

*Limited time only. Based on the purchase of full programs. Products not included.

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Until April 15, winter parking restrictions are in effect and parking is prohibited on all streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 choral singers for an April production of the musical "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz. Singers will not have to memorize music. Requirements are adults who love to sing. Stage experience not necessary. Performances will take place at Newmarket Theatre. The group is also looking for a baritone for a leading role. Rehearsals begin in January on Sunday afternoons with an occasional Saturday evening. Contact General Director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@look.ca if you have any questions or would like to take part.

The 3rd Aurora Scouting Group has spaces available in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. For registration information or to volunteer call 905-726-2393 or 905-841-0556.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its second season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided.

Voice is a group of aspiring writers ages 12 to 19 interested in developing writing skills, working on a magazine and embarking on creative adventures with similarly minded people. The group meets in the Marjorie Andrews Room of the Aurora Library on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Call the Library at 905-727-9493 for more information.

Aurora Seniors present a movie night every Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for guests.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group meets weekly every Wednesday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7.30 p.m.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 6.30 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.

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

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

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women has 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.

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

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

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in committee room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McClenny at 905-727-9676.

Queen's York Rangers free camps for boys and girls, 12 to 18. Aurora Squadron runs Friday evenings at the Aurora Armoury. For further information, call 905-726-8600 any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Seniors Choir practice 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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Robbie Burns dinner at the Legion. Traditional Burns supper of roast beef, "hups and tatties" and, of course, the haggis will be served. Evening starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Call the Legion for further information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Aurora Public Library presents "Money, Mission & Marketing" with Maxine Hyndman, author of "The Naked Millionaire" and "The Organic Entrepreneur" at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. A fee of \$2 per person will be charged.

Aurora Council meets as general committee in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Final date for citizens to apply for membership on the Aurora Public Library Board, Committee of Adjustment and the Accessibility Advisory Committee. For more information, visit the Aurora Library or the Clerk's office in the Town Hall or call 905-727-3123 ext. 4220.

Seniors' Awareness Day from 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch included for \$1.50 per person, members or non-members, at the Seniors' Centre. The event is presented by the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee in partnership with York Regional Police.

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting at PostNet Aurora, 150 Hollidge Blvd. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Free.

Blood Donor Clinic, 2.30 to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Aurora Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting at the Aurora Legion, Canadian Room at 3 p.m. The Society runs the Aurora Fair and Horse Show. Anyone interested in learning about how to become involved with running the Fair is cordially invited. The Legion is on Industrial Parkway North, just south of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

Big Bucks Progressive Euchre Tournament, Aurora Legion. Register at noon; play at 1.15 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

Aurora Neighbourhood Watch seminar in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library. Captain meeting begins at 6.30 p.m., with the free general public seminar beginning at 7.10 p.m. and continuing until 9 p.m. Topic for the evening: "Is Your Home Safe?" Guest speakers include Mike Fenton and PC Mark Lawrence.

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

A public planning meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

St. Andrew's College Open House from 7 to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Fish & Chips, shuffleboard and dancing at the Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet presents the sixth of the 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. 7 p.m. Magna Room. Register at the Adult Information Desk, on line, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Aurora Seniors Association presents "A Winter Cabaret", featuring Cara Chisholm and Brian Roman. Limited tickets are available at the Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, and R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3. The matinee begins at 2 p.m.

Roarin' Twenties Valentines Party, Aurora Legion, 7 p.m. Tickets \$10. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents the Canada-U.K. co-production "Snow Cake", starring Alan Rickman and

Sigourney Weaver. Tickets are available at R&R Revisited on Mary Street in Aurora and at the Aurora Public Library, at a cost of \$10 each. Screening time begins at 6.45 p.m. with a welcome and door prizes. Movie at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Justin Trudeau will be guest speaker at an Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He has a message for students and the Chamber is seeking corporations to sponsor a student for the luncheon at a cost of \$40. To sponsor a student call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

FEBRUARY 14 to 17

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" at the Newmarket Theatre at 7.30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on February 17 and 18. Call 905-713-1040 for tickets.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day at Osler Bluffs.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Aurora Writers' Group presents "Writing A Page Turner", a day-long seminar at St. Andrew's Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee is \$38 in advance; \$42 at the door. To register, call Susan Stevenson at 905-751-1674 or e-mail brianhenry@sympatico.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Aurora Public Library presents "Take A Deeper Look" with Aurora historian and former Aurora Museum curator Jacqueline Stuart. 7 to 8.30, Magna Room. Free. Pre-

register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Pancake Tuesday at the Aurora Legion. 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting at Highland Chevrolet Cadillac, 15783 Yonge Street. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Aurora Public Library presents author and independent publisher Collette Yvonne who will discuss getting self-published. 1 to 5 p.m. with a \$2 per person fee. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a "Question and Answer Session with Master Gardeners" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North beginning at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Trinity Anglican Church presents the return visit of The Tri-City Gospel Chorus. Come and hear this 85 voice male choir sing in four part harmony. No admission charge; however an offering will be taken up. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a "Rhododendron Woods" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North beginning at 8 p.m.

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Maggie Hawes, 5, left, and Jessica Lafreniere, 16, both of Aurora, have recently returned from the War Amps Ontario Child Amputee Seminar that was held in London. Maggie was born a left arm amputee and Jessica, a partial right hand amputee. At the seminar, Maggie was presented with a special certificate for her participation in the War Amps Playsafe/Drivesafe program.

Citizens express views on how to spend money

A special meeting was held at the Town Hall last week to review the proposed 2007 capital budget and provide citizens with input.

Robert Farillo suggested the former hydro building be sold with the town arranging to lease part of it back for storage.

Lydia Schuster and Charles Sequeira appeared regarding signage for the Seniors' Centre.

She referred to a letter that had been sent to the town in September requested directional signs at Wellington Street East and John West Way similar to the sign for the Town Hall and one at Municipal Drive but had received no reply.

She noted that \$50,000 had been included in the capital budget for a road-side sign but it didn't make the cut.

Charles Sequeira referred to two seniors' building projects which were cut from the budgets, one dealing with a deck awning at an estimated cost of \$40,000 and stairs from the deck to the park area at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

He asked for reconsideration.

Miloslav Prikryl enquired about the financing of the new recreation centre and noted that nothing was in the budget for the promised youth centre.

Staff noted that \$1.1 million had been included in the 2008 capital budget for youth centre expansion.

Mike Bender and Gordon Barnes appeared on behalf of the Aurora Community Arboretum to request support for Phase I of the Arboretum Master Plan, which had previously been approved by council.

He provided a brief history of the Arboretum and the work that had been carried out during the past 10 years and the need for a Master Plan for the 100 acres of parkland along the East Holland River Valley which was completed in 2006.

In order to apply for grants from foundations, it was necessary to obtain a

grant from the town to prove they are serious.

Frank Shaw of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust told councillors that the partnership with the town was in limbo until information was received about their request for \$5,000 for securement expenses and \$10,000 for the Stewardship program.

Rebecca Beaton asked several questions pertaining to the use of the hydro funds for the sale of Aurora Hydro and the status of various outstanding issues including train whistles at night and the future of Library Square.

Treasurer John Gutteridge made a presentation similar to the earlier information session when council had their first look at the 2007 capital budget and it wasn't good news.

He stressed that a new process was being introduced with a corporate

budget based on the priorities of the municipality rather than departmental priorities as in the past, and the transfer of funds from the operating budget would be the total amount rather than for specific department projects.

He also presented a summary of capital projects sorted by scoring with 87 projects above the cut-off line out of a total of 126 projects submitted with an estimated expenditure of \$4 million for 2007 and \$74 million over the four-year term of council requiring a transfer from operating budget equivalent to a five per cent tax levy increase.

The treasurer stressed it was a council budget and if members wanted to add an item, another item of similar value should be deleted otherwise the budget would show an increase.



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Several items still on the list

*There are questions to be asked,
After councillors find their feet;
About issues still outstanding,
So the answer will be complete!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

During every council meeting, reports are received from committees and from staff on a wide variety of issues, some just for information and others requiring a decision.

If it is a complex issue with several questions asked, the report is often referred back to the committee or to staff for more background information or for clarification.

Generally staff reports are quite complete with sufficient information on which to make a decision.

But there are always exceptions and the report is referred back and sometimes forgotten and the list of outstanding items continues to grow, and while staff prepares a monthly list of outstanding issues, councillors seldom re-introduce them, although they may have been issues they introduced in the first place.

Some of the outstanding issues were listed last week but there are more, such as whether Aurora should adopt a ward system which was an issue in the last election, parking at the GO station and whether to sell the Vandorf Road property or not.

Although the percentage of voting increased in the last election, it might be interesting to know why more than 60 per cent of the residents fail to vote and a study may be a good idea.

The future of Aurora's downtown is something that should have a good look and whether a Business Improvement Area should be re-established.

There is also a financial commitment from Whitwell Developments for improvements to the downtown as development progressed at their commercial development and planning should start on how this is to be used.

Action is also needed on the town-owned Leslie Street lands for industrial or commercial purposes to gain non-residential assessment, which is so badly needed.

Some time ago council discussed the need for full service gas stations especially for seniors and the handicapped, and follow-up action should be taken on this.

Last May council agreed that staff would present a report early in 2007 for the tendering or request for proposal for the town's advertising in the newspaper.

There are a few traffic studies underway about on-street parking on town streets including Pinnacle Trail, Birkshire Drive and Rush Road.

A question might be asked, as it has before why the Traffic Safety Advisory Board is called a Board instead of a Committee like all the other advisory committees, although that may be in the process of being changed.

Aurora is one of the few communities without a Habitat for Humanity and although it has been discussed and partial commitments made, it was all talk and no action.

It's time to put up or shut up!

Infill of monster homes on existing lots in established areas of the town has been of concern to neighbouring residents and last October staff advised council they were continuing to study monster homes and a discussion took place about establishing a steering committee including citizens, and this should be followed up.

Questions might be asked when the region was reconstructing Wellington Street, why Aurora Council didn't include a sidewalk and a bicycle path from Bayview to Leslie, especially with the recreation complex located near Leslie Street and with all the residential growth in the area.

In preparing the 2007 budget, the outgoing council referred several items for inclusion including historical plaques for the town parks, paving of the Factory Theatre parking lot, funding for the Community Arboretum and the sidewalk rehabilitation on Centre Street and Catherine Avenue to name a few.

Members of council will no doubt have questions of their own but if they haven't one to ask, the above list may provide some just in case the meetings get boring.



Recently, we showed you a photo at Yonge and Wellington with Aurora's streetcar tracks veering west on Wellington. The top photo shows the tracks in front of the Fleury Plow Works building, currently operated by Bacon Basketware. We're not exactly sure why there's a bend in the tracks. Anyone know? We do know the tracks terminated at Collis Leather on Tyler Street. The bottom photo is another shot of the plow works building without streetcar tracks. These pictures come from the postcard collection of Aurora Councillor Bob McRoberts, and we are grateful for permission to reprint them.

Letter to the Editor

Chamber seeking input on town bylaw proposals

To the editor,

The following note was sent out electronically to members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce regarding proposed changes to temporary and permanent sign bylaws.

I have elected to publish much of the letter for anyone who does not have access to e-mail.

As many of you may be aware, the Town of Aurora has recently undertaken a review of its temporary and permanent sign bylaws.

Town documents indicate that the reasons for this review are as follows: (i) to update and clean-up the language of the existing bylaws; (ii) to facilitate the administration of temporary and permanent signs by separate departments; and (iii) to better clarify roles and responsibilities, and make the bylaws more user-friendly.

The bylaw staff at the Town of Aurora is preparing a report and recommendations to go forward to a General Committee meeting scheduled for January 23.

Interested parties are entitled to submit their concerns to the Town and/or appear before the General Committee to outline their concerns with the

proposed bylaws.

We recommend that the Aurora Chamber advise the Town of the following concerns with the proposed bylaws as soon as possible:

- The proposed prohibition of banner signs in the temporary sign bylaw is not justified and it is bad for business. Signage is critical to the survival of small businesses, and an effective means of promoting special events for a business, or the opening of a new business where permanent signage is not yet available.

We strongly encourage the Town to permit banner signs for a reasonable period of time and particularly, for new business openings.

- While the current two-day period for removing election signs may be onerous, the proposed seven-day period seems excessive.

We would recommend four days to remove election signs to balance the interests of local businesses and residents, with the realities experienced by election candidates.

- Clarify that the changes regarding maximum signage in the permanent sign bylaw will result in more signage options for single tenant premises.

- The proposed fee increase for sign variances is excessive. Given the size of Aurora, the Chamber recommends that the fee be increased to \$300, consistent with the low end of the sign variance fees charged by other jurisdictions.

- We also recommend that a delegation representing the Aurora Chamber appear before the General Committee on January 23 to more fully communicate our concerns

with the proposed changes to the sign bylaws.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions regarding this information, or any other comments on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

I look forward to receiving your input.

Carla Adams
Executive Director
Aurora Chamber
of Commerce

AURORAN

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial Ron Wallace ron@auroran.com	Production Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com
Dick Illingworth dick@auroran.com	Main Number 905-727-3300
Photography David Falconer dfalconer@sympatico.ca	Classifieds 905-727-7128 classifieds@auroran.com
Advertising Bob Ince bob@auroran.com	Facsimile Machine 905-727-2620
Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com	Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Large tax hikes must stop

When it comes to taxes, I believe I behave like the majority of Aurora residents.

I receive my municipal tax bill in the mail. I open the envelope, review the contents, let loose with a few choice expletives, calm myself down and then forlornly walk down to the local bank to make the tax payment.

The process repeats itself again every couple of months - kind of like the Bill Murray movie, "Groundhog Day".

Only difference is that, at the end of the movie, Murray wakes up with the girl, while I still wake up with my tax bill.

While I am certainly not happy with the level of tax increases that we have had, I have in the past simply shrugged my shoulders and just tried to learn to live with it.

However, the annual 7.8 per cent increase in taxes over the past few years is clearly not sustainable.

CPI has not grown this fast, the economy has not grown this fast and more importantly my pay cheque has not grown this fast.

The large tax increases have to stop!

During the past election Ms Morris stated that taxes are "the number one issue in this election".

And Al Wilson, before he was elected in November, had been quite forceful and consistent over the years, through various letters to the editor that the large tax increases have to end.

Mr. Wilson, in fact, positioned his successful candidacy as that of a tax fighter/crusader.

There are a lot of issues that are on the plate of the new council.

- Decide on the future of the former hydro building;
- A plan for the \$34.5 million of funds generated from the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, Inc.;
- Adequate parking for the library and heritage centre and museum;
- An economic development plan containing a measurable strategy to slow down or reverse the residential to commercial tax ratio;
- Locate and secure a home for the Youth Centre; and
- Request for enlarged Wal-Mart store on Wellington East

And the list goes on.

But the top priority and challenge is the 2007 operating and capital budgets.

I am going to quote generously from Dick Illingworth's column last week because he brings the tax issue sharply into focus, and also, quite frankly, because I could not have put it as succinctly as he has.

Dick wrote: "The public made it known during the election campaign that they are fed up with higher taxes, especially when they are well above inflation.

"Somehow or other council will have to produce a budget with a minimum tax increase and still retain the current level of services.

"The nine-year record of no tax increases ended in 2000 and since then there have been substantial tax increases every year making it difficult for seniors and others on a fixed income to remain living in Aurora.

"In addition, based on a report from the town treasurer last March, the reserve funds are not adequate to meet the needs of the capital program and by the end of 2013 there will be a shortfall of \$68 million.

"The figures presented show a need over the period 2007 to 2013 to raise \$10.8 million per year over and above the current tax levy to meet the capital required by the Asset Management Program."

We had no tax increase in the early 1990s and we are paying for this today.

Mayor Morris, Councillor Wilson and the rest of the gang at Town Hall now have the perfect opportunity to exhibit leadership.

And the decisions won't be easy; they never are. Constituents have unlimited wants, even though there are limited amounts of funds.

But plain and simple: "To Govern is to Choose".

And there are some serious decisions that have to be made. It is incumbent upon the mayor and council to look at the various trade-offs between the type and number of services that our

town provides and the differing levels of taxes. Council then needs to communicate their collective vision to us in such a way that their 2007 budget is both understandable and that Aurorans can buy into it.

Ms Morris's inaugural address a month ago was excellent. During the closing part of her speech she asked us to imagine what Aurora could be and could look like.

Now she and her fellow council members need to take this high-minded rhetoric and overlay it against the available financial resources that our community has and offer us a fully costed vision for the next four years.

They have to make the case why your taxes should be at a certain level.

Over a number of future columns I will deal with other issues

relating to taxes, including how the actual 2007 operating and capital budget is put together.

I will also look at the differences among federal, provincial and municipal taxes; what they represent, how they are calculated and how they are collected.

I will also offer some tax comparisons with other similarly sized jurisdictions (and for the heck of it, Newmarket). Lastly, for the readers' perusal, amusement and probable ridicule, I will present my own hypothetical Aurora Municipal Budget and the choices that I would make.

Next week: The Aurora Municipal Budgeting Process.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

Multi-tasking madness

Some people think they have superpowers.

Okay...I happen to be one of them.

I've written about the escapades of Super-She Dragon Mom too many times to deny it, so I'll just have to fess up to the delusion.

In her prime, Super-She Dragon Mom could put in a full day at the office, then make dinner, unload the dishwasher, fold laundry, and help the kids with their homework while booking dental appointments for the whole family on the phone as Dr. Phil shouted encouragement from the other room.

And she could still manage to swoop in and stop her children from annihilating each other (and the entire northwest corner of Aurora - at least!) just in the nick of time! Amazing, huh?

Super-She Dragon Mom is the "Ever-Ready Mommy". She keeps doing and doing and doing...

So, when Dr. Phil drawled: "You've got to get your priorities in order," as she was scurrying between the laundry room and the family room that multi-functions as a Dr. Phil-enabled folding station, she told him how she really felt.

"Ha! I get it, Dr. Phil!"

Super-She hadn't folded underwear in years - it hadn't made her priority list since Dr. Phil was an Oprah sideshow! Heck, she even discovered the secret of matching socks -without the help of a therapist! She'd buy 60 identical pair, and poof! That big, bad sock-eating washer was rendered instantly toothless! Awesome, huh?

She celebrated her achievement with a little dance. It's just her way...

Immediately, the children fired up their computers and started sending e-mails to Dr. Phil.

"Dear Dr. Phil: She's getting worse..."

I suppose it is a little disconcerting when your mother starts waving a pair of boxers in Dr. Phil's 42-inch face as she does the Hokey-Pokey around a laundry bin...

"Gee, I hope Dr. Phil doesn't check his e-mail," she thought.

One of her Super-She polar fleece socks had gone missing. Without it, her ability to slide into the kitchen just as a pot was about to over-boil would be greatly compromised.

Well, how was she supposed to dramatically slide up to Dr. Phil on national TV with only one funky sock?

Good thing Dr. Phil didn't call. It could have been bad! Imagine...

Dr. Phil: I noticed you had a little trouble there. Where's your other sock?

Super-She: I think the washing machine ate it...but it could have been the dog. Sometimes I forget to feed Jake.

Dr. Phil: And even without the sock...you still think you have superpowers?

Super-She: Well, Dr. Phil...I realized there was something different about me one day, when I made two stops before arriving at the office. I picked up the mail, and I headed for

the drive-thru.

By the time I got my coffee, I had already opened and sorted the mail, cleaned out my purse, organized my CDs and my glove compartment, and I had counted out exact change. I even stopped at the garbage can and got rid of the mess the kids made in the backseat...and I didn't miss! Not even once!

Dr. Phil: Clearly, you have a problem. But you have to name it to claim it!

Super-She: Okay, it's the coffee. Dr. Phil, coffee is to me what spinach is to Popeye!

Dr. Phil: And you know that - how?

Super-She: Ummm...it was my third time through the drive-thru.

Dr. Phil: And how's that workin' for ya?

Super-She: The more coffee I drink, the more I get my priorities in order, Dr. Phil! Alphabetical order! And ever since then, I've been having "Costco days": Everything comes in mega multi-packs! And with coffee pumping through my veins, I can handle it, Dr. Phil!

...Yes, it would have been sad if Super-She had been hauled off to Dr. Phil's court to explain her caffeine-induced delusion of superpowers.

Now that I'm past the super-mom stage, I no longer believe I have superpowers. Heck, I'm still missing that sock! It's like kryptonite!

Now I worry about people who think they have the kind of superpowers that make Super-She's delusions of multi-tasking grandeur at the drive-thru look about as impressive as...well, instant coffee.

You know the ones: They put on their make-up or shave - or both, eat breakfast, read the newspaper, do the crossword, and even brush their teeth...while negotiating business deals on the cell phone...while driving to work...at about 140 clicks...down Yonge Street.

Sometimes, I have wondered about their tooth-brushing superpowers...where do they spit? Do they rinse with water...or coffee?

But now that my kids are driving on the same roads that they spit onto, I just want to spit! In fact, I want to cough up a Super-She fur-ball and blast them onto a corn field in Innisfil - minus a wheel or two!

If only I had the superpowers to stop the multi-tasking madness that threatens to turn "human beings" into "human doings"!

But alas, I can only shout Dr. Phil's mantra: "You've got to get your priorities in order!"

God bless those of you who believe that driving to arrive alive is a priority.

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
cathyvrancic@hotmail.com
or laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

 **BOUQUETS** to all the volunteers who manned the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles, got people home safely through Operation Red Nose, all those who packed and delivered Christmas baskets to people in need and to so many others who helped make Christmas a little merrier for many.

 **BRICKBATS** to motorists who tie up traffic on side streets such as Cousins Drive and Royal Road while trying to make a left turn on busy Yonge Street when all they have to do is exit by Dunning Avenue or Kennedy Street and make an easy left turn with the traffic signals.

 **BOUQUETS** to the citizens of Oakville for putting their money where there mouth is by collecting \$246,000 of the \$343,000 required to save the 250-year-plus oak tree slated for destruction to make way for road expansion. Their efforts shamed the province, Halton Region and the City of Oakville to make up the difference and save the tree.

 **BRICKBATS** to the construction company carrying out the road reconstruction work on Bathurst Street in Aurora and the regional works department for lack of proper supervision, resulting in unsafe traffic conditions and confusing lane changes.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Canadian dairy farmers for killing the controversial "Stop Cooking with Cheese" advertising campaign saying the TV spots were not in good taste. Now if Tetley Green Tea will kill its ad about the girl in the elevator who promises to keep the doors open and then pushes the Close button and for Best Buy to get rid of their silly fat guy TV ads.

 **BRICKBATS** to a justice system which permits a drunk driver who killed a person to walk out of jail pending a ruling on his appeal more than four years after the accident. The driver was convicted in 2004 and sentenced to five years in jail and is out on bail pending his appeal which may take up to six months to be heard.

 **BOUQUETS** to the member of Aurora Council who will introduce a motion that house and business street numbers are large enough to be readily seen by a passing motorist. Nothing is more frustrating and dangerous than a motorist in a strange area searching for the street number.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Harper government for continuing to bill itself as Canada's "new" government and blaming everything on the former Liberal government, when they have been in power for almost a year. It's time they started to accept some responsibility.

 **BOUQUETS** to the organizers of the World Junior Hockey Championships for selecting the picturesque Town of Leksand, Sweden, for the annual hockey tournament. It was back in 1971 when an Aurora hockey team played in Leksand resulting in the twinning of Leksand and Aurora.

 **BRICKBATS** to the recruiting branch of the Canadian Armed Forces for rejecting a former Halifax Air Cadet who had learned to fly gliders and a Cessna while with the Cadets, who was later accepted by the Royal Air Force and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his great courage and composure while piloting a helicopter in Afghanistan.

 **BOUQUETS** to the member of Aurora Council who will investigate the actions of the federal Harper government in creating or designating national museums and possibly providing funding for institutions outside of Ottawa and find out if the Aurora Cultural and Heritage Centre in the historic Church Street qualifies.

Letters to the Editor

Town staff should keep resumes handy: reader

To the editor,

The new council has been sworn in.

The decriers, yet often instigators, of past council discord are now at the helm.

So what new direction has a new council yet brought?

It appears the answer is - "apply elsewhere" - if you are staff.

The recent council direction for staff to enforce Ontario Municipal Board directives re the Aurora

Cable Internet windmill might leave staff in a quandry.

The staff, who are the paid professionals hired to carry out policy, bylaws, etc., were of the opinion that ACI is in compliance with all OMB directives to ACI.

Council, whose sole job is to set policy (and not physically implement it) - thought otherwise.

The council seems to know more about the law and/or compliance with same and have sent staff on

a mission in political and practical futility.

I do not intend to demean the intent, energy, and commitment of council members, however, the council is and should be forced to rely on others to carry out the work; that is, to exercise most of the authority and to fulfill most of the accountability.

This dependence on others requires the council to give careful attention to the principles of sound delegation.

It is not the council's job to micromanage for the sake of political expediency.

John and Mirian Carver, who are the namesakes of the "Carver Policy Governance Model" (which most councils, boards and levels of government manage to follow - and which, in a nutshell, holds them to set policy but not enforce or micromanage same) might be intrigued by the current council and already think it dysfunctional for doing what it is not legally, morally or ethically supposed to do.

However, it is early, and I maintain hope that this council does not prove to be an incompetent group of otherwise competent individuals.

But if I was staff - I would keep my resume handy.

To the editor,

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Women's Centre Holiday Hamper Program a big success by brightening the season for many families here in our community.

A special thank you to Vern Cunningham of Alutron Modules and his lovely wife, Lynn, who so generously donated the facilities to run this year's program.

And I would be remiss not to include every member of their wonderful staff who daily stopped with smiling faces to take the time to help and keep things running smoothly.

Each and every one of you brightened my holiday season immeasurably.

For those who came into the depot this year, you know what wonder it was to behold.

Tables covered and overflowing with toys for children of all ages and volunteers banding together to try to ensure that everyone had a happy holiday.

Teamwork at its finest.

This year, we were also able to provide winter warmth needs to

many children who didn't have things like coats, boots, mitts, hats, and many other things that many of us take for granted.

None of this would have been possible if we were not part of such a caring community - a community that comes together to help those less fortunate and in need.

It was truly heartening for me to see the genuine caring, the generosity and the kind hearts of friends and strangers alike.

The gratitude of those who received help was well worth the long hours and the constant worry of having enough.

Thank you to Aurora Cable Internet and to Dick Illingworth who gave us the opportunity to put out a plea for help, and thank you to all those who responded.

We are truly grateful for your support.

To all the volunteers who helped with packing, sorting, delivering and so much more - we couldn't have done it without you.

And to all the individuals, companies, service clubs, sponsors, and donors who joined with us, please know what a

difference you truly made.

With a thankful heart.

Shelley Lundquist
Women's Centre
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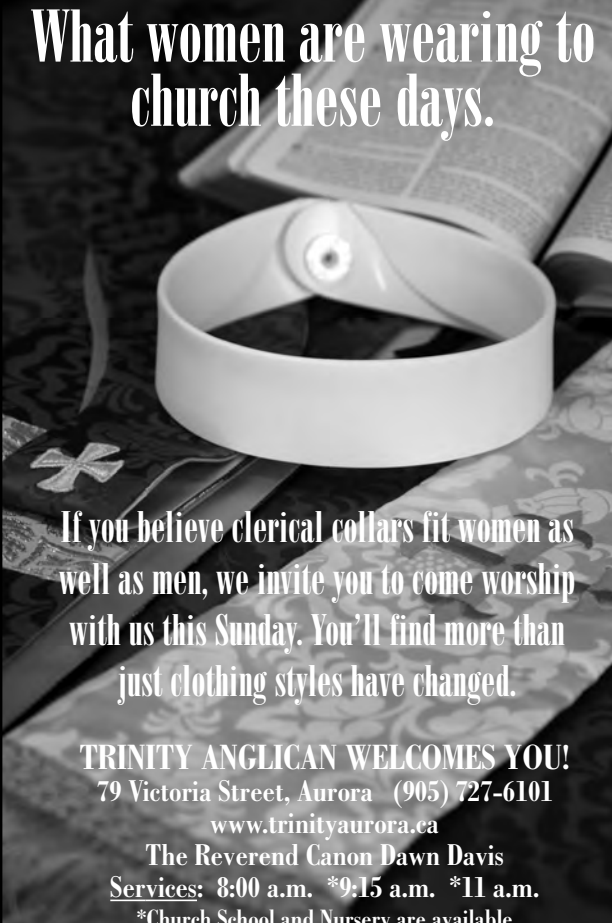


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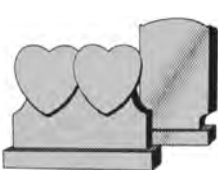
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Skylight Gallery has limited hours

A community without artists is like a body without a soul. Many communities are fast losing their artists and their soul because the artists have no place to exhibit and sell their work.

There is a lack of facilities for artists to exhibit original fine works of art as most available galleries are primarily print and framing shops with limited facilities for original art.

This may have been the reason behind the planning and the opening of the Skylight Gallery on the third floor of the Aurora Town Hall.

It is a delightful spot with natural lighting and designed in such a way as to protect the paintings from the direct sunlight.

Unfortunately, the art is not readily accessible as the gallery is only open during normal Town Hall business hours limiting access to the art-loving public who may wish to visit the gallery in the evenings or on the weekends.

If the gallery was worth building, it should be worth making it accessible to the tax-paying public.

With a back door leading directly into the gallery, there doesn't appear to be any reason why on a Saturday and Sunday the rest of the building couldn't be blocked off, with the participating artist in attendance in the gallery.

Artists exhibiting in the gallery for the monthly art shows are selected by lot. An artist is selected for every month of the year with a few backup artists in the event the scheduled artist is unable to participate.

If the intent was to provide a venue for tax-paying Aurora artists to use the gallery, it has been a dismal failure as the artists are selected region-wide and beyond and no preference is given to local artists.

So if you have the time between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday visit the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall.

While at the Town Hall take time to visit the second floor and view the town's permanent art collection.

Many historic buildings have been demolished in the interests of development but in some cases their memories were captured in paint as part of the Preserve in Paint program.

Although the Aurora Art Show was started in 1962 to provide local artists a venue to display their works, it wasn't until 1975 when the

Preserve Aurora in Paint category was introduced as a means of preserving in paint the historic buildings of Aurora.

In 1983 the Aurora Heritage Committee recommended the town purchase or have the right of first refusal for the winning painting in the Preserve Aurora category to start a permanent collection for the municipality.

Council of the day approved an annual expenditure of up to \$500 to purchase the painting. As a result the town has a growing collection of local buildings and sites by local artists.

At one time the paintings graced the stairway of the Wellington Street West administrative centre, but were stored in boxes when the centre was sold to the Board of Education and a move was made to the temporary accommodation on Industrial Parkway.

The paintings remained in storage even after the new Town Hall was opened but after pressure from some artists and a member of the media, the paintings were located and finally put on public display.

But instead of being given an area of prominence on the circular wall on the second floor, the paintings were related to a crowded side wall of the second floor which does not provide adequate viewing opportunities as they are crowded together and hung three or four high.

Citizens taking the time to visit the second floor and view the permanent collection will catch a glimpse of Aurora's historical past



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

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School
is hosting a
Pathways Information Session
evening on

Thursday January 18th from 7 – 9 pm

at our school. What future pathway will students take? Will it be College, University, Apprenticeship or directly to the Workplace? What do parents need to know to assist their teens in making the right choices at home and at school?

Parents and students are encouraged to attend this evening. The session is designed to give parents what they need to assist their teens to choose accurately. Decisions made now will shape the experience of students while in high school and beyond. Included will be an introductory greeting from Board Trustee Gord Kerr and Principal Tod Dungey. Karen Armata, Head of Guidance at Williams H. S. and Mary Lynn Colasanti, the YRDSB Employment Advisor who will provide an additional overview of possible choices for students. Breakout sessions will follow for more in depth questioning of the different options available. Our intent is that this information evening will be empowering for parents as they support their children with preparing for their futures.

Aurora parents and students of all grade levels are welcome to attend. Come and find out the latest information available to facilitate these important steps taken by your son/daughter in school.

Les Kerr - Guidance Counsellor 905-727-3131 ext. 172
Tod Dungey - Principal 905-727-3131 ext. 156

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School

and some buildings still retained.

One of the first paintings in the collection is "The Artist Colony" by Bette Jenkins which had been located at Yonge and Centre Streets.

It had previously been the livery stable of the old Queen's Hotel, a taxi dispatch office, a law office, Decadence Dessert Shop, Mr. Dart's Emporium and the Humane Society's Odds and Togs Gift Shop before becoming The Artist Colony.

It has since been demolished for a com-

mercial complex, but the town has the painting which can be seen by the public if they take

the time to visit the Town Hall and view the art on display.

It's well worth seeing!

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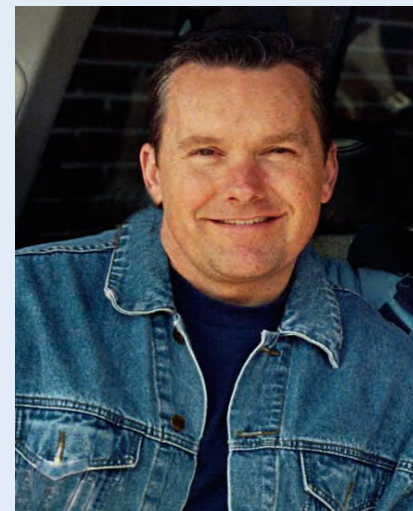
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This month's business feature...

Join to be fit, join to have fun, join us "FOREVER!"

"AURORA'S 'QUAINT' LOCAL FITNESS CENTRE"

By STEPHEN GADSDEN



Larry Scott, Manager
Fitness & Lifestyle Coach
larry_scott@sympatico.ca

Don't you just love it when people give you an appreciative "once over" at the local coffee shop? Of course you do. And you should too.

After all, for the last year you've been working hard with your personal trainer at your favourite gym to achieve those rock hard abs, arms, shoulders and traps.

Larry Scott has seen this transformation occur time and time again. He's also been privy to the many smiles of accomplishment shown by his successful students.

You see, Larry is the new manager and one of several personal trainers at Aurora's Forever Fitness Health Centre.

Larry knows all about physical fitness. He represented Ontario at the Canadian Bodybuilding Championships in 1993 (2nd place) and represented Canada at the North American Bodybuilding Championships in 1995.

Physical fitness, says Larry, is one of the most important goals a person can achieve. Your body is the vehicle in which you spend all of your life, he says. It's your home, your transportation, and your refuge, all rolled into one. Portrayed in this way, it's hard to argue. The trick is to turn this realization into reality.

The first thing you have to do is decide to "go for it" and actually speak with a personal trainer about the task at hand. A good trainer will summarize what is involved in getting you into good physical shape, including an evaluation of your eating habits, experience, personal goals, time frame and daily work routine.



Another important issue for your personal trainer is to assess your present state of mental and physical health.

Once your trainer has this information, says Larry, he or she will design a personal training regimen, and get you on your way by means of a series of regular training sessions. You can figure on at least two 50-minute sessions per week.

A gym's atmosphere and environment are important to physical training. This is why Larry chose to work with the Forever Fitness Health Centre.

He's worked with many large fitness clubs as a freelance trainer over the years. His biggest beef with big gyms is their assembly-line, impersonal mentality. Top notch physical training is a personal undertaking that requires a familiar bond between trainer and client. In big clubs, such professional intimacy is often lost. When this happens, says Larry, a client's motivation suffers, with predictable results.

Another important aspect is having the right exercise equipment to get the job done properly. Too often, says Larry, fitness clubs emphasize having the latest computerized gizmos and machines to attract and keep members. Unfortunately, this is the wrong way to assess the attractiveness of one gym over another.

It's not the machine that makes the individual. Physical prowess and psychological well-being are the result of learning to exercise the right muscles and groups of muscles with the most appropriate aids, including cables, cardio, free weights and stretching.

The final ingredient to a successful physical training program is to have fun and lots of it.
"This is why I decided to represent Forever Fitness."

~ Larry can be reached at larry_scott@sympatico.ca.

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Page 10

AURORAN, Week of January 16, 2007

Six periods - one goal as Aurora drops a pair

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team needs to come home. It's tough out there.

In two away games last weekend, Aurora managed only one goal as they fell Friday night to the Collingwood Blues 3-1, then were blanked in Markham 3-0 Saturday night.

The club has one more away game - Thursday in Stouffville against the Spirit, before it returns to the comfortable confines of the Aurora Community Centre.

For Aurora, the two weekend losses were numbers three and four on the season for the league-leading team.

Friday, the Collingwood Blues got revenge for a missed call that cost them a victory the last time they met up with the North Division champion Tigers.

The Blues jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period, and got standout goaltending from Akos Agardy the rest of the way as they posted a 3-1 win.

Aurora scored its only goal in the first period.

D'Arcy Oakes, Brian Black and Matt Ashman gave the Blues the lead before the ten-minute mark of the period.

Agardy was especially strong in the second period when Aurora fired 22 shots at the Collingwood net.

The two teams meet again the final day of the regular season in Collingwood.

Saturday night, Aurora

was at Centennial Arena in Markham to meet the Waxers for the first time this season.

Things didn't go too well there, either.

Single goals in each period gave Markham a 3-0 win.

At the 5:44 mark of the first period, a power-play goal seemed to let the Tigers know the home team "was in charge".

The second period saw another power-play goal, and Markham salted the game away with an empty-netter in the final minute of play.

The game saw goaltender Matt Hansell earn his first career shutout.

On the plus side of the

agenda, Aurora added two players to its roster, so what you see now is what you'll get for the rest of the season.

Jeff Grenier, a defenseman, and Vince Bruni, a winger, are both 19 years old.

"In Grenier we get what could be an impact defenseman solid at both ends of the ice, very mobile and a superior passer who will be able to play in all situations," said coach Jerome Dupont. "In Bruni we get a bona fide power forward who possesses speed, smarts and skill."

Bruni also helps restore the roster to nine 20-year-olds which is the most a team can dress on

any given night.

Grenier was obtained from the Gatineau Olympiques of the QMJHL while Nathaniel Brooks was dealt to Vaughan for the rights to Bruni.

To clear room for Grenier, Jordan Smith was dealt to the Collingwood Blues.

Aurora missed its usual home game spot last weekend as they vacated the rink for the 24th annual MacPherson Hockey Tournament, hosted by St. Andrew's College.

Game time Friday is 7.30 p.m. against the Orangeville Crushers.

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Monday night hockey

Results up to Monday, Jan. 8

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Tom & Jerry's	10	2	2	49	29	22
Law Insurance Brokers	8	4	2	55	32	18
Priestly Demolition	7	6	1	54	48	15
Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	6	5	3	57	43	15
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6	7	1	47	59	13
FPL Aggregates	5	9	0	38	59	10
Baldwin's	4	8	2	51	57	10
Masterclean Contracting	4	9	1	40	54	9

Results, Monday, Jan. 8

Baldwins Steakhouse	5		Rec Sports	3
Tom & Jerrys	2		Law Insurance	2
Highlands Chev	6		Masterclean	5
Priestly Demolition	1		FPL Aggregates	4

Player standings, Monday, Jan. 8

NAME	TEAM	G	A	PTS
John Archibauld	Highland's	14	7	21
Mark Sedore	Priestly	16	5	21
John Anderson	Rec Sports	11	9	20
Steve Kavanah	Baldwins	10	9	19
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	10	9	19
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	5	13	18
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	10	5	15
Jason Muise	Priestly	6	9	15
Scott Crabb	Highland's	5	9	14
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	11	3	14
Gerald Briand	Baldwins	7	6	13
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	8	5	13
Kevin Brown	Rec Sports	6	7	13
Pat O'Mahony	FPL	4	8	12
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	6	6	12
Charlie Steenhorset	Rec Sports	1	11	12
Ed Jackson	Baldwins	2	9	11
Steve Robertson	Highland's	4	7	11
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	5	11
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	6	5	11
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	2	8	10
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	2	8	10
Jerry Mackrell	Tom & Jerry's	5	5	10
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	3	7	10
Colin Leech	Priestly	3	7	10
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	3	7	10
John Leeder	FPL	5	4	9
Bob Ince	FPL	4	5	9
Kevin O'Keefe	Baldwins	5	4	9
Brian Horton	Baldwins	2	7	9
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	3	6	9
Paul Gibson	Law Insurance	2	7	9
Chris Neal	Highland's	5	4	9
Dave Holden	Tom & Jerry's	4	5	9
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	0	8	8
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	0	8	8
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	6	2	8
Mike Kensit	Masterclean	5	3	8
Mike Casey	Priestly	3	5	8
Dave McQueston	FPL	3	4	7
Dave Caverley	FPL	3	4	7
Peter Briand	Baldwins	3	4	7
Doug McGrath	Baldwins	3	4	7
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	5	7
Dan Smith	Rec Sports	3	4	7
Mike Slimkowich	Masterclean	2	5	7
Jack Radecki	FPL	4	2	6
Doug Hackett	FPL	1	5	6
Mark Lemmon	Law Insurance	2	4	6
Craig McConnell	Law Insurance	4	2	6
Ken Rumble	Highland's	5	1	6
Jody Matthews	Highland's	3	3	6
RonThieson	Tom & Jerry's	0	6	6
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	5	6
Steve Rezwick	Rec Sports	1	5	6
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	3	6
Bill Collins	Masterclean	1	5	6
Mike Caicco	Priestly	1	5	6
Mike Dinner	Priestly	1	5	6

Leksand link alive

From page 1
arranged for a CFTO camera-man and announcer to accompany the team to Sweden for the CTV network's Wide World of Sports.

Games were played in Sobertalje, Hammarby, Leksand, Mora and Stockholm.

Leksand, about 160 miles north of Stockholm and known as the hockey capital of Sweden, made a lasting impression on the visiting Canadians.

During the visit, then Councillor Norm Stewart invited Leksand to play in Aurora the following year and that began an exchange of friendship visits of hockey teams, soccer teams, jazz bands and individuals over the years.

In March, 1974, Aurora council unanimously adopted a resolution officially inviting Leksand to be Aurora's twin municipality.

The invitation pointed out that twinning had exciting possibilities in terms of exchange visits among businesses, schools, community groups and citizens.

The adoption of the motion came just as Councillors Stewart and Jack Williamson and 37 citizens were on their way for a friendship visit with the King City school band, Nostalgia.

They spent five days in Stockholm and five days in Leksand where they stayed with Swedish families.

They brought back a tapestry from Leksand, which they presented to Mayor Evelyn Buck as an indication of Leksand's approval of the twinning with Aurora.

The long dream of twinning the Towns of Aurora and Leksand became a reality Jan. 3, 1976.

During a hockey game between the Leksand Oldtimers and the Aurora Church Dodgers, the official exchange of documents and flags took place, including a gift to Leksand of four prints of old Aurora by artist Dorothy Clark

McClure.

There were a few tears and lots of laughter Jan. 4 as friends of the two towns joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne in Aurora's Factory Theatre to wind up the 10-day visit of the Leksand team.

There were several other friendship visits over the years including one in March, 1984, on the 10th anniversary of the twinning when Mayor Dick Illingworth and Councillors Evelyn Buck and Norm Stewart joined several citizens and the St. Andrew's College Jazz Band to reconfirm the twinning.

A blue calfskin, from Collis Leather, emblazoned with the Town of Aurora Coat of Arms, was presented to Leksand Mayor Bjorn Doverskog and the citizens of Leksand from the council and citizens of Aurora.

Recently the exchange visits have been less frequent and it looked as if the Swedish connection had been broken, but the letter from Leksand brings with it hopes of continued visits between the sister towns.

Time for another visit. Anyone game?



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For the sixth time in the 24-year history of the MacPherson hockey tournament, the host team from Aurora, St. Andrew's College Saints, won all the marbles over the weekend at the Aurora Community Centre. They defeated Edge School from Calgary 3-2 in the final game Sunday. Ironically, the same two teams met for the first time Friday morning, and Aurora managed to post the same score, then continued its undefeated march to the title Sunday afternoon. Opening ceremonies, in front of a huge crowd, included a performance by the St. Andrew's College pipes and drums contingent. The championship team is shown above. Eight teams took part in the event, including the Shady Side Academy from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; St. Francis High School, from Athol Springs, New York; and Gilmour Academy from Gates Mills, Ohio. The other five clubs were from Canada.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

St. Andrew's wins its own tournament

It was only two years ago that a hockey team from Aurora's St. Andrew's College won, for the fifth time, the gold medal in the annual MacPherson hockey tournament.

Sunday, they repeated their performance with a 3-2 win over Edge School

from Calgary, Alberta.

The medal marked the sixth time Aurora has won the title in the 24-year history of the tournament, which opened Friday night, utilizing both ice surfaces at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora went undefeated in the event, opening

Friday morning with another 3-2 victory over Edge, then following up with a 2-1 win over St. Francis High School Friday evening, and an 8-1 victory over Shady Side Academy from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Saturday at noon.

In the semi-final played

Saturday evening, St. Andrew's edged Upper Canada College 2-1 to head into the final against Edge.

Upper Canada, relegated to the bronze medal game, secured that spot with a 3-2 win over Gilmour Academy from Gates Mills, Ohio.

Bridge results

Jan. 9: NS - Ed Smereka, Virginia Smereka; Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane; Catherine Balant, Ross Jenkinson; Mike Campbell, Ross Jenkinson.

Jan. 10: NS - Paul Graves, Shirley Hulbig; Nan McLean, Richard Beetham; Wally Browne, Vivien, Thomas. EW - Virginia Smereka, Paul MacFarlane; Gord Saul, Peter Brugger; Hans Jacobs, Linda Lord.

Jan. 12: NS - Shirley Hulbig, Paul Graves; Libby McWilliams, Olly Smolak; Judy Aikman, Mel Taylor. EW - Mike MacNeil, Dan MacNeil; Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane; Jane Demers, Paul Caleb.

School renovation resumes

From page 1

In a recent issue of The Attic, the Society's newsletter, President Helen Roberts reported that work had begun in preparation for the major construction planned for 2007.

The installation of a sprinkler system, an undertaking previously approved by council to protect the heritage building, was scheduled for completion before the end of December.

Work had also started on completion of the ground floor Exhibit Gallery which is being renovated with a grant from the Trillium Foundation.

Originally, it was intended to use the grant when the whole building was under construction, but a delay in the construction phase created a necessity to use the funds due to a deadline, it was decided to complete the Exhibit Gallery in the north-west classroom on the

ground floor.

The architect's plans were already in place and the contractor was currently working on finishing the floors, walls and ceiling, including installation of matching reproduced tin ceiling tiles where necessary.

Once finished the Gallery will provide the Society with a showroom where stakeholders will get an idea of the look and uses of the finished building.

Eventually the Gallery will showcase travelling exhibits and displays from both the Society's collection of artifacts and community based exhibits.

Ms. Roberts writes that 2007 shows great promise for the Aurora Heritage Centre as the new mayor and council have expressed an interest in supporting Arts and Culture and the Society hopes to work with them to establish a cultural base at the Heritage Centre.

First budget look a shock

From page 1

ects and programs; and it assists with cash flow.

During the year there was an increase of \$135 million in assessment and based on a no increase budget for town purposes there would be a decrease of 2.1 per cent providing service levels remained the same.

He explained the various lines in the proposed budget material and noted that \$220,000 in the budget represented one per cent so that if the budget was to be decreased by one per cent there would have to a deduction of that

amount in the budget.

He pointed out that there are certain mandatory increases that have to be included and capital projects amounting to more than \$4 million were included in the operating budget bringing the budget to a 12.4 per cent increase, which does not include a 2007 salary increase.

This compared with a 7.9 per cent increase in 2006 and a projection of 8.7 for 2007 which had to be increased to 12.4 per cent due to the number of capital projects required.

It also showed projec-

tions of a seven per cent increase in 2008, 4.7 per cent in 2009 and three per cent in 2010.

To lower the proposed budget would require a reduction in service levels or an increase in user fees.

Committee members asked several questions for clarification and received the presentation for information.

The Treasurer suggested that at least two more budget meetings be scheduled and it was hoped the final budget would go to council Jan. 29 for approval.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

Results as of Sunday, January 14



House League

Minor Atom

303 Tilemaster 4. 301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. Minor Atom House League 2 - Dennis Semenovych 1G 1A, Nathan Dinatale 1A, Johnny Sherwood 1G.

305 Aurora Canadian Tire 4. 303 Tilemaster Minor Atom House League 4 - Riley Weller 2G, Adam Hofmann 1A, Michael Hosmer 1G, Nathan Romanchych 1G, Mark Bonofiglio 1A.

303 Tilemaster Minor Atom House League 6 - Riley Weller 3G 1A, Adam

Minor Bantam

708 Perfect Moves Minor Bantam House League 3 - Austin Fenyes 1G, Liam Martin 1A, Brandon Connolly 1G, Brody Hunter 1A, TJ Ground 1G, Michael Bernier 1A. **704 Mary's Flower Shop 1** - Eric Butler 1G.

706 Cosentino Produce Minor Bantam House League 4 - Cameron Annear 1G, Patrick Dowling 1A, Zach Andrews 1G, Alexander Payne 1G, Logan Weber 1G, Robert Anderson 1A. **705 CAA South Central Ontario 0.**

Once, municipal politicians sought re-election annually

Back in the early 1960s, in Aurora and a number of other municipalities, citizens voted annually to elect their municipal council.

It was often said that nomination night and the election were the most exciting events of the year.

By the mid-1960s, Aurora adopted a two-year term of office, but many rural municipalities remained with the one-year term, while Metro Toronto council was elected for three years.

At that time, the nomination meeting was held in the auditorium of the Wells Street Public School with a standing room only audience of 400 to 500 citizens.

There were three large blackboards at the front of the room, one for council, one for hydro commission and one for school trustees, with Town Clerk Bill Johnson in charge as returning officer.

Nominations were given verbally from the floor and duly recorded on the blackboard, if the nominated candidate indicated his willingness to run for office.

The nomination period lasted one hour and the tension and excitement increased as the deadline drew near.

At the appointed time, Johnson announced that nominations had closed and the speeches started.

Then in early 1972 legislation was introduced at Queen's Park, which provided for a uniform two-year term of office and election date for all municipalities.

The selected date was the first Monday in December for every even numbered year and nominations were to be accepted for seven days, ending 18 days before the election.

That rule did away with the public nomination meeting.

The revised nomination procedure required the candidate to file with the municipal clerk a prescribed form signed by at least 10 electors, all of whom had to be listed on the polling sheet.

The scrapping of the public nomination night was not well received by small urban and rural municipalities, as it was believed it was part of a continuing trend towards making elections more impersonal and the electorate more lethargic.

In previous election years, dating back to Confederation or before, a candidate for public office had to face the electors at the public meeting, introduce himself and explain why he was seeking public office.

It gave the voters an opportunity to judge the person's ability on the platform, ask questions and gauge the public's reaction to the candidate.

Under the revised nomination procedure, it was possible for a candidate to be elected without appearing before the electors.

It was believed a uniform date and a fixed two-year term would generate more public interest in municipal elections. There was general agreement, except in Toronto, for the two-year term.

In growing municipalities, one year was not long enough for newly-elected councillors to become familiar with the issues and council procedures

before it was time to start electioneering again.

It was difficult even for an experienced council to carry out the planned projects within the one-year term.

The next major election issue occurred in May, 1975.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario initiated a survey of member municipalities to ascertain if the association should petition the province to change the traditional December election date.

There was a move in some municipalities to advance the election date to October to avoid what could be a bad winter storm on election day and it would be easier for candidates to campaign in the better weather.

After a lengthy discussion, Aurora Council voted to retain the first week in December for elections, but recommended election day be changed from Monday to Saturday to encourage a larger voter turnout.

The poll showed that rural municipalities were strongly opposed to any change while

the large urban municipalities with a population of more than 50,000 were prepared to make the change, preferably to the first week in November. There was general agreement that Monday was the preferred day for the election.

The large urban municipalities indicated they preferred a three-year term of office, with some suggesting a four-year term, while the small urban and rural municipalities preferred the status quo.

Suggestions were also submitted that the names of candidates on ballots be randomly selected or selected by lot,

rather than alphabetical, as is the current practice.

It was argued that candidates with names starting with a letter near the end of the alphabet were being discriminated against, as electors normally voted for names at the top of the ballot.

Over the years there have been many changes in municipal elections.

Municipal councils now serve for a four-year term.

None of the changes has done anything to reduce the general public apathy and improve the poor voter turnout at municipal elections.

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Square Dance draws a crowd

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) square dance on Saturday night, Jan. 6, confirmed what was suspected, that interest in square dancing is picking up steam. A solid core of dancers can be recognized at each dance, and it appears that awareness and participation are increasing.

The dances have been scheduled for the first Saturday in the month, but it appears that the third Saturday in the month would be a better fit.

Bill Hands, who does an excellent job as our caller, is available for the third Saturday, and if the West/Mackenzie Hall is available at the centre on the third Saturday, it will be a "go" situation.

We will avoid a conflict with Newmarket's square dance earlier in the month, and we can probably rearrange our Friday night dance to avoid conflict.

That being said, the Saturday night square dance was an enjoyable affair from start to finish, with Bill giving plenty of instruction to seniors anxious to learn.

Some line dancing and the inclusion of the occasional ballroom dance, gave a nice variety to a good evening of dancing entertainment.

Norm Weller, who was and is a strong promoter of the ASA square dancing program, is undergoing chemotherapy and caution dictates he must keep away from crowds for the time being.

Norm, you are in our thoughts and we hope you get well soon!

The computer club is back in full operation after the Christmas layoff.

For me, this includes teaching basic Microsoft Word to members with a bare minimum of computer operation.

The basic computer operation taught in the centre is sufficient to allow progress in Microsoft Word; or if you have any small amount of computer experience, I can help you.

A little knowledge of the keyboard is a huge help to the student, the teacher and everybody in the class.

On Tuesdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., the computer room is open for members to drop in, and assistance is available including help with the keyboard, or for anything concerned with computers.

We also have internet and e-mail training plus computers in a nutshell.

I note that Evelyn Buck has her own Blog site at "www.evelynbuck.com" and she received instructional training from Tom Yates at the ASA.

After reading through Evelyn's web/blog site, I declare it very good, particularly as this endeavour has been accomplished by a lady who has seen many, many cold winters and hot summers come and go, and who is not yet fully proficient in the operation of computers, although she does have help.

I read the blog through, and found it of interest, which is a deserving testimonial, and I congratulate Evelyn.

Today the computer club committee met and I can report that the drop in will continue each Tuesday in the computer room, starting at 1 p.m.

It will continue for one or two hours depending on demand.

The popular Tuesday general meetings with a variety of programming will continue starting at 10 a.m.

Programs will include questions and answers, digital cameras, scanning documents and photos, favourite web sites and, if you have a request let us know, and if you have an expertise and can make a presentation, let us know.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

How Aurora looked in 1968

- Aurora Council gave third and final reading to the town's first zoning bylaw, ending nine years of effort to gain effective control of the land within its boundaries.

- The Community Centre's revenue exceeded expenditures by \$5,950 for the year.

- Council accepted the proposal of the Aurora Lions Club to build a washroom facility in Fleury Park.

- Provincial police officials recommended that York municipalities unite their police forces to prevent organized crime from making a stronghold in York.

- Aurora volunteer firefighters received an increase in honorarium from \$5 to \$6 per call.

- Dan Bowerman retired as manager of Aurora's Bank of Montreal after a 45-year banking career and Don Pulcine was appointed manager.

- Norm Perkins was elected President of the Aurora Legion.

- Aurora had a full slate of candidates for the municipal election with Councillor Dick Illingworth challenging Mayor Clarence Davis, Councillor Evelyn Buck, Deputy Reeve Jack Williamson and former Reeve Stu Patrick went for Reeve, Councillor Bill Trent and School Trustee Murray Binions went for Deputy Reeve. There were 11 candidates for the six seats on council and because of two close results council requested a recount of all votes.

OPERATION PUCK SHY

It was in October, 1970, when young Jamie McGirr was watching a Tiger hockey game at the Community Centre and like many young hockey fans was sitting in the front row, as close to the action as he could get.

But Jamie never got to see the whole game as he was hit in the mouth by a flying puck and was rushed to the hospital. He wasn't the first one to be hit as in the previous year approximately 10 young people had been struck by pucks flying into the stands.

Some were lucky and suffered only bruises, other were cut and others lost teeth.

It was obvious something had to be done.

A group of hockey fans headed by Ron Wallace, then a sports writer and Don Pulcine, manager of the Bank of Montreal, decided the entire rink perimeter should have a glass protective shield except for the players' benches.

In order to raise the estimated \$1,500 to \$2,000 required to install the protective shield they launched Operation Puck Shy.

When the actual quotation came in it was \$2,575.40 for the 2-foot high glass.

By the end of 1970 Operation Puck Shy had collected a total of \$1,600.

Due to another young lad hit by a flying puck, council agreed to include funds to pay the balance of the cost for the glass barrier in the 1971 budget and by the end of March, 1971, the barrier was in place and injuries from flying pucks became a thing of the past.

MATCHBOOK COLLECTORS

It wasn't that long ago when almost every restaurant and other place of business distributed little packages of matches with the name of the restaurant or the business printed on the cover.

There were so many that some people started to collect the matchbooks and the Rathkamp Matchcover Society was formed in 1940.

It was named after a Rhode Islander who had 45 collections.

The society had 1,500 members in the United States plus 300 with the Hamilton-based Trans-

Canada Matchcover Club.

In August, 1993, Richmond Hill collector Morris Pasternak arranged the society's 53rd convention in the Valhalla Inn in Kitchener with collectors from as far away as England and Australia in attendance.

Where are the matchcovers and the collectors today?

ED. NOTE: Right here, Dick. I have more than 11,000 different covers in my collection and the highest fire insurance rates in town...

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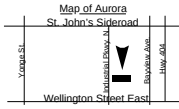
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**See "Classes Section" left, for more info on classes and practice classes with Steve Miller.*

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