelyn Buck) for helping Aurora reclaim one of its residential neighbourhoods.

**Linda & John Houser
Aurora**

"Horror of horrors, what have they done", reader asks of streets

To the editor,

Recently, while conducting certain errands in downtown Aurora, I came across Mark and Walton Streets, to get to Industrial Parkway South.

I use this road most days to get out and around.

It is mainly because I lose my patience with people on Yonge Street who seem thrilled to squeeze me into the curb

lane to prove their seniority.

A good many of these drivers are women who find their new liberty of competing with men overwhelming.

Some will even give you the finger, which I consider childish. However that's a detail for another time.

Getting back to Mark and Walton Streets. Horror of horrors, what have they done?

It seems while they were repairing Mark Street they decided to put these humungous cement blocs on the road at several corners.

I do recall since 2006 certain people on Mark Street were complaining of speeders in the school areas.

If this is the Town's idea of a solution, I say when was the last time you had your head examined?

Let me explain.

No long based trucks can navigate those single lanes now. That includes snow plows, fire trucks, emergency vehicles, et al.

It is a sad commentary for council people to destabilize the roads for a few at the expense of the many.

After all we all pay taxes for equal use.

You would never know it now.

There are many solutions that have been around for a century, like stop signs or one way streets or a one-way maze as they have in Leaside.

The situation at hand is reprehensible.

I believe there will be bad accidents when we consider out of towners or when these godzillas are covered with snow.

I hate to be a "told you so" but I can see a mountain of trouble coming.

As an Auroran for more than 40 years, I can remember when we used to have some common sense running our town.

I guess that's gone the same way as our water.

**John Swarbrick
Aurora**

**Ben Kestey
Aurora**

Reader has three words for traffic calming project

To the editor,

Re: Auroran, August 28, 2007, Page 8, letter, "Traffic calming devices moronic, reader claims."

I could not agree more with Ms Gonsalves.

Re: The three pictures of the road on the

same page by Wayne Hemington.

Whoever had the nightmare to dream up this plan, whoever had the stupidity to present this plan and especially to whoever authorized this road plan, I have three words: dumb, dumber and dumbest.

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Candidate responds to OMB letter writer

To the editor,

Re: Who sits on the OMB (Letters, The Auroran, August 21)

Judy Salmon asked that candidates for the upcoming provincial election respond to her specific questions concerning the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board).

As the Progressive Conservative candidate for Nemarket-Aurora, I'm pleased to do so.

The OMB is an administrative tribunal responsible for hearing appeals and deciding on a variety of municipal matters.

It operates similarly to a court of law, and, in fact, is considered a quasi-judicial body.

Board members are appointed directly by the Ontario Cabinet.

Their qualifications are broadly based and include lawyers, accountants, architects, urban planners and public administrators.

The OMB's main role

is to hold public hearings and adjudicate on land use planning issues which have been referred to it because the matter could not be resolved at the municipal level of government.

It also holds public hearings on planning applications, such as official plans and subdivisions that have been referred to it by the Minister of Municipal Affairs or a delegated approval authority.

The OMB has the final say in all community planning decisions in Ontario that have been appealed or referred to it.

The exception is in a matter where the government has declared a "provincial interest", in which case the government's declared policy on the matter is final.

Judy Salmon asks why development has often been allowed to proceed without the supporting infrastructure to support it.

That infrastructure

includes roads and transit, water and electricity supply as well as schools, recreation facilities, hospitals and long term care homes.

The reality is that while the OMB is often targeted as the villain, its decisions must be based on and must be consistent with provincial policy and regulations. And while I am not suggesting that OMB decisions are always right, this fact should not be missed.

And here is where the provincial government has a responsibility and where MPPs have a role and that is to ensure the legislative and regulatory framework for community planning is sufficiently clear so that appeals to the OMB are minimized and that when a matter is referred to the OMB, provincial policy provides clear direction for decision-making.

One recent example of provincial legislation that has taken the guess work out of development appli-

cations is the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act which I was proud to champion.

Although we could not stop development that had been approved prior to the implementation of this act, more than 470,000 acres of land - much of it in York Region - are now permanently protected from development.

And there has not been a single appeal to the OMB to develop lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine since this legislation was passed.

The solution to responsible community planning is a clear policy framework that sets out the conditions on which development applications will be considered. These conditions must not only include the environmental protections, but must also extend to the infrastructure necessary to ensure quality of life.

Frank Klees, MPP
Aurora



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Historian hopes bell finds a home

To the editor,

I certainly hope that bell (Poor Richard, Auroran, August 21) finds a good home.

However, I have doubts that it is the bell from "The Toronto", the locomotive that hauled the first train to Aurora in 1853. "The Toronto" was scrapped in 1881 (see Toronto Railway

Historical Society website at www.trha.ca/thetoronto.html) and I suspect that a 30-year-old bell was not of much interest at the time.

It is possible, of course, that the bell alone was saved, either because some far-sighted person saw its special interest or just to be used on another engine.

The plaque by the bell at the library just says "this steam engine bell."

In a memo written in 1997, Don Hamilton (who was secretary of the Aurora Board of Trade in the early fifties) gave an account of the board's attempt to get a steam locomotive from CNR, which was scrapping all its steam engines

at the time.

As Poor Richard indicated in his column, the cost of maintaining an engine was just too high: Don gave the figure of \$2,000 a year, which had to be guaranteed ahead of time.

A bell was acquired, instead, and Don regretted that he had not found out the number of the engine from which it came.

I had wondered in the past what the bell was doing between the early 1950s, say, and 1963 when it was mounted outside the new library and dedicated.

The column explains that!

"The Toronto" bell or not, I personally agree that a location by the station would be ideal.

Jacqueline Stuart
Research Volunteer
Aurora Historical Society

Legion is prepared for another candlelight vigil

To the editor,

I have been watching the "Coming Events" page of The Auroran expecting to find the information for the Candlelight Vigil by the Aurora Legion to honour all our veterans. However, to date, there has been no mention of this remembrance ceremony.

Or, with the passing of Jack DeGraff, will the Legion no longer be holding the vigil?

I believe this has been taking place for approximately five years and normally held in

early September.

It would be nice to know the exact date so we could set it aside to attend.

If there was more publicity for this event maybe there would be a better turnout of the public.

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

(Mrs.) Barb Cordell
Aurora

Ed. Note: According to the September, 2007, Legion calendar, the Candlelight Vigil will be held Saturday,

Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Aurora Cemetery, followed by a drumhead service the next day at 2 p.m., also at the cemetery. Following that, the Aurora Legion will host an Open House at the branch on Industrial Parkway North. The 15th also marks the beginning of Legion Week.

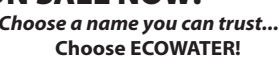
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Students serving as councillors dreamed up Citizen of the Year

Ever wonder where the idea for Aurora's Citizen of the Year came from?

High school students, that's where.

In October, 1969, Aurora Council became involved with Grade 10 students of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and their teacher R.K. Smith.

He talked council members into participating in a student council in order that they could gain some knowledge of local government.

With the assistance of town staff, the students held a civic election in exactly the same manner as a municipal election.

Nominations closed October 27 and after a short campaign with posters and election speeches the election was called the following week.

In addition to electing a mayor and eight councillors the students appointed department heads and other non-elected positions, such as police chief, fire chief and town clerk.

Back then, Aurora had its own police and fire depart-

ments.

Aurora councillors supported the project and invited members of the student council to sit with their counterparts during a real council meeting to gain first hand knowledge of council and parliamentary procedure.

Fifteen-year-old Steve Ostick was elected student mayor.

Other elected students included Reeve Sharon Brown, and Councillors Ted Cousins, Susan Dawson, Trish Hutchins, Alan Pekola, Kim Wilson and David van Nostrand.

Non-elected students included Town Clerk Linda Devins, Chief of Police Charmaine Benson, Fire Chief Dana Banke, Works Superintendent Miriam Falkanger, Solicitor Bill van Koot, Treasurer Dawn Hubbard, Recreation Director Larry Preston, Engineer Brian McCulloch and Building Inspector Rod Lacey.

On November 3 and 17, 1969, the student council members and appointed officials sat next to their coun-

terparts at regular town council meetings and on November 10 at a committee meeting.

Then on November 25 it was Student Council Day in Aurora, when the students took over the governance of the town for a day.

Elected and non-elected students spent the whole day visiting many parts of the town's operations and becoming familiar with the duties of the various positions, procedures, etc.

The youth council, along with their senior partners, were guests of the Aurora Lions Club at a dinner held to honour the youth council.

Student council Mayor Steve Ostick was guest speaker. He spoke about the project and told the thoughts of some of the student council members for the betterment of the town.

In the evening they were sworn into office by the town clerk and held their own council meeting in the school's auditorium with several students, staff, proud parents and Aurora council members in attendance.

They prepared their own agenda based on many of the issues they had observed at the town council meetings and it was amazing the amount of knowledge they had acquired about the town in such a short time and the highly professional manner in which the meeting was carried out.

One of the motions put forward by the student council was to appoint a Citizen of the Year.

The town council was quick to adopt the idea and Bob Blick became Aurora's First Citizen of the Year in 1970.

It was hoped the student council would become an annual project because it was considered to be as much benefit to town council-

lors as it was to the students.

Unfortunately, R.K. Smith was transferred to another school and another teacher could not be found to pick up the challenge, so the student council died after one year of operation.

Although Aurora only had one student council, it will be long remembered as the originator of Aurora's Citizen of the Year.

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Wednesday, Aug. 29: N/S - Ross Jenkinson and Wally Browne; Don and Lena Jackson; Hans Jacob and Linda Lord. E/W - Paul Graves and Paul Macfarlane; Gerald Heath and Deanne Dennison; Barb and Thomas Zmach.

Thursday, Aug. 30: Doris Vanderveen and Geri Adam; Marg Burt and Rosemary Nichols; Barb and Thomas Zmach

Friday, Aug. 31: N/S - Don Jackson and Catherine Balant; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Shirley Hulbig & Paul Graves. E/W - Gerald Heath and Marg Farmer; Ross Jenkinson and Izhar Haque; Paul Stanbury & Deanne Dennison.

Aurora Seniors

North-South: Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Carole Bell and Isobel Garrett; Cathy Reynolds and Bill Reynolds. East-West: Gloria Smith and Marcella Lawless; Irene Stone and Lucille Sequeira; Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel.

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- SEA COURSE**
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 - Pan Seared Ancho Chili Crusted Jumbo Sea Scallop, Risotto and Chipotle 22.00
- GRILLED COURSE**
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Dinner Menu

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- Romaine Salad \$10 - Double smoked bacon, parmesan crisp, herb crostini, and creamy garlic dressing
- Mixed Greens \$ 9 - Balsamic honey vinaigrette, oven dried tomato, cucumber
- Arrugula Salad \$12 - Bresoala, cabrales cheese, roasted pear, sherry vinaigrette
- Dungeness Crab Cakes \$12 - Frisee salad, green onion aioli
- Grilled Calamari \$10 - Beurre noisette, capers, tomato, lemon, basil, garlic
- Mussels Normandy \$10 - Mushrooms, bacon, calvados, cream, frites
- Salmon Tartare \$13 - Wrapped in smoked salmon, cucumber gazpacho, dill caper crème fraiche
- Braised Pork Belly \$14 - Cassoulet of white beans with chorizo sausage
- Crostini \$10 - Grilled ciabatta with prosciutto, fig, mint, drizzled with olive oil and aged balsamic

Pasta

- Cesariccia \$16 - Spicy lamb ragout, ricotta salata
- Ravioli \$22 - Lobster, leeks, mushroom, vanilla butter sauce
- Linguine \$17 - Fine olive oil, roasted garlic, chili, and shrimp

Entreés

- Mixed Grill of Fish (changes daily- market price)
- Artichoke, yellow grape tomato, piquillo pepper salad, and salsa verde
- Organic Grain Fed Chicken Breast \$26
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- Duck 2 Ways \$28 - Duck leg confit, gratin potatoes, french beans, and pan seared duck breast with peaches
- Halibut Saltimbocca \$26 - Artichoke forked potatoes, balsamic cipollini and garlic rapini
- Paella \$32 - Jumbo shrimp, diver scallops, mussels, chorizo, saffron rice, spicy tomato broth
- Monkfish Osso Bucco \$25 - Black olive polenta, swiss chard, gremolata
- Red Snapper \$22 - Beluga lentils, ratatouille
- Scottish Organic Cod \$25 - Mushroom, tomato & spinach ragout, black olive vinaigrette
- 12oz Delmonico Rib Steak \$34 - Horseradish mashed potatoes, heirloom carrots, Madagascar peppercorn sauce
- 12 oz bone in Veal Chop \$36 - Stuffed with lobster, spinach and leek, grainy mustard sauce, grilled potatoes, eggplant caponata
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Aurora Select Bantam Jays eliminate Hawks

It was a true upset last weekend as the Aurora Select Bantam Jays defeated the first-place Newmarket Hawks in round two of York Simcoe playoff action. After an injury-riddled regular season, the Jays found themselves in fourth place overall, facing a strong Bolton team in the semifinals. They defeated Bolton in three games to advance to the finals against the top-ranked Newmarket team, whom they had never beaten in the regular season. The Jays, now fully healthy for the first time all summer, came to the first game in Newmarket prepared to give their rivals a

challenge but stormy weather forced officials to call the game incomplete after two innings, with the Jays holding a surprising 1-0 lead. The teams began from scratch the following morning back in Newmarket, where the Jays continued to shock their opponents by racking up seven runs in the second inning thanks to doubles from Cody Wessler and Billy Fergusson, and singles from James Harkin and Hugh Turtle. Pitcher Mike Machin held the Hawks to only one run in four innings and earned the 13-1 win. Energized by their victory, the Jays hosted a second stunning match-up the next

day. The game promised to be a high scoring one early on as Newmarket led off the first inning with three runs, and the Jays answered with four of their own. However, excellent pitching from Jays Hugh Turtle and Charles Torma and a spectacular centre field catch by Cody Wessler kept the Newmarket offence in check. Turtle, Torma and Wessler then proved to be invaluable offensive players, each cranking out a home run. The final score was 13-6. "It was a total team effort," said Coach Hugh Murray. "Everyone from top to bottom contributed to the win today." The Aurora Select Jays represented the York Simcoe

Baseball Association in the Select Ontario Baseball Association (SOBA) championship tournament hosted by Richmond Hill over the Labour Day weekend.


Results of the tournament were not available at press time.

Former NHL stars at 2nd Yonge battle

You'll see former National Hockey League stars like Mike Gartner, Wes Jarvis and Stewart Gavin. And you'll see a rematch of a game held this time last year between the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes as the second annual "Battle of Yonge Street" is hosted by Belinda Stronach, Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora. It all happens Sunday afternoon, September 9, at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket. This year's fundraiser will feature two hockey games. The first, the NHL Alumni against a Newmarket Hurricanes alumni team, begins at 1.15 p.m. That will be followed by the feature game involving local rivals the Newmarket Hurricanes and Aurora Tigers. Tigers are the 2007 Canadian Junior "A" national champions. Proceeds from the event will go the Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Last year's inaugural raised more than \$23,000 for the centre. "We aim to continue the momentum generated by last year's successful event and turn this into a great community tradition," said Ms Stronach. "Thanks to residents from Newmarket and Aurora, we were able to raise much needed funding for the Cancer Centre at Southlake. This year,

we're going to expand the hockey entertainment, bring in some former NHL stars, and try to raise even more money for our local hospital." The Ray Twinney Complex is at 100 Eagle Street in Newmarket. Festivities begin at noon with a tailgate barbecue in front of the complex. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at The Auroran, the Ray Twinney Complex, the Aurora and Newmarket town halls, and at Belinda's Constituency Office, located at 14996 Yonge Street in Aurora. For more information, call the Constituency office at 905-727-8874.

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Should public know if councillors have good attendance records?

In the life of nearly every council since salary increases for members of council became the norm or a municipal election is looming, there has often been a request for an attendance record to be made public.

In 1994, Councillor Peter Healy, seeking a record of attendance at council meetings, said council had the potential to lose its effectiveness if all representatives did not participate to the full extent of their obligations.

Later, he suggested staff members compile attendance information throughout the course of each year.

He suggested that as staff prepares an annual summary of the activities of council and its standing committees, attendance be incorporated into the document as a way of making the information available to those who want it.

Councillor Norm Weller pointed out that once attendance records had been maintained, but the practice was discontinued as it took a considerable amount of staff time.

Others asked about vacation time and special committees such as the Santa Claus Parade, and July First. Finally the issue was referred to council in committee on a 4-3 vote.

After further discussion, Councillor Healy withdrew his motion.

Then in 1986, council received a report on salaries for councillors prepared by a citizens' committee. The committee recommended a hefty salary increase with a penalty clause that would be imposed on councillors who missed more than five meetings during the year.

The increase for the mayor was from \$10,375 to

\$19,400 in 1985 increasing to \$21,400 in 1987 and councillors from \$5,000 to \$9,700 in 1985 increasing to \$10,700 in 1987.

The committee also recommended that a deduction of \$50 be made from the base salary of all council members for missed council or committee meetings over five meetings a year unless excused by a resolution of council.

Councillors accepted the increase but balked at the proposed penalty clause on the basis they were elected and were not town employees.

As a compromise, it was agreed the attendance report would be tried for a six-month period and under the enacting bylaw a set amount would be deducted for missed council and committee meetings.

The bylaw was never implemented.

In 2005, although not listed on the agenda a report had been prepared which listed the attendance of council members. The report was not made public or released to the media.

Councillor Bill Hogg said the report had been prepared by Mayor Tim Jones and it was incorrect.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested minutes of the meeting should include in addition to members of council being shown as present or absent, but record the time of arrival for councillors arriving late or the time of departure if leaving the meeting early.

No discussion took place, nor was any decision made.

In presenting a motion later, Councillor John West sought support that in addition to members being recorded as present or

absent, the minutes of the meeting record the arrival and departure times of members of council.

A debate occurred as Councillor Nigel Kean called the proposal a witch hunt as some members of council had to work for a living. With Councillor Hogg absent two motions were lost on a 4-4 vote and council was back to square one.

Last year, the issue was raised again at a meeting when Councillor Buck requested the subject of attendance records be included on the agenda.

Her motion suggested it was appropriate for a record of attendance for council, public planning and committee meetings to become part of the public record prior to the November election.

Councillor Kean noted that maintenance of attendance records had been previously discussed and it was very time consuming for staff and questioned the timing of the motion.

He noted that being a councillor was not considered a full-time job.

Councillor Phyllis Morris pointed out that members of council attended other meetings, representing the town other than the meetings listed in the motion. Councillor Buck replied that she made the request on behalf of the public and had no improper motive.

When the issue was put to a vote it was defeated with Mayor Jones and Councillor Buck supporting it.

That has been the history of debates on attendance records for members of council over the years, but as in the past, the issue can and no doubt will be raised again in the future.



Aurora's Melissa Spence won the women's 1 division of the Canadian National Barefoot Water Ski Championships held recently in Edmonton, Alberta. Barefoot water skiers from across Canada competed. Melissa skied a personal best in the slalom event with a score of 2.9 and in the tricks event had a fall on her second pass but had scored enough points to capture the win. The win capped off a

strong season for in Quebec. She placed Melissa, who won her second at the Provincial division at the Eastern Championships held in Newmarket.

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	10 Pin Seniors League	(Starts Sep 4th)	1:00 pm
Wednesday	5 Pin Mixed League	(Starts Sep 5th)	7:00 pm
Friday	10 Pin Senior League	(Starts Sep 7th)	1:00 pm
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Touring the Town of Aurora in 1976

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

Starting off on North Yonge Street in June, 1976, the Checkerboard Chicken processing plant located at Yonge Street and Old Yonge Street was in full operation.

The plant employed 125 people and processed 40,000 chickens per day.

Thirty-two tons of flake ice was made daily for chilling and preserving the poultry.

Trucks were loaded at night and the product delivered to stores before it was a day old.

The plant was closed around 1990 and was later developed as a residential area so it went from chickens to condos.

At the height of the plant's operations, the Aurora Jaycees proclaimed Aurora to be the "Chicken Capital of Canada".

A large rooster was emblazoned on the backs of their club jackets.

Old Yonge Street present-

ed a lovely rural setting with trees and green fields.

The road was a little bumpy, but motorists drove slowly to enjoy the sense of being in the country, while being close to a town and a major highway.

Driving north on Old Yonge Street past the Timothy Eaton estate, of the Eaton story family, you could see a model railway around the grounds.

When he moved to England, he took his railway with him. His estate is now the site of the Tara Hill subdivision.

Farther north was the Red House Studio of Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure on the west side and the Toronto Emergency Measures Building with its Operations Room on the east side.

The Red House Studio is now Oakland Hall restaurant with entrance from Yonge Street and the former EMO building is a residence set back from the street flanked by two modern residences.

Travelling east on the St.

John's Sideroad, it was normal to slow down and enjoy the view of the McKenzie Marsh and the wildlife which was abundant at that time.

Families used to park on the sides of the roadway to watch the wildfowl in summer and skate on the ice in the winter.

Now with the roadway widened to four lanes with barriers built along both sides, so there is no room to park, although the town paid for a boardwalk and lookouts on the north side to see the marsh.

Many of the trees lining the roadway have disappeared due to the ravages of Dutch Elm disease and the streetscape was a little bare.

There wasn't much development or traffic on the St. John's Sideroad at the time. It was a lovely rural road with lots of bumps so motorists drove slowly and enjoyed the scenery.

The sightlines at the intersection of the St. John's Sideroad and the Second

Concession of Whitchurch, now Bayview Avenue, left a lot to be desired and the condition of the Second Concession was worse. Now it is paved.

Just north of Wellington Street on the Schmidt property, there was a railway caboose in the backyard.

That land is currently being developed.

South of Wellington Street the Second Concession or Bayview Avenue was just as bad as north of Wellington. But having to drive slowly, it was possible to see cattle in the fields.

The topography was quite hilly south of Wellington.

Crossing over the Vandorf Sideroad it was even more beautiful, spoiled only by the York Sanitation Landfill on the east side but there were lots of trees and trilliums on the west side.

A turn off the Second leads into Hunter's Woods, a new estate type residential development north of the CFRB

Sideroad, now Bloomington Road, with large homes surrounded by trees.

The area was just south of the former Toronto and York Hunt Club with hunters in their red jackets and the hounds and is now Beacon Hall.

Travelling east on the CFRB Sideroad it was disturbing to see garbage dumped along both sides of the roadway by inconsiderate citizens who had no appreciation of the beauty of the countryside.

Turning north on the Third Concession, now Leslie Street, it was possible to enjoy the very rural area with farms and cattle.

The roadway was just as bad as the Second until north of the Vandorf Sideroad, with its poor sightlines, where the road was hard surfaced.

North of Wellington Street the Third reverted to a bumpy rural road but the countryside was beautiful.

From a high point about midway between Wellington and the St. John's Sideroad looking to the west it was possible to see most of Aurora nestled in the valley.

Then a left turn along the St. John's Sideroad and a return to beautiful downtown Aurora which concluded a short tour of the town in 1976.

History repeats itself as TA celebrates 50th

With the opening of "Charley's Aunt", the first subscription production of Theatre's Aurora 50th anniversary season, history is repeating itself in many ways.

The first production was in 1974 and it was historic as it was the first production in the Factory Theatre or, as it was then called, the South End Community Centre.

Prior to that, the building was a cement factory, situated out in the bush, not far from Salamander Pond, on what was then the Vandorf Sideroad, but today is Henderson

Avenue.

The first production was a gala affair with a wine and cheese party to celebrate the opening in the new theatre.

Don Wilson played the role of Colonel Stephen Spettigue in the 1974 production and will be returning for the current production.

Wilson is an original member of the Aurora Drama Society, the predecessor to Theatre Aurora which is another historic landmark.

In the story, Jack Chesney loves Kitty Verdun and Charles

Wykeham loves Miss Spettigue.

They invite the ladies to meet Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil.

At the last minute the millionaire aunt sends word that she will have to defer her visit for a few days.

As they couldn't disappoint their dear ladies, they forced another Oxford undergraduate into a black satin skirt, a lace fichu, a pair of mitts and old fashioned cap and wig and the fun begins.

"Charley's Aunt" opens at the Factory Theatre September 14 and continues September 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 with evening performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday mati-

nees at 2 p.m.

Call the Factory Theatre box office at 905-727-3669 for further information.

Aurora Skating Club Test Day results

The following Aurora Skating Club members were successful in their Test completions recently:

DANCE

Willow: Monica Churchill, Erin Forster, Taylor Piotrowski.

14 Step: MacKenzie Maunder.

European: Kailee O'Connor, Shauna O'Connor.

American: Samantha Duncan.

Paso: Julia Chiovitti.

Blues: Amber Cioffe.

Westminster: Ariel Kwan.

Argentine: Hailey Riggs.

SKILLS

Jr. Bronze: Matthew Warner.

Sr. Bronze: Alessia Chiovitti.

Jr. Silver: Julia Chiovitti.

FREESKATE

Preliminary Part 1: Kailee O'Connor, Molly Oulahan, Savannah Hendy.

Preliminary Part 2: Mathew Warner, Mackenzie Maunder.

Jr. Bronze Part 1: Amber Cioffe.

Sr. Bronze Part 1: Katie Sutton.

Sr. Bronze Part 2: Ariel Kwan.

ARTISTIC

Gold - Allie Sutton.

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Long-time sponsorship paid off for Ab Cox last week after he received a plaque commemorating 20 years as a sponsor of a team in the Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League. Taking part in the ceremony were, left to right, Ken White; Tracey Cox, general manager of Ab Cox Motors; Ab Cox, and 20-year veteran of the league, Rod Bowie.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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Square issue lingers on

From page 1
council was unable to reach agreement.

Finally in July, 2006, it was agreed staff members should investigate and report back on alternate parking solutions such as metered or timed parking, initiation of a parking study in the downtown core area, and negotiations with Trinity Anglican Church regarding a parking agreement.

Later, staffers said that to carry out a parking study of the downtown core would cost about \$30,000.

As no funds had been allocated in the 2006 budget, direction was requested as to whether to use contingency funds for an immediate start or whether the issue should be discussed at 2007 budget deliberations.

It was finally agreed to refer the issue to a general committee meeting when more information was available.

At the general committee meeting the same report was resubmitted with the request that council provide direction as to whether they wished to use contingency funds for the immediate start of the work or discuss the issue during 2007 budget

deliberations.

With the decision made by council not to demolish the former library or seniors' centre, council agreed a solution must be found.

In September, 2006, after further discussion it was decided by a 4-2 vote to proceed with the parking study of the library and downtown area with a \$30,000 limit using contingency fund money.

In April, 2007, the consultant reported there was a total of 1,200 on and off-street parking spots in the study area including 77 spaces at the library, 238 in municipal parking lots, 463 in private parking lots and 422 on-street parking spaces.

It was pointed out there were 142 to 168 vacant on-street parking spaces within two blocks of the library during the period the peak demand at the library occurs.

It was suggested that more effective use of available on-street parking, especially on Yonge Street could be made by increasing the parking limit from one to two hours and by providing more prominent signs for motorists.

Although the consultant's figures were chal-

lenged by some members of council, on a 5-4 vote, council agreed to extend the parking limit on Yonge Street to two hours, the parking spaces be marked and better signage be provided as recommended by the consultant.

Due to the challenge by members of council, the consultant and town staff carried out a further survey and confirmed the results of the original study, which was received by council without comment.

While the former seniors' centre, once a fire hall, has been rented to a social agency on a temporary basis and some use is being made of the former library, it is primarily empty and council still has to make a decision as to the future of the library square facilities.



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Frank Klees, MPP

Toward Inclusive Education

No issue has stirred more emotion than John Tory's proposal for an inclusive public education system. And no issue has been more misrepresented by those who oppose it.

The proposal is straightforward, fair and responsible. Bring the 53,000 students who are now attending independent faith-based schools into the public education system, where every school is required to comply with provincial standards for what they teach, teachers are required to meet provincial credentials and every student is measured by the same province-wide, standardized tests for academic achievement.

To bring all Ontario students under the same system with the same public scrutiny and accountability, simply makes good sense.

The current situation can no longer be justified. Six provinces and territories (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and NWT) have recognized the unfairness and potential risk of having a fragmented education system. The United Nations Human Rights Committee ruled in 1995 and again in 2005 that Ontario's policy of including Catholic schools while excluding other

faith-based schools from the public system is "discriminatory and a violation of binding international law". Not only is it unfair, it is also not in the best interest of our society. The best thing we can do to ensure cohesion and avoid polarization is to have all schools functioning within the same system.

And I agree with John Tory that the creation of an inclusive public education system, with transparent and public accountability for all schools in the province, is worth the additional investment and should be seen as an investment in our future. The fact that the parents of these children all contribute equally to the public education system through their taxes adds to the fairness factor of the issue.

Given these facts, is this proposed policy really the threat it's characterized to be, or is it in fact a policy of inclusion as John Tory sees it? I am confident that as people come to understand the facts of this issue and the intent and ultimate outcome of this proposal, they will recognize the leadership John Tory is demonstrating by taking a principled stand on this issue.

As always, I welcome your comments and views on this or any other issues of importance to you. Please visit my website at www.frankklees.com or call me personally at 416 509 8999.



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Senior Scope

By BRIAN WARBURTON



Friday night dances return Sept. 7

Mature seniors are somewhat diminished by age; we tend to be selective in what we choose to do, less boisterous in behaviour, gentler and kinder to each other, more sharing and equally able to enjoy good times.

Age is a factor when you join the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA); afterwards you are as old as you appear to others, and as old as you feel to yourself which is commonly about 10 years younger than the calendar indicates.

One of the great ways to feel young is to be a regular at the Friday night dances which start Sept. 7 and 21, with Charles Sequeira as the master of ceremonies and the driving force for Friday night dancing.

They are held in the West-McKenzie hall from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m., are very moderately priced and include refreshments and door prizes.

Music is a passion of Charles Sequeira and his wife Lucille, and they are constantly alert to acquire any music that would further enhance what is already in their fine library of recordings.

Charles is the President of the ASA and deeply involved in many aspects of ASA administration.

His conviction that no substitute exists for good times is profound.

Perhaps this explains his constant attendance and involvement in activities at the ASA and encouragement to everybody qualified by age to become a participating member of the ASA.

Charles is active in the computer club, plays pickle ball and table tennis, carpet bowling and enjoys snooker occasionally and whatever else he has time for.

A variety of card games including bid euchre, bridge, and canasta are

staples at the ASA; they are well attended and many members have played for years. Cribbage and poker are played also, although gambling is not allowed.

A proven activity in need of more players is scrabble; played Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Carpet bowling was added in the last 12 months to the games played and room exists for more players.

The same applies to pickle ball which is similar to tennis played indoors, and is physically more active than carpet bowling.

You need to take your turn to play these games but, they are well recommended judging by the number of members who wish to play, and a way to extend playing time can always be found.

Seniors are best served by a daily routine, which is absent labour while surrounded by family and friends on the one hand, and by the variety and excellence of activities offered by the ASA.

Such an environment serves for companionship, ornament, delight, amusement, great satisfaction and often gratifying achievement and it is little wonder that the members return year after year and build up long standing relationships.

The ASA serves to bring together members who would not even be aware of each other, to engage in the friendly competition of games and sports and in

this way, builds a sense of community, good feeling, self esteem and camaraderie.

The words sound too good to be true but as is so often the case, the best things in life cost so little

and may be enjoyed regularly and in generous helpings.

If you have retired, or are a senior and still working, we would be delighted to welcome you to the ASA.



Popular Aurora resident Cliff Davies was the guest of honour last week as the Aurora Legion, on Industrial Parkway North, held a party to celebrate his 80th birthday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Pedalling 6,600 kilometres to nowhere

It was in October, 1982, when John Cheeseman, a member of the Aurora Highlands Fitness Centre, finished bicycling 6,600 kilometres across Canada and he never left Aurora.

For several months, he sat atop a Monarch exercise bike in an attempt to pedal 6,600 kilometres, the distance across Canada.

He did it for no other reason than to keep fit at age 51.

The only thing that kept him going was the encouragement of fellow exercisers, Bill MacWilliam and Tony Wolf and staff members, as he said pedaling the bicycle was the most boring thing in the world.

He calculated it took 170 revolutions of the wheel to go one kilometre, which meant his cross-Canada odyssey needed 977,415 revolutions.

He was soon up to 50 kilometres a day, then 100 and one day he pedalled a total of 201 kilometres.

He added that the main difference between riding a 10-speed bike on the road and an exercise bike is that you can't coast on the exercise bike.

AURORA LEADS THE WAY

Aurora has been the leader in many community events, but, in this case, Aurora led the way in the GTA with the highest development charges.

In August, 2005, the developers told Premier Dalton McGuinty that development charges imposed by municipalities represented eight to 10 per cent of the price of an average \$275,000 new home.

When PST, GST, land transfer tax, planning approvals fee, building permit and other charges are added in, the government imposed-share of a typical new home increased to 16 to 20 percent or about \$44,000 to \$55,000 on the purchase price.

It was pointed out that the highest development charge in the GTA was in Aurora where a builder had to pay \$26,398 plus the price of a building permit for every single-detached home permit built.

With Aurora leading the way, the other municipalities in the top five included Vaughan, King City, Richmond Hill and Brampton.

JUST WONDERING

In January, 2004, Aurora resident Joe Volpe addressed the council to request assistance in facilitating the building of a Habitat for Humanity home in Aurora.

His presentation was received and staff was directed to identify any property that may be suitable for a Habitat for Humanity project and report back to council at a future date.

In October, 2005, council was advised that the issue had been referred to the Legal Department for action but was mistakenly placed on the pending list as a Leisure Services responsibility.

A staff discussion with the legal department took place and it was reported that discussions were underway between the Town Solicitor and the CAO and a report would be submitted to council at a future date.

As no report has ever been received, we're just wondering what was meant by a future date and how far away in the future the report may be?

DON'T FORGET THE OLIVER GALLERY

At age 77 after selling his heating and refrigeration business in 1973, T. H. Oliver revived an old interest in photography and became the photo archivist for the Aurora and District Historical Society, of which he was a founding member.

In recognition of his work with the Society, the board of directors set up the T. Howard Oliver Memorial Fund to be used to promote interest in local history.

It was also suggested by Dr. John McIntyre that the fund could be possibly used to create a gallery in memory of Mr. Oliver when the Society got new quarters, which was when they first moved into the Church Street School.

Now that the old school is being renovated to become the Aurora Heritage Centre, what better time to resurrect the concept of the Oliver Gallery and make it a reality?

NOW YOU KNOW

Just in case you have forgotten or maybe you never knew, August 1, 1834, which is known as Emancipation Day, was when the British Parliament put a complete end to slavery in the British dominions.

The anti-slavery movement was led by the great abolitionist and MP William Wilberforce, but he died

one month before Parliament put an end to slavery.

John Graves Simcoe, Ontario's first Lieutenant Governor, was deeply inspired by his words and example and in 1793 when the first provincial Parliament assembled at Newark, Simcoe ensured that the first bill on the Order Paper attacked the institution of slavery in Upper Canada.

Thanks to Oak Ridges MPP and Aurora resident Frank Klees we were reminded of the 200th anniversary of Emancipation Day and the Abolition of the Slave Trade bill passed by the British Parliament in 1807.

He noted that by commemorating the 200th anniversary an historic milestone in the ongoing struggle against racism and racial discrimination was marked.

DATES TO REMEMBER

It was in 1891 when Aurora electors voted 57-2 for William Mulock's Reform Platform in the federal election.

Both Mr. Mulock and his opponent, Mr. Pegg, were in town for the official counting of the ballots.

In 1916 car owners expressed concern about the steady and rapid rise in the cost of fuel. Sound familiar?

The Ladies of Aurora raised funds for the purchase of two field kitchens for the 127th Battalion serving in Europe.

In 1949, the Great Lakes cruise ship "Noronic" burned in Toronto harbour with a loss of 139 lives.

Orchestra leader Al Linton was one of the last to leave the burning ship.



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- died September 3, 2005. I haven't forgotten, hell, I'll never forget. Neither will your "boys" at the Aurora Fire Department and the Aurora Rotary Club, nor all the friends you made while being Area Manager with Welcome Wagon. You are sorely missed.

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~ Ron Wallace
Rosemary Schumaker
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Sparks Senior Kindergarten to Grade 2
T & T Grades 3 to 6
Trek Grades 7 to 9
Northern Lights Public School
40 Bridgenorth Drive, Aurora
Mondays 6:30-8:15 p.m.
Begins September 10
a programme of Faith Fellowship meeting Sunday mornings at 56 Victoria St., Aurora
for information or to register
www.faith-baptist-aurora.org
905-392-5919

FREE Garage Sale Map
Free to Aurora residents
Many thanks to Sean Herbinson for sponsoring our Garage/Lawn Sales again this year.
Call The Auroran at 905-727-7128 to put your garage sale on the map.
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SATURDAY SEPT 8TH
Map showing location of garage sale at 56 Victoria St. (Aurora) and 1) McClellan Way 8 - 1, 2) 56 Whispering Pines Trail 8.30

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Couples and Singles Welcome
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Site: www.SteveMillerDance.ca
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