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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 5 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of November 20, 2007

Santa Claus parade set for this Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to Aurora! Again.

This Saturday, Nov. 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Santa will be the main attraction in a parade billed

BRIEFLY

Fundraiser

If you'd like to help some youngsters get to Ecuador next summer, visit their fundraising sale in Aurora Dec. 1 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event, where you can buy baked goods, cookies, pies, cupcakes, and other goodies, is being held at 36 Cypress Court.

The fundraiser is for an organization called Free the Children.

as one of the largest in York Region.

Santa Under The Stars has been a successful night-time parade since it was proposed in Aurora several years ago by then-councillor, the late Herb McKenzie.

For more than a half century, the parade in Aurora had been an event to remember for kids and adults, but was normally held in the daytime the same day as a similar parade in Newmarket.

That allowed floats to appear in both communities, but following the success of Aurora's first nighttime event, it was decided to continue with the nighttime parade.

It has been that way ever since.

Service clubs, organizations and businesses are busy preparing an array of creative floats for this year's event and they will be

joined by marching bands, fire trucks, animals and even politicians as they lead the way for the man in the red suit.

The parade marks Santa's first Aurora appearance of the year with thousands of people waiting for his arrival.

However, he will be back.

He's scheduled to appear at Aurora's tree lighting ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday's parade will form on Yonge Street, north of Orchard Heights Blvd., and head south to Murray Drive.

If history means anything, the parade will likely take an hour to pass a single given point.

For more information, contact the Special Events office at 905-726-4762 or visit the town website at www.e-aurora.ca and click on the Special Events Calendar.



Three participants in the second annual "Slide-A-Thon" are, left to right, Helen Doucher, Andrres Rizek and Brandon Baird. The event took place Saturday at the Aurora Recreation Complex and money raised goes to the Lifesaving Society's Drowning Prevention Campaign. The slideathon lasted 12 hours and each participant was required to go down the slide for a minimum of one hour.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

No council reaction after firefighter deal settled

At the request of Aurora Councillor Grace Marsh, a member of the Joint Council Committee (JCC) of Fire Services, the arbitrator's award for the Central York Fire Services appeared on last week's council agenda and it was received as information without comment or discussion.

Earlier in the month it was announced that an unprecedented four-year contract negotiation had finally been resolved but not before leaving strong feelings between the firefighters and the two municipalities.

Firefighters have been without a contract for almost four years.

Both sides agreed on a general wage increase that will see the firefighters earn three per cent more in each of 2007 and 2008 and retroactive pay of 4.33, 3.5, and 3.35 per cent in each of 2004, 2005 and 2006.

The two sides went to arbitration over service pay, the premium paid to senior fire-

fighters based on years of experience.

The arbitrator ruled in favour of the firefighters, resulting in a firefighter with eight years' experience earning an additional three per cent. A 23-year veteran would get an additional nine per cent.

According to the firefighters

the service pay is a wage parity issue not a retention issue as in some municipalities but to maintain parity with York Regional Police and other York Region firefighters.

The cost to the taxpayers won't be known until a final bill is received from the arbitrator

Please see page 16

Nothing new about news leaks

The alleged leak into a news report of a closed door meeting at Aurora council and the retaining of a high-priced municipal lawyer to investigate it is taking on a life of its own.

Last week at a scheduled council meeting, delegations, citizens

and the Aurora Cable Internet crew had to wait in the council chambers for more than an hour as members of council with the exception of Councillor Evelyn Buck agreed with a request of Mayor Phyllis Morris to meet with Solicitor George Rust D'eye

behind closed doors regarding the investigation.

After the meeting there was no report to the public in open session, no explanation as to the next steps or how much the investigation would cost the taxpayers.

This is contrary to the Municipal

Act as if the business of the municipality was advanced during the closed session, a report should have been made in public session.

It's much ado about nothing as it is doubtful if anyone will admit to leaking the news to the media and the editor of The Auroran who

printed the leaked story has stated he will not disclose his source.

Leaks have occurred over the years and such drastic action and expense was never even considered.

At a special council meeting in

Please see page 18

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Poor Richard

Public has right to know outcome of that meeting

*Freedom of the press is needed,
To keep the public in the know;
But council doesn't like it that way.
As they try to control the flow.*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Elected politicians at all levels of government are supposed to work for and be responsible to the people who elected them, while newspapers have a responsibility for playing a watchdog role on behalf of the same people.

Accountability to the citizens is the common responsibility of both politicians and the media and the availability of timely information is the key to accountability.

Some members of Aurora Council have been deeply entrenched in holding meetings in accordance with the Municipal Act to the point of refusing to go on the traditional retreats for newly-elected councils or attend workshop sessions, although both are authorized by recent amendments to the Municipal Act.

Council even obtained solicitor George Rust D'Eye, an expert in municipal law, to provide a ruling on retreats and workshops which he did and even prepared a draft bylaw which would cover such meetings which the same members of council refused to accept.

Now at the recommendation of Mayor Phyllis Morris council on an 8-1 vote agreed to engage the same solicitor to investigate a leak to the media of a decision made at a closed session of council not to sell land to York Region to establish the headquarters of the York Regional Police on the town-owned Leslie Street lands.

As nothing has ever been discussed in open council, citizens and the media are at a loss to explain the decision not to sell as printed in the alleged leak to the newspaper.

It was likely the same faulty reason that some members of council used to nearly defeat the construction of the new Catholic high school on Wellington Street or the York Regional Police Support Services facility on the Leslie Street lands on the basis they don't pay property taxes.

That's false economics as the addition of the school will bring teachers and other staff to work in Aurora and the addition of the Police HQ would have brought 800 employees to Aurora who would patronize local restaurants, shop in local stores and maybe even move here.

Not only that there is the lost prestige.

Previous councils had to fight bids from other municipalities to keep the York Region District School Board here and to attract the York Region Catholic School Board.

Efforts were also made to bring District #1 of the York Regional Police to a Yonge Street property in Aurora but lost out to Newmarket who had the vacant Office Specialty building to offer.

This council previously approved the sale of 2.4 acres of town-owned land on Leslie Street along with 5.1 acres of the Hallgrove Estates property to the north for the Support Services facility at a total price of \$1.9 million on the basis that the positives outweighed the negatives as the facility would act as a beacon for further development of the business park.

So what happened when council received an undisclosed offer to add the Police HQ to the Support Services facility as the public has a right to know.

Mr. Rust D'Eye should be required to investigate the actions of council at the closed session when they made the decision not to sell as from the information allegedly leaked to the press a vote was taken at the closed session which is, or was, contrary to the Municipal Act.

In addition, any decision made at a closed session must be reported in open council session to be ratified before it is official and this has not yet been done and both points should be investigated and an explanation given to the public.

The news media obtains its information from several sources, a word here and a word there and like a jigsaw puzzle a picture appears.

The members of council who voted against the sale of the land for the Police HQ should take a good look at themselves and decide if they are working for and representing the people who elected them and, if not, possibly consider resignation as not being up to the job.



Letters to the Editor

History behind Aurora Dairy

To the editor,

Re: Auroran picture of the Aurora Dairy.

It surprised us to see that picture, but I think we can guess who may have sent it in.

Above is another picture of the Aurora Dairy, of the inside.

The Aurora Dairy was started and owned by my wife's father, Lyle Sparks, about 1934.

Lyle moved to Aurora from St. Catharines.

He ran it himself until he married Lillian Heaney, an Aurora girl, in 1938. They both ran it until it was sold to Doug Harrison who worked for Lyle (year unknown).

Lyle went to the farms, picked up the milk in the big cans, returned to the Dairy, pasteurized the milk and delivered it later the same day.

At that time he was using a horse and wagon.

He always said that the horse and wagon were much better than the truck.

The reason being was

that the horse knew the route and would walk to the next stop while Lyle delivered to several houses without having to go in and out of driveways, thereby saving a lot of time and steps.

As you can see by the picture of the inside, the Dairy bar served home cooked meals.

Lillian did the baking and many enjoyed her pies.

Many American customers stopped to have breakfast with what they called Canadian bacon (peameal).

The truck in the picture

was the truck he bought to replace the horse. (I don't know the year)

The Aurora Dairy was on the northeast corner of Centre and Yonge Streets.

After the Dairy, Lyle did many things in Aurora.

As a builder he built the Graystones and many other buildings/houses in Aurora and surrounding areas.

By the way, we are disqualifying ourselves from the dinner for two, contest part.

**John & Judy (nee Sparks) Swarbrick
Aurora**

Aurora Dairy Bar was trend-setter

To the editor,

The Aurora Dairy Bar was built on the north east corner of Yonge and Centre Streets in Aurora, in the early post WWII years.

The truck, which I remember well, was likely a 1938-39 Dodge or Chev.

It is difficult to imagine from the vantage point of the early 21st Century the impact which this building had on the streetscape and the Aurorans of the day:

Its sleek modern architecture would be a striking example of the then modern Art Deco styling, in sharp contrast to the architecture of the existing main street of the period, much of which is still intact.

The front of the buff brick building was clad in Vitrolite, a sleek, fragile, glass like, decorative material.

A wonder product of the 1920s and 30s it epitomized the ultra modern look of the latest in main street renewal.

It was one of the first of a long line of composite materi-

als that would follow - Bakelite and the such like.

The Vitrolite was in rich cream colour, inspired, I suspect, by the colour of Jersey cream processed by the Dairy.

It was trimmed out in stylish, high gloss, black Vitrolite, which greatly added to the sense of visual excitement.

The sign, too, was a wonder of the times; neon signs were new to Aurora's main street in those years.

The structure, as the image published in The Auroran, Nov. 13 tells, hobbles, and humbles the structure which currently replaces it; a further reminder of the challenge faced by this community in planning and managing its urban infrastructure - in the greater public interest.

The building was built to house a new generation dairy processing in the rear, a modern lunch, ice cream and soda bar in the front, with apartments upstairs for the owners.

Please see page 8

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

On voting day during the recent provincial election, I was situated at Devins Drive Public School as an election scrutineer.

I subsequently wrote an election notebook column about the six hours that I spent at the school.

The last item in that column had absolutely nothing to do with politics.

I reproduced the cute poem done by a young female student named Kyra about her dog Bailey.

Well, a friend of mine who has a daughter at the school called me and said that my column was pasted on the door to the office, just above the original poem.

I was obviously flattered by this and thought to myself that at least my column is meeting a better fate than that sought by some of my literary critics (and certain family members) who continually suggest a more appropriate employment for this column would be at the bottom of a bird cage or in the wrapping of old fish.

In addition to telling me about the poem, my friend wanted to tell me about the amazing Remembrance Day display at the school.

She had attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the school the day before and one of the Veterans present stated to her that the display was the best that he had seen in his ten years of doing these things.

She said each piece of memorabilia in the displays had a direct connection to a particular student.

She said I should go and see the exhibits as they won't be up much longer.

So I did. And I was not disappointed.

In fact, I was amazed.

As you walk in the door to Devins, a glass display case greets you to the right.

There were lots of things to view; but one small exhibit caught my attention.

Student's Name: Tyler McKechnie
Teacher: Mrs. Taylor
Name of Veteran (Soldier): James Smith (Tyler's great uncle)
Date of Birth: May 6, 1915
Date of Death: 1975
War Served: World War II
Position: Private with British 8th Army in North Africa and then Italy.

It also noted that he was a "Desert Rat". There is also a picture of Mr. Smith.

Seeing that Mr. Smith was a "Desert Rat", I could not help but wonder if he had been involved in many of the famous African battles that I had read about.

As you make your way along the hallway, what is most striking about the entire collection is its size - it goes all the way down the hall, crosses over onto a big glass display case and then goes along the wall around the corner.

Second, as you view the pictures, take a closer look at the medals, batons and battle dresses on display, and read the commendations and newspaper articles, a number of emotions come over you; I was at once sad and also proud.

The valor and selflessness of these fine men is most humbling.

It was a good thing that I was there on a Friday evening after all the children and most of the teachers had left for the day.

I am not too ashamed to say that I had to wipe away a tear or two after reading how young some of the fallen were.

There are obviously too many soldiers listed on those school walls to mention in this limited space - and each one represents an altogether unique and special story - but one other thing piqued my interest. It was near the end of the exhibits, near the end wall.

Student Jacob Turriff had identified five relatives who had participated in the various wars. A brief background was provided on each of the five, including:

Thomas Ratchford DeWolfe: - "Jacob's great-great-grandfather was a Gunner in World War I and served in France, Holland, Germany and England. Born 1872, expired 1940."

Looking at the names of Jacob's five relatives reminded me of the Aurora Cenotaph and the fact that eight sets of men share the same last name on the two edifices that comprise the monument and one thought always comes to my mind when I am there - are any of these sets of men brothers?

I know that every school in Aurora does something to commemorate Remembrance Day and any idea, be it display cases, or slide shows, or plays, or bringing in Veterans to address the students, is a tremendous way of engaging students by trying to bring history to life.

I look forward to the time when our family is asked to provide our son with some material for the Devins Public School "Wall of Honour".

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Excitement is starting to build for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but do you remember the Commonwealth Games that took place last year?

No?

Well, I'm not surprised. Not only were they held half a world away in Melbourne, but what little live coverage there was occurred in the middle of the night.

And although similar to the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games do differ in one significant respect; sponsors haven't discovered them.

So they do tend to come and go with little fanfare.

But one good thing about the Commonwealth Games, is that they are often held in smaller cities.

How small?

Well, Aurora (yes; our Aurora) almost had its chance on the world stage, when York Region applied to be the Canadian host municipality for the 2014 Games.

Sadly, we eventually lost out to Halifax - something about there being a little more elbow room for yachting in the Atlantic, than in McKenzie Marsh.

So much for that spot I had staked out on the viewing platform on St. John's Sideroad.

It's too bad that we lost out, because it would have been pretty exciting to have the Games here in town.

Of course, we'd first have to take away the mayor's scissors. Otherwise, she'd have been liable to cut all the finish line ribbons before each event, thinking they were grand openings.

And granted, some of the events - swimming, for example - would have had to have been held in the other municipalities, because you know that if the Games took place anywhere between February and November, we'd have been unable to fill any of the town's pools due to the water ban.

But otherwise, Aurora was all set to play its part.

Soccer would have presented some difficulties, as the multitude of youth soccer groups have control of all of the town's fields from April to October.

But soccer could be held in the Sports Dome. We'd just have to ask the golfers on its indoor driving range to try not to aim at the competitors. At least, not the Canadian ones, anyway.

And even if the lack of sports fields, full swimming pools, and other facilities may have presented some challenges, we could have provided suitable "Aurora equivalents".

For example, with no real lake within the town boundaries, we couldn't play beach volleyball.

But by having the Public Works Department hold off on sweeping up all the sand left on the roads from the winter, any local side street could then have become the perfect "street volleyball" venue.

And speaking of streets, normally the steeplechase is held on a course with hills and ditches and other obstacles.

Well, think of the money we could save by just holding this in the traffic calmed northeast quadrant.

I'd certainly watch a race involving jumping over speed

humps, avoiding pot-holes and pylons, and swerving around chicanes.

And with these "facilities" permanently in place, our athletes could train in town 24/7 leading up to the Games.

And finally, one of the most exciting new sports these days is the Ironman (or woman) competition.

This combines the three events of running, swimming and cycling.

But to prove true super-human endurance, we could change the three elements to be more local.

How about:

(1) staying awake during a typical five-hour Aurora Council meeting

(2) trying to best Dick Illingworth in a game of "Aurora Edition Trivial Pursuit", and

(3) finding a daytime parking spot for a mid-sized car in Library Square.

Okay, so we might have to extend the Games by a few days to allow time for competitors to complete that parking challenge.

But these ideas are just a start.

With a few more years to plan and win over the decision-makers, the 2018 Commonwealth Games are as good as ours.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

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A "Wealth" of opportunity



BOUQUETS to Heather Green of the Town of Aurora's bylaw services department on being selected by her fellow employees as the town's staff Character Champion. She was honoured at a council meeting during Character Community Week.

BOUQUETS to whoever was responsible for arranging the bus to transport the Wells Street Public School students, temporarily located at Aurora Grove Public School in the town's east end, so the students could enjoy the 35th anniversary of Vic Parainfo's giving treats on Halloween.

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for stating in the recent news item about the disbandment of the Special Events Sub-Committee that the two-page memo had not been made public, whereas Poor Richard had put it away in a safe place.

BOUQUETS to the students of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School for their Trick or Eat collection on Halloween to pick up canned and dried goods for the Aurora Food Pantry.

BRICKBATS to the town's pricing policy for rental of town-owned facilities when it was found to be cheaper to rent the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church than town facilities.

BOUQUETS to Sher St. Kitts for her generous offer to get the Canada Day Parade back on the rails, but she needs help from sponsors, volunteers and participants such as streets challenging each other for best float as they did in the past and bringing the children back into the parade with their decorated bicycles, wagons and carriages.

BRICKBATS to some parents of minor hockey players like Steve Godzys of Waterdown who is suing Flamborough Hockey Association for \$10,000 for allegedly not giving his seven-year-old son ice time.

BOUQUETS to Vern Cunningham, owner of Alutron Modules in Aurora on being selected as the Business Person of the Year at the 8th Annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Business. And more **BOUQUETS** to all the other award winners in the different categories.

BRICKBATS to the persons who use the Billings Well parking lot on Yonge Street next to the Beer Store as a beer parlour and leave their bottles and garbage there. Town parks staff has advised that York Regional Police have been requested to monitor the area, so be warned.

BOUQUETS to Jordon Bernanoff, President and CEO of the new retirement residence at Hollandview Trail and John West Way, for his recent donation of \$1,000 to the Aurora Seniors' building fund during the ground breaking ceremonies.

BRICKBATS to the high priced planners of Canadian Armed Forces, who purchased four new C-177 Globemasters transport planes at a cost of \$148 million before making suitable hangar arrangements to accommodate them resulting in the planes having to sit on the tarmac during the winter months.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Janine Fernandes on being nominated by the Heritage Advisory Committee for the Ontario Heritage Trust Young Heritage Leaders Award Program.

BRICKBATS to whoever was responsible for transferring Hazina, a six-year-old female hippo, from a zoo in Denver to one in Calgary. She was transported in a crate on a trip that took 28 hours. She died a day later from circulatory complications.

BOUQUETS to Annie Murphy of Orchard Heights Blvd. on her 90th Birthday which she celebrated recently with family and friends.

Letters to the Editor

Town takes exception to front page article

To the Editor,

This is a response from the Town to a front page article in the Nov. 6, 2007, Auroran.

Every municipality has special legislated responsibilities and powers which it employs on a regular basis in the conduct of its business.

In the interests of protecting its citizens, it sometimes must act in a similar fashion to a business.

Town Council acts with these interests as its paramount consideration.

For example, municipalities are generally responsible for supporting and fostering economic development

in their areas of jurisdiction.

They also have significant financial and planning duties imposed and provided to them, by Provincial legislation.

The Province, through its enactment of various pieces of municipal legislation, has expressed its clear intention that municipalities have the tools necessary to protect their interests and those of businesses and individuals with whom they transact matters.

For this purpose, the present Municipal Act authorizes the Town Council to hold certain meetings in closed session, for instance, to consider matters involving

the security of municipal property including financial assets, proposed acquisition or disposition of municipal land, and receiving legal advice.

A recent article in The Auroran has reported that a private meeting was held by Town Council.

Council cannot hold a private meeting.

Only properly authorized closed session meetings can be and are held by Town Council.

In addition, the same article referenced that, "Councillors are not supposed to vote in private meetings".

This is also not an accurate

statement.

The Municipal Act provides that votes can be taken when a Council is in closed session for purposes of a procedural matter or for providing direction or instructions to staff, or outside contractors.

The Town and its Council as a whole acts with the utmost vigilance in ensuring that any confidential information, advice and direction which it receives is protected in accordance with the law.

It will continue to actively employ the protective measures it has in place now, as well as review and enhance mechanisms which it has within its control to prevent any potential for an improper disclosure of confidential information, the release of which could have serious consequences to this municipality.

Town Council has strongly committed itself to providing open, accessible and accountable government to its constituents and it will continue unabated in this commitment.

Mayor Phyllis Morris & members of council

Writer can't beat record

To the editor

Re: Ed. note, shortest letter ever (The Auroran, Letters to the Editor, Nov. 6).

There's a record I'll never hold.

**Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda**

**Anonymous
Aurora**



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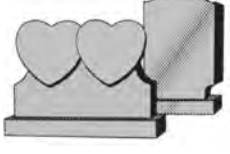
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Letters to the Editor

Reader believes ward system might help Aurora councillors

To the editor,

I am very concerned, as every resident of Aurora should be, with our dysfunctional council.

I am not politically active and most of the information I have regarding local politics comes from reading your newspaper and, yes, the other one.

The message I get is that there is no clear direction for our town and that much time is spent on what appears to be petty private "issues".

The whole essence of "governing" is lost.

We have nine elected people responsible for spending 30 million of our dollars and they seem to be in continuous conflict on deciding who should speak at what time in a meeting!

I have been a resident of Aurora since 1985, I am a small business owner, and the few times I have had to deal with the town's staff they have always been professional, courteous and very helpful.

I would think they are fed up with the lack of decision making.

Solutions

1. I met the mayor a few weeks ago (for only the second time we have met - both in casual unarranged circumstances) and made the above comment. I suggested a ward system for the town whereby each councillor would be elected by a specific geographic region and be accountable to that area.

When I brought this up she said she was in favour of this system. As has been

pointed out to me, if a councillor disagrees with a resident's position on a particular issue that resident is then unrepresented.

This could be counteracted by having a deputy mayor as well the mayor selected by the whole town.

If you would like an example of how this would help please look at letters from John Sargent and Marten Mol in last weeks' Auroran.

2. Councillors are paid \$20,000 a year to make ultimate decisions in a town that spends \$30 million.

It is a ridiculously small amount and can only lead to people who can afford to 'live' on this amount or can only do it part time. Our councillors need to be paid at least \$50,000.

3. The Auroran. Aurora

needs the "fourth estate". Your newspaper airs some of the towns' debates through its letters and with Dick Illingworth and his "bouquets and brickbats".

BUT we need an insightful editorial on the issues of the day.

For people who do not attend council meetings, who do not watch the proceedings on cable, who do not have the time or inclination to be politically involved - a balanced report and a voice to express the perceived views of the voters.

We need to understand who is contributing to our town and its wellbeing, and who is politically grandstanding.

We need an editorial section every week to outline the town issues - after all the paper is named "The Auroran"

4. Summary - Ward system. You pay for what you get. Editorial.

I would love to see some debate on the above in our town council (excluding the "editorial" suggestion!).

Perhaps some of them would like to write letters to the editor to air their views on why our council "does not work to its potential".

Frank Snape
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Perhaps the reader is right about the editorials, however, our first one would emphasize how much we're opposed to a ward system.

Declaring a conflict is very necessary, former councillor says

To the editor,

As a former councillor who occasionally had to declare a conflict of interest, I find it disturbing to see the continuous personal attacks on Councillor Bob McRoberts for not speaking in council on the traffic calming issue as he has declared a conflict of interest by reason of living in the area.

To my recollection, during my two terms on council, every councillor, as well as the mayor, declared a conflict when there was an issue dealing with the area of town

in close proximity to where they lived - no matter how innocuous.

All of us were mindful of section 5 of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and advice received during orientation: declare a conflict if there is the slightest perception of a potential monetary advantage to you when dealing with an issue, otherwise you risk being subject to a court proceeding initiated by any resident who may feel that you acted in contravention of the Act, or leaving a perception in the public's eye that you are self-serving and

thus damaging your own credibility.

I am certain that Councillor McRoberts is pained that he is not able to voice his opinion on this issue.

But he received legal advice that he is in a conflict and to refrain from commenting in any way.

We should admire his character and resolute silence in the face of personal attacks, and not attack the man for the strength of his convictions.

Damir Vrancic
Aurora

How to spend Christmas cash

To the editor,

I wish to commend Marcia Kaye on her excellent article on the recent concert "Spirit for Africa" at the Aurora United Church (Auroran, November 6).

I am hoping that the concert, as well as the whole idea of supporting the orphanage in Swaziland, will inspire people to do what I have decided to do.

Each year many of us in Aurora are racking our

brains to come up with gift Christmas ideas for our loved ones who have more than they need.

May I make a suggestion: take the money you have budgeted on these gifts and donate it to the orphanage in Swaziland. Those children need every dollar we can send them.

I know I did it already last year and my children are happy that I will do it again this year.

Contact Aurora United Church if you want to find

out more or phone me at 905-726-1648 or look up the Swaziland project under www.heart-forafrica.org.

Brigitta Gamm
Aurora



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Reader comments on proposed truck speed

The following letter was sent to the Minister of Transportation and the Premier of Ontario and a copy forwarded to The Auroran.

The government is to promote truck-related accidents? I hear this more often: the government is thinking to limit the speed of heavy vehicles to 105 km/h.

I challenge that that will actually cause more accidents, fatal ones, too, due to a serious increase in truck traffic as well as the number of car-truck incidents.

You surely know that most studies as well as common sense indicates that what causes collisions is not that much the absolute speed, but the difference in speed between vehicles.

If three lanes of traffic are flowing down any 400 series at 120-130 km/h, there will be no accidents, no tailgating, no unsafe lane changes, nothing but a reasonably safe and steady flow of commuter cars.

Assume now that those three or four lanes of packed traffic encounter a 50-ton, 18-wheeled speed hump doing 100 km/h down the middle.

I have witnessed this first

hand and I can tell you that you'll see traffic scatter, unsafe speed and lane changes, heavy braking on all lanes, nothing safe, really!

And this would happen every day, everywhere on our major highways!

Now I see Quebec politicians proposing this as a law. I see the Canada Safety Council supporting this 105 km/h limit, stating that it will "reduce highway collisions related to tailgating and improper lane changes", which are exactly the effects I witnessed first hand.

Several truck collisions I heard of recently in the GTA were caused by cars cutting them off, another incident that will happen more frequently, given increased driver frustration and road-rage incidents.

When we know the actual mean traffic speeds on the 400 series to be between 120-130 km/h especially outside the city, why on earth would it be safer to limit trucks to well below these speeds?

Mind you, trucks do need to cross three or seven lanes of traffic, even from left to right, to take certain exits or ramps.

One of jokes I like most is about the plans, in Britain, to start driving on the right side of

the road: the first day they'd switch the trucks and the second day the rest of the vehicles.

Amusing, but I used to think it is an aberration...until now, that is!

I urge you to let citizens focus on driving rather than dodging 18 wheelers. While a limit might make sense, 115 km/h is a perhaps manageable difference of only 10 km/h versus actual traffic speeds and overall a lot more safe and flexible while rooting out the inconsiderate speed demons.

In terms of traffic, it seems to me that merchandise will move 10 per cent slower at 105 km/h vs. 115 km/h, meaning that at any point in time, there will be 10 per cent fewer trucks available to load/unload (the trucks being on the road for 10 per cent more time than before); less merchandise will reach its destination in any given day.

Since people will not suddenly eat 10 per cent less food nor buy 10 per cent less toys, it will require the addition of 10 per cent more trucks, with additional costs, insurance, diesel, pollution etc.

Increasing truck traffic by 20 per cent increases the

same 20 per cent or more.

Regarding the speed limits: Before you reply that most citizens have no business exceeding the speed limits you so vigorously enforce, this is what they actually do and, by all accepted principles of law except Ontario's traffic laws, what most people do defines the norm.

The reason behind this 105 km/h figure is the 100 km/h speed limit on our major highways.

I have a hard time seeing what that limit has to do with actual traffic speeds, other than generate "government revenue" and put the people that actually observe it at risk.

Study after study shows that drivers routinely ignore abnormally low speed limits and even that variations in speed limits (either up or down) do not cause significant changes in actual traffic speeds!

People, on the average, drive with the speed they consider safe and reasonable for different sections of the road!

Assuming anything else leads to the conclusion that the citizens of this country are either suicidal, bent on killing or impaired in some other ways, since most drive daily.

Razvan Cojocaru
Aurora

Aurora Dairy Bar

From page 4

Growing up just up the street and around the corner, my twin brother and I would, on occasion, be given 15 cents to visit the new establishment, sit on the high stools at the soda bar dangling our legs, and enjoying an orange soda. In Aurora just emerging from depression times, it was a drink sensation, a marvel of modern refrigeration, which heralded new times - or so it seemed to the Oliver boys.

Mechanical refrigeration had only recently arrived in Aurora, enabled by community wide, reliable electrification.

It made possible a whole new generation of family operated dairying, as well as fresh cold milk, ice cream, and chilled bubbling waters (soda water) just down the street.

The building was built by Lyle Sparks and his father, who a few years earlier had purchased a small dairy business on the northwest corner of Spruce and Centre Streets, one block to the east.

The family clearly planned to move their business to a site on the main street, in order to take advantage of growing post war, retail market opportunities.

The land from of the site was so significantly different from the present, that it is difficult to picture its topography prior to the new dairy built by the Sparks.

The grading of Centre Street running west to Yonge gives some hint of the high hill

that existed prior to the building of the dairy.

A frame home, known locally as the Egan home, stood atop the hill.

The hillside was dug out by horse drawn scoops in a massive earth moving operation, which as children we stood in great awe of.

The Sparks were local entrepreneurs of the times, anxious and able to demonstrate their ability to grow a local business, which would contribute to the economy and social structure of the community - in contrast with much development that would go on in the latter part the 20th century and on into the 21st.

The business was later sold to Doug Harrison, another well known local entrepreneur who further grew the enterprise until it closed, unable to face the challenge of the then ever expanding conglomerates taking over the Ontario dairying industry.

We are once more reminded of the wonderful stories told by the material history that surrounds us, stories of who we are as Aurorans, how we come to think about community and our world beyond.

Our history is indeed our culture.

Leslie Oliver
Aurora



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Find the Aurora residents. There are several of them in the above photograph taken in conjunction with the production of the York Regional Police Male Chorus's 15th Anniversary concert which took place in Newmarket recently. Several members of the chorus hail from Aurora and many Aurora residents attended the concert this year. Spotted in the audience were Aurora Councillors Evelyn Buck and Alison Collins-Mrakis.

Photo by Glen Langford

“Dry” Aurora went wet after plebiscite in 1968

Prior to 1968 Aurora was officially dry.

In order for the municipality to have licenced premises a vote of the people was required.

In September, 1968, the town held a plebiscite under the Liquor Licence Act in which citizens were asked; "Are you in favour of the sale of liquor under a lounge licence for consumption in licensed premises?"

With only 26.1 per cent of eligible voters going to the polls, a decisive 76.9 per cent voted "Yes".

Of the 1,429 votes cast, 1,052 were in favour, 315 opposed and 62 were spoiled ballots. The cost of the plebiscite was \$2,252.68.

As was expected the newer areas of town had the largest voter turnout in support of cocktail lounges, while the oldest section of town was the driest.

The low voter turnout was attributed to no strong campaign in opposition or support and the fact that the plebiscite was not held at the same time as the municipal election.

In 1969, people started to ask what had happened as there had been no changes. There was a lot of fine print in the existing Liquor Control Act which made citizens of towns second-class citizens.

Cities were allowed to have cocktail lounges that were not part of a hotel or motel and customers could order a drink with-

out ordering food. In towns, it was quite different.

If the population of the town was under 10,000 the only applicant to be considered was a hotel owner if he had a minimum of 10 rooms.

For a town larger than 10,000, like Aurora, it was necessary to have a minimum of 20 rooms, which Aurora didn't have at that time.

So, if you wanted a social drink, it was necessary to visit a dining lounge and order food, whether you were hungry or not.

At that time licensed restaurants were required to derive no more than 50 per cent of their revenue from liquor sales with the balance coming from food sales.

During the late 1970s the Graystones Restaurant and the Upstairs Disco (now part of the Howard Johnson Hotel) were forced to close at 10.30 p.m. because their liquor sales generated more than 50 per cent of their revenue.

In 1980 on a 4-3 vote, Aurora Council adopted a resolution asking the

Liquor Control Board to eliminate the inequity by providing a 70/30 ratio for liquor/food. Somebody was listening as in 1982 it was changed to 60/40.

Other municipalities and the media supported Aurora's position. An editorial in the Toronto Star stated that Queen's Park should heed Aurora's request.

At the same time, Aurora Council pointed out that while golf, curling and other clubs were permitted to obtain a club licence, branches of the Royal Canadian Legion weren't and council members wanted to know why.

The Ontario Restaurant and Foodservice Association carried out a survey of its members representing more than 2,500 licensed restaurants in the province and 52 per cent voted to abolish the ratio system.

Now with liquor stores open on Sundays, bar hours extended well past midnight, beer sold at sporting events and almost every restaurant that wanted a liquor licence getting one without a food/liquor ratio,

some of the changes were started here in Aurora.

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SAC celebrates “West Side Story” anniversary

Aurora's St. Andrew's College Dramatic Society celebrates the 50th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's “West Side Story” with a production of the famous musical that changed the face of musical theatre forever.

The show opens Thursday and continues through Saturday in St. Andrew's Ketchum Auditorium.

The SAC production stars Ryan Cole, a Grade 11 day student from Aurora as Tony; Dylan Baker, a Grade 12 day student and Head Prefect from King City as Riff; Alex Pearce, a Grade 12 boarder from Jamaica as Bernardo; Radissen Ramoutar, a Grade 12 boarder from Trinidad as Chino; Phil Whitfield, a Grade 11 day student from Newmarket as Action; Cam Oram, a Grade 11 day student from Unionville as Arab; and Sebastian Biase, a Grade 10 day student from Aurora as Baby John.

Set against the gritty realism of the New York ghettos where warfare between the rival Shark and Jet gangs destroys the relationship between love-struck Tony and Maria, it was an instant sensation, a bold new



Aurora's Ryan Cole, who plays Tony, and Megan Keenan, who is Maria, prepare for the upcoming “West Side Story” being presented by St. Andrew's College. Show opens Thursday in Ketchum Auditorium at the college.

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kind of musical theatre that dealt with controversial themes of gang violence and racism.

With gang violence on the increase and the immigration debate continuing, West Side Story is more relevant than ever.

West Side Story will run from Thursday, Nov. 22 through Saturday, Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. in St. Andrew's Ketchum Auditorium.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling 905-727-3178,

ext. 260, or by emailing on the St. Andrew's Dramatic Society, visit

For more information the website at sac.on.ca.

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Aurora Tigers stop the bleeding

The Aurora Tigers stopped the bleeding Friday night.

Thursday, in Newmarket, Aurora lost its fourth game in a row, dropping a 3-1 decision to the powerful Hurricanes.

Friday, they managed to defeat Couchiching 4-2 in front of more than 300 fans at the Aurora Community Centre, and managed to keep the bandage in place Sunday afternoon, when Aurora finally beat Newmarket.

Sunday afternoon the Tigers returned to the familiar confines of the Newmarket Ray Twinney Complex to link up once again, for the second time in four nights, with their rivals the Newmarket Hurricanes.

Going into the game the Tigers were 0-3 against their Yonge Street enemies.

Fortunately for the Tigers, they came to play and defeated Newmarket 4-1, before more than 600 fans, many from Aurora.

Tiger rookie David Morley started the afternoon off with a goal midway through the opening frame.

Chris Smith, in his first game as a Tiger, followed that up with his first goal of the campaign.

However, Newmarket cut that lead in half before the first frame was up when KJ Ramolla scored his first goal of the game with just over a minute remaining in the period.

Paul Dupont erased the single Newmarket blemish on the Tigers afternoon record late in the second period on a

powerplay courtesy of a Jeff Henderson hooking penalty, to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead.

The period was well on its way to finishing up on the Aurora third goal, until Newmarket agitator Brian Soso with only 40 seconds remaining in the frame took a slashing penalty which drew the attention of both Aurora captain Micheal Paolo and goalie Aaron Barton who both took exception to the Soso infraction.

A crowd drew around Soso and the hefty Newmarket forward wound up adding an instigator, aggressor, fighting and game misconduct to his slashing penalty.

Subtracting the Barton and the Paolo roughing penalties on same stoppage, Soso put the Hurricanes down for seven minutes to begin the game's third and final period.

That would be all the Tigers needed as Jeff Harbach added one final Tiger powerplay goal, an unassisted marker, to salt away the win.

Thursday night was a different story.

The Tigers were looking to break out of a three-game winless skid and avenge a loss a week earlier that came at the hands of that same Hurricane squad.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, the North Division leading Newmarket Hurricanes would again prove to be too much for the Aurora to handle, and they would eventually fall to their rivals 3-1.

Jordan Watts tried to

get the night started off right for the Tigers on the power play, putting one past Newmarket goaltender Matt Milne just minutes into the first frame, however that goal would prove to be their last for the night and from that point on the Hurricanes took over.

Second period goals for the Hurricanes from Todd Hosmer and Jeff Henderson, gave Newmarket a 2-1 edge going into the third period.

A hooking penalty to Aurora's Thomas Middup would provide the strike for the final nail in the Tigers' coffin, as a Hurricane goal from Chris Purves on that same power play ended Aurora's hopes.

Tigers came out of the slump at home Friday with a 4-2 win over the Couchiching Terriers.

Just as with the Newmarket game a night earlier, this game was against an opponent who had handed the Tigers one of the losses during

their recent four-game winless skid.

Three Aurora goals in the first period set the tone early, giving the Tigers the confidence and motivation they needed.

Goals from Jordan Watts, Bill Siekris and Jeff Harbach were the catalyst for the night that was culminated in a second period power play marker by Tiger's captain Michael Paolo.

Couchiching attempted a comeback in the third with goals from Mike Baxter and Taylor Vince, but the Tiger start proved to be too much.

With the two wins over the weekend the Tigers firmly entrench themselves in fourth position in the Northern Division standings, just three points behind the Couchiching Terriers for third place.

Tigers played the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters Tuesday night, but results were not available at press time.

The Otters took the title of division leader from the Newmarket Hurricanes over the weekend.

The Tigers' next home game is this Friday, Nov.

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This rookie restaurateur made “Pals” a success

Tom Williams was the innovative owner of Pals Restaurant in the St. Andrew's Village Plaza where Shoeless Joe's is located today.

It originally opened as The Unicorn, owned by the famous singing group The Irish Rovers, who later became known as The Rovers.

Williams was in the record business at the time and knew the Rovers and when they decided to sell, he took it over in May, 1987.

The first year was a disaster as he knew nothing about the restaurant business. He couldn't keep staff and the food was not the best and he lost money as well as 40 pounds.

But after that shaky first year the food got better, servers gained experience and people started to come back.

In 1994, not satisfied with just providing a place for his customers to dine outside, Williams decided to make sitting on the patio a breath of fresh air.

He engaged local landscape designer Glenn Butler to come up with a perfect garden patio with a 350-pound lion at the entrance.

Taking the plan to Bradford Greenhouse Garden Gallery, Butler's vision became reality resulting in a beautiful garden with hanging mulberries, sculptured trees, fountains, climbing vines and hundreds of flowering plants all designed to make customers relax and forget their troubles.

At night the results were spectacular with the addition of strings of tiny white lights creating the illusion of hundreds of stars.

In March, 1994, Pals started a monthly newsletter

called "Slapshots" with stories about the food, the staff, events at the restaurant and the customers.

Pals was the only restaurant in the area that served the incredible "Awesome Blossom" which is a large Spanish onion, specially cut, battered and deep fried.

The onions about the size of a grapefruit are carved like a flower, dunked in batter and cooked in a deep fryer causing them to open up like roses.

One of the reasons why the delicacy is not on the menu of other restaurants is the machine to slice the onion cost \$600.

Other than good food and good service, one never knew what to expect when they entered Pals as there was always something going on.

A featured event was the Annual Wing Eating Contest.

Originally, contestants had to eat wings for an hour, but since other competitors felt Kerry Thompson's achievement of 98 wings was a bit intimidating, it was shortened to the most wings eaten in 10 minutes to encourage more people to enter.

Contestants were required to obtain a minimum of \$25 on their pledge sheets with all proceeds going to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Rules of the contest included one napkin, no water, no washroom visits, bones must be clean and the judges' decision was final, no hurling and entrants must be 19 or over.

He also introduced Unload Your Trunk so We Can Sell Your Junk with his Annual April Garage Sale.

Items were hung up

around the dining room and bar for a month and patrons could buy what they saw.

Then, in April, the remaining items were moved out to the patio for the garage sale with proceeds going to the Aurora Leisure Complex, then under construction.

Because the restaurant started out as the Irish Rovers' Unicorn, Pals became known as the place to be on St. Patrick's Day, so Williams arranged an Irish Karaoke Night and the Best Danny Boy Contest.

In May, 1994, to celebrate Pals 7th birthday, Williams sold hamburgers and wings at 1987 prices.

But a few years later the traveling itch hit Williams again as he became more involved with computer technology and he moved to Toronto to pursue his new career, but Tom Williams and Pals and their wacky ways will never be forgotten by many Aurorans.

Where is Tom Williams today?



Nearly \$17,000 was raised for the Second Annual Battle of Yonge Street hockey game between the Aurora Tigers and Newmarket Hurricanes recently, and the cheque was turned over to the Southlake Regional Hospital Foundation last week. Involved were team captains Scott Voisin, left, and Michael Paolo, right, along with Neila Poscente, President and CEO of the Foundation, Aurora's Tim Jones, a hockey committee member, and Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Youngster wins gold at big meet

Several members of the Aurora Ducks Swim Team fared well in the recent Brantford Swim International meet.

Sarah Gillis, 13, won gold in the 200 Butterfly event.

She not only won the gold with a time of 2:30:3, but also qualified for the Ontario Senior Championships to be held in January at the University of Toronto.

She will be one of the youngest swimmers at the meet.

Rachel Sekoeler placed seventh in the 50 Free and also qualified for the Ontario Senior Championships.

Callum Ross, 17, qualified for Eastern Canadian Championships in the 200 and 400 Freestyle.

Graham Mitchell, 15, and Jake Silverthorne, 11, both qualified for the Ontario Age Group Championships.

Also attending the meet were Jamie Silverthorne, 10, Carling Seidl, 14, and Coaches Andrea James and Reg Chappell.

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AURORA YOUTH SOCCER CLUB CELEBRATING SOCCER 2006 - 7 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Players

Stinger Awards of Merit:

House League: Johnathon Avgousti and Caroline Kovacs

ADP: Stephanie Young and Brett Butler

REP: Jen Agueci and Michael Tartaglia

Coaches

Stinger Award of Merit:

House League: Paul Cunningham and Rob Honiball and Norb Urban

ADP: Vic Falcone

REP: Kent Green and Howard Blustein and Lou DiNicolantonio

Referees

Stinger Award of Merit: Conor Dellar

Rookie of the year: Jennifer Goodale

100 % Club: Eric Abel, Barry Bader, Elyssa Bader, Maggie Brims, Evan Ciccirella, Emily Danziger, Karam Karamchi, Max Lerner, Ryan Loper, Joshua Lopez, Roman Melicherik, Tylor O'Brien, Andrew Osmond, Christopher Porter, Samantha Pozzebon, Brian Puskar, Jayson Rutledge, Quinn Tessarolo, Kristen Wansbrough, Chandler White

Builder

Stinger Award of Merit: Mary Bar and Andy Godschalk SR

Volunteers

Stinger Award of Merit: Eric Teacher (HL) Shawonna Relke (REP)

MVV: Patty Albert, Roger Alberton, Elliott Archer, Vigilio Avila-Persico, Sandra Baker, Chris Baker, Suzanne Barnes, Judy Batten, Tony Bianchi, John Bodolai, Geoff Boisseau, Andre Brassard, Julie Burks, Sandra Capodagli, Peter Capraro, Bill Cathers, Lisa Charleson, Lesley Chefero, Marc Chouinard, Roy Cohen, Cindy Crone, Emile Dagher, Bill Dawson, John de Roos, Cathy Dias, Alex Douvinos, Louise Dyer, Melanie Eberlin, Karen Elliot, Christine Falcone, Victor Falcone, Don Ferguson, Ronda Fincham, Heath Freel, Karen Fulton, Jennifer Fusco, Mark Gauthier, Olwen Glynn, Allison Green, Michelle Harrison, Nick Heintzman, Steve Hughes, Judy Janzen, Richard Johnson, Bill Joynt, Susan Joynt, Steve Kearney, Ron Keeting, Tammy Kemp, Neil Lalsingh, Carmelo Lamanna, Annette Lazer, Jodi Lee, Ingrid Legros, Scott Livingston, Shawn Luddington, Letta Lykos, Dennis Mansillo, Mary Manson, Frank Minchella, Adriano Morassutti, Cheryl Moulton, Laurie Mueller, Nancy Nanos, Alex Nanos, Claude Nembhard, Barb Nocon, Ann O'Connor, Andrew Palazzi, Randy Palmer, Shannon Pecora, Shay Pileggi, Grant Purdy, Rudy Quadri, Ron Rahim, Ron Reed, Laura Restivo, Melissa Rooney, Janice Rossetto, Kim Rouse-Parypa, Matteo Rustico, Jill Schaefer, Steve Schaus, Tony Schweinberger, James Scott, Peter Sharpe, Olga Simmons, Steven Sir, Ben Small, Michelle Spring, Paul St. Germain, Debbie Stephens, Peter Tordy, Susan Torres, Peter Trumper, George Tsvetanov, Robert Valvasori, Anita Vanderdonk, Steve Vanderheyden, Brent Vieira, Tim Wakefield, Rob Warner, Callum Wheatley, Tim Whelan, Chris White, Mary Jo Williams, Lisa Woodcock, Eric Wooder, Lynda Yeoman, Taylor Yeoman

Community Partner

Stinger Award of Merit: Dundee Financial

Stinger of the Year

Stinger Award of Merit: Mary Jo Williams

Sendel scores another silver in trampolining

Aurora's Samantha Sendel, 16, has won the silver medal for Canada at the World Age Group Trampoline Championships hosted by Canada in Quebec City.

She won the honour for Individual Trampoline in the Under 17 Age Group.

Four years ago she also won the silver medal in Germany at Worlds, in the Under 13 Age Group.

Until the victory, no female or male Canadian athlete had won a medal at this year's event within the Individual Trampoline (Olympic Sport) discipline, and she was the last hope.

As a result, she came up with a personal best 35.5 score while completing the highest degree of

difficulty at 13.6 of any female competitor under 19.

This included the only triple front flip skill known as a Triffus.

At 16, Samantha is too young to compete at the Senior level internationally, and will not be eligible for the 2008 Olympics.

She hopes to attend in England in 2012.

A video of Samantha is on the Petro-Canada website where she was interviewed as one of their FACES program "Dreamers".

Samantha is a graduate of Aurora's Lester B. Pearson school, and continues her french immersion at Aurora High School.

Monday Night Hockey League

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	7	1	0	40	15	14
Highland Chev-Cad	5	2	1	34	30	11
Rec Cycle N' Sports	3	3	2	35	33	8
FPL Aggregates	3	3	2	32	31	8
Masterclean Contracting	3	4	1	34	38	7
Tom & Jerry's	2	3	3	27	31	7
Law Insurance Brokers	2	6	1	30	39	5
Baldwin's	2	5	0	28	35	4

WEEKLY SCORES

Rec Sports	7	Law Insurance	3
Highland's Chev	4	Tom & Jerry's	1

Priestly Demolition	4	FPL Aggregates	4
Baldwin's	2	Masterclean	3

SCORING LEADERS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts
Mark Sedore	Priestly	9	14	23
John Anderson	Rec Sports	14	8	22
John Archibauld	Highland's	15	5	20
John Yaremko	Masterclean	8	11	19
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	14	17
Scott Crabb	Highland's	9	7	16
Pat O'Mahony	Baldwin's	8	5	13
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	4	9	13
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	8	5	13
Pat Davies	Priestly	5	7	12
Steven McDonald	FPL	2	10	12
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	7	4	11
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	3	8	11
Dave Caverley	FPL	7	3	10
Jason Muise	Priestly	6	4	10
Mark Swirla	Priestly	4	6	10
Gerald Briand	FPL	5	4	9
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	6	3	9
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	5	4	9
Craig Donaldson	FPL	4	5	9
Bruce Ing	Highland's	0	9	9
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	5	3	8
Mark Lemon	Baldwins	4	4	8
Dave McQueston	FPL	3	5	8
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	3	5	8
Steve Robertson	Highland's	2	6	8
Ron Van Noort	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Dean Iwai	FPL	4	3	7
Steve Rezwick	Tom & Jerry's	3	4	7
Dwayne Smith	Baldwins	3	4	7
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	3	4	7
Dan Smith	Tom & Jerry's	1	6	7
Dennis Giles	FPL	2	4	6
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	3	6
Sam Speranini	Law Insurance	3	3	6
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	2	4	6
John Spicer	Priestly	2	4	6
Darren Yaremko	Masterclean	2	4	6
Brian McKenzie	Rec Sports	1	5	6
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	1	5	6
Les Nip	Rec Sports	1	5	6
Steve Bromley	Baldwin's	1	5	6
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	2	3	5
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	1	4	5
Rob Stroud	Law Insurance	1	4	5
Mark English	Masterclean	2	3	5
John Morning	Masterclean	2	3	5
Mike O'Connor	Baldwin's	2	3	5
Murray Campbell	Priestly	2	3	5
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	3	5
Gord Lee	Priestly	2	3	5
Peter Briand	FPL	1	4	5
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	1	4	5
Ron Theson	Tom & Jerry's	0	5	5



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday November 18th



Tyke

102 Tim Hortons Leafs 3 - Michael Thibeault 1G, Chris Sands 1G, Nate Legros 1G, Jacob Levy 1A, Julia Kavanaugh 1A, Jessie Van Soest 1A. **101 Tim Hortons Flames 1** - Keegan Hoover 1G, Connor Iwai 1A.

103 Tim Hortons Senators 7 - Nicholas Huxley 1G 1A, Jason Langdon 4G, Connor Pike 1G, Benjamin Godber 1G 1A, Shayne Colin 1A, Braden Reid 2A, Lyndsay Breedon 2A, Beckham Georgiou 1A. **107 Tim Hortons Sharks 4** - Andrew Jorgenson 3G, Anthony Magnate 1G 1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A, Julia Russo 1A, Cole Sheremeta 1A, Paul Cotturo 1A.

105 Tim Hortons Avalanche 4 - Jack Snedden 1G 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Braedon Joynt 1G 1A, Brooke Cumming 1G, Zane Zwicker 1A, Evan Bryan 1A, Christian Ridd 1A. **108 Tim Hortons Wild 2** - Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Thomas Morra 1G, Christopher Walsh 1A, Callum Gorrell 1A.

104 Tim Hortons Penguins 3 - Brock Stewart 1G, Nicholas Rountes 1G, Dylan McFee 1G, Jack Davies 1A, Scott Rumble 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1A. **106 Tim Hortons Bruins 2** - Julien Aben 1G, Anthony Caparo 1G, Taylor Tuck 1A, Jacob Cowl 1A, Liam Patterson 1A.

Minor Atom

304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 6 - James Eydt 4G, Connor Reilly 1G, Alex Carter 1G 1A, Matthew Barnett 1A, Jordon Elliot 1A, Matthew McDonald 1A, Lucas Ackerman 1A. **301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 5** - Michael Jollimore 2G 1A, Michael Dowling 1G 1A, Bram Wood 1G 1A, Christian Pearce 1G, Maxwell Jones 2A, Nicholas Pearce 1A.

302 Rec Cycle N'Sports Yellow Bruins 10 - Tristan Kuchar 3G 1A, Alistair Johnston 3G 2A, Alex Hoffman 1G, Nicholas Hatzitolios 1G, Liam Desouza 1G, Jordon Reeves 1G 1A, Lucas Bulmer 3A, Theo Meadows 2A, Ryan D'Antimo 1A, Marc McCombe 1A. **303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 6** - Tyler Wilson 3G 1A, Jake Schachter 2G, Collin Dyer 1G 1A, Ryan Simmons 2A, Michael Montesanti 1A, Blake Holtby 1A.

306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 4 - Kyle Hunter 1G, Christopher Aldis 1G, Ben Kissack 1G, Alex Sesto 1G, Daniel Robinson 2A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 1** - Connor Tripp 1G.

301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 2 - Christian Pearce 1G, Michael Dowling 1G, Connor Mulvenna 1A. **302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 1** - Tristan Kuchar 1G.

303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 9 - Jake Schachter 3G 1A, Collin Dyer 2G, Vincent Nguyen 2G 1A, Michael Montesanti 1G, Jordi Severini 1G 1A, Ryan Simmons 2A, Walter Karabin 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A, Mark Tait 1A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 4** - Connor Tripp 2G, Jordon Screech 1G, Matthew Carney 1G, Callum O'Rourke 1A, Harrison Lambrinos 1A, Adian Woolsey 1A, Matthew Johnson 1A, Jamie Finlay 1A.

304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 3 - Lucas Ackerman 2G, Anthony Loduca 1G, James Eydt 1A. **306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 2** - Kyle Hunter 2G, Tarek Koudmani 1A, Daniel Robinson 1A.

301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 2 - Michael Jollimore 1G 1A, Lucas Paolini 1G, Madison Gianopoulos 1A, Connor Mulvenna 1A, Maxwell Jones 1A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 1** - Jamie Finlay 1G, Daniel Cariou 1A.

302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 4 - Tristan Kuchar 4G, Ryan D'Antimo 2A, Liam Desouza 1A, Paige Crossley 1A. **304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 4** - Tyler Williams 2G 1A, Jordon Elliot 1G, Anthony Loduca 1G 1A, Connor

Reilly 3A, Matthew Colucci 1A, Matthew McDonald 1A.

303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 5 - Jake Schachter 3G, Ryan Simmons 1G 1A, Jordi Severini 1G, Michael Montesanti 1A, Mark Tait 1A. **306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 5** - Kyle Hunter 3G, Ben Kissack 2G 1A, Petros Anagnostakos 1A, Christoper Aldis 1A, Max Bruckner 1A.

Atom

402 4 - Matthew MacGrath 1G, Andre Cristillo 1G, Bryn Burbank 2G, Matthew Neice 1A, Darren Tree 1A, Jonathan Jin 1A, James Power 1A, Liam Joiner 1A, Troy Foster 1A. **405 2**.

402 11 - Troy Foster 3G 3A, Matthew MacGrath 2G 2A, James Power 2G 2A, Matthew Neice 1G, Liam Joiner 1G 1A, Jonathan Jin 1G, 1A, Bryn Burbank 1G, Rory Hamilton 2A, Ryan Batten 1A, Michael Fisher 1A, David Kangas 1A. **403 4**.

406 7 - Aaron Rival 1G 1A, Justin Laird 2G 1A, Austin Waite 1G 2A, Christopher Sutherland 1G 1A, Randy Sutton 1A, Robert Cabral 1A, Micheal Imseis 1G, Ethan Mills 1A. **405 4** - Brendan Ruuskanen 3G 1A, Ryan Donovan 1A, Keenan Nocon-Willats 1G 1A, Evan Nicols 1A.

406 3 - Austin Waite 2G, Randy Sutton 1A, Micheal Imseis 1A, Jacob Hagias 1G. **404 3** - Michael Walsh 1G, Krisztian Focfor 1G, Ryan Ouwroules 1G 1A, Taylor Simpson 1A, Christopher Baggio 1A.

401 6 - Jonathin Jin 2G, Liam Joiner 2G, Ryan Batten 1A, James Power 1A, Bryn Burbank 1A. **402 4**.

405 9 - Michael Hosmer 3G 1A, Ryan Donovan 1G, Michael McLoughlin 1A, Michael McKerracher 1G 1A, Cameron Screech 1G 1A, Christian Strilchuk 1G, Christopher Ottman 1G, Keenan Nocon-Willatts 1G, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A. **403 5** - Riley Weller 5G, Jason Omand 2A, Adam Hoffman 2A.

Minor Midget

903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 7 - Marco Santella 5G, Michael VanBakel 1G, Scott Cunningham 1G, Julian Biasoni 1A, Michael Coggin 1A, Robert Fiorini 1A. **906 Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 4** - Jakub Sykora 2G, Carter Schaefer 1G, Paul Duggan 1G, Matt Raponi 1A, Paul Duggan 2A.

901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 9 - Michael Delplavignnano 2G, Matt Volkmann 1G, Peter Durst 5G, Tyler Friars 1G, Peter Durst 1A, George Marshall 2A, Kyle Marren 1A, Nick Palombo 2A, Michael Gray 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Geoff Gianopolous 1G. Niel Gaston 1G, Geoff Gianopolous 1A.

905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 2 - Curtis Rose 1G, Rhys Williams 1G, Rhys Williams 1A, Sean Ellison 1A. **904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 1** - Anthony Marsillo 1G.

905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 5 - Evan Casselden 2G, Garrett Lewis 1G, Wendel Martins 1G, Kyle MacCallum 1G, Rhys Williams 1A, Evan Casselden 1A. **906 Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 3** - Scott Parry 1G, Jakub Sykora 1G, Grant Wood 1G, Brandan Beatty 1A, Jakub Sykora 1A.

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 4 - Brandon Rival 1G, Anthony Marsillo 3G 1A, Chris Dynes 1A, Jonathan Siery 1A, Julian Savosardaro 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 3** - Caleb Gould 1G, Evan Jones 1G, Brandon Hurst 1G, Cabeb Gould 1A, Aaron Morrison 1A.

903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 3 - Robert Fiorini 1G, Devin Scudds 1G, Nick Orsatti 1G, Marco Santella 1A, Nick Orsatti 1A. **901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 1** - Mike Gray 1G, Peter Durst 1A.



Bryan Moir

Bryan Moir is a member of Aurora's
Economic Development Advisory Committee

What Aurora really needs is a Downtown Development Commission

This is the third in a series of columns that will address the various community economic engines that have the potential to help revitalize the Aurora downtown core.

Sixty-seven parking spots. That was one proposal put forth by staff to the previous council for the old library and seniors' centre.

The collective wisdom of the bureaucrats for Library Square was a parking lot. Recent staff recommendations to the current council are not any more inspiring.

It is debatable which is of greater economic value: the parking lot, or marginal rental agreements in the old library and seniors' centre as is currently being proposed.

Neither really does much to revitalize the core or to provide a cornerstone for the future.

For our downtown to have sustainable economic growth and renewal, it has to become "the destination" of choice when people consider going out for the day or for an evening.

To achieve this, the core has to be marketed and promoted accordingly.

To date, the plan for core revitalization can only be characterized as non-existent.

Art, heritage and cultural events all have the capacity to involve and appeal to a large number of people.

In fact, there could be something going on each week in the downtown core if there was a game plan.

There are many groups and organizations that have a stake in the health and the growth of the downtown core.

Many of them work in isolation from one another and do not coordinate their activities.

Similarly, the Town's approach has been haphazard. Aurora owns a considerable number of buildings in the core.

There are the above-mentioned venues as well as the new library, Church Street School, currently under renovation, and Victoria Hall. These are considerable advantages.

To use an analogy: if the buildings are the iPod, the activities are the mp3s. Each needs the other in order to make music.

What is needed for success is an organization that looks at the big picture, one that is able to cooperatively work with all interested parties to develop a broad-based plan: an organization that is free of election constraints and that has only one mission in mind, to bring forth the revitalization of the downtown.

Aurora needs a Downtown Development Commission.

The Aurora Downtown Development Commission (ADDC) would serve as a co-ordinating body for all of the interested parties.

Its sole purpose would be to promote, create, finance, develop and help deliver the benefits that we all know are within our grasp for the downtown.

The main task of the ADDC would be to develop a vision and a plan for the core, then work with local parties and stakeholders to determine ways to make the plan a reality.

The ADDC would work with the private and public sectors, the arts and cultural groups, as well as the various institutional groups, the churches and social agencies. All can bring something positive to the table.

Another major obstacle to revitalization is seasonality. While the Farmers' Market, Rib-Fest, The Horse Show (may it Rest In Peace), and Concerts in the Park are terrific initiatives to bring people into the downtown area during the summer, their positive impact ends with the coming of the fall.

In addition to more people coming into the core May to October, the downtown needs activities that draw people into the core during the period from November to April.

This is where the ADDC can help in soliciting and coordinating input from the arts and cultural communities and other groups.

Is there the opportunity for a Winter Music Festival of some kind? How about a regular Monday night ceilidh?

Making the core a vibrant and appealing destination is a challenge.

But it cannot, nor should it be, resolved or articulated by Council alone - input needs to come from a broader non-political constituency.

Unquestionably, we can do better than turning a vital part of the downtown core into a parking lot.

Bryan can be reached at:
moir@aci.on.ca



Santa Claus, and his helpers, Kiana Colin, left, and Mikayla Cantelope, were in attendance at the Catholic Women's League annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday. Meanwhile, Caroline Berryman, on Santa's lap, lists the things she wants for Christmas.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora resident launches BILD

Earlier this month Aurora resident Stephen Dupuis launched the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) of which he is chief executive officer.

The new agency brings together GTA home builders and land developers to protect the interests of the consumers and promote best practices in the industry.

BILD is the result of the merger of the Greater Toronto Home Builders Association and the Urban Development Institute.

Dupuis says BILD will be focused on the community and the people who make up the neighbourhoods in Aurora and around the GTA, "because the GTA is our home, too".

The new philosophy driving BILD is based on a commitment to be responsive to the needs of home buyers and renovators and is rooted in the association's long community-building heritage.

The www.BILgts.ca website delivers on the promise of consumer commitment.

New home buyers and those looking to renovate will find specific portals that help take the stress out of renovating and pro-

vide an online resource for finding a new home builder.

BILD will strengthen its existing work with charities such as Habitat for Humanity, in addition to community-based events as BILD's members have delivered to their communities when it comes to giving back.

Members support everything from health to educational to cultural to recreation causes.

BILD represents more than 1,500 member companies with a goal of improving the communication between the industry and government, providing opportunities for members, promoting best practices in the industry and protecting the interests of consumers.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Christmas luncheon tickets are selling fast

The Christmas Luncheon tickets are on sale and the bulk of them have been sold; please come into the centre and purchase your ticket to avoid the disappointment of previous years.

Tickets are \$22 for members and \$27 for non-members.

The lunch date is Dec. 5, and the luncheon runs from 11.30 a.m. until approximately 2:30 pm.

Last week I invited donations for the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) Christmas Bazaar and this week I am requesting donations for our baked goods table which is always a winner at bazaar time.

Please deliver baked goods Friday afternoon or after 9 a.m. Saturday.

Anybody who has volunteered at these functions is aware of a little friendly rivalry for the most sales and the baked goods table is always a major contender.

In addition to the variety of offerings in the boutiques and on the tables, we will have a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, and the Aurora Seniors Art Group will sell paintings and hand crafted cards.

The bazaar is Saturday, Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Board of Directors thanks everybody for making this year's annual memorial service at the ASA a success.

Father Tim Hanley, the new parish priest at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, conducted the non-denominational memorial service.

Jim Edwards played piano and Norma Dover led the singing of "O Canada" accompanied by many voices in the large audience.

The period after Christmas is cold, desolate and sometimes desperate for those in need, and for this constant social problem, always difficult to deal with, the Salvation Army organizes the annual kettle drive and depends on people to donate a couple of hours during the week to man the kettles, particularly on the weekends.

There is a call for ASA volunteers to man the annual Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive in Aurora.

The kettles will be in place Nov. 30 until Dec. 30 and sufficient volunteers are vital to ensure this kettle drive fulfills its ultimate objective of relieving distress.

Contact Karen Oreto at the information desk in the Aurora Town Hall at 905-727-8214, or by emailing infoaurora@e-aurora.ca, for scheduling information.

The ASA computer club committee met last week and under consideration is the acquisition of one or more copies of the Vista operating system to initiate the process of bringing the ASA standard of operating programs up to date.

In addition, the acquisition of a Macintosh computer equipped with the Leopard operating system is planned, and the encouragement of a Mac user group is expected to be incorporated shortly into the ASA computer program.

The Vista operating system is already employed by some of our members and the Macintosh computers appear to be growing in popularity steadily.

Computer instruction and the 'Drop in Program' will be suspended through December and will begin again in January.

Guest speakers Patrice Graham-Brown and Bill Marshall, consultants at Investors Group will present Seniors Tax Planning Thursday, Nov. 22 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Among the dynamics of tax report preparation to be addressed are: Understanding Dividend Income Rules, Maximizing Pension Tax Credits, Income and CPP Splitting to Maximize Reductions in Income Tax.

If you take maximum legal advantage of the tax rules, you will preserve your wealth to save or spend as you see fit.



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Park Place Manor on Yonge Street in Aurora held a Christmas event recently, and filled a room with crafts and items for sale. Here, John Jeffs, Corina Lipani and her daughter, Vanessa, show off some of the crafts.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Firefighters settle

From page 1
but the retroactive bill for the firefighters is expected to be in the thousands of dollars.

It was the intention of the JCC to place as much of the retroactive pay in the hands of the firefighters prior to Christmas.

The proposed method was to calculate the pay out as interpreted by the Town of Newmarket as quickly as possible.

That would have been followed by an additional amount, if required, as confirmed by the arbitrator when his clarification

of the arbitration wording in question was received.

Information was received from the Central York Professional Firefighters Association that they would prefer to await the arbitrator's clarification so that whatever was due to the firefighters would be made in one payment.

Newmarket staff has pledged to provide the retroactive payment as soon as possible but as considerable work is required, the calculations could take up to 45 days to complete.

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The feeling of community and sense of belonging during Christmas is especially important to disadvantaged families, children and those who are alone.

Often the best gift they might wish for is to feel part of a traditional family celebration meal on Christmas Day.

With this objective in mind the "Aurora Christmas Dream" has evolved in support of those persons in the Aurora community.

The Dream Team wants to provide a ray of hope and good will, to breathe new life into the Spirit of Christmas and endow families with cheer and warmth in downtown Aurora.

Everyone is invited to the

launch of the Aurora Christmas Dream Nov. 30 beginning at 7 p.m. at Bistro 171 on Yonge Street at Mosley, the former Trio Restaurant.

You can help make the dream come true by sponsoring a family.

One hundred dollars will sponsor a family of four and provide them with Christmas gifts, and Christmas dinner with live entertainment.

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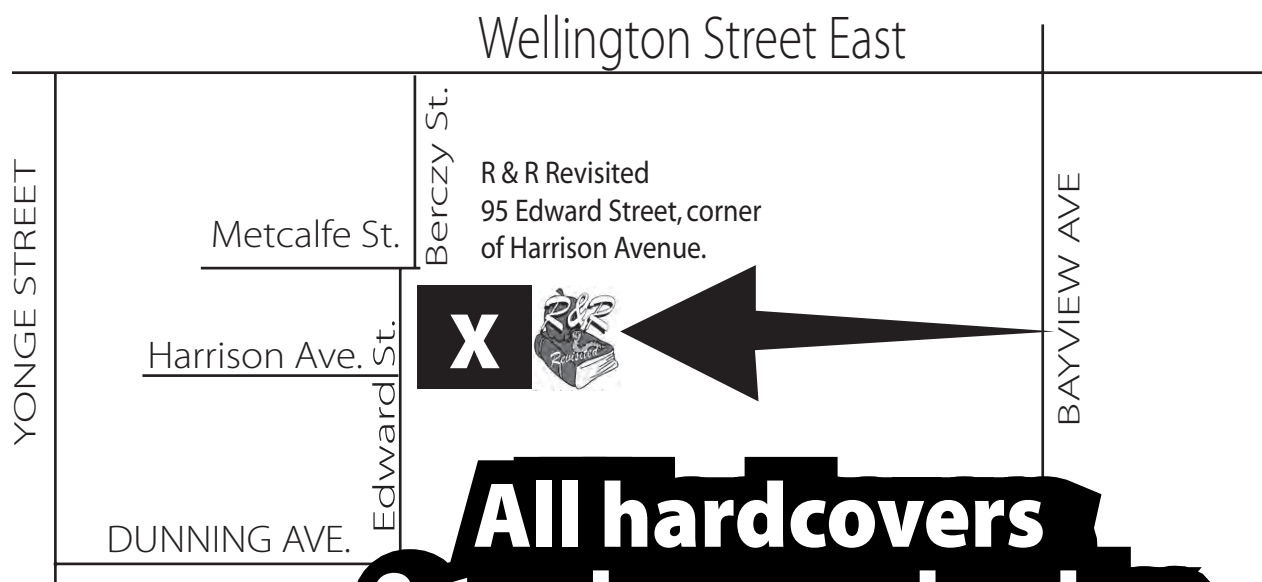
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Hadley Grange almost became luxury condos

In September, 1990, a developer who had planned to build an upscale luxury condominium complex on Yonge Street, north of the St. John's Sideroad, changed his mind and applied to construct housing for seniors and low income earners due to a slumping housing market.

It was proposed that the northern building with 80 units would be devoted to seniors and the southern building with 60 units would be affordable housing with all the units less than 1,000 square feet.

It didn't proceed quite as planned and today's Hadley Grange was the final result.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS SUNDAY OPENINGS

In July, 1997, the Ontario government approved the Sunday opening of liquor and beer stores in selected communities as a pilot project for the remainder of the summer.

The government requested that Aurora be included in the pilot project and on a 5-3 vote council agreed with strong opposition from Councillors Phyllis Morris and Herb Mackenzie.

Councillor Ron Wallace agreed with the pilot project and told council members about the long lineups at the liquor and beer stores on Friday nights and Saturdays and a Sunday opening was needed.

The store is still open Sundays.

COUNCIL ENDORSES STAND ON TOPLESSNESS

During the summer of 1997, Chatham Council circulated a resolution to all municipalities seeking support for a petition to the federal government to take appropriate action to amend the Criminal Code to clearly establish and define community standards to prohibit or limit female toplessness in public places.

Councillor Judith Ochalski noted that in many places of the world toplessness was taken for granted and pointed out that some men appearing topless were much more objectionable than young women.

Councillor Phyllis Morris disagreed saying that not every woman in Europe ran around topless and said it broke community standards.

Council members agreed and endorsed the Chatham resolution.

MONSTER BINGOS IN AURORA

In September, 1997, Aurora Council received an application from the Senior Care Foundation of York Region to hold a special Monster Bingo with a prize board of \$20,000 at the Aurora Bingo Centre.

The Foundation's programs included homemaking, personal affairs management, nursing help, temporary live-in, transportation and meals on wheels services.

At that time council had the authority to license bingo events

with a total price value of up to \$5,500 and prizes above that level had to be approved by the Ontario Gaming Control Commission.

In November, the Richmond Hill Religious School applied to hold a Monster Bingo at the Aurora Bingo Centre.

The school provided programs to students of York Region residents.

WAS IT EVER GRANTED?

Some time ago a letter was received from Pickering College requesting an exemption to the no-parking bylaw on Kennedy Street West Nov. 30 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 1.

Two homes on Kennedy Street, 108 and 135, were part of a fundraising event during those dates and times as part of the Holiday Home Tour by the College in support of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The selected seven homes in the Aurora-Newmarket area will be transformed for the festive season by some of the region's top designers, decorators and florists.

The lifting of the parking restrictions is to allow visitors to the House Tour to be able to park to view the homes.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee referred the request to staff to monitor the area and report to the Committee's September meeting, but was the exemption ever approved as requested?

WHAT HAPPENED?

In April, 2007, York Regional Council approved a motion directing the Commissioner of Finance to bring forward options for allocating GTA Pooling savings in future years to a regional council workshop to be held in September 2007.

Last year there was considerable controversy when regional council approved using the savings to pay down the regional debt instead of returning it to the municipalities who had paid in the first place and doing so without consultation with the local municipalities.

What happened at the workshop and what are the plans for the future?

Also in April, 2007, regional council directed the Commissioner of Finance to report to the Finance and Administration Committee on property tax options for assisting qualifying low income people including seniors and people with disabilities.

What happened?

BUILDING DEPARTMENT PROBLEMS

In April, 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 building boom in Aurora over the previous three years had placed considerable stress on the department with about 470 homes built in 1988.

The Ministry official recommended that the department hire two more inspectors to add to the staff of seven including hiring someone to answer all building permit inquiries to allow the Chief Building Official to do his job.



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Leaks have happened in the past

From page 1

November, 1965, Aurora councillors agreed that in future all dealings with developers would be open to the public and press.

The decision followed an October uproar in which details of a big new development in the north end of town was published before council released it.

At that time there were very few controls to protect the public's right to know as the Municipal Act allowed closed meetings at council's discretion.

Another leak from a closed session happened in December, 1972.

Councillor Norm Stewart said he was embarrassed to hear an issue discussed at a closed meeting being discussed on the street before council had released the information in public session.

Council came in for heavy criticism in August, 1975, when councillors went behind closed doors to decide ice time at the Community Centre.

By June, 1978, the paranoia of council members reached such proportions that council went into private

session to discuss the widening of a street.

It also locked out the public when the reorganization of the recreation department was discussed.

In April, 1980, a bylaw to regulate fire standards in public halls and the adoption of the National Fire Code were considered to be too sensitive to be discussed in a public session.

In March, 1982, Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed concern about the number of items discussed during closed meetings which were not subsequently reported or voted on in public session and did not become part of the public record.

By 1983 many citizens and the media across the province complained about

the number of closed meetings resulting in the province establishing a provincial/municipal committee to study the issue of closed meetings of council and access to information.

The committee met for more than a year and recommended that all council and committee meetings be open, except for certain clearly defined issues such as personnel, contract negotiations and litigation.

The report was met with hostile opposition from several municipalities resulting in the province shelving the report, but by January, 1995, as the complaints continued, the Municipal Act was amended based on many of the committee's recommendations.

In spite of the legislation

there hasn't been much improvement as councils scurry into closed session for the least controversial issues.

From past examples, however, it would appear to be overkill to engage a lawyer to carry out an investigation regarding a leak from a closed session when the meeting itself is suspect.



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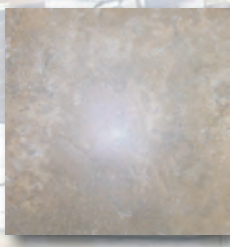


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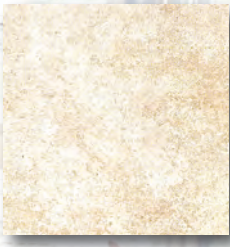
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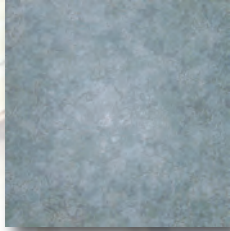
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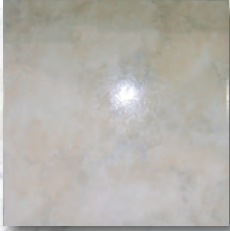
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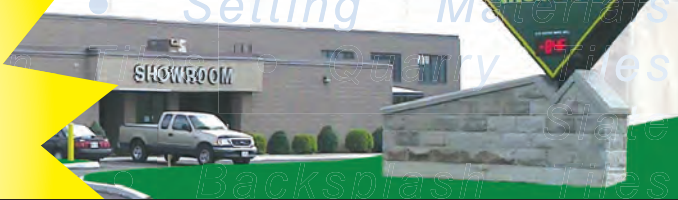


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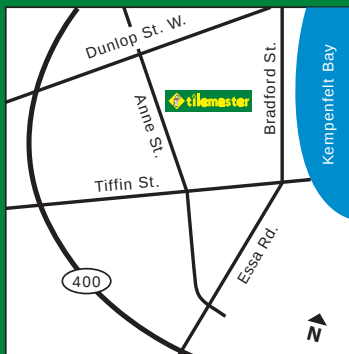
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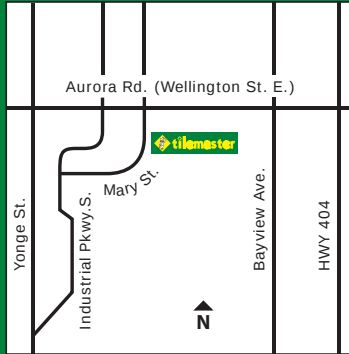
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This is the view that greets commuters on the southbound GO Train to Toronto, once the train crosses the Yonge Street overpass. This sound barrier is covered with graffiti that offends some riders and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees has promised to look into the matter.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Klees views town graffiti

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees boarded the GO Train in Aurora last week to see for himself the walls of graffiti that line the tracks in Aurora.

Riders of the GO Train

House will be a restaurant

A house on Temperance Street will become a restaurant.

With council agreeing to waive a road widening requirement in the official plan for the street, the green light was given to convert the house into a restaurant.

The house is located across from the Farmer's Market location in the Temperance Street parking lot and is south of the Bacon Basketware building.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern asked when Planner Terry Kelly knew about the requirement and suggested a two-week delay.

The planner replied he was aware of the official plan requirement about the road widening but understood he could work it out with staff during the preparation of the site plan, but had just learned that it was only council who could approve the waiving of the requirement.

He said there was some urgency as the applicant wanted to complete construction of the parking lot before winter.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out the number of buildings on Temperance Street close to the road and that road widening was almost impossible, especially in the older part of town.

She suggested the request be approved.

With assurances from Works and Planning staff that they had no objections and as it had been done before in other areas of the town, council adopted the Buck motion.

service complained to the MPP about the graffiti while he was campaigning at the Aurora GO Station during the October provincial election.

"A number of people expressed concern about the graffiti and I promised to look into it," he said. "One individual told me that some of it was highly offensive and he was embarrassed to have his young daughter exposed to it. That's why I wanted to see for myself."

Klees invited photographer Rob Schuetze of Aurora to ride the train from Aurora to King City with him Friday morning and had no trouble finding the displays along the rail line.

He met later in the day with Heather Green,

Aurora's Provincial Offences and Property Standards/Licensing Officer who is coordinating an Ad Hoc Committee that has a mandate to address the issue of graffiti within the Town of Aurora.

The Committee, chaired by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, has the responsibility to develop recommendations for a graffiti abatement program for Aurora in cooperation with community groups, the business community and York Regional Police.

"Apparently this is an issue that is of growing concern," said Klees. "The number of graffiti sites is expanding and includes both public and private property. Fences, buildings, utility boxes and even street

signs are being used as canvas. In some cases the messaging is not only offensive, it can be downright intimidating. It's something that has to be dealt with now before it gets completely out of hand."

The MPP said he will support the Town of Aurora's Ad Hoc Committee's work and will investigate the possibility of provincial support for a graffiti abatement program.

Another district being considered

A second heritage district for Aurora is now being considered.

More than 60 people attended a neighbourhood meeting at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church hall last week to discuss the potential of conducting a heritage conservation district study in the southeast quadrant of Old Aurora.

The meeting was hosted by the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora and featured displays and presentations about the heritage conservation district concept.

Following the meeting

and a question and answer session, attendees were asked to complete a survey to help determine neighbourhood interest in the possibility of proceeding towards a heritage conservation district study in the future.

Residents also were able to comment on boundaries for the potential new area.

Copies of the survey are available on the Town of Aurora website, www.e-aurora.ca.

For further information contact Michael Seaman, Community Planner at 905-727-3123, ext. 4351 or mseaman@e-aurora.ca

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