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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Parade will happen, Aurora Council says

"Woo hoo," Sher St. Kitts said to her sub-committee Thursday night.

She was reacting to Aurora Council approving the recommendations from the Leisure Services Advisory Committee (LSAC) that Canada Day activities in Aurora will include a parade.

Council, a few days earlier, had received the LSAC report that recommended the parade be reinstated July First, and a

dance in the park, slated for the evening of June 30, return to the Town Park, where it had been held for many years.

For the last two years, the dance was held at Lambert Willson park, but was not as well attended as when it was held in the Town Park.

Last year, for the first time since Canada Day activities began in Aurora in 1969, the parade was cancelled when officials said they couldn't find

enough volunteers to run it.

That made Snowball resident St. Kitts furious and she began a campaign to reinstate the parade into this year's activities.

As a result, the Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee (CDPSC) was formed, and nine members were appointed to it.

The sub-committee must submit minutes of its meetings to LSAC. It plans to meet every Thursday night until July 1st.

With council's approval, the parade will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, at the intersection of Yonge and Orchard Heights Blvd., and proceed south to Murray Drive.

First order of business for St. Kitts and her sub-committee is to work with the Aurora Rotary Club who have agreed to be the major sponsor of a kick-off parade party scheduled to be held at the Aurora Legion, Friday, April 4, beginning at 6 p.m.

The event is slated to raise money to offset costs of the parade and to encourage businesses and citizen groups to get excited about being part of the parade.

"We're gonna have a party," she said, "and it will be a good one."

Local corporations will be given first opportunity to grab one of the 19 tables available the night of the event. Each table can seat eight people.

Several have already been sold.

Among other things, purchasers will be fed, partake in a silent auction and dance to the music of George St. Kitts.

Once the party ends, the sub-committee will continue to concentrate on putting together the Canada Day parade.

Internal bleeding slows 91-year-old Illingworth

They rushed Aurora's Dick Illingworth to hospital last week and, for a while, it didn't look good.

The 91-year-old media mogul, it was believed, had suffered a heart attack, but things settled down when it was learned he was suffering from internal bleeding, caused, it was believed, by an earlier operation.

Friday to make sure there were no heart problems, doctors at the Southlake Regional Health Centre

outfitted the former Aurora mayor with a pacemaker but by Sunday, they still couldn't determine the source of the internal bleeding.

Dick's political career is legend around the Aurora area.

He entered politics in 1963 when he won a seat on the then public school board.

After a term of that, he ran for Aurora Council in 1965, was elected twice, and then won the mayor's chair in 1969.

He was re-elected in 1971, and acclaimed in 1973.

A conflict of interest with his Queen's Park job forced him to quit being mayor, but after he retired from the province, he ran again in 1982.

After serving another term as mayor, he was defeated in 1985.

However, at that point, he turned his interest to the media, started Aurora Cable's longest show on any cable channel "Our Town", and did work for several area newspapers and radio stations.

Currently, Dick is a reporter for The Auroran, having been with the newspaper since it was founded in 2000.



DICK ILLINGWORTH



Michael Ignatieff, left, MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore and currently deputy leader of the Liberal Opposition, was special guest at a fundraiser for Liberal Newmarket-Aurora candidate Tim Jones, right, in Aurora last week. Also attending the event was Christina Bisanz, unsuccessful Liberal candidate in a provincial election held late last year. Even though a federal election has yet to be called, local candidates are getting ready for it. In the inset, Progressive Conservative candidate Lois Brown recently entertained Stockwell Day, federal Minister of Public Safety, at an Aurora gathering.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

No to golf course

Citing unanswered questions, and heeding concerns raised by residents and environmental groups, Aurora Council has confirmed its opposition to a controversial golf course and condo-

minium complex proposed for environmentally sensitive lands in the southeast part of town.

The 85-hectare property located on either side of Leslie Street

Please see page 9

Children's author highlight at hunt

The Aurora Girl Guides and the Town of Aurora will once again play host to one of the largest Easter Egg hunts in York Region.

On Saturday, March 22, the seventh annual hunt will take place.

Added this year will be a children's author, Jackie Jones, who will do live story telling at 9:15 a.m. for the morning hunt and again at 12:15 p.m. for the afternoon hunt.

Hidden in the two hunts will be more than 14,000 eggs.

The first will start at 10 a.m. outside in the trail system, with crafts and face painting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. inside the Leisure Complex.

The second hunt starts at 1 p.m. with crafts and face painting for an hour beginning at noon.

Cost is \$4 per person. Pre-register at the Leisure Complex or pay on arrival.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.e-aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762 for the latest details and schedule.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Second Friday, students in Grade 5 to 8 can gather at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information call 905-841-8883 or email jonathanturtle@gmail.com

Continuing until April 15 from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Winter parking restrictions will be in effect.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's open to all parents, grandparents and caregivers. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympati-co.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

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 at the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

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

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street at 7:30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7:30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. under the direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize. For more information, call 905-841-9706.

Tots (age 0-4 years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11a.m. at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Join David Tomlinson and other members of the Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee for the third annual Birdbox Build. Bring a hammer and help put together prefabricated birdboxes for placement around town. Takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Canada Revenue Agency, hosts no-cost income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. 6.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Also March 25.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

A hands-on workshop to learn how to use the Aurora Public Library's electronic research resources will be held at 6.45 p.m. at the library. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or phone 905-727-9493. Seating is limited.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion. This is a special Good Friday clinic. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Canada Revenue Agency, hosts no-cost income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. 6.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Start of an eight-week Bereavement Support Group session at Aurora United Church for adults suffering the loss of a loved one. Meetings start at 7 p.m. There is no fee for this program. For more information and registration, call Mary Smith at 905-727-6984.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

First ever kick-off Canada Day Parade party. Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. For further information, call 905-841-6489. Evening features the music of George St. Kitts, a silent auction and door prizes.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

The Cancer Killers team of Aurora citizens will hold a casino night at the Aurora Legion to help raise funds for their entry into The Ride to Conquer Cancer in June.

Aurora Skating Club 2008 Ice Show "Hooray for Hollywood" at the Aurora Community Centre at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. will feature Canadian Men's National Champion Patrick Chan. For further information, call 289-221-3774.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Birdbox Placement: Place birdboxes around town. Meet at the Seniors' Centre parking lot, 5 Municipal Dr. at 10 a.m. No registration necessary.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" at the Cineplex Odeon Aurora Cinemas, 15460 Bayview Avenue. Tickets, at \$10, will be available March 4 at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. Doors open at 6.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Second installment of interim tax payment due.

APRIL 25-26

Aurora United Church annual Spring Rummage Sale takes place at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler, on Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Anti-litter Day in Aurora: Begins at 10 a.m. followed by a barbecue for participants at noon in the Town Park. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214, or through infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

Great Curbside Giveaway in Aurora: Take unwanted items to the curb today for others to scavenge. Then go troll for things you might need. To keep Aurora attractive remove leftovers by 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Tree planting in Lions Park between 9 a.m. and noon by students from George Street and Aurora Senior Public Schools.

MONDAY, MAY 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Band's Visit" at the Cineplex Odeon Aurora Cinemas, 15460 Bayview Avenue. Tickets, at \$10, will be available April 15 at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. Doors open at 6.15 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 6 & 7

Canadian Cancer Society 2008 Relay for Life at Lambert Willson Park and the Leisure Complex. Call 905-830-0447 for further information and to register a team.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

The return of the July First parade. If you would like to enter a float, or simply be in the parade, call Sher St. Kitts at 905-841-6489 or 905-841-6893. Parade starts at 10 a.m.



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Have your say about pesticides

Following the example set by a number of neighbouring municipalities, Aurora is considering a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides on private property. Similar restrictions have

already been approved in Newmarket, Georgina and Markham. The city of Vaughan is currently looking at adopting its own policy. The bylaw being pro-

posed by Aurora, which notes the potential negative health and environmental effects of pesticides, would allow for some exceptions, such as for termite control, and to address extreme

infestations. Golf courses, and most town-owned properties, such as parks and playing fields, would also be exempt. Public input is being sought in the development

of the bylaw. An information/consultation forum was conducted in early March, and another will be held at Town Hall Thursday, Mar. 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Comments may also be provided through an on-line survey. The survey, as well as a copy of the draft bylaw, is available on the town's website at www.e-aurora.ca.

Moon Garden gets Eat Smart award...again

For the second year in a row, Aurora's Moon Garden restaurant has been recognized with a coveted Eat Smart award. The Eat Smart program recognizes restaurants and food establishments that offer a variety of healthier food choices on the menu or by request, and have exceptional standards in food safety, including kitchen staff certified in safe food handling.

An additional requirement this year was that the establishments must provide a 100 per cent smoke free environment. To be recognized, facilities with excellent food safety records are first nominated by York Region Public Health inspectors. Once nominated, each establishment undergoes a rigorous review to

ensure that it meets the high Eat Smart standards. Restaurants are not the only locations that are considered in this program, which is offered by York Region through the Health Services Department. The 91 Eat Smart Award recipients this year

in York Region also included coffee shops, fruit markets, grocery stores, workplaces, and school cafeterias. Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris presented Tom Woo of Moon Garden with the award at last week's council meeting.

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Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday, March 3: N/S - Steve London and Tom McPherson; Bill and Bonnie Scheel; Jodie Bagan and Ed Smereka. E/W - Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel; Noreen Hasha and Marion Warburton; Gloria Smith and Rose White.

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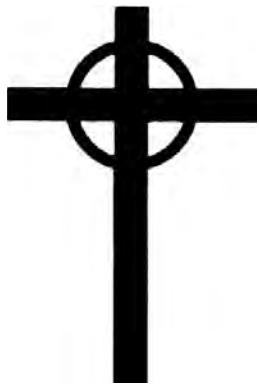
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10:30 a.m.

MARCH 20: Maundy Thursday
"...as I have loved you."
7:30 p.m.

MARCH 21: Good Friday
The cross in our world
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Poor Richard

Remembering the little things

*Did you ever stop to wonder
About incidents of the past?
Little things bring them to mind
With memories that last.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

When I was a kid it seemed that almost every man could whistle as he went about his daily chores.

It was a happy sound and even if things were starting to go wrong, the happy sounds of a whistler made things right.

When was the last time you heard a man walking down the street whistling a happy tune? I can't recall the last time, it was so long ago.

My dad was an excellent whistler and he did it most of the time, but once in a while it gave him away.

He made rather a potent home brew in the basement and when he went to the basement for a "wee nibble" he had to stop whistling.

A local night stop of the past was the Black Soil Supper Club on the third floor of a building in a little plaza in Bradford.

In March, 1982, the featured attraction was Dr. Ray and his Show Band with his tall, blonde willowy Claire and not-so-tall brunette, voluptuous Louise.

About the same time Ron Wallace and I initiated the Sunday Brunch Jazz Club at Hotel Aurora.

In addition to a sumptuous buffet there was live entertainment.

We were the only two members of the Jazz Club, although other patrons enjoyed the brunch.

About the same time the Hotel had a piano bar with Pat Watson and other female entertainers weekend evenings and often the jazz club moved there whenever time permitted.

York Region also had a Press Club with two members, the late Bill Praeger of the King Weekly and I as the only regular members. Occasionally Brian Dexter of the Toronto Star joined us.

The meetings were held every second week at East Side Mario's on Yonge Street in Newmarket, opposite the regional building following the regional council meeting, where we dissected what went on at the meeting.

A recent news item about a bank robbery in Toronto and the capture of the 16-year-old bank robber by an off-duty police officer brought back memories of a similar bank robbery about 40 years ago.

It was just after World War II and I was a travelling salesman with the Imperial Cone Company, part of the Weston conglomerate with head offices in London, Ontario.

I had parked in a parking lot near Toronto City Hall to call on several clients in the downtown area including the offices of Eaton's, Simpson's, Kreskie's and Woolworth's.

Just as I passed by the bank at the southwest corner of Queen and Bay Streets, opposite the old City Hall I heard a muffled shot and glancing in the door I saw the staff with their hands up in the air with a man waving a shotgun and another man lying on the floor.

It was the days before cell phones, and I still don't have one, so I rushed to the restaurant next door and over the objections of the cashier grabbed the phone and dialed Operator, telling her I wanted the police and it was an emergency,

When the police operator came on the line I tried to explain that a robbery and shooting was in progress and I was transferred to Police Dispatch and told my story.

I was told to report to a police officer when they arrived in case I might be needed as a witness.

As I left the restaurant to return to the scene, the robber was leaving the bank, gun in hand. He hijacked a green panel truck and headed south on Bay Street.

By this time the sound of sirens filled the air as police cruisers from all directions converged on the area.

I did as I was told and reported to an officer who appeared to be in charge and told him what I had seen including the hijacking of the green panel truck and was told to stand by.

A few minutes later, he told me the robber had been caught in a traffic accident. I was never called as a witness but the news story brought back vivid memories and other memories of more pleasant experiences.



Now that Aurora has approved the return of the Canada Day parade July First, perhaps the Town might consider entering a float like this one, that won first prize in the town's Centennial parade in 1963. Pretty, eh? The good ship "Aurora" was created by members of the IOOF and was mounted on a small car. The float featured a turning paddle wheel at the rear.

Letter to the Editor

Degrading diaper comments demand resignation: reader

To the editor,

I can't believe this week I have had discussions about one of Ontario's elected MPPs who is also Minister of Health suggesting that he wear a diaper for eight hours to see what all the fuss is about in our nursing homes.

I am ashamed to acknowledge that I live in a province that elected someone who has so little compassion, let alone knowledge, about those who reside in our nursing homes.

The diaper scenario can be likened to putting a "bandage on a brain tumour".

It just masks a much larger problem.

If George Smitherman has ever stood in line at intermission at a theatre (the women's washroom is always very long, I don't know about the mens' room) and really had to go, jumping from one foot to another he might have some idea what that feeling is like.

Thenacerbate the situation by being told to just go in your pants because there is no one to take you to the toilet right now.

Combine this with some nursing home policies that this diaper must be 75 per

cent full before changing.

How humiliating and degrading!

Mr. Smitherman, nursing home residents are at the mercy of, albeit understaffed, caregivers and I am sure that they don't appreciate you discussing the evolution of incontinence products rather than solving the real problems at these institutions.

I believe that MPP Frank Klees said it best..."Given his (George Smitherman) trivializing and mocking of the conditions many of our seniors are forced to live with, I believe he has lost the confidence and respect of not only his stakeholders in Long Term Care, but indeed throughout the healthcare community.

"Rather than stepping up and taking his responsibility seriously, he mocked the shameful state of many of our most vulnerable seniors whose basic needs are left unattended for hours, by saying he would wear the latest adult diapers himself to prove that sitting in them unchanged for hours is really quite acceptable. "Well, I say to Mr. Smitherman, that may be acceptable in your Ontario.

"It is not in the Ontario

these seniors helped to build, and it is unacceptable for them, for their families and for the caregivers who know what should be done, but don't have the resources to provide an adequate level of care.

"I call on Mr. Smitherman to step aside, and if he does not have the strength of character to resign, the Premier should demand it."

**Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges**

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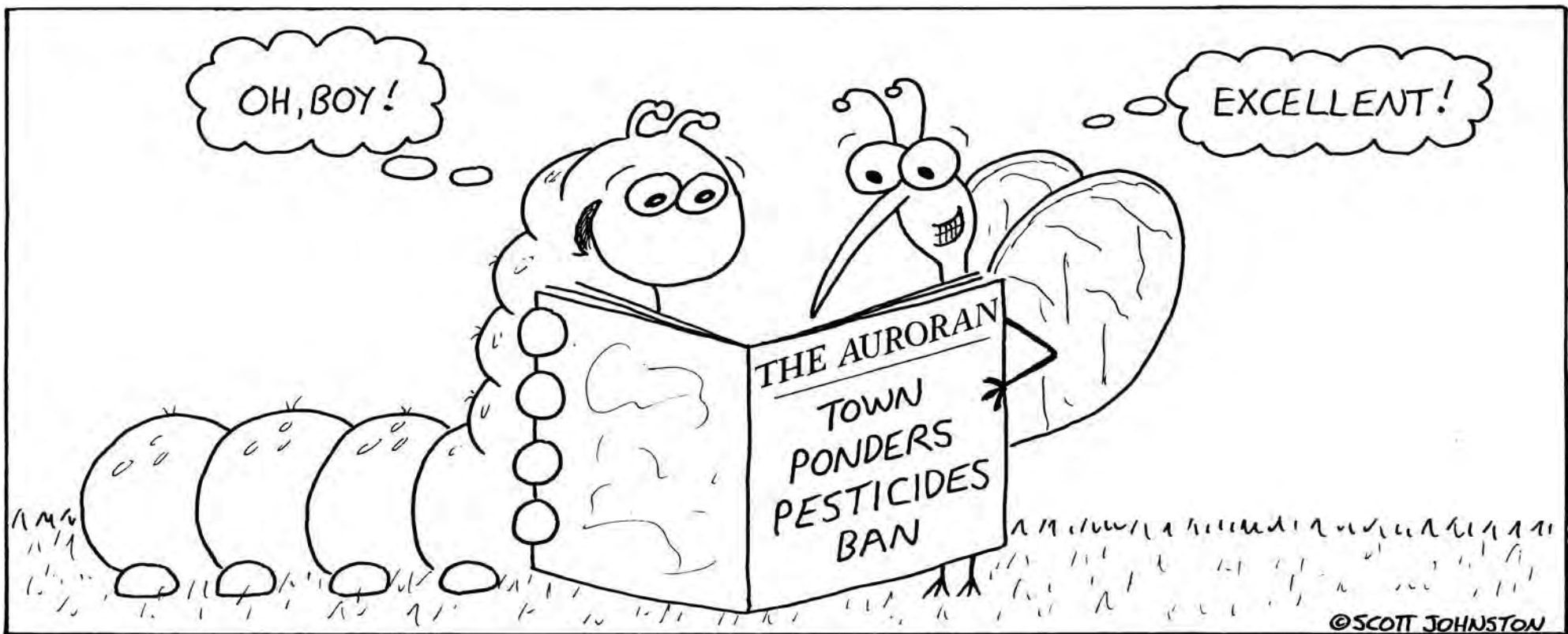
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Northern York Region

Last week I wrote about attending an Aurora Town Council meeting in person for the first time.

I had been in the building many times for various federal and provincial all-candidates' campaign events, but I had never darkened the chamber doors for a Council Meeting.

I wanted to show up that particular night for two reasons; to get an idea of what an actual council meeting was like, and a specific item of interest to me was up for discussion.

I was disappointed and astonished that very few interested citizens took in the festivities.

Kind of sad really; your community is what you make it.

The other reason was that council was going to discuss readers' favourite topic, after the Town Budget, that is - yes sir, wait for it - energy matters!

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the agency responsible for ensuring an adequate and reliable supply of power in the province, has worked with community leaders to address the energy security needs of Northern York Region over the last two years.

Based upon their work, the OPA want to see placed in service by the end of 2011 a natural gas fired peaking generation facility of approximately 350 MW in size. Only one facility will be built.

One of the items on the council agenda that night was a discussion on whether or not Aurora wanted to be a potential home to this generation and if so, what type of conditions would they place on any potential power development.

I declare here that while I am employed in the energy business, the company that I work for has no pecuniary interest in developing a power project in the Northern York Region, but we are inter-

ested in the process, as this may impact some of the other things we are looking to do in the province.

Listening to the quite good deputation that night made by Aurora citizen Ian Munro and the subsequent over one-hour question and answer session that followed, I was left with two thoughts.

First, council knows this is a very important issue and is giving it the full scrutiny that it needs and, second, they are collectively having a hard time getting their heads around the process, the technical and financial implications surrounding the various issues.

Councillors are also having trouble deciding the best way they can ensure the wishes of the Aurora citizens are known and protected during the process.

A couple of points:

The other towns near us, including Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and King are all facing the same decision regarding having a potential generation within their respective communities and from what I have heard some of the councils have hired outside consultants to assist them in their deliberations. Our council should attempt to get copies of these reports. No use re-inventing the wheel if you don't have to.

Putting aside all the technical and financial considerations for a moment, I recommend that councillors again review the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) document.

The RFQ has now been publicly released.

Interested developers have until March 28 to submit to the OPA a completed form that outlines the general terms of the project, the development maturity of the project, the previous development and construction experience of the developer and the financial

worthiness of said developers.

Council had deferred a decision on whether to support the community accepting a project or not.

I do not know if any developers have expressed an interest in placing a potential plant in Aurora; this will be made public sometime in late April when the OPA short-lists the developers down to a manageable few.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued later this summer with final submissions sometime in the fall.

Aurora can have its say by writing to the OPA and letting them know what the community's concerns are so that these might form part of the technical criteria considerations that will be part of the RFP document.

Council can also (if they have not already done so) meet with the respective developers to get a better understanding of the project.

It is expected that a power project proponent then will be chosen some time near the end of the year.

Many power generation developers have spent a considerable amount of time and money in Northern York Region - on planning, engineering and environmental reports, on various consultants and lawyers and either signing options or purchasing land for their respective project - and they all know that only one project will be chosen.

They also understand that the project that best meets the technical and financial value criteria will win.

Just as it should be.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Hug a tree...and see

Have you ever hugged a tree?

Last fall, I went away on a weekend retreat with my husband.

There were many workshops being held at the beautiful facility located in "Middle of Nowhere, USA". At lunch one day, we happened to sit at the same table as one of the presenters.

"So, what is the topic of your presentation?" asked Damir, making polite conversation.

"Trees," answered our new acquaintance. "I'm a Tree Whisperer."

"I see..." said my husband hesitantly, his soup spoon hovering in the air as if he wasn't quite sure what to do with the spoon given this new information.

"Do you talk to them? Or do they, uh...talk to you?" asked Damir as I leaned in for the answer.

"Both," said the Tree Whisperer.

I leaned back abruptly hoping no one would notice that I was choking on my baby greens.

"And...what do they...say?" My husband clearly shared my digestive difficulties!

"They tell me how they feel," said the man. The spoon suddenly fell to the table with a clatter, as did my husband's jaw...as did mine.

"Take that Catalpa over there," continued the Tree Whisperer with a soft smile, "Five years ago it was dying and no one could figure out why, so they called me in. The tree was suffering from geopathic stress, likely due

to its proximity to these buildings. We corrected the energies with minerals and rocks and addressed the nutritional imbalance. It's been thriving ever since!"

By the time we finished our lunch, we had been presented with a new concept of trees as sentient beings that have that ability to communicate with one another and other species.

I pondered this with a little curiosity and a lot of incredulity as Damir and I walked back to our cabin. Then I remembered something I had been told by a tree farmer when I was out shopping for trees for our backyard a few years earlier.

"You know," I said to my husband, "the idea of tree consciousness may not be as crazy as it sounds."

"How is that?" he asked.

The tree farmer had described an amazing phenomenon.

"Whenever there is an attack on a row of trees - a disease or an infestation," he said, "we see the first few trees take the worst of it. Then, we notice that the trees farther down don't seem to get it as bad - most of them recover. Then, towards the end of the row, the trees have developed their own immunity - they remain untouched."

With growing fascination, I asked: "Why do you suppose that happens?"

"When trees are attacked," he said, "they send out a signal to warn the others. They communicate such specific information about the threat as to allow the others

to begin to build immunity to protect themselves from the approaching attack. The trees in the middle don't have as much time to prepare as the trees farther down. This is why we see some vulnerability in them but virtually none in those closer to the end."

I started looking at trees in a different way after the tree farmer shared this, and hearing from the Tree Whisperer opened my heart to an even deeper understanding and appreciation for trees.

A few weeks later, Damir and I took our big dog, Jake, for a leisurely walk on the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail behind Town Hall in Aurora. After a short hike, we came upon one of the most magnificent trees I have ever seen.

It is a huge, stately tree of impressive age and unmistakable presence. As I stood in awe looking at this tree, I felt an overwhelming urge...to hug it.

As I wrapped my body around it and pressed my face to its bark, I realized that it would take several people to surround this enormous creature in an embrace, and I stood small and humble in the greatness of its being.

"I am not just a piece of wood," it whispered. "I am the wonder of creation, for I was once a tiny seed."

I have been hugging trees ever since...and I highly recommend it.

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
ccaaurora@rogers.com



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Community Planner Michael Seaman for his knowledge of heritage issues and to the Heritage Advisory Committee and willing citizens for saving much of Aurora's heritage and in arranging the ceremony to recognize some Aurora citizens for their interest in protecting heritage properties.

BRICKBATS to Warton Willie for predicting that the winter was almost over and there would be an early spring, resulting in one of the worst winters in history that goes on and on. Willie should lose his predicting licence.

BOUQUETS to young Avery Worrall of Aurora for having 11 inches of her hair cut at Aurora's Yellow Orange Salon and Spa recently and donating the hair to Angel Hair for Kids, part of "A Child's Voice Foundation". She also raised \$300 to go along with the donation of her hair.

BRICKBATS to cash-strapped Toronto Council for shelling out \$12,500 of taxpayers' money to dress up the exterior of the House of Lancaster, a west-end strip joint, under the city's façade improvement program. They can't find money for many things, but it's available for a strip club. It boggles the mind!

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers Peewee "A" Team on their recent win of the Silver Stick Hockey Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan, the first time in 23 years an Aurora Team has brought home the trophy. **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Council for recognizing the team and their coaches at a council meeting with the presentation of certificates.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Golden Eagles Senior Girls Volleyball Team on winning the York Region Athletic Association Championship for the second straight year. The Association champions are seeded fifth for the provincial high school championships.

BRICKBATS to federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty for forgetting the hard-pressed municipalities in his recent budget by not including funds for transit and infrastructure, and while the gas tax provides some, it is nowhere near enough and property taxpayers will have to pick up the difference.

BOUQUETS to the Ontario Ministry of Education for appointing a provincial advisor to investigate trustee expenses at the Toronto Catholic School Board after the revelation of spending abuses. Hopefully the report will be made public and serve as a message to other public officials feeding at the public trough.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Human Rights Commission for saying it was too busy to look into complaints that elderly nursing home patients were being left in urine-soaked diapers.

BRICKBATS to Health Minister George Smitherman for his stupid comments about wearing adult diapers in sympathy with the nursing home seniors making a mockery of their plight. He should resign!

BOUQUETS to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for finally cracking down on GTA driving schools for infractions including the sale course completion certificates to students who skipped training. The Ministry has revoked 30 licences since December but would it have happened if Auditor General Jim McCarter hadn't blown the whistle?

BRICKBATS to former RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli for lashing out at the government for what he claims is a growing gap between the demands on police and the resources allotted to them. This from the man who paid a communications expert \$25,000 to prepare him in the Mahar Arar Inquiry and spent \$11,000 for a pair of hand-made riding boots.

BOUQUETS to the Newmarket Detachment of the RCMP for hosting the annual RCMP Ontario Division hockey tournament at the Magna Centre and raising more than \$10,000 for the Regional Cancer Clinic at Southlake Regional Health Centre and the RCMP slain peace officer fund.

Letter to the Editor

Check your smoke alarms now: chief

To the editor,

With the shocking rash of fatal fires that have occurred in Ontario this winter, I am appealing to every resident of Aurora to drop what they are doing and test every smoke alarm in the house.

Right now.

If you don't have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, put your coat on, go out and buy some and install them as soon as you get home.

If ever there was a time to take immediate action for this safety of your family, this is it.

Tragedies such as these are the reason the fire service takes smoke alarms so seriously and I cannot overstate their importance.

The law requires one on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, but that is just the minimum.

The more smoke alarms you have, the sooner you are alerted to fire and the greater your chances of surviving.

For added protection, install smoke alarms inside every bedroom.

You may also want to consider investing in interconnected smoke alarms.

This may seem a bit extreme, but, if a fire were to occur in your home in the middle of the night and you had no way to reach your children through the wall of smoke and fire, no number of smoke alarms would seem too many.

And don't forget to take a few minutes to plan and practise a home fire escape system with your family.

When the smoke alarm sounds, everyone must know what to do.

It is so sad that it takes the senseless deaths of children to make people take notice, but you're listening now.

So please, don't think about it - just do it.

It's such a small cost and effort for a huge investment in your family's safety.

John Molineaux
Fire Chief
Central York
Fire Services



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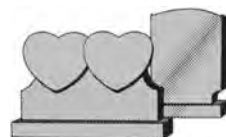
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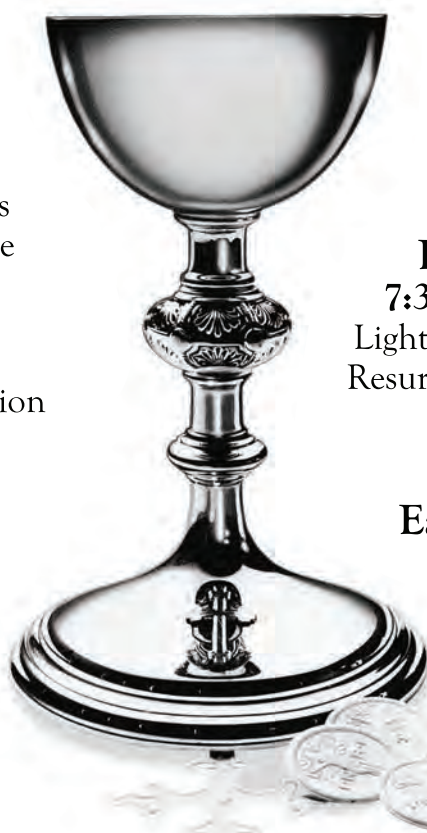
**Holy Week,
March 16-22**

Palm Sunday
8 am Blessing of the Palms
9:15 & 11 am Palms and the Passion

Tuesday
7:30 pm ACW Communion

Wednesday
10:30 am Eucharist
7:30 pm Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm
Celebrating the Last Supper



Good Friday
10 am Solemn Liturgy
Children's program and nursery care available.
12 pm Private confession

Easter Vigil
7:30 pm Choral Eucharist
Lighting of the New Fire.
Resurrection Party follows.

Easter Joy Continues!
Sunday, March 30
8 am Holy Eucharist
9:15 & 11 am
Sung Eucharist.
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Unplugged

Easter Sunday, March 23

6 am Sunrise Holy Eucharist, followed by breakfast.
8 am Holy Eucharist
9:15 & 11 am Sung Eucharist
Bring a bell and ring in the Resurrection!
An Easter egg hunt will follow each service.

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Here's what International Women's Day is all about

To the editor,

I read Ms. Vrancic's utopian idealization of womanhood, "Amazing Women", with disbelief (The Auroran, Feb. 26).

This "cult of womanhood" is a holdover from middle-class Victorianism.

The ideal woman portrayed in the article should be self-effacing, always putting others before herself.

Even her own creativity is not as important as her ability to inspire others' creativity.

And, of course, her husband's dreams should come before her own.

This kind of ideology is familiar to all of us and is a recipe for women's oppression - and not the subject of International Women's Day celebrations.

International Women's Day is not a Hallmark Card

opportunity but was begun in the early 1900s - largely by socialist women - in response to atrocious working conditions in factories and textile mills in the U.S., England, Germany and Russia.

One hundred and forty women died in a fire in New York, locked in a sweat shop textile factory where they worked long hours under inhuman conditions for little pay.

The fire spawned widespread strikes by women for better pay and working conditions and, along with events in other parts of the world, was the beginning of a movement.

This is what International Women's Day "is all about" - fighting for women's rights, not as the article suggests, wanting and needing love, appreciation and support so that "she can be a role

model". There is still a need for strong role models, perhaps even more need as globalization rolls over workers all over the world.

We hold up strong women who can fight to make their own living and stand up to exploitation as they carve out a place of dignity for themselves and other women in the workplace.

These women are my idea of role models - women who are mature, self-actualized human beings who make a contribution to the world, not infantile cheerleaders of others' dreams who are dependent on pleasing others.

IWD is about women recognizing their exploitation - not valorizing it - and causing trouble in protest as they strive toward justice.

The idealization of women as self-effacing, pas-

sive carers is detrimental to women.

Women have real lives and real needs. Very few have the "June Cleaver" life described in the article.

No, there is still much to be done to alleviate suffering in the lives of women. Pay equity, the double day of duty, (un)availability of child care, exploitation in the workplace (especially nannies and home workers), poverty (especially for sole parents - usually women), domestic violence, and control of their bodies through access to birth control and abortion, are just a few of the still-relevant issues of inequity that concern women.

According to Statistics Canada, women in Canada make up almost half of the workforce, yet they earn only 70 per cent of men's wages for full-time work and there is still no affordable child-care.

They are burdened by a double day of duty as they still do the largest part of child care and house work even when they are in rela-

tionships with men and work full time for pay.

Sole parents are in even more difficult situations contending with a very high rate of poverty as they try to earn enough to support their children while living up to the ideal of the woman who "never seems to run out of precisely what is needed".

Perhaps sole parents, immigrant women or impoverished women workers might feel that they "never seem to have enough of precisely what is needed".

All of this makes women vulnerable to domestic violence, which is still a major problem in our society.

The article recommends an IWD event by "Enterprising Women".

I don't know what this is, but it sure doesn't sound like an event that would welcome exploited workers like cleaning women, immigrant women, hotel workers, or factory workers.

There is still a need for a women's movement.

But we need one that will make a real difference in the world, not one that will reinscribe women's oppression under an ideology of passive womanhood.

Viola Winstanley
Aurora

Did anyone get money from ACI, reader wonders

To the editor,

I just read Graham Batchelor's letter concerning Aurora Cable Internet (Auroran, letters to the editor, Feb. 26).

He wants to know what will happen to cablephone.

In the garbage, I hope.

Besides having constant clicks and calls not coming through to my answering

service, I was charged twice in one month - hidden charges for paperwork and one-time hookup they don't tell you about.

I joined from the ad in The Auroran "connect both internet and cablephone" which I did "and receive 100.00 dollars" (staff confirmed this at the time).

I didn't receive it. Did anyone?

Now staff is ignorant of the offer. Do I have the ad, staff asked. Shame on you.

Look in The Auroran Dec. 11 and 18 or you could have watched Channel 10 anytime in December.

I totally agree with the anonymous writer: "good riddance, ACI".

Irene Kubica
Aurora

Town seems to spend money it doesn't have

To the editor,

At a time when I read that major corporations are cutting staff to become more profitable or at least get into a positive situation by saving money, it amazes me that Aurora continues to hire staff.

As far as I know, the Town of Aurora is not in great financial shape yet they continue to increase spending like drunken sailors.

An ad recently was sent out looking for an assistant

Tim Jones' loyalties questioned

To the editor,

Re: Tim Jones letter, The Auroran, March 4

He supported Belinda and others as Conservatives, and then Belinda became a Liberal and they were still best friends!

Explain, Tim.

Carl Barrett
Aurora

to special events and sponsorship.

This job pays up to \$50,000 per year.

The total cost to residents is much more than the \$50,000 when you take into account the additional costs of employee benefits.

Add this to the new position of councillors' secretary, at probably the same cost, plus other recent hires.

You wonder if this was a private company with shareholders to answer to would these new hires been added or would existing staff have to pick up the slack?

At times, I think that there is no accountability at the Town Hall.

How many more hires are there going to be before a proper external review is

done to determine if there is a necessity for more staff.

Let's determine if the town can do with the existing staff.

I ask anyone on council to request this review.

Now, with the town's financial woes, is the time for such a review.

Now is the time to place a freeze on all hiring.

I ask that the council sets an example by trying to cut costs.

At the same time, I question how much the town pays part time staff when another ad looking for a part time receptionist advertises up to \$16.60 an hour.

Let's get this done now before it is too late.

Nigel Kean
Aurora



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Council rejects golf course, subdivision

From page 1
just north of Bloomington Sideroad would potentially be the home of 248 residents and an 18-hole golf course.

At issue is the land's location on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Although the Oak Ridges Moraine Act restricts development on the moraine, the application for this project was submitted prior to the Act's passing in 2001.

If approved, it could be grandfathered in under the old legislation.

This issue was brought before council in January.

At that time, council passed a resolution stating that the application was premature, and that it be considered only after a detailed list of 16 issues had been addressed.

The proposal was back before council Tuesday.

Before council discussed it, they listened to a number of delegations on the subject.

Michael McQuaid, representing Westhill Redevelopment Company Limited, noted that three quarters of a million dollars had been spent so far on consultants on this project, and he felt that all of the technical requirements had been addressed.

He asked council to authorize town staff to

attend the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing as expert witnesses, and to not oppose the planning application.

Developer Joe Lebovic also spoke in favour of the development, and noted his long and positive relationship with the town. He assured council he would meet any preconditions that the town may set on this project.

However, these arguments were met with a great deal of opposition from the other delegations in attendance.

The main issue echoed by all groups centred on water availability and quality, since all of the properties in the proposed development would be serviced by well water.

Although a number of technical studies had been conducted, it was argued that there were still many outstanding questions, especially about potential contamination from an old landfill site adjacent to the property.

Debbe Day Crandall from the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition noted the property's proximity to the landfill, and the potential negative impact on well water.

She reminded council it had "an obligation to move forward in a cautionary way".

Josh Kohler of Earthroots argued that the town did not need another golf course, as there were already 17 courses within an eight-kilometer radius of the proposed development.

Rodney Northey, a lawyer representing neighbouring residents, also questioned whether the studies had satisfactorily answered all the outstanding questions, and said many uncertainties and inconsistencies remained.

One of these was whether the amount of groundwater that the new users would eventually require would be too much to allow the aquifer to adequately recharge.

He pointed out that there were already a number of other pressures on this aquifer, from which Aurora

obtains most of its water.

He urged council not only to oppose the application at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), but to support a joint review by both the OMB and the Environmental Review Tribunal.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern also expressed concern that not all the issues previously identified by council in January had been fully explored. She proposed the motion to support the development be denied.

Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that municipalities were compelled to follow the Planning Act, and that continuing to oppose the application could result in additional costs to the taxpayers of Aurora.

While she understood

the neighbouring residents' concerns, she pointed out that the landfill had been closed and monitored for 30 years, and no groundwater contamination problems had been identified.

Mayor Phyllis Morris said she had received a number of e-mails opposing this issue, many of which were added to the agenda.

Urging a cautionary

approach, she said that nothing prevented council from being more strict in its review of this proposal.

After continued discussion, it was clear the majority of councillors were not convinced all of the issues had been addressed to their satisfaction.

This was reflected in the final vote of 7-1 to deny the proposal.

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Tigers, Stouffville deadlocked at one

Be care what you wish for...you might just get it.

The Provincial Junior A hockey league's fourth-place finishing Stouffville Spirit put the first-place Huntsville Otters out of the playoffs last week to set up a final North Division series against the Aurora Tigers.

The victory (Stouffville achieved it in Huntsville) gave Aurora two things: opening game on friendly Tiger turf, and a series that could be viewed by fans of both teams since games would be played only 10 miles apart.

So, it came as a surprise to the hosts Friday, when Stouffville marched into the Aurora Community Centre and, taking advantage of a lack-lustre Tiger team, stole a 3-1 victory.

Given that turn-about is fair play, Aurora then marched over to Stouffville

Sunday afternoon and handed the Spirit a 4-1 setback.

Third game in the series was played Tuesday night in Aurora, but results were not available at press time.

Since the series must go at least five games, Aurora will have a chance to see the Tigers again Friday night in a game that begins at the ACC at 7.30 p.m.

At stake is the north division title of the league; a trophy the Tigers need to win if they plan to capture the National RBC Cup which they have won twice in the last four years.

Aurora would also like to play in the annual Dudley Hewitt Cup, this year being held in Newmarket.

Friday, however, the Spirit proved the hungrier squad in Aurora, and like many games before were able to win the game to go ahead in a series nobody expects

them to win.

A bad first period was Aurora's downfall, after they fell behind by two goals early and were not able to mount a comeback.

Aurora got within one, but an empty net goal by Stouffville sealed the victory for the visitors.

The only scoring for the Tigers came via a powerplay compliments of Captain Mark Thorburn late in the game, with Mike McLaughlin and Matt Thompson picking up the lone assists on the night.

Aaron Barton continued to provide back stop services between the pipes for Aurora but suffered the loss.

Tiger coach Jerome Dupont was not amused by his club's performance, noting they can't win games if they don't play for the full 60 minutes.

It must have worked,

because it was all Aurora Sunday afternoon in Stouffville, even though the Spirit struck first after both teams battle through a scoreless first period.

Aurora responded with four unanswered goals, including a short-handed marker into an empty net by Jordan Watts with only 12 seconds remaining in regulation time.

For Watts, it was his second marker of the afternoon.

"It was a better effort (than Friday) but only a game in a series and everyone to a man knows they can be better," said Coach Dupont following the game.

Aurora goaltender Aaron Barton stopped 32 of 33 shots to pick up the win in game two after dropping the decision two days before in the opener.

Aurora Sunday was led by the smallest Tiger of all, David Morley, who set up two goals and was a force all afternoon playing in all situations.

Game Four will be played in Stouffville Thursday night beginning at 7.30 before the clubs return to Aurora Friday evening.

STOUFFVILLE 3
AURORA 1

First Period

S: Darren Archibald (Seymour, Trivino) 1.23
 S: James McIntosh (Werek, Gubb) PP 8.38

Second Period

No scoring

Third Period

A: Mark Thorburn (Thomson, McLaughlin) PP 13.21
 S: Mark Sullivan (McIntosh, Kokelj) EN 19.44

AURORA 4
STOUFFVILLE 1

First Period

No scoring

Second Period

S: Craig McDowell (Fulton, Gubb) 2.52
 A: Paul Dupont (McLaughlin, Mayea) 11.07
 A: Jordan Watts (Novak) PP 14.34

Third Period

A: Matt Thomson (Morley, Smith) 8.29
 A: Jordan Watts (unassisted) SH EN19.48

Novices eliminate TNT

Aurora's Novice AA Tigers finally put the TNT Tornados out of their misery Thursday courtesy of a 4-3 victory and now await the final round of playoffs against the Caledon Hawks.

It took Aurora six games to win the round, but only because of a tie in one of the games.

Philip Wolanski led the way for the winners with a pair of markers, while singles went to Morgan Frost and Brady Futterer.

However, the game didn't start well.

A tentative start by the Tigers allowed the Tornados to jump on a rebound early and take a one-goal lead.

However, three minutes after the Tornado goal, Morgan Frost led a breakout drawing two defenders to the right side of the net.

Spotting an open Philip Wolanski, Frost passed and Wolanski evened the score.

With the balance of the first period being played in the Tornado end, Brady Sarazin was called upon to make an outstanding save to keep the score even.

Wolanski added his sec-

ond of the game in the second frame to give Aurora a 2-1 lead.

With the Tigers killing a penalty, the puck was controlled by Ben Langlois, getting the puck out of the Tiger's end sending it forward to Jack Liotta. Liotta found his penalty killing partner, Frost, who skated hard into the Tornados end and quickly made the score 3-1.

TNT fought hard and the fine defensive play of Andrew Sergejewich, Anthony Issaris, Graydon Belgue and Devlin Kauffeldt kept the Tornados off the scoreboard.

But the regular season champs would not go quietly and with a good effort in the Tiger end TNT narrowed the lead to one goal.

With the end of the second period nearing, and the Tigers on the power play, Dimitri Mikrogiannakis kept the puck in at the TNT blue line.

Dumping the puck deep, Thomas Wilson moved the puck around and found Brady Futterer on the left boards. Futterer took a

pass from Thomas Wilson to restore Aurora's two-goal lead.

However, midway through the period, TNT narrowed the gap to one goal.

With time fading fast TNT pulled their goalie for the extra attacker but gained no advantage and the Tigers won the game.

The Novice AA Tigers are now one of only a handful of AMHA teams still vying for an OMHA Championship.

Next opponent will be the Caledon Hawks but the schedule has yet to be set.

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Not everyone in Aurora loves snow. Several signs like this sprang up all over town Sunday following yet another huge dump of snow. Record-breaking amounts of snow have fallen in Aurora this year, and people are starting to tire of it.

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Scribbles on a secret bench

Back in 1986 some Aurora students of the York Region Board of Education had the opportunity of a lifetime. They carved a message into a piece of sculpture and they did it legally.

Lea Vivot, a renowned Kleinburg sculptor, had been working with some students for a year-and-a-half through the Arts and Language Program.

Eleven schools were initially involved in the project and this was later reduced to seven for the final stage of development of the project.

Vivot's project was entitled "Lost Paradise - The Secret Bench" depicting two life size school children sitting on a bench arm in arm.

Vivot invited students to write short poems, phrases or drawings representing their secrets, then selected the best entries to be inscribed by the pupils in the wax sculpture before it was

bronzed. The inscriptions covered the entire bench.

George Street Public School students who inscribed messages included Stephen Donald, Shane Ewart, Robert Ferrari, Jimmy Flood, Natasha Gibbon, Melissa Gibbon, Amanda Hopper, Scott Knowles, Ryan Larway, Matthew Sparrow, Michael Suddard and Melissa Yasui.

Regency Acres Public School pupils with messages on the bench were Jana Douglas, Jenny Metcalfe, Renee Gallant, Sonya Chao, Paula Clark, Stephanie Pollard and Drew Shearman.

In 1987, Vivot and Jean Duran, a visual arts consultant with the board, appeared before trustees seeking a donation of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to help cover the cost of producing the sculpture.

According to Duran the materials cost \$50,000 and the finished sculpture

was worth about \$150,000.

It was pointed out that some inquires had been received from Central Park in New York City causing Aurora Trustee Ron Wallace to comment that the sculpture should stay in Aurora as it would likely get mugged if it went to Central Park.

Trustees expressed the desire to keep the sculpture at the board's Aurora offices and referred the request for a donation to the finance committee.

Early in 1987, trustees agreed to provide a \$10,000 grant towards the project.

Trustees got a shock in May, 1987, when they saw a picture in a Toronto paper of the finished statue being loaded on a truck to be shipped to New York City to adorn the Trump Tower.

Details were scarce, and staff was only able to reply that the statue shipped to New York was

a smaller model of the original. There were a lot of questions but few answers and Vivot was nowhere to be found.

By September, 1987, the secret of the Secret Bench was still a secret.

Trustees were advised that an application for provincial funding had not been fully completed by the artist and the scheduled October 6 unveiling date could not be met.

As a later date was considered to be inappropriate, it was suggested the unveiling be delayed until spring when a proper program could be organized.

It never happened and the location of the Secret Bench is still a secret.

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An Ontario Town
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Elizabeth Milner

It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner and features numerous stories and photos relating to that 20 years of Aurora growth.

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Monday Night Hockey League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	13	44	10	3	59	30
Highland Chev-Cad	9	7	5	92	89	23
Rec Cycle N' Sports	9	7	5	87	93	23
Law Insurance Brokers	7	6	8	74	77	22
Tom & Jerry's	7	7	7	75	72	21
FPL Aggregates	7	8	6	77	80	20
Masterclean Contracting	6	11	4	85	106	16
Baldwin's	4	12	5	76	85	13

WEEKLY SCORES

Law Insurance	3	Highland Chev	7
Rec Sports	1	Tom and Jerry's	4
Priestly Demolition	8	FPL Aggregates	6
Masterclean	4	Baldwin's	3

SCORING LEADERS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts
John Archibault	Highland's	30	19	49
Mark Sedore	Priestly	21	24	45
John Anderson	Rec Sports	25	17	42
Paul Clatney	Law Insurance	22	16	38
John Yaremko	Masterclean	15	23	38
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	11	26	37
Scott Crabb	Highland's	13	21	34
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	21	12	33
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	13	20	33
Jason Muise	Priestly	19	13	32
Mark Swirla	Priestly	16	14	30
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	12	18	30
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	15	13	28
Pat Davies	Priestly	13	14	27
Dave Caverley	FPL	14	12	26
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	9	16	25
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	14	10	24
Steve Robertson	Highland's	8	16	24
Steven McDonald	FPL	7	16	23
Pat O'Mahony	Baldwin's	15	7	22
Ron Van Noort	Rec Sports	7	15	22
Gerald Briand	FPL	11	10	21
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	11	10	21
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	9	12	21
Craig Donaldson	FPL	9	11	20
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	6	14	20
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	15	4	19
Ron Theson	Tom & Jerry's	7	12	19
Les Nip	Rec Sports	6	13	19
Darren Yaremko	Masterclean	6	13	19
Bruce Ing	Highland's	4	14	18
Dean Iwai	FPL	11	7	18
John Leeder	Law Insurance	7	10	17
Mark Lemon	Baldwin's	7	10	17
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	4	13	17
Mike Nisbet	Baldwin's	2	15	17
Vince Rochon	Tom & Jerry's	9	7	16
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	8	8	16
Mike O'Conner	Baldwin's	7	9	16
Ken Rumble	Highland's	5	11	16
Brian McKenzie	Rec Sports	3	13	16
Murray Campbell	Priestly	6	9	15
Peter Briand	FPL	6	8	14
Jerry Mackrell	Priestly	5	9	14
Rob Stroud	Law Insurance	5	9	14
Larry Preston	FPL	3	11	14
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	3	10	13
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	11	13
Dan Smith	Tom & Jerry's	4	9	13
Dwayne Smith	Baldwin's	4	9	13
Sam Speranini	Law Insurance	6	7	13
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	6	7	13
Mike Ing	Priestly	1	12	13
Dennis Giles	FPL	5	7	12
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	5	7	12
Mike Kensit	Rec Sports	5	7	12
Steve Bromley	Baldwin's	4	8	12
Dave McQuestion	FPL	4	8	12
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	10	12
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	11	12
Don Nichols	Masterclean	6	5	11
Phil Podstatsky	Priestly	5	6	11
Brian Horton	Highland's	3	8	11
Kevin O'Keefe	Highland's	5	5	10
Glen Butler	Baldwin's	3	7	10
Wayne Hargrave	Masterclean	3	7	10
Adam Tzark	Baldwin's	3	7	10
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	4	6	10
Mike Caicco	FPL	1	9	10
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	1	9	10
Paul Gibson	Law Insurance	4	5	9
Doug Hackett	FPL	2	7	9
Gord Lee	Priestly	5	4	9
Jody Matthews	Highland's	3	6	9
Steve Riswick	Tom & Jerry's	3	6	9
Chris Neal	Highland's	3	6	9
John Spicer	Priestly	2	7	9
Bill Hanlon	Masterclean	1	8	9
Dave Holden	Rec Sports	2	6	8
Brian McCartney	Law Insurance	4	4	8
Hank Van Bakel	Baldwin's	4	4	8
Dennis Tonello	Tom & Jerry's	3	5	8
Bob Ince	Tom & Jerry's	1	7	8
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	6	1	7
Mark Cherrutti	Law Insurance	3	4	7
John Morning	Masterclean	3	4	7
Bill Collins	Law Insurance	0	7	7
Bobby Leeming	Law Insurance	0	7	7
Doug McGrath	Baldwin's	0	7	7

Skating results

Members of the Aurora Skating Club who attended the March Mania 2008 competition recently in Milton achieved the following results:

Intro A Men's Freeskate - Matthew Rainsford 5th.

Intro A Ladies' Freeskate - Elise Popa (Flt. 3) 6th; Eliana Neophytou (Flt. 5) 4th.

Pre-Prelim A Ladies' Freeskate - Sara Reynolds (Flt. 2) 2nd; Erin Forster (Flt. 3) 2nd.

Prelim A Men's Freeskate - Matthew Warner 2nd.

Junior Bronze Ladies' Freeskate - Tayler Sim (Flt. 4) 4th; Hailey Riggs (Flt. 5) 2nd.

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To make a donation to the silent auction please contact: Sandra Humfries: shumfries@sympatico.ca

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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday, March 9, 2008



Tyke

Team 107 Tim Hortons Sharks 7 - Anthony Magnate 4G, Andrew Jorgensen 1G 1A, Ryan Ruuskanen 1G 1A, Dillon Verone 2A, Cole Sherameta 3A, Julia Russo 3A, Noah Cepelak 2A, Mathew Broad 1A. **Team 103 Tim Hortons Senators 4** - Cameron Harbaruk 3G 1A, Benjamin Godber 1G 2A, Shayne Colin 1A, Andrew End 1A, Jack Chivers 1A, Jack Campbell 1A, Beckham Georgiou 1A.

Team 104 Tim Hortons Penguins 2 - Nicholas Rountes 1G, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Trevor Dungey 2A, Jack Hosmer 1A. **Team 106 Tim Hortons Bruins 2** - Jacob Cowl 1G, Anthony Capraro 1G, Tristan Hicks 1A, Taylor Tuck 1A, Riley Jackson 1A, Kyle Kasak 1A.

Team 102 Tim Hortons Leafs 5 - Ben Spittle 2G 1A, Nate Legros 1G, Michale Thibeault 1G 1A, Jacob Levy 1G, Quinn Bruckner 2A, Julia Kavanaugh 1A, Peter Leontis 1A, Vincenzo Rotondi 1A, William Reid 1A. **Team 101 Tim Hortons Flames 2** - Logan Hoover 1G, Kegan Hoover 1G, Mathew Winters 1A, Parker Boland 1A, Wayne Freeman 1A, Connor Iwai 1A.

Team 105 Tim Hortons Avalanche 7 - Braedon Joynt 3G 1A, Finlay Reeves 1G 2A, Christian Ridd 1G 1A, Dylan Clark 1G, Vaughan Hewgill 1G 1A, Zayne Zwicker 3A, Peter Chimienti 2A, Jack Snedden 2A, Cody Fisher 1A. **Team 108 Tim Hortons Wild 2** - Christopher Walsh 1G, Jaedon Jackson 1G 1A, Nicholas Keller 2A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1A.

Minor Bantam

Team 702 5 - Gabriel C-Bauset 3G, Matthew Hart 1G, Michael Rodrigues 1G, Michael Foresi 2A, Michael Mildon 1A, Cameron Albert 1A, Shawn Hofmann 1A. **Team 707 0.**

Team 702 5 - Kyle Coughlin 1G, Matthew MacEachern 1G, Michael Rodrigues 1G, Jordan Caruso

1G, Cameron Albert 1G, Michael Foresi 1A, Gabriel C-Bauset 3A, Shawn Hofmann 1A. **Team 705 1** - James Procher 1G, Vince Duggan 1A, Justin Pontarini 1A.

Minor Midget

Team 901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 5 - Peter Durst 4G, Kyle Blaser 1G, George Marshall 2A, Mike Delplavignano 1A. **Team 906 Wood Brothers Drywall 2** - Grant Wood 1G, Matthew Raponi 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1A, Brendan Beatty 1A.

Team 904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 4 - Anthony Marsillo 3G, Julian Savosardaro 1G 1A, JT Siery 1A, Anthony Marsillo 1A, Marlon Young 1A, Nick Gundert 1A, Marcel Lamana 1A. **Team 903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 1** - Marco Santella 1G, Michael Coggin 1A, Robert Fiorini 1A.

Team 905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 3 - Sean Ellison 2G, Wendel Martins 1G, Curtis Rose 1A, Dave Naccarato 1A. **Team 902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Caleb Gould 1G, J.J. Lam 1G, Matthew De Sousa 1A, Geoff Gianopoulos 1A.

Team 905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 2 - Evan Casselden 1G 1A, Sean Ellison 1G, Drew Coley 1A. **Team 906 Wood Brothers Drywall Pittsburgh Black 1** - Brendan Beatty 1G, Grant Wood 1A.

Team 903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 3 - Marco Santella 2G, Robert Fiorini 1G, Michael VanBakel 1A, Jordan Adams 1A, Robert Horton 1A, Dexter Speller-Drews 1A. **Team 902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 3** - Evan Jones 1G, J.J. Lam 1G, Aaron Morrison 1G, Geoff Gianopoulos 1A.

Team 901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 3 - Ben Crouse 1G, Peter Durst 2G, Daniel Sampieri 1A, George Marshall 1A, Andrew Osmond 1A. **Team 904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 0.**

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Will there be a youth councillor in Aurora?

In April, 2006, the Youth Action Committee investigated the possibility of having a Youth Councillor position in Aurora who would be involved in the political process.

It was pointed out that there was a youth councillor in Vaughan and it was suggested that the councillor attend a future meeting of the Youth Action Committee.

Members of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee asked to be invited to the meeting.

In May, 2005, Vaughan became the first municipality in Canada to establish a youth position on council to highlight municipal issues important to youth.

The Vaughan youth councillor is allowed to sit as a non-voting member at council meetings and to take part in all council proceedings with the exception of closed sessions.

What happened to the 2006 suggestion of the Youth Action Committee?

ELECTION PROMISES

Ontarians are familiar with broken election promises after the first term of Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty but the practice didn't start with him. Jean Chretien was a past master.

In 1993, The Liberals' famous election Red Book entitled *Governing with Integrity* promised many things including MP pension reform and restoring the quality of its democratic institutions.

It pointed out that after nine years of Conservative rule cynicism about public institutions, governments, politicians and the political process was at an all-time high.

It went on to say that if government was to play a positive role in society, as it must, honesty and integrity in political institutions must be restored.

In their Agenda for Action under the heading Public Trust it said the Liberal government would restore public trust and confidence in government and regulate the activities of lobbyists by appointing an Ethics Commissioner and establishing strict guidelines for merit in government appointments, etc, etc.

Canadians must wonder if Stephen Harper read the Liberal promises as it seems he promised to do many of the same things.

What happened to election promises?

MEETINGS ARE NO SHORTER

The town's procedural bylaw states that no item of business shall be considered by council after 10.30 p.m. unless a majority of council approves waiving the bylaw to extend the meeting, which is a regular occurrence at Aurora Council.

Since the start of this term, council meetings have dragged on until well after 11 p.m. and on occasion last until midnight and following the adjournment of the public session there is normally a closed session.

The procedural bylaw also stipulates that if council was still in session at midnight it shall be adjourned unless a two-thirds majority of members concur to an extension.

Last October on a motion by Councillor Bob McRoberts, the procedural bylaw was amended to read 11 p.m. instead

of midnight including closed sessions with the two-thirds majority remaining the same.

It was ironic that the motion was presented at the shortest council meeting of the year with the public session lasting just under an hour, but then there were no members of the public in attendance, no delegations and only six items on the agenda of which three were discussed.

It hasn't happened since as council and general committee meetings are almost always extended past the 10.30 p.m. deadline.

At the last general committee meeting there was agreement to extend the meeting until 11 p.m. and then another extension to 11.10 p.m. but there was no mention of a two-thirds majority.

The mind can absorb only what the seat can endure!

WAS A CITIZEN EVER APPOINTED?

Last April the Joint Council Committee for Fire Services embarked on a review of the Central York Fire Service Master Plan including fire officials, committee members and a citizen each from Aurora and Newmarket.

An ad was placed in the Town Notice Board for applicants with the Joint Committee to interview the applicants, but some members of Aurora Council objected and insisted the applicant be interviewed by council.

Was anyone ever appointed from Aurora and what happened to the Master Plan?

WHERE IS THE CROSSWALK?

Last June the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee received correspondence from residents of the area that a pedestrian crosswalk was needed on Bayview Avenue at the intersection of Springfarm Road and Hollandview Trail.

It was pointed out that Bayview had been widened to four lanes with an increase in traffic volume and speed and the nearest pedestrian crossing either north or south was too far away.

The request was referred to regional staff for consideration with a report back to the committee. Did it ever come and was any follow-up action taken?

(ED. NOTE: They did better than a crosswalk. The intersection is now controlled by traffic lights.)

IS THE DRIVEWAY STILL BLOCKED?

Last April and again in June residents on Earl Stewart Drive complained about their driveways being blocked by parents dropping off or picking up students from Northern Lights Public School.

Council had previously adopted a standardized policy for parking restrictions in and around elementary schools to ensure consistency and the safety of students.

Changes were to be made to bring this area into compliance with the town policy and address the concerns of the residents

Was it ever done or are the driveways still being blocked?

Farmers' Market moving to Park

On Saturday, May 3, the Aurora Farmers' Market will open in its new home in Town Park.

Since its establishment several years ago, the Market has been a big success with the citizens of Aurora.

However, its increasing popularity meant that it was outgrowing its original location in the Temperance Street parking lot near Yonge and Wellington.

In December, 2007, Councillor Stephen Granger sought council's support in the relocation of the Market to Town Park.

It was noted the vendors could set up on Wells Street, between Mosley and Metcalfe.

Space was available for 25 to 30 vendors, who could park their vehicles at nearby Wells Street School building.

Existing barriers at either end of the school property could then be closed when the Market was in opera-

tion, leaving the area free of vehicles.

Despite the advantages of this location, the choice of Town Park did raise some concerns.

One of the reasons for locating the original Market near Yonge and Wellington was to draw shoppers to the downtown core. It was suggested that Town Park was too far away.

To address this question, council asked staff members to contact local merchants near Temperance Street for their feedback.

Tuesday, staffers reported that 25 businesses on Yonge Street between Wellington and Church had been canvassed for their input about the proposed relocation.

Only one response was received, and it was in favour of the move.

Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed a number of concerns with the location, including a potential over-use of the washroom faci-

ties, and the impact of large crowds.

She believed area residents had not been properly consulted.

She also noted that the fees recovered from vendors did not cover the costs to the town to run the Market.

According to town documents, in 2007 the total for these services, such as administering permits, and supplying tables, barricades and waste containers, was approximately \$5,000.

She pointed out that even the proposed increase in fees, which would be \$75 a year for a single stall and \$150 for a double stall, would not fully offset these costs.

Despite her concerns, other councillors spoke in favour of the proposal, which they said would have a positive effect on the community.

The motion passed 7-1.
The 2008 Aurora

Farmer's Market will be held every Saturday from May 3 to Oct. 25, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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Eric was the first realtor that never pressed me to make an offer and this demonstrated to me that he is truly out for your best interest. Thank you Eric! L. Ferro

His personal service was more than expected. His service went beyond the selling of the house... We would definitely recommend Eric McCartney to anyone who is buying or selling a home. R. & P. Silva

Your cautious and thorough work ethic was evident immediately; leaving us with no doubt that you always acted with our best interest at heart. We look forward to working with you again. W. & A. Schmidt

Your energy, your dedication and professionalism were key to our success. We look forward to working with you again. Count on us recommending you to our friends! R. & J. Beaupre

(In accordance with REBBA the above clients have given their permission in writing for their testimonials to be published.)
(This advertisement is NOT intended to solicit Buyers or Sellers currently under contract.)



Senior Scape

Plugged driveways tough on seniors

The end of winter always seems to be the most tedious period of dirty weather and even though the calendar declares that spring commences Mar. 20, most people are realistic and they recognize spring when it is here to stay and that is when the snow is gone, the grass is growing and the spring bulbs are in bloom.

Hopefully soon!
Even though the winter is coming to a close, a lingering problem, particularly for seniors, is the snow dumped at the bottom of driveways by snow plows.

A snow barricade at the bottom of a senior's driveway should not be acceptable and is not acceptable, and defeats the purpose of plowing the snow off the roads if it is to be dumped unceremoniously at the bottom of your driveway.

It might be okay if you are strong enough to shovel it away, but it is not good enough for those who are not strong, and public opinion is addressing the issue now.

Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillor Stephen Granger are the driving forces who require your support if anything is to be accomplished.

They have organized a petition to deal with this problem which will only get the attention of council, if sufficient people support it.

Call 905-727-3123, ext. 4266, or e-mail sgranger@e-aurora.ca for action.

Easter arrives early this year - Mar. 23 - and I hope it is a beautiful day!

I hope it is a beautiful weekend with Easter Monday on the 24th! Apr. 22 is "Earth Day" and Mar. 29 is recognized in Aurora as "Earth Hour", when everybody is asked to create a healthier more sustainable environment by switching off all non-essential lights and other non-essential power consuming equipment between the hours of 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

One of the excellent games at the seniors' centre is Carpet Bowling which provides light exercise.

Different forms of bowling have a long history which bears testimony to the popularity of this game played for fun.

Recently the Association acquired a third lane for bowling and we invite more seniors, particularly those who have not tried this game yet to join with us Mondays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. and Tuesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. and enjoy a fun game.

The craft club meets every Monday at 10 a.m. with a regular group of adherents who continue to produce fine work for their personal pleasure.

There is room for more crafters and if this has an appeal for you, whether or not you have great experience, come in on any Monday, or call Rozlin at 905-726-2332 for information.

As the end of this column takes shape, weather programs are forecasting another snow storm. Hopefully this will encourage sufficient people to support the driveway clearing petition for those in dire need of this service.

Tree planting

Students from George Street and Aurora Senior Public Schools will participate in a tree planting next month.

The students will work to help Aurora achieve its green vision with the planting Wednesday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to noon.

On that day, students and volunteer parents will plant 400 seedlings at Lions Park behind George Street Public School.

The program was initiated through the George Street and Aurora Senior School Council and has gained support from partners in municipal government, local residents and associations.

"Everyone has been so responsive to the idea right from square one. The School Council, the Town of Aurora, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and parent volunteers are giving their time and expertise to help bring the idea to life," said Jo-Anne Zeidenberg, an Aurora Senior School volunteer, who is quarterbacking the project.

Manager, Jim Tree, and Parks Supervisor, Colleen Breen, stepped up immediately with advice and contacts to get the tree planting started in the right direction.

One suggestion was to connect the team with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority who are supplying 100 white pine, 100 white spruce, 100 red oak, 50 nannyberry and 50 dogwood seedlings.

Students from the Technology Department at Aurora High School will be building birdhouses and butterfly habitats.

These nesting structures will be posted throughout the park to attract species that frequent York Region.

Access bus provided service to those with functional limitations

Today the York Region Mobility Plus transit service provides a shared-ride door-to-door transportation service for persons who are unable to use accessible conventional transit services due to a functional limitation and are pre-registered for use of the Mobility service.

By the end of 2006 the regional Mobility Plus transit service, who had assumed all local mobility transit services had approximately 6,000 customers registered for the service taking approximately 284,000 trips annually, an increase of 8.9 per cent over 2005.

In was back in 1990 when Aurora Council realized the need for a transit system for the physically disabled and in May created an Advisory/Eligibility Committee to start the project and determine who was eligible to ride on the transit system, when established.

The six-member committee was comprised of two residents who could use the system, plus a doctor, a transportation official and representatives from the local seniors group. The committee was chaired by Charles Wheeler.

During the inaugural meeting, the story was told of one lady who had to make weekly visits to York County Hospital (now Southlake Regional Health Centre) and the normal taxi fare was \$30 round trip.

The Access Bus would be able to take her to the hospital and return for 90 cents, the normal bus transportation fare.

Using a factor of 1.8 per cent of the population as disabled and eligible for the Access Bus, there was the potential of 468 users.

Any resident of Aurora, who because of a physical disability and unable to use the conventional transit system, was eligible to use the Access Bus.

More specifically it was determined that anyone unable to climb or descend three steps or walk a distance of 175 metres was deemed eligible for the service.

Requests for temporary service due to post-operative or temporary loss of mobility would be considered for a specific period of time.

To register for the system, citizens were required to phone the town office and an application form was mailed to the applicant.

The completed application was reviewed by the committee and if approved,

a registration card was issued.

The Access Bus covered the area within the town's boundaries and door-to-door service was provided to and from the hospital in Newmarket and York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.

While the Access Bus did not serve other destinations in Newmarket or Richmond Hill, the bus would take passengers to the municipal boundary for transfer to a bus operated by the neighbouring municipality.

The mobile service was available Monday to Friday, with fares the same as the regular bus service. The vehicle was available on weeknights and weekends for charter.

Once registered, all a disabled person had to do was phone the mobility bus dispatcher, with trip reservations to be made 24 hours in advance with any cancellation to be made at least two hours before the scheduled pickup time.

The provincial Ministry of Transportation guaranteed a minimum subsidy of 50 per cent of the operating costs of the mobile transit system with the balance to come from fares and the municipality.

Council engaged Edutran Transportation to operate the bus at an estimated annual cost of \$50,000.

In April, 1991, Aurora Mayor John West accepted the keys to Aurora's first Access Bus to transport the disabled from Steve Mitchell, Community Programming Director of Aurora Cable Internet.

The Cable Company was the first team to register for the 1990 Timberlane Tennis Charity Classic.

The Tennis Charity Classic was organized by Timberlane and then-Councillor Tim Jones and raised \$28,000 towards the purchase of the specialty van for the transportation of the disabled in Aurora.

The Province of Ontario contributed \$25,000 towards the Access Bus.

The Timberlane Tennis Access Bus until the service was taken over by the Charity Classic continued to fund the operation of the region.

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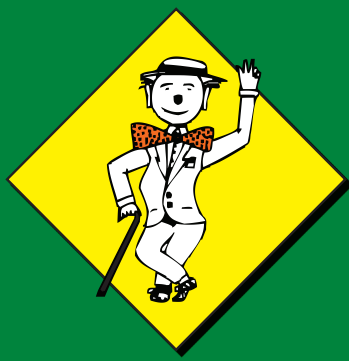
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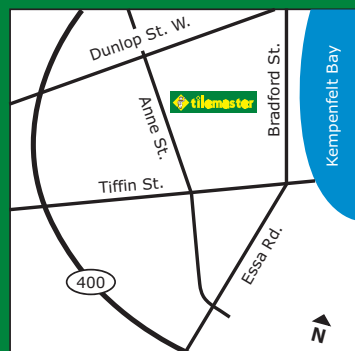
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