

Letters to the Editor

# Journey of the lost photo from Aurora

To the editor,

Photography is one of the most powerful ways to preserve the past since its invention in the early 1800s.

Over 180 years an infinite number of photographs have been captured - faces and places all around the world.

For most of us the photography has preserved valuable family memories of our ancestors, and sometimes the memories we never had of them.

We look at photographs every day.

Our conscious mind scans for faces and places or other articles, but have you gone beyond?

October 1943. An unknown photographer looks into the viewfinder of his camera and casually snaps a photograph of two high school teachers, Mr. Knowles and Miss Humphrys.

One can only assume that it was taken on the Aurora High School grounds here in Aurora.

Who was looking into the camera's viewfinder at that time?

Where was the dark-

room at which the photograph was developed?

Who scribbled their names with a fountain pen on the back of the photograph?

Who owned the photograph then?

These are questions that may remain forever unanswered.

Presumably for more than 45 years the photograph of the teachers from Aurora had an owner.

At one point in time the photograph was placed inside a book written by W. John McIntyre - Aurora A History in Pictures

(Published 1988).

More unanswered questions, how it got there, exactly when and why?

It is possible that the photograph spent 20 years in the book and it is also possible it was only there for a few years.

The photograph may have never been in the possession of the family of Knowles or Humphrys.

Maybe it was the photographer who owned this photo and the book, notably since the two teachers were not related.

It is hard to believe that a family would leave such a

family treasure behind. On second thought, was it a mishap?

The book hit the book stand again but this time with the photographic treasure inside.

The book, Aurora, A History in Pictures (also signed by the author Mr. McIntyre) with a photograph of the two teachers book-marking page 47 was bought by book hunters here in the Aurora library used book sale.

Page 47 in the book has The Aurora High School Glee Club, 1948 photograph; where Principal J.H. Knowles stands at the top far left corner. Someone found the match.

Later the book was placed for sale online on Amazon.

The seller left the almost 65 year old photograph in the book and later wrote me: 'We thought maybe, the person who bought the book would know who the people were so we just left it in the book.'

A used collectible copy of the Aurora, A History in Pictures book with a lost photographic treasure travelling North America arrived in Aurora in June, 2011, from Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, United States.

It was back home once again here in Aurora along with the book and in my hands.

It was a lost photographic treasure, but it wasn't mine.

I posted the photograph and the background information on my blog.

I researched on the Knowles and Humphrey's in

an Aurora paper from early 1940s.

I received leads and suggestions from others for which I am greatly thankful.

Later, I received a phone call from a long time resident of Aurora, my blog reader and descendant from the Knowles family - Mr. Bob McRoberts.

Mr. McRoberts, now the owner of the photograph, is the grandson of Mr. J.H. Knowles, one of the teachers in the photograph.

My written documentary of the once lost photograph ends here.

Maybe one day someone will tell more and fill in the missing blanks of time.

However, the journey of the photograph does not end here, it only continues with the McRobert's family.

Anna Lozyk Romeo  
Aurora

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# Pair lost in Sheppard's Bush

To the editor,

I could almost see the headlines in The Auroran this week "Two Women lost in Sheppard's Bush" as my friend, Brenda, and I lost (just misplaced for a while) our way Tuesday evening.

We had taken our first Nordic Pole Walking course from Shawn Nisbet on Sunday and decided we required a lot of practice before we met with Shawn again.

It's not as easy as one would imagine.

Shawn had explained all the benefits of this walking exercise but she had me at "Nordic Pole Walking will tighten up that jiggling flesh on your underarms".

You know what she was talking about - the reason we wear short

sleeves avoiding bare arms like the plague.

Standing straight, walking, dragging poles while pumping your arms was a foreign experience to say the least and not a pretty sight to any onlookers seeing us newbies.

However, walking is something I can do and the poles added the bonus of a 90 per cent of my body workout.

Well worth a try!

Back to Sheppard's Bush!

I had been to this park on several occasions but not walked the myriad of paths before.

I know I was distracted by the sheer beauty of this natural oasis with its babbling brooks, forest and well tended paths.

I thought I even saw the elusive Aurora bear but it was just a black

rock, I think.

There were even several pieces of exercise equipment scattered throughout the western portion of the fields.

However, after we had "Nordic Pole" walked until I was ready to return to the parking lot, we ended up at a dead end, in the backyards of what looked like homes off Bayview.

We turned around and swallowing our pride asked a runner for directions back.

She was very gracious, didn't even snicker, and provided us with our way home.

We will definitely go back to do our walking at Sheppard's Bush as it seems that the people who use this park are used to seeing the "Nordic Pole" walkers.

I think I will wait a while

to impose my pole walking on unsuspecting individuals elsewhere in the community.

Once again, Aurorites, Aurorans (whatever), you are fortunate to have this natural sanctuary in the middle of town.

In a follow-up to last week's musings, the Weather Network was incredibly accurate, right down to the minute, of Sunday and Mondays' rain forecast.

I had checked, almost praying for an accurate rain forecast, and was pleasantly surprised at the thunderstorm that woke me up at 5 a.m. on Monday morning and then more rain early Tuesday.

I will always give credit where credit is due!

Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges

# Tips will help newcomer

To the editor,

According to Statistics Canada, in 2006, there were 892,715 people living in York Region.

There were 380,530 immigrants living in York Region at that time.

Approximately, over 1/3, of this total population were first generation and more than 150,000 people were 2nd and 3rd generation residents.

The vast majority of these newcomers spoke English.

Almost 3,000 residents spoke French as their mother tongue; but 236,430 people spoke a non-official language in

York Region.

The newcomers need to start to get settled into their new neighbourhoods quickly.

An immigration expert, in the July 2011 issue of the Canadian Immigrant, says that there are five important steps for immigrants to take in order to start working.

First, open a bank account. Without a bank account, it is impossible to deposit your paycheck. Second, get a computer with internet access. Jobs are found posted on websites and housing information is available on some websites. Libraries have computers which newcom-

ers can access if they do not have a computer at their home to use.

Third, get a credit card. Credit cards help people establish credit and a way to help pay for things while they wait for a paycheck.

Fourth, obtain a cell phone for any job interview opportunities. A recruiter will phone rather than use an email to arrange a job interview.

Fifth, networking is important to improve your

chances for employment. Job opportunities are often found out from a friend, or a relative who is already working at a company.

It helps to make friends and new contacts to improve your chances to get a job and to settle into Canada.

These tips can help a newcomer get started in their new land.

Jim Jackson  
Aurora

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