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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 1 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of October 23, 2007

No committee, but dog park is still operational

Last June Aurora's Leisure Services Advisory Committee was directed to advertise for interested residents to serve on the Leash Free Dog Park Committee to enable the continued operation of the park on Industrial Parkway North.

At a recent council meeting it was reported dog owners were not cleaning up after their pets or were

tying "doggie bags" to the fence surrounding the park as a method to get rid of waste.

Town staff members pointed out the original plan was for dog owners to take the bags home for disposal and for this reason no garbage container had been provided.

It also meant the formation of a volunteer citizen committee to

oversee the park was a necessity.

At the time councillors agreed that either dog users clean up after their pets or they would lose the park. A September deadline was set.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee requested a status report for the committee's October meeting.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting, Councillor Grace March sought information about the establishment of the citizen committee to oversee the operation of the park.

Staff members replied that not enough applications had been received from dog owners to serve on the committee and it was being re-advertised.

It was also pointed out that a report would be submitted by the Advisory Committee following their meeting resulting in the general committee adopting the report as presented.

And the leash-free park remains operational.

Firms bid \$300,000

It's apparent Aurora needs more parkettes.

Two, to be exact.
Well, maybe one here and one in Newmarket.

It all happened last week when a fund-raiser for the Southlake Regional Health Centre's new cancer building, was held.

Aurora Council had agreed that a parkette could be auctioned off and the winner would get to name it.

Except three bidders stepped up to the plate.

At stake was the name of a new parkette in the Brookvalley subdivision now under construction on Bayview Avenue in accordance with the town's Naming Policy.

At the fund-raiser, all three bid \$100,000 each for the right to name the park.

Mayor Phyllis Morris, who was at the gala, had the bidding

Please see page 7



VERN CUNNINGHAM

Cunningham named top Business Person

So popular was the choice of this year's Business Person of the Year he received a standing ovation.

Vern Cunningham, owner of Alutron Modules Inc. on Industrial Parkway South, was humbled as his name was announced Friday night at the 8th annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Business.

The event was held at DiNardo's Mansion, ironically located next door to Cunningham's firm.

Aurora's East Side Marios, a runner-up in last year's competitions, won top honours this time out taking the Franchisee of the Year award.

Last year, they finished behind Aurora's M & M Meats.

Marquee Theatrical Productions took all the marbles in the Business of the Year (under 5 employees) while fraktals 'spectacular chocolate cashew butter-

crunch' won the New Venture award.

Tilemaster took the honours for the Business of the Year (more than 25 employees).

Model Builders (Aurora) Ltd. was given a longevity award for being in business 50 years in Aurora.

Businesses here for 25 years include Aurora Medical Centre, Dr. Ronald Goodlin, Justram Equipment Inc., Legs and Lace Ltd., Marksall Signs Ltd., Peter Virtanen Insurance Agency Inc., Silverberg, Perel & Sheldon, LLP Chartered Accountants, and Tilemaster.

Hundreds of Aurorans attended the annual event, many dressed in tuxedos.

Following the award presentations, participants danced to the music of George St. Kitts.

Aurora resident Gord James, a CHUM Radio broadcaster, was Master of Ceremonies.



Hallowe'en is still a few days away, but that didn't stop this group from appearing in costume at the Aurora Farmers' Market Saturday. The market has some ideas about pumpkins this year, as does a local restaurant. You can find out what's going on by turning to Page 11.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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COMING EVENTS

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church, on Bathurst Street, just south of Henderson. Operating 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@sympatico.ca.

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

Until Nov. 28, on Wednesday evenings, the Bereavement Support Group, for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one, will meet at Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. For more information, call Mary at 905-727-6984. There is no fee for this program.

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

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

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice under the direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5 p.m. at the seniors' centre.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

For advanced computer operators, "Beyond Google", a one-hour session on advanced search strategies, using electronic databases will be held at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 6 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4. Mouse and keyboarding experience required.

Public Planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Agenda includes proposed zoning bylaw change regarding infill housing.

Nancy Newman artist's reception at the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. Art exhibit and sale continues at the gallery until the end of October, available weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

For advanced computer operators, "Beyond Google", a one-hour session on advanced search strategies, using electronic databases will be held at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 10.30 a.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4. Mouse and keyboarding experience required.

The staff of Aurora Cable Internet hosts "The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity" Hallowe'en Party at DiNardo's Haunted Mansion with proceeds to help area families who otherwise would have a bleak Christmas. For tickets and information call Tracy Mead at 905-727-1981, ext. 249.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

Celebrate Hallowe'en at the Aurora Farmers' Market as part of customer appreciation. Lots of prizes and activities will be featured. Good food, crafts and contest winnings for best costumes.

Sheppard's Bush becomes a Haunted Forest from 6 to 8 p.m. and all ghosts, goblins and friendly monsters are invited for a spooky night of haunted trails. Call 905-726-4762 for details.

The last Great Curbside Giveaway for the year. Take unwanted items to the curb and mark them free. If not taken leftovers must be removed by 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

The "Howl on the Hill" at St. Andrew's College will raise funds for Girls Inc. of York Region. Registration starts at 8 a.m. with the run at 10 a.m. featuring a five and a ten kilometre run and a three-kilome-

tre trick-or-treat hike along a haunted trail. Call 905-830-0776 for details.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Hadley Grange Crafters Annual Craft and Gift Sale, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 16105 Yonge Street. (first driveway north of St. John's Sideroad).

NOVEMBER 4 to 19

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Christmas Bazaar at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, Victoria and Mosley Streets. St. Andrew's Guild is presenting baked goods, crafts, and treasures from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot lunch will be served from 11 a.m. Tickets: \$7; \$3.50 for children under nine.

York Regional Police Male Chorus 15th Annual "In Harmony With the Community" Concert. St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Leslie Street, Newmarket, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For further information call 905-727-2429 or 905-727-6470.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents "La Vie en Rose", starring Marion Cotillard as "La Mome". French with English subtitles. Tickets are \$10 and available at R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street and the Aurora Public Library. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prizes at 6.45 p.m. and film at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

12th annual Christmas Fair & Artisans' Craft Sale, takes place in Lynett Hall, 16 Catharine Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League.

Trinity Anglican Church presents 'Winter Wonderland' Christmas Bazaar from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. Luncheon is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds for A.C.W. Anglican Outreach and Parish needs.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Coffee House at Trinity Anglican Church.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Santa Claus Parade from 5 to 8 p.m. under the stars. Sponsors and volunteers required. Call 905-727- 3123 ext.4218, for details.

Aurora Seniors' Christmas Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with baked goods, boutiques, hasti notes, paintings, greeting cards and silent auction.

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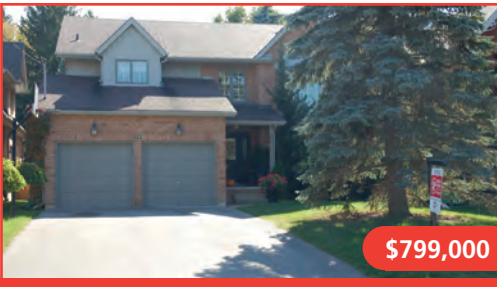
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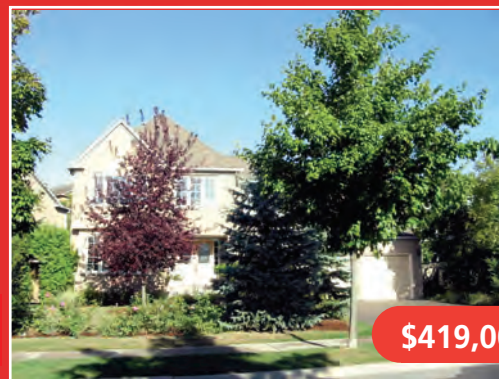
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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



Svetlane Roufanova, right, explains Russian cuisine to CHATS volunteer Larisa Shurkina, during an International wine and food event, held last week at the Aurora office on Wellington Street. Roufanova is a CHATS Russian Outreach Program Coordinator.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Musical event planned for Aurora United

They will be rocking at the church Saturday.

On October 27 at 7 p.m., Aurora United Church is presenting a special multi-media and musical evening "Spirit - A Broadway Revue".

The program is designed to explore spiritual themes from the songs of Broadway musicals

Lack of access could kill store

Lack of full access to Wellington Street may see the end of a large food market, Aurora Council has learned.

Michael Rice, of the Rice Commercial Group, who is developing the land on the northwest corner of Wellington and Bayview, said last week Longo Food Market, the intended plaza anchor, requires full turn access on Wellington Street as a condition of tenancy.

He asked councillors to issue a Letter of Endorsement to York Region authorizing them to finalize their approval of the access.

Currently, access is to be a right-in, right-out on Bayview and another right-in, right-out on Wellington with full access through property to the north.

In May last year a public planning meeting was held to consider amendments to the official plan and zoning bylaw to allow for the development on 8.9 acres of land.

It was to include a grocery store anchor with retail/service units, restaurants in four buildings with 403 parking spaces plus 10 handicapped spaces.

In June, town staff reported they were satisfied with the applicant's site plan as it conformed to the town design guidelines and development standards and council authorized the Director of Planning to execute the site plan agreement.

Rice appeared before the general committee Tuesday to seek full movement access onto Wellington.

He told committee members traffic reports, road and median design, landscaping and the required engineering documents had been submitted to the region as the approval authority for the access.

His presentation was referred to staff members to update the information.

from the 1960s to today. Seventeen songs will be performed including Jesus Christ Superstar, Godspell, Joseph, Rent and Les Miserables.

To make this music come alive, Aurora United has committed a host of its varied musical resources: the Musical Kool Kids, Teen Chorus, Senior Choir and its contemporary worship band.

In addition, soloists and guest instrumentalists from the congregation and community will add vitality to the program. Under the direction of Aurora United's Music Director, Mark Ruhnke, this music night follows a tradition started last year to offer contemporary programming geared toward all age groups.

The program also offers a modern visual element: videos and PowerPoint slide presentations have been produced as a backdrop for each song.

There will be inspiration

quotes and poetry readings to add poignancy to the evening.

Aurora United's Technology Chair and producer of this event, Dean Antonakes, said "this music night represents the emerging spirit of the United Church of Canada in its goal to engage our local community with innovative programming, and to help make the world around us a better place."

All proceeds from the event will support a Heart for Africa initiative to raise money to build a new wing on an orphanage in Swaziland, Africa.

Hearts for Africa is a movement that is working to provide real solutions to issues plaguing Africa including hunger, orphans, poverty and education.

Tickets are available by calling 905-727-1935, extension 29, or they can be purchased at the door on the night of the performance.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, and \$7.50 for seniors and

people under 18.

Aurora United is located on Yonge Street, at the corner of Tyler.

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Poor Richard

Low vote percentage wins Liberal majority

*For better or for worse,
The Ontario election is over;
Four more years of McGuinty,
For taxpayers it won't be clover!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

It was easy sailing for Dalton McGuinty as he was ushered back into power with a second majority, the first time in 70 years that a Liberal Premier was able to win back to back.

It proved that McGuinty was up to the job as he ran a successful campaign gaining 71 seats, when he should have been on the ropes with his record of broken promises, especially his 2003 election pledge not to increase taxes.

It was John Tory's election to win as he had everything going for him but he blew it with his commitment to provide full public funding to faith-based schools.

The issue evolved from a small item at the bottom of page 10 in the Progressive Conservative election plan to become the major issue in the campaign and McGuinty made the most of it to the exclusion of all other priority issues.

History should have warned him that the full-funding issue would not be successful as it was a similar issue that ended 42 years of Tory rule in 1985 after then Premier Bill Davis announced full funding for Catholic students.

Not only was the last election a humiliating defeat for the party with only 25 seats and a divided caucus, but Tory was defeated in his own riding by Liberal Education Minister Kathleen Wynne, so he's a leader without a seat in the Legislature.

The big question now is John Tory's future in Ontario politics.

He says he will stick around and continue to do his job but that's going to be tough without a seat so I believe his days are numbered.

If he does decide to step down there will be another leadership race in the near future and look for Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees to be a strong contender.

Klees had his own problems in getting elected as he narrowly defeated Liberal challenger Christina Bisanz with Klees ending up with 19,435 votes to 18,088 for Bisanz.

John McRogers of the Green Party finished third with 4,281 votes followed by Mike Seaward of the NDP with 3,285 votes.

Apathy was the big winner in the election as only 52.8 per cent of eligible voters bothered to cast ballots, beating the previous low voter turnout of 54.7 per cent in 1923.

Voters, apparently, were not impressed with the single issue campaign and possibly their distrust of politicians might have had something to do with the low turnout.

Of the 52.8 per cent, only 42 per cent of the popular vote was for the Liberals so it was not a resounding victory for McGuinty. More people voted against him than for him.

Everyone, including McGuinty, should be very concerned about the apathetic attitude of voters and if people won't accept their civic duty and vote voluntarily, the answer may be mandatory voting.

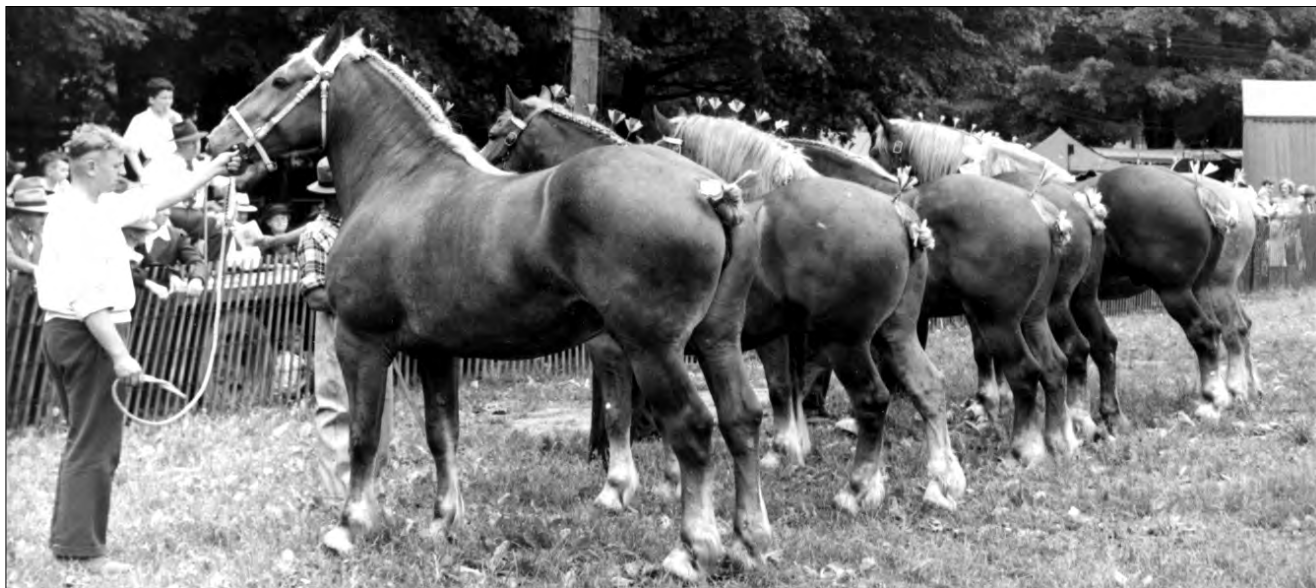
Another casualty of the election, and this was expected, was the defeat of the proposed mixed member proportional system for conducting an election which had been recommended by a Citizen's Assembly.

The deeply flawed proposal went down to defeat as two-thirds of voters supported the status quo, the first-past-the-post system that has been in place in Ontario since Confederation.

It is doubtful if the defeat will end the demand for electoral reform as most governments are elected by a minority and there is a need to bring the percentage of seats in the Legislature more in line with percentage of the popular vote.

McGuinty won about 66 per cent of the seats in the Legislature with about 42 per cent of the popular vote, but there must be a better way than the proposed mixed member proportional system.

In addition to all priority issues and spending promises made by McGuinty, a study should be carried out to find out why people don't bother to vote, so that true democracy returns to Ontario.



Three of many photos found in the attic of Jack Wood's farmhouse recently depicted the Aurora Horse Show when it was held annually in the Town Park. According to the backs of the pictures, they were taken in 1950. In the top photo, Gilbert Bailey prepares to compete. Building in the background is today's Aurora Armouries. In the middle photo, there are several things we could say, but we'll let you decide what's happening. Below, Mrs. Robert Kerr of Acton was one of the competitors.

Letter to the Editor

PowerStream cost increases total 135%

To the editor,

Re: PowerStream debt retirement and regulatory charges.

I note from my latest bill that these charges, by my calculations, have increased by the amazing amount of 135 per cent over 2006.

In addition, the delivery charges have increased by

48 per cent.

Can you please explain the reason for these incredible and, to put it mildly, punitive, increases?

Presumably, they have been approved, especially the debt retirement charges, by regulatory agencies, but I would welcome clarification.

**Peter Saunders
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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Aurora, L4G 1W1

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

As you are no doubt well aware, our voter turnout this past election was abysmal.

It was a record low - only 52.6 per cent of eligible provincial voters cast a ballot, beating the previous all-time low of 54.7 per cent, which occurred in 1923.

In Newmarket-Aurora, we did slightly better than the province wide average; 45,606 of 82,376 eligible voters cast a ballot, or 55.4 per cent.

Not pretty!

As I wrote last week, "Oh well, looking on the bright side at least it beat the 38 per cent voter turnout from the municipal election last year."

Not good at all.

But a solution may be at hand.

In fact, it may be in the hands of our children.

Two organizations have been at the forefront of engaging our youth to utilize their franchise.

The Democracy Project is a national, non-partisan initiative to involve under 25s in the federal election. The project is operated by the Dominion Institute.

The Democracy Project's national campaign used, according to their website, "50 cross country Town Hall events, national youth polling, online voting, newspaper editorials, television features and in-school curricula to engage youth in the last federal election and provide a venue for young people to express their opinions and have their voices heard."

The other group, Student Vote was started in 2003 and since then more than 1.2 million students have

participated in Student Vote programs.

According to their website, "If we want young Canadians to grow up into active citizens, then shouldn't we give them a way to practice first? That's what the Student Vote program is all about: understanding the process, discovering issues and learning first hand how to vote - and why it matters.

"Our approach is about helping educators teach elections and active citizenship with greater efficacy and efficiency. We provide free learning materials and electoral supplies to schools across Canada during official election periods. Teachers use the materials to structure their own campaign and send us the results of their vote. We also work with media to bring the story and results to the public, showing students that their voice and participation is valued."

According to the Toronto Star last week, more than 258,000 students across the province voted in a mock election run by Student Vote. The results gave the Liberals 63 seats, the Green Party 18 seats, the NDP 16 seats and the PC Party 10 seats.

Closer to home, the students would have elected a Green Party candidate in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora. The Liberals and Tories were close behind in votes, with the NDP trailing quite a bit.

Other than the fact that as a Conservative, I would have liked to see the students elect a PC candidate, it was good to see the students 'participate' in our democratic process.

Youth could show us the way

The teachers had the students doing research on the issues, staging mock debates and then on October 10, they voted.

"The hope is that by giving students a taste of politics, they'll become more engaged and interested enough to cast real ballots when they turn 18. Voting rates across Canada have been declining for decades, and young people are among the least likely to turn up at polling stations," the Star article said.

My ten-year old nephew was even interested and told me he would be voting. That is a most welcome and encouraging sign since it is coming from the same child who - like most other ten year olds - when I ask him what he did or learned at school on a particular day, he usually answers, "nothing".

This program has only been in existence for a few years, but I will be watching future results closely.

We need to both applaud and support the initiatives of the Dominion Institute and Student Vote. Their efforts must be further cemented and extended.

Maybe, just maybe, 30 years from now, we will be looking back and recalling in astonishment, how truly ridiculous it was that only 53 per cent of eligible people cast a ballot in 2007, given that today 90 per cent regularly exercise their franchise.

A man is allowed to dream, isn't he?

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

When I was a little girl, my mother grew bright, butterfly-friendly dahlias in our small backyard in the Beach area of Toronto. The Monarch was my favourite visitor.

I loved Monarch butterflies to death - literally! I hadn't yet learned to appreciate things that grace our lives without belonging to us.

I would capture the majestic beauties and put them in a humungous pickle jar with a spectacular yellow dahlia the size of a sunflower at the bottom then stare into the jar for hours, watching them open and close their graceful wings.

The next morning, I'd jump out of bed and rush to the pickle jar to stare some more, this time in shock and confusion.

Morning after morning, the scene was the same. The butterfly was dead.

It took me a long time to figure out what was killing them: me.

I was ignorantly knocking them off, one by one, and when I got to see a butterfly collection one day, I was appalled at the cruelty of the collector who stuck each one through the middle with a pin. How could anyone do such a thing?

I described the horror to my father.

"Butterflies", he said, "are not for the hands. They are only for the eyes."

Of course, I went on to make a similar mistake only this time, I chose a creature that is far from defenseless: the cat.

I loved cats but couldn't convince my parents to let me have one. So, I would scout the neighbourhood for cats to "borrow". I just wanted to cuddle them, but they never liked it much.

Maybe I squeezed too hard?

My mother would come home from work and ask me why my sweater had threads hanging out all over it. I lied and said I caught it on something at school. She was always onto me and told me to LEAVE THE CATS ALONE!

Of course I didn't. In fact, one day I got greedy.

I went out hunting cats in the neighbourhood again but after I caught the first one, I didn't stop. I put it in the garage and kept collecting. I nabbed a second...and a third...and a fourth ...and, well, I didn't leave the cats much "personal space". The garage sounded like there were at least as many dogs in there as cats!

I had just caught my sixth or seventh cat when my mother pulled into the driveway, so I had to quit. I quickly took off my shredded sweater and hid it in some bushes. The sweater didn't camouflage well. It was bright orange.

I watched with bated breath while my mother got out of her car and walked straight to the garage - and proceeded to open the overhead door!

I had completely forgotten that we had a deep freezer in the garage and every morning, my mom would take out some meat and leave it on top of the freezer to thaw.

Suddenly, half a dozen cats shot out of the opening at the bottom of the door. My mother couldn't have looked more horrified if they were rats!

She yelled my name in a commanding voice. This was not going to be good...

But it was sure to be worse if I didn't answer, so I stepped

up looking as innocent as I could. Apparently, I don't do puppy dog eyes very well.

And I'm not a very good liar either because when my mother asked me: "Where's your sweater", I said I left it at a friend's house.

"And does your 'friend' live in my rosebush over there?" Busted!

I looked like I had been in a cat fight. I had scratches on my hands, arms and face and multi-coloured fur all over my clothes.

I caught big trouble over that episode, mostly for failing the honesty test quite miserably.

My parents explained that the cats I was holding hostage were other people's cats, stray cats...they didn't belong to me. Like the butterflies, I chose to trap them because I didn't know how to appreciate their nature.

Later, when I got my own cat, I found out how wonderful it is when a creature comes to you because it wants to be with you.

You set it free...and it comes back. And it will only come back if you love it the way it needs to be loved when it is with you...and love it just the same when it isn't with you.

Whenever a Monarch graces my Aurora garden, I regret the butterflies I killed and the cats I imposed upon, but I will never regret the lesson I learned: if you love something, set it free. If it comes back to you, it is yours. If it doesn't...it never was.

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



BOUQUETS to David Cook of Aurora for his delightful poem "You Can't Get There from Here" about the traffic calming project and to C. Sharp for a letter inviting members of council to visit the area and see the problems they have created.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Evelyn Buck for completing the agenda in just over two hours at a recent general committee meeting, which she chaired and which included almost an hour of staff being grilled with questions and comments regarding the proposed Communications and Marketing Business Plans. Shorter meetings are possible!

BOUQUETS to anyone who can explain to Poor Richard why Aurora Council agreed to spend taxpayers' money to plant vines along the chain link fence on the south side of the Vandorf Road as it would hide a beautiful view of trees and green space. A small portion at the extreme west end to hide the residences may be sufficient if that's what they want.

BRICKBATS to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for rejecting a staff recommendation to reverse the stop signs at the Reuben/Temperance intersection after they had carried out a traffic study. Also to the general committee for endorsing the committee recommendation not to change the signs and it's wondered how many councillors read the report as no one asked a question.

BOUQUETS to Tina Kular on the opening of TK's Restaurant and Pub at Edward and Yonge Street, formerly Charlie Fitzwhiskey's. She was at the Filly and Firkin in Aurora for 13 years before deciding to go out on her own.

BRICKBATS to the out-of-town landscaping firm for stealing public water from a hydrant on Birkshire Drive before being spotted by the Works Department. It's hoped the driver will be charged and fined as Aurora residents have suffered with a water shortage for their lawns all summer.

BOUQUETS to Aurora resident Al Fisher for his many contributions to the community over the years dating back to the Aurora Jaycees and as part owner of Baldwin's Restaurant. He and his wife Marg are leaving Aurora for Grand Caymen Island where he will operate a restaurant.

BRICKBATS to motorists who back out of parking lot spaces without looking either way, like the blue van in the shopping plaza at Brookland Avenue and Yonge Street. It was close as the passing car managed to stop in time. Parking lots are worse than highways.

BOUQUETS to Toronto Fire Captain Adrian Ratushniask, on his way to a three alarm fire in a dense residential area, for pointing out that traffic calming devices such as speed humps slowed down emergency crews.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Liberal government for failing to take action in reviewing the long-promised education funding formula as had been previously promised. This has resulted in Ontario students being robbed of their education because the shelves in school libraries are virtually empty.

BOUQUETS to Bill Donaldson for his kind words about Poor Richard's column about caddying at the Lambton Golf and Country Club as it brought back memories for Bill. He once caddied at Mississauga Golf and Country Club.

BRICKBATS to telemarketers who ply their wares on a Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Controls are urgently needed to stop these pests!

BOUQUETS to the Town of Newmarket on being presented with the Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award for its creation of a Customer Service Centre.

Letters to the Editor

This reader supports Trinity ads

To the editor,

Contrary to the opinions expressed by Ms Wood, (Auroran, Letter to the Editor, October 16), I am in full support of the Trinity Anglican Church ads.

Trinity is trying to

address two of the main reasons that people tend to avoid church - the perception of it being a formal, "stuffy" atmosphere, and the fact that with people's busy schedules and longer workdays, they crave leisure and "down time" and don't see

attending church as relaxing, family time (which really, it should be).

What Trinity is trying to convey with humour and warmth is not to let these concerns (excuses) keep you from attending....to give it a try!

Come in, come as you

are and feel comfortable, and you'll still have time to do your own thing afterwards.

Ms Wood, you are correct that, of course, you dress up for a wedding or similar occasion.

It's fun to do so...but if you had to attend a formal wedding every weekend you'd probably start declining some of the invitations.

Trinity is trying its best to make its members feel like coming to church is being at home...with your family.

Family members accept each other as they are, and don't want or need a "show"...we want the REAL you - if for you that means pantyhose, heels and a dress that's fine...if for another it means jeans and a sweatshirt, that's fine, too. The wonder of it all is that the more comfortable and accepted people feel, the more inclined they are to pay attention and open their hearts to what is actually important - the MESSAGE of God's love.

One last small point to Ms Wood: Jesus may have been raised by a poor carpenter, but he was the son of God...if God felt that his Son's garb wasn't appropriate for Temple, I'm fairly sure he would have addressed that!

Moving Williams would destroy town landmark

To the editor,

RE: Williams may stay (The Auroran, October 9)

As a resident from Aurora since I was born in 1992, the town has changed a lot.

I've seen our population grow from 28,000 to more than 48,000.

Change is a good thing.

However, to keep our identity as the Town of Aurora we need to preserve our history.

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, at its current location, has been a landmark of our town since 1952, and should remain there.

Much of our community has grown around the school.

Many of the stores

around Williams rely on the business that they get from students of the school.

Changing the location could possibly cut off many customers from the stores.

Without the business from the students, the stores could suffer economically.

This factor should be considered in the decision-making process, because it is important that we keep our local businesses alive.

Changing the location of Dr. G.W. Williams would also be very costly, especially when they can simply touch up the existing structure, at a lower cost.

If the school were to be relocated to the site east of Bayview, it would significantly change the future of Aurora. The site

around Dunning Avenue and the whole of Aurora would not feel the same again, and a well-known landmark of Aurora would be lost.

There is already a website devoted to protecting the school's current site, but further methods could be taken. We could possibly start a fund devoted to keeping the school's location, so we can provide the money required to keep the school where it has been for 55 years.

The current building of Dr. G.W. Williams is a landmark of the Town of Aurora.

Changing its location would mean cutting off customers to local businesses, paying for the construction of new facilities, and changing the Aurora as we know it.

James Welsman
Aurora

Jen Meron
Aurora

Website missed a page, he says

To the editor,

It seems that Page 11 went missing from your website last week.

Twenty page numbers but only 19 pages on line.

Is it my glasses that need cleaning?

I've not yet got my mailed copy and I must read The Auroran. I look forward to it every week.

I must take a minute to congratulate you and the staff at The Auroran.

The on-line version, as well as the weekly paper, is great. Keep up the good work.

John Swarbrick
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Because there was a two-page advertising feature in the centre of the paper last week, only one page is shown on the website. If you click on that page, you will see two pages. And here's another little known fact: you can read the latest edition of The Auroran on line (www.auroran.com) late Monday afternoon, before the paper actually "hits the streets".

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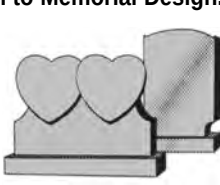
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Letters to the Editor

No discussion on issue to give away \$400,000

To the editor,

The head of South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority appeared before Aurora Council to spearhead a fundraising drive for the Authority Foundation.

We had a presentation of a new and ambitious plan to regain the purity of Lake Simcoe. A noble endeavour.

It involved a request of \$400,000 over six years with an annual payment of almost \$67,000 for Aurora's share.

A verbal motion was instantly approved in principle to hand over the dough.

The speed of the motion left me with my jaw hanging open.

No time for reflection. No input from staff. No judgement on the merits of the argument.

Much like the half million dollars the region handed to the Red Cross for the Tsunami Relief Fund a few years ago without as much as a "by your leave" to the taxpayers.

They did not have a debate either. Just a phone poll of the members.

In Aurora, it was "yes sir, yes sir, three bags full sir".

Lickety split, Councillor Evelina MacEachern moved the request be approved in prin-

ciple and it was.

I was not silent. I noted the premise of the presentation was flawed. The population of Barrie and Innisfil outnumbers Aurora and Newmarket.

Our sewage effluent is pumped to Lake Ontario while theirs goes straight into Lake Simcoe.

I observed York Region is the body responsible to fund the Conservation Authority. And they get their money from our taxpayers.

For the past 20 years Aurora and Newmarket have been creating Storm Water Ponds to keep road pollution out of the creeks and waterway tributaries of the East Holland River.

For the same purpose and time we have been replacing open ditches with storm sewers throughout our towns. Property owners have paid and will continue to pay a hefty price in taxation for these efforts to restore the health of Lake Simcoe.

New homeowners pay in the price of their homes for the creation of storm water ponds in their neighbourhoods.

I objected to the suggestion the people of our two towns are responsible for the degradation of the lake.

Cook's Bay cottages clustered around the lake, being used as permanent homes, have septic tanks that flood in the high water of Spring.

better disseminating faulty information in order to chalk up a big fat bottom line for a voluntary fund raising project.

This council swallows holus bolus every morsel of clap-trap that's fed to it and without waiting for a full discussion and staff input into the validity of the request, agreeing in principle to a request for \$67,000 a year.

It adds half a percentage point to the tax bill. It is the total revenue to the town from about 90 average assessed homes.

We had a similar strategy employed by the President of the hospital and the chairman of the hospital board last term.

The idea we should add the cost of the cancer centre to home-owners tax bill went over like a lead balloon. I see no reason to believe the public's reaction might be different to this idea either.

Normally I would hold these points for a council debate. But no debate happened...just wham bam.... the price is right...

And so the wheel turns...round and round it goes and where it stops nobody knows.

I am awaiting the suggestion from a member of council that we pipe in canned wild cheering and applause every time we make one of these fantastically generous donations from other people's pockets.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

Writer's comments border on slander, reader says

To the editor,

T. Brown, re your nasty Letter to the Editor raving at Evelyn Buck.

It seems you are the mad one because Canadian Tire did not light your way.

I do not recall in the letter where Evelyn Buck accused the mayor and council of stealing electricity.

Surely, the developer installed the street lights.

I understand your access road to your development does not belong to the Town of Aurora.

As far as any information Evelyn Buck sends to The Auroran, it is public knowledge and legal.

But you should question your own words for slander.

You have the right to vote the same as any other Canadian.

Other people have voted for Evelyn Buck.

You can hope all you want, maybe none of the current councillors will be elected in the next election.

I find your cost of \$210 per year for lighting your way into Mosaics Avenue very low.

Maybe we all should tie into that hydro line.

I have not heard the cost to tie the Canadian Tire lights in to the Aurora system.

I would expect a few grand to do so.

Be happy all Aurora is looking after you.

You better find out who owns the access to your development.

Any potholes may not be fixed by Aurora.

**R.W. Hanes
Aurora**

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Letter was on the nose

To the editor,

T. Brown's letter to the editor, "Suck it up, Evelyn", Oct. 9th issue was the best letter I have read in The Auroran.

It is right on the nose and is long overdue.

**E. Allison
Aurora**



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Reader disappointed in election results

To the editor,

Caution!
This letter may contain sarcasm and bitterness and is not for viewing by a sensitive reader.
On Oct. 10, the people of Ontario (not Aurora - they had the good sense to elect a proven, trustworthy candidate - Frank Klees PC) overwhelmingly voted for a Liberal majority to govern for four years.

I must admit that I was more than a little disappointed, but Ontario has spoken. Here is the bitterness bit! I was the Executive Co-ordinator of the Learning Disabilities Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bette Stephenson and when the Liberals under the Honourable Dalton McGuinty landed their last majority, our task force ceased to exist, literally!
We were a proven, suc-

cessful, accountable, legislated seven-year-old entity but were perceived as being the "wrong colour party" and were removed to the disappointment of a great number of students with disabilities and those of us who worked hard on this project.
We were not the only casualties when this now re-elected government took hold but I'll move out of bitterness mode.
Last weekend I was

speaking with a good friend from public school (a long time ago) who has lived and worked in the United States for more than 20 years.
I related the outcome of the election and she freaked!
Wasn't this the same government leader who has broken many election promises (in writing) spent government monies questionably, is caricaturized as Pinocchio and, in my hum-

ble opinion, looks like Norman Bates in Psycho?
Yes, indeed Ontario obviously wants this type of representative!
I humbly took the rebuke, accompanied by gales of laughter on behalf of my fellow Ontarians, even though I personally did not contribute to this fiasco, as I

deserved as good as I got for my continued criticism of "Bush".
All I could say to my friend was "the people have spoken", just like in the United States.
Time will tell!
Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Liberal candidate nearly toppled well-known Klees

To the editor,

RE: Klees wins riding, The Auroran, Oct. 16, page 1

The Oct. 10 election results showed to citizens in the newly-created Newmarket-Aurora riding, that a group of dedicated volunteers and a newcomer to politics, Christina Bisanz, came very close to toppling

an established, well-known politician, Frank Klees.
Klees, who has served in the local area over the past three terms had been campaigning for this provincial election for the past six months making use of various photo ops and giving away tree seedlings at local events.
Christina Bisanz won the Liberal nomination just during the middle of the summer.

She showed her leadership skills and courage by taking the "high road" during the campaign.
There were obstacles for a newcomer to gain more public awareness in such a short time span.
It seemed that the local community newspapers did not give Bisanz, or the other political candidates in the riding, equal coverage.
Not to be labeled as "a

sore loser", but you do really wonder why there were not as many photos of the competing politicians as the Tory candidate, placed in the newspaper.
Democracy has spoken, so it is time to move on.
In Ontario, the Liberals won a majority government and trounced on the Conservatives.
Frankly speaking, Klees should be aware that as many people who voted conservative, voted against his party in this riding, in the Oct. 10 election.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Rector responds to writer

To the editor,

Thank you to the writer for responding to the ads about Trinity Anglican Church, (Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, Oct. 16) for taking the time to read them and for caring so much about the church.
Messages are often simple on one level and complex on another.
Jesus' use of parables to teach is a good example.
Of course, there is only one way to truly know if

Trinity is challenging people to grow in their faith...come and see!
We strive to be a vibrant, inclusive community where we believe together we can

make a difference.
Rev. Dawn Davis
Rector
Trinity Anglican Church
Aurora

Expensive parkettes

From page 1
stopped at that amount, because she felt if it went much higher, two would drop out and the hospital money would be lost.
So, she asked if she could go back to council to see if it would agree to putting up a second parkette, then she phoned the mayor of Newmarket to see if another parkette was available there.
Earlier, there was considerable disagreement by some members of council who said only council should have the naming rights while others wanted to know who would get recognition for the donation.
Less parochial members of council approved the donation of the naming rights to the parkette as requested.
The auction bids stunned the audience, making the event a huge success for the hospital.

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Aurora's only full service station to shut down

It used to be when you pulled into a service station, there was an attendant to look after your every need; check the oil, clean the windows, check the tires, in addition to filling your tank with gas.

Today, there are only a few "We Serve" stations and they are getting fewer and fewer. Even then, the attendant merely pumps gas and you have to ask to get the full service advertised.

Aurora's only "We Serve" station, the Beaver at Mary and Wellington Streets, will

close at the end of October as Shell, the owner of the station, has refused to renew its lease.

Back in November, 2005, Markham Council expressed concern that the proliferation of self serve gas stations presented hardships to the elderly and the disabled who require access to full service stations.

That council adopted a report asking the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute to review with its members the need to ensure that all gas stations make provision

for full service for patrons having special needs.

A request was also made to the Province of Ontario to address the issue of accessibility to gas station service in provincial policies and guidelines pertaining to the accessibility needs of Ontarians.

Copies of the resolution were forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all local municipalities in York Region seeking support.

Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee received the resolution and

forwarded it to council with the recommendation that it be supported.

In April, 2006, committee members asked questions about having full service lanes at local gas stations and staff replied that the Director of Planning was requesting assistance from the owners during the planning process.

The question was asked again in June, 2006, and staff replied that it wasn't possible to make full service lanes mandatory resulting in the Accessibility Advisory

Committee contacting Markham for more information.

According to Markham officials they insist that gas company applicants make provisions for full service for at least 12 hours a day or

they won't get approval.

No further action has been taken by Aurora Council and seniors and the handicapped will have to make do with self-service stations unless they can find another "We Serve".

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Building department woes

In 1989 an official of the Ministry of Housing told Aurora Council that unless they reorganized the Building Department, the municipality risked lawsuits brought on by homeowners dissatisfied with inspections.

The Ministry representative was invited by council at the suggestion of Chief Building Official Roy Harrington to investigate why four building inspectors left the town's employment during 1988.

Council was advised that the inspectors quit their jobs because of a heavy workload and job dissatisfaction.

The Ministry official suggested the department hire two more inspectors to add to the staff of seven.

He argued that the board policy encouraged "brown-bag drinking" in non-licensed events on school property which were not supervised.

The Alumni Association asked the board to grant permission to hold a fundraising dance at the school in early 1988 and officials and Trustee Wallace expressed concern that the board's delay in making a decision wouldn't allow time to properly organize the event.

The association planned to use the proceeds from the dance to establish an Alumni Bursary and support worthwhile projects at the school but trustees held firm to board policy.

1987 WISH LIST

In December 1986 the Mayors of York Region were asked for their wish list for 1987. Aurora Mayor John West wished for more residential rental accommodation on Yonge Street and the construction of a second cop.

He wished for a second parking lot behind the stores on the east side of Yonge Street similar to the Temperance Street parking lot to help alleviate traffic jams on Yonge Street caused by parking.

He also wished for the completion of Industrial Parkway to the St. John's Sideroad to be used for through traffic as a bypass to Yonge Street and for more industrial land to be rezoned following the success of the three town-owned industrial parks.

BOOZE IN THE SCHOOLS

In 1987 the King City Secondary School Alumni Association sought an amendment to the Education Board's policy of prohibiting the use of alcohol in schools.

Trustees discussed the request and decided to defer any decision to the New Year over the objections of Aurora Trustee Ron Wallace as he wanted to tackle the issue at that meeting. He said he didn't have a problem with booze on school property providing it was properly policed.

Monday Night Hockey League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Highland Chev-Cad	3	0	1	18	10	7
Masterclean Contracting	3	0	1	22	16	7
Priestly Demolition	3	1	0	17	10	6
Tom & Jerry's	1	1	2	11	11	4
Rec Cycle N' Sports	1	1	2	16	18	4
Baldwin's	1	3	0	17	21	2
Law Insurance Brokers	0	3	1	10	17	1
FPL Aggregates	0	3	1	10	16	1

WEEKLY SCORES

Highlands Chev	2	Priestly Demolition	3
FPL Aggregates	1	Tom & Jerry's	0
Masterclean	4	Rec Sports	6
Law Insurance	3	Baldwin's	4

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A PERFECT FIT

Aurora Tigers split a pair at home

By JOHN KLEIN

It appeared the Aurora Tigers were falling back into their home-town blues Friday night when they dropped a 3-2 decision to Huntsville, but they fixed it Sunday afternoon.

Aurora opened a 4-0 lead Sunday, then went on to defeat the Seguin Bruins 5-3 in an afternoon tilt at the Aurora Community Centre, attended by only 150 people.

In six home games so far this season, Aurora has been able to attract only 1,668 fans, an average of 278 per game.

Friday night, a late third period goal by Huntsville managed to secure the win for the visitors.

Meanwhile, the Tigers ended last week and began this one by making some major roster moves.

They traded off-season acquisition Brennon Poderzay to the Pickering Panthers for future considerations and followed that by sending goaltender Matt Dixon to the Port Hope Predators.

Both moves seemed to signal the club making room to bring in a replacement goaltender which was culminated in

the signing of Aaron Barton, who saw action Friday against the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters.

Aurora's Mike Bodley took a slashing penalty just over three minutes into the first frame, which gave the Otters the advantage they needed to open the scoring on a powerplay marker by Dan Pinkney.

Penalties continued to hinder the Tigers in the early stages of the first period as Connor McGarry got the gate only a few moments after the Otters opening goal.

That put Aurora down, but by no means out, as the Tigers battled through the Huntsville powerplay; breaking it apart and adding a shorthanded marker by Thomas Middup to even the score.

Aaron Chambers scored the Otter's second goal of the night after Aurora's Jeff Harbach had taken a seat on a four-minute stint for holding and high-sticking.

That goal gave the Otters a 2-1 edge in the contest, but they lost the lead before the period ended, as the Tigers once again evened the score on a goal by Mark Mayea.

The two-goal deadlock lasted most of the third period until

the Otters Aaron Chambers potted his second goal of the contest, the game winner, to lead Huntsville to victory.

Goaltender Barton took the loss in his second game of the season, both of which were in a Tigers uniform. His record becomes a respectable 1-1 with a 1.5 goals against average; numbers that when examined next to his two recently departed predecessors seem to signal a change for the better in the Tiger dressing room.

Sunday, the Seguin Bruins came to town.

Unfortunately for the Tigers going into the game, the usually comfortable surroundings of the Aurora Community Centre had been anything but in this early regular season, as their home record sat at an anemic 2-3-0 going into Sunday afternoon's contest.

Somebody must have forgotten to tell the Tigers about that statistic, as they scored early and often to beat the Seguin Bruins, and improve their home record to a respectable 3-3-0.

They still have played the fewest games of any team in the North Division, and currently sit in fifth place in

the standings.

Micheal Sardella opened the scoring for the Tigers midway through the first period with a goal that was soon followed up courtesy of Thomas Middup to give the Tigers a 2-0 edge.

Middup added his second of the night on a powerplay early in the second period.

Sam Yearsley followed up the second Middup goal a few moments later on a feed from Nick Novak and Josh Stone to give the Tigers a comfortable 4-0 lead late in the second.

Seguin, however, chipped away at that lead, adding one of their own before the frame ended on a goal from Chris Marinakos.

The Bruins added another midway through the final frame to cut the Tiger's lead to 4-2, but Aurora's Micheal Sardella silenced any possible Seguin rally adding his second goal of the night and increasing the Aurora lead to 5-2.

Quinton added one more marker, too little too late.

The game turned nasty in the final seconds as a spirited tilt between Aurora's Mark Thorburn and Seguin's Brent Meuller.

Both players received fighting majors and game misconduct penalties for the altercation along with matching gross misconduct penalties for removing their helmets before squaring off.

The Tigers welcome the

Collingwood Blues to Aurora Friday.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.

The rematch of Sunday afternoon's tilt with Seguin comes sooner rather than later as the Tigers travel to the home of the Bruins Saturday evening.

Barbarians make Cup final with win over Stoney Creek

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club advanced to the McCormick Cup Championship game after a semi-final 37-8 win over Stoney Creek Camels RFC Saturday at the Fletcher's Fields rugby complex.

The McCormick Cup is Ontario rugby's highest honour involving senior men's teams from across the province.

Stoney Creek played a solid and competitive game for 50 minutes and it was only when the Barbarians' fitness and bench strength wore down the Creek side in the final 30 minutes that it became clear the Barbarians would compete in their second successive McCormick Cup final.

"There is some unfinished business for us to take care of next week. We lost last year's final to Irish Canadians. This year the Cup will be ours," said Barbarian Coach Drew Macpherson.

The Barbarians opened the scoring at 12 minutes when team captain Robbie Carter crashed over in the corner but the conversion attempt by place kicker David Ashwood went wide.

For the next 20 minutes the Aurora team repeatedly tested the Stoney Creek defense but it held firm and at the 35 minute mark the Creek team capitalized on a penalty kick opportunity to make the score 5-3.

Ashwood added a penalty of his own just before the halftime to extend the score to 8-3 after 40 minutes.

The first 20 minutes of the second half were a continuation of Aurora pressure and desperate Creek defense.

The Barbarians introduced a

couple of key substitutions that immediately resulted in scores.

Aurora broke the game open with two excellent tries in the space of two minutes, both involving centre Steve Shortly. At 20 minutes, Shortly, a Port Perry native and a former Canada Under 21 representative player, scored on a strong individual effort when he broke a defender's tackle and galloped into the end zone.

Two minutes later he set up his centre partner Bryn Keys for a second try.

Both scores were converted by Dave Ashwood, a Barrie native and a graduate of Rugby Canada's Academy program, and that opened a comfortable lead of 22-3 with 20 minutes to play.

Stoney Creek stayed in the game and responded with an excellent multi-pass try of their own to make the score 22-8.

But Aurora put the match away just minutes afterward when Shaun Allen scored a well taken try that was converted by Ashwood.

Ashwood followed up with a three-point drop goal from close range to extend the lead to 32-8.

The Barbarians rounded out the game with another exciting try when lock forward Brock

Millar took a well timed pass from Steve Shortly and crashed over the try line.

The Barbarians will face Balmy Beach, RFC winners over Irish Canadians 22-17, Saturday

at 2.30 p.m. at Fletcher's Fields.

The Beach club is the only team to defeat Aurora this year.

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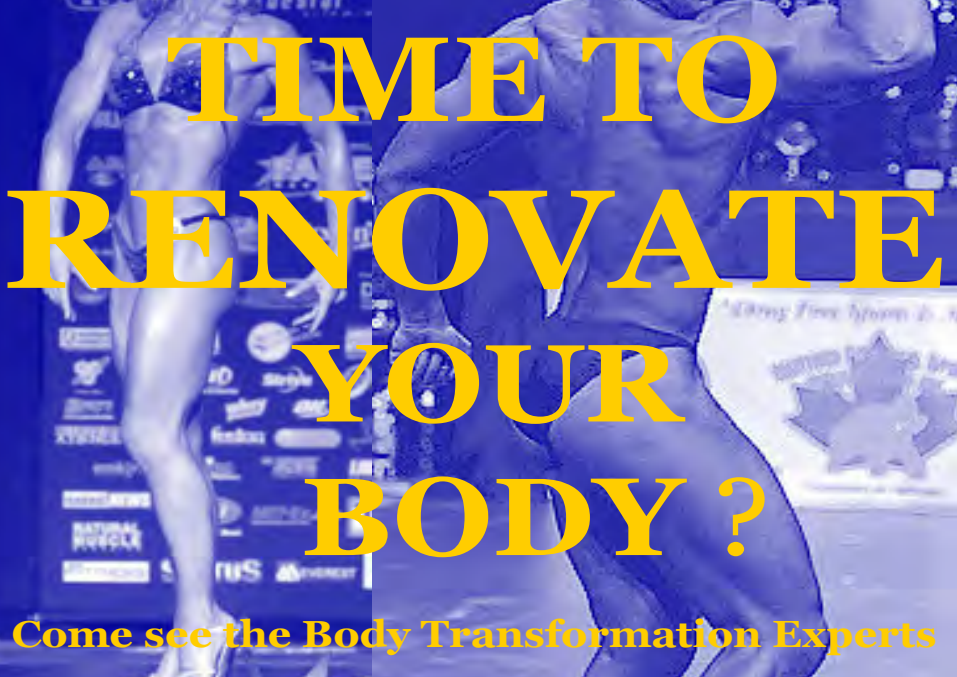
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Will the real Paul Dawkins please stand up? Well, that's him on the left, with his "twin Mexican" Jaun. Both will be at Jonathan's Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Committee didn't endorse columnist's identifying tagline

Freedom of speech made a controversial debate at a general committee meeting Tuesday as a result of a motion introduced by Councillor Stephen Granger.

His motion dealt with a citizen member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee who was writing a column about economic issues in Aurora which included the tagline that he was a member of the committee. Bryan Moir has been producing the column for The Auroran for several months.

Granger pointed out that Moir had not received the advisory committee's endorsement or council's endorsement to feature this tagline publicly.

His motion required the committee member to feature an appropriate disclaimer stating that the opinions expressed were the personal comments of the member and are not endorsed nor representative of the advisory committee or the town and he sought general committee support.

Although some members said the motion made sense, Councillor Evelyn Buck asked what council would do to enforce the motion if the member refused to do it.

Mayor Phyllis Morris suggested the motion be made more generic and should be explored before being adopted and also noted that the media might not agree.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern said she couldn't support the motion as its intent was to regulate members and restrict free speech.

She pointed out that council had established an ad hoc citizens' committee with appropriate staff to prepare a Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Committees and the issue should be referred to that committee as members were not

elected to regulate speech.

Councillor Granger agreed to delete one paragraph in his motion referring to "this member" to make the motion more generic.

By doing so, questions were asked if it would apply to all advisory committees and members of council sitting on those committees, to which Granger responded they were taking the motion further than intended.

Councilor Al Wilson, who was chairing the general committee, said too much time was being spent on the freedom of speech issue and he couldn't support it.

Granger asked when the Code of Conduct report would come before council.

Staff members replied the terms of reference for the ad hoc committee were being prepared for council's approval and the report would likely be next spring.

Finally after a half-hour debate on a 5-4 vote the Granger motion was referred to the ad hoc committee when it's established.

Auroran editor Ron Wallace said the identifying note on Moir's column

was put there because few people in the community know who he is.

Turf restrictions

A controversial artificial turf soccer field was installed at Sheppard's Bush at a cost of \$600,000 recently to provide a longer playing season for the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and to reduce maintenance costs.

As a result the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority which administers Sheppard's Bush on behalf of the Ontario Heritage Foundation requested an amended agreement with the town.

With the installation of the artificial turf, there were a number of requirements needed by the Conservation Authority and the Heritage Foundation to enable the facility to be located on the property.

A staff report indicated that these requirements were well known to staff and council well in advance of the construction of the facility and were considered to be logical and acceptable.

It was pointed out that the conditions of the amended agreement relate primarily to the maintenance of the facil-

Pumpkins, pumpkins; they're everywhere

Pumpkins are the name of the game at two Aurora locations in upcoming days.

At Aurora's Farmers' Market, a can of food or a donation by you will get you a free pumpkin as the Second Annual Great Pumpkin Giveaway is held.

The Farmers' Market takes place Saturdays in the parking lot on Temperance Street, just south of Wellington West, and this event is slated to begin at 8 a.m. Oct. 27.

All proceeds will go to the Aurora Food Pantry.

"With Thanksgiving just past, food banks are at their lowest and we saw this as an opportunity to help restock the food pantry in time for

Christmas," said organizer Bryan Moir. "Families can pick out a pumpkin together and donate some food to help other local families in need."

And, if you're interested in records, you'll want to be at Jonathan's Restaurant Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m., to see if Newmarket resident Paul Dawkins can get himself into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Currently, the record for carving a pumpkin is 24 seconds, but Dawkins believes he can do it faster.

Dawkins, president of Sculpture Connections, has

created some incredible sand and snow sculptures all over the world.

He holds the record for building the world's largest sand sculpture, a design that covered six acres and needed 70,000 tons of sand. It was created in Wasaga Beach.

At the Jonathan's event, Dawkins will carve and paint pumpkins that will be sold. All money raised will be donated to children's charities.

Some of his creations are already on display at Jonathan's, and may be viewed in the restaurant's recently-opened outdoor patio.

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Get in the habit with “Nunsense”

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

The current production at Aurora's Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre is the hilarious musical "Nunsense", written by Dan Goggin and staged by Stellar Productions with Karen Park directing.

When the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, they are in dire need of funds for the funeral.

Money had been raised to bury most of the sisters but Sister Mary Regina had spent some of the money for

a VCR for the convent and four of the sisters are in the convent freezer.

The sisters decide the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show, so they take over the Mt. Saint Helen's School auditorium, which was set up for the 8th Grade production of "Grease".

Here we meet Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer played by Theatre Aurora veteran Breetta Tower.

Natalie McGowan is Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices, a streetwise nun from

Brooklyn named Sister Robert Anne played by Kelly Holiff, Sister Mary Leo and a novice who wants to be a ballerina, played by Victoria Murdoch.

Then there is the wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head, who had wanted to be a country singer in Nashville.

Sister Mary is played by Theresa Rowland.

All cast members have excellent voices and acting abilities and most of the action is through musical numbers as the sisters

describe how Nunsense is habit forming, the difficult transition, and tackling that temptation with a time step as the sisters don tap shoes adding a dance routine to their songs, with choreography by Shannon Adams and Janet Flynn.

One delightful song is by Sister Amnesia who sings "So You Want to be a Nun" with the aid of her little sister, a dummy as she is an excellent ventriloquist.

Music was provided by Patricia Duffy on keyboard and David Russell on drums.

On opening night the keyboard was a little too loud

during the first act but was much better during the second.

The second act continues with more action, song and dance routines that keeps the audience applauding and wondering what comes next.

Panic sets in when they receive notice from a city inspector that he is going to visit the convent to inspect the kitchen and freezer resulting in the song "We've Got to Clean Out the Freezer".

Then there is the rousing

finale featuring the whole cast received by a standing ovation.

As always Howard Johnson hotel general manager Vince Midolo is a charming host and the cold and hot buffet by chef Basil Fernandes rivals the entertainment.

"Nunsense" is a fun play, well produced, directed and performed and is well worth seeing.

The production continues at the Howard Johnson Hotel Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 and Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15.

Marquee runs “Forever Plaid” next month

You'll meet Frankie, Sparky, Smudge and Jinx, four high school friends from the 1950s who return from the afterlife for one last shot at musical glory and the chance to record the album of their dreams, when they headline Aurora's Marquee Productions' "Forever Plaid" at The City Playhouse in Vaughan and Newmarket Theatre next month.

The story has it that the four friends died in a car crash on the way to their first big concert.

But, the lads are brought back to life almost 40 years later and must "complete their mission of harmony" to "be at peace though all eternity", or be stuck in musical limbo forever.

Their musical mission promises velvet four-part harmonies, madcap hilarity, fits of nerves, poignant moments, and a reproduction of the entire Ed Sullivan show in under four minutes.

Written by Stuart Ross, "Forever Plaid" is one of today's most popular and successful musicals.

Marquee Productions' rendition of the comedy is perfect for the whole family.

This is no ordinary song and dance routine. The delightful charm of the show stems from its aura of innocence, clean-cut style, genuine friendships, and good-natured fun!

The music and story will appeal to children, teens, college students, parents, grandparents, everyone - because it's all about song and laughter and singing, and dreams of fame and fortune and second chances.

Frankie, played by second tenor/baritone Brian Hargan, is the leader of the Plaids and keeps the show moving along. Because there are only four cast members, he says each person has a bigger role and therefore more responsibility to their singing, to each other, and to the audience.

Gord Annear (Smudge) has been singing all his life. He has taken on previous lead roles in other Marquee shows but "Forever Plaid" is the ideal showcase for his bass voice.

Smudge starts off as a shy, nervous worrier but by

the end of the performance he throws caution to the wind and is completely enthralled with the Plaid experience.

At the risk of being type-cast, baritone Martin Buote has often been told that he is Sparky, the live wire of the group. Like his character, Buote loves being onstage and thinks being one of the Plaids is the best thing ever.

Jinx, played by Murray James-Bosch, is the shy, clumsy Plaid who is prone to nose bleeds.

The tenor soars in "Lady of Spain", one of the moments in the show that leaves the audience hanging on.

"They are four unbelievably talented singers who will entertain you with an intensity and level of creativity that's extremely high," said music director and piano accompanist Paul Mason. "You'll be blown away by the music, their individual performances, and the way their different personalities interact."

Award-winning, professional choreographer Baiba Senecal takes the reins in directing and choreographing "Forever Plaid" for the fourth time, including Marquee's production in 2004.

Stage manager Julie Cooper makes sure everything runs smoothly backstage. Props and costumes have to be ready exactly when the performers need them.

"The show is really funny. The quirky but lovable personalities of the four guys and the music simply speak for themselves," said Marquee producer Sheryl Amirault, who decided to do the show again after having produced it three years ago. "The beautiful four-part harmonies keep singing long after the performers have finished."

Marquee's theatre season attracts subscribers from York Region and beyond because the quality of their shows goes above and beyond what people expect from a community theatre.

They are of the same calibre as the shows staged by the mega King Street theatres in downtown Toronto - without the high ticket prices and parking woes.

Ms Amirault said "Forever Plaid" will entertain people of all ages because the music is so infectious.

There will be many

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Bleu Beau+Tom Gayford=great team

By ELIZABETH MILNER
Special to The Auroran

In the 1950s and 60s, Aurora was the home of a beautiful horse that became very famous.

This superior animal was born in 1950 in Caledonia, Ontario, on George Dunner's farm.

His sire was a thoroughbred stallion and his mother was part Clydesdale and the name given to the horse was Bleu Beau.

When grown, the magnificent, bay gelding stood at 16.1 hands and the plan was for Bleu Beau to be a hunter.

With that intention, Ben Rough of Newmarket bought the horse from Mr. Dunner.

In the hunt, however, Bleu Beau did not perform as expected.

Each time out, he passed every rider, including the Master of the Hunt.

This was not polite and attempts were made to stop Bleu Beau's nasty habit.

The animal's competitive nature proved to be unbreakable, however, and the need to be in front persisted.

Frustrated and disappointed, Mr. Rough sold the stallion.

The new owners of Bleu Beau were Ruth and Herb Coad who owned a farm just outside Aurora on Dufferin Street. Rather than trying to curb the animal's spirits, the Coads decided to train Bleu Beau to jump.

The training suited the big, aggressive animal and jump he did, especially when teamed up with an expert, young horseman named Tom Gayford.

In 1957, the Aurora Horse Show attracted a large crowd in the Town Park.

For the first time bleachers had been set up for spectators to watch the equestrian events.

Bleu Beau and Tom Gayford were the high point of the afternoon and the team won "The Aurora Shield".

The pair continued on in other competitions that year and Bleu Beau, with Mr. Gayford, became "Champion Zone Jumper".

A year later, on the North American circuit, Bleu Beau and Tom Gayford took the "Sash of Honour" and "First of Show" at Madison Square Garden in New York.

As exciting as this was, it was only the beginning of many wins.

In both 1959 and 1960, the horse and rider from Aurora won in two classes at the Royal Winter Fair.

In a third class in 1960, the pair competed against Hugh Wiley and his horse, an American team.

The two rivals tied in the competition up to the final trial, which was a seven foot, stone wall jump.

Mr. Gayford knew his horse was fatigued and refused to try the jump. He didn't want Bleu Beau to be



Rider Tom Gayford and famous horse Bleu Beau show the Aurora Shield which they won regularly at the Aurora Horse Show.

injured.

Hugh Wiley attempted the jump as the crowd booed him for risking his horse.

Some spectators called out, "Do you want to kill that horse?" The jump was not successful, but because of the attempt, Mr. Wiley won the event.

In 1960, 1961 and 1962, Bleu Beau won the "Wagstaff Trophy".

With three wins in three years the "Wagstaff Trophy" was retired. In all three years, Beau Bleu also won the "International Puissance" and the "National Horse Show" in New York.

In 1962, Bleu Beau cleared a seven foot one inch jump in Madison Square Garden.

At the time, this was the highest obstacle cleared by any horse in a national horse show.

Bleu Beau, Tom Gayford and Bleu Beau's owners became celebrities.

Herb Coad was interviewed by Arthur Godfrey on television and Blue Beau was called "the best horse in the world".

The names Bleu Beau and Tom Gayford also appeared often in the sport sections of The Globe and Mail.

The remarkable horse and his talented rider helped put Aurora and its hinterland of fine horse farms and skilled equestrians on the map.

At the end of November in 1962, the Aurora Board of Trade gave a banquet to honour Bleu Beau as well as others in the community.

The President of the Board of Trade was Norm Cook (Cook's Men's Wear on Yonge Street) at the time.

Willard King of CBC was invited to speak at the event.

He referred to Aurora as "the horse capital of Canada".

Mr. Coad accepted a special plaque for his horse, which was inscribed with the following: "A grand horse beloved by the equestrian world. There will never be another Bleu Beau. Aurora is proud of this loyal and sturdy mount."

In 1963, Bleu Beau was

13 and slowing down. This showed when he came second in his class that year. He wasn't a horse to come second.

Two years later in 1965, it was time for the splendid mount to retire from jumping.

Bleu Beau was given a special send-off by the Royal Winter Fair officials.

His saddle was removed and he circled the ring proudly to loud applause from spectators that had followed his career. More mature and more polite, the big stallion left the ring, returned to Aurora and joined the hunt with his owner as his rider.

Bleu Beau certainly had glory days.

The horse seemed to know that he was meant to be a single act in the arena and that he was made to jump.

Tom Gayford's handling had brought out the best in the animal.

The mount and rider made a special team and they deserve to be remembered as part of Aurora's past.

Raccoon population growing

Raccoons are taking over parts of Aurora and Teresa Keefer wants council to do something about it.

She appeared before a general committee meeting last week and explained that a neighbour was feeding the raccoons which brought them to other properties in the neighbourhood.

She said she had trapped 17 raccoons on

her property.

She asked that a bylaw be prepared to prevent the feeding of wildlife on private property and said council was her last hope.

She distributed a research paper on raccoons which provided information about the raccoon roundworm which can be dangerous to human health.

In response to a question as to bylaws in

other jurisdictions, she said that in checking with the Ministry of Natural Resources there was no record of a municipal bylaw.

Her presentation was received and referred to staff to investigate and if no bylaws were known, to suggest ways to request legislation from the province.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The programs and activities offered at the Aurora Seniors Centre present members with the choice of physical activity.

For example table tennis and carpet bowling require mobility but are relatively sedate.

Tai-Chi is a popular, exotic exercise from the east, which purports to improve circulation with rhythmical movements executed gently, and which exercises various muscle groups and gently stretches joints and attaching ligaments.

It sounds and appears good and many seniors are devotees of Tai Chi.

Exercises employed within each senior's limitation are the pathway to safe physical activity, because even a mild strain can impose a severe limitation on an older person's capacity to participate.

Some have good muscle strength but poor flexibility and this should be taken into account while exercising.

In addition there are activities which engage the mind, which is where we experience life and is the seat of memory.

It seems that no matter how hard we work and how tired our minds become; a good night's sleep is all that is required for long term memory to become established.

I also find that if progress is good or a breakthrough is achieved, endurance materializes and engaging the mind beckons as a hobby, not a hardship.

So what exercises the mind? Knitting and sewing requires dexterity, good focus and appeals to many women because it provides

opportunity to build relationships while fabricating something useful.

In addition, keeping abreast of what is happening in life is a social skill developed long before humanity emerged as the dominant species of life on earth.

The woodworking shop encompasses many of the ideas listed above and is an environment of deep satisfaction to those who see the practical or artistic potential in a few pieces of timber that most of us would not look at twice.

The wood workers are rightfully proud of what they fabricate and some keep digital photographic records of their work.

Seniors are very much works in progress and visible every day in the centre. A meeting I attended recently with committee members and directors impressed me as I listened to their presentations.

Programs widely utilized

When the meeting concluded and before I left, I paused to view the carpet bowling in progress with players and spectators deeply focused.

Card games were played in another room; the wood shop was busy as was the pool room, and a seminar on finances was in progress while here and

there, others were in conversation and apparently happy just to be in the centre, a place where seniority is the only item on the agenda.

To see so many elderly men and women interested in each other and what they do fosters good impressions and feelings of pride.

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by Dan Goggin

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IN MEMORIAM

Buchanan, Howie
In loving memory of a wonderful father and grandfather who passed away Oct. 26, 2006

*What we'd give if we could say
Hello, Dad, in the same old way;
To hear your voice, see your smile,
Feel your hug, see you waving goodbye
from the end of the drive;
So, on this day;
Please God, forgive our tears;
and tell dad how we wish he were here.*

– Forever in our hearts and thoughts;
from all the children and grandchildren.

In memory of Howie

In loving memory of William Howard (Howie) Buchanan. I was not able to give my eulogy at the service. I would like to share it now on this first anniversary of his unexpected passing.

The first time I met Howie I was a little surprised. I guess I expected him to look more like Russ. But here was this jolly, round soul with fine white hair. I liked him immediately.

I remember our first Christmas at Howie and Gloria's. I instantly felt welcome and comfortable. We ate, drank and were merry. When our visit was over and we were getting ready to leave, Howie asked me "Where in Bracebridge do you live, Michele? 'With Russ' was my response. I'm not sure what he was thinking but he gave us all hugs and sent us on our way. Howie gave the best hugs. They always came with a few words of love, encouragement and support. Howie quickly held a permanent place in my heart.

Howie would drop in either on his way to the hunt camp or on his trip back home. We might not see him each time, but we knew he'd been by. There would be something left that acknowledged his visit. Sometimes it was homemade preserves (Howie made the best bread and butter pickles), sometimes it was a package of samples from one of his travels, or maybe it was a box of toys that one of his older grandsons had outgrown. Sometimes it was an old snow blower or tractor that he'd come across because Howie knew his son shared his interest in these "gems".

Many times Howie would call to say he'd stumbled on something that might be of use to us. "My neighbour is having a garage sale and he has something you might like to have." Or, "I came by something that might be of interest to you." Or "If you call this number, there is something that you might want to look into."

The day before he was to have his knee surgery, I came home and found our message light flashing. I pressed the button and heard Howie's customary message.

"Hello, it's Howie. Just calling to check in and see how things are going. I hope everyone is well. I love you all! Bye for now.

~ Michele Slater, Bracebridge ~

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From page 14

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5 BELOW also has a wonderful selection of warm winter coats and jackets ranging from midriff to long and just below the knee...perfect for when old man winter sets in. You really need to come and see some of the 'very special' Nicole Benisti and Kenzie coats.

Mae says that some other fashions that have made a comeback that everyone should know about are plaid, the big-belted military look with lots of button detail on the cuffs and sleeves, and long coats...just over the knee, in tweed and wool, and some with removable fur collars. Also, very chic and sophisticated

are the new Ben Sherman and Mac and Jac coats.

Mae loves the men's collection this fall; "argyle sweaters by Ben Sherman and the men's section also includes Bauhaus, Buffalo, Mavi and Haight Ashbury".

Mae and the staff have worked diligently on bringing the latest and hottest new brands to 5 BELOW at affordable prices. "UGGS and Kathy Van Zeeland have been selling like crazy", Mae says.

This is definitely jeans weather, and there's no selection anywhere for jeans like the variety and styles at 5 BELOW. Let the friendly, knowledgeable staff assist you in picking a pair that feels like they were 'made just for you'.

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