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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 7 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of December 4, 2007

York needs room

York Region's population has increased significantly over the past 30 years and is expected to reach 1.2 million by 2016.

And the regional building in Newmarket, which also serves the Town of Aurora, is too small.

As a result of the population increase, the requirement to provide regional services continues to increase with a resulting increase in required staff numbers.

This growth has placed extreme pressure on the region to provide suitable accommodation for staff, especially in the Yonge Street Administrative Centre which has reached a critical threshold.

Property Services, with the assistance of Mayhew and Associates consultants, conducted a Space Needs Assessment Study of the Administrative Centre.

The goal of the study was to document the current state of staff accommodation at the Administrative Centre and to develop a Master Plan for its space needs for the next four years.

The Space Needs Assessment has confirmed that the Administrative Centre, which currently includes the York Regional Police headquarters, has reached capacity for space accommodation.

An additional 20,000 square feet of corporate space is required by December next

Please see page 17



The Aurora Christmas Dream event, held Friday night at Bistro 171, raised more than \$4,000 toward helping local families have a happy Christmas this year. Behind the event, Sher St. Kitts, right, put together the event with the help of (back row, left to right) Perry Tucciarone, Fitness Clubs of Canada; Richard Allardyce, owner of Bistro 171, and Stephen Granger, co-chairman of the event. In the front row are Susan Doyle from Welcoming Arms and Jack Laurion, representing the Aurora Rotary Club, one of the event's founding sponsors. According to Sher, donations are still coming in.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

BRIEFLY

Doors Open 2008

Based on the success of last year's event, planning has already started for this year's edition of Doors Open in Aurora.

Last summer, organizers welcomed more than 2,800 people to dozens of sites during the day-long event.

That meant 1,300 more visits than 2006.

Next summer, the event will be held Saturday, Aug. 16, and organizers are currently arranging for places to visit.

Doors Open provides visitors the opportunity to visit establishments, some historic, that are not available for tour during regular hours.

Get lit

Don't forget the Town's tree lighting ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 5, in front of the Town Hall.

The Salvation Army will kick off their annual Kettle Drive campaign at the event.

Santa Claus, of course, will be there, and you'll get a free hot chocolate if you bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry.

The event occurs between 6 and 8 p.m. with the official countdown for the tree lighting beginning at 6.45 p.m.

Aurora, King to be "flooded" by 600

Don't panic. Approximately 600 Army Reserve soldiers from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) will pour into the area this weekend to handle a "national flood" in King Township and Aurora.

The crowd will arrive in the area Friday, Dec. 7 and stay until Sunday, Dec. 9.

Routes affected by military traffic will be Industrial Parkway and the Wellington Street exit from Highway 404 leading into Aurora.

In and around Aurora's parks you may see soldiers conducting patrols either in vehicles or on foot.

Army engineers will also be setting up a high-tech water purification system while other soldiers conduct search and rescue missions, build dykes, or perform similar tasks.

Some soldiers will have weapons while they practise security tasks.

But they promise not to hurt you. To prevent vital utilities from being flooded soldiers will place sand bags in various areas, while

other soldiers will conduct a search and rescue mission at Case Woodlot and Sheppard's Bush.

The former hydro building will be the army headquarters while the former Victoria Street Library will be the Town offices and Operations Centre and the Community Centre will be a Warming Centre and Kitchen for survivors.

The public is invited to observe the activities of the soldiers as they carry out their duties and to ask questions.

A number of army personnel attended Tuesday's council meeting with Lt. Col. Bruce McCullough making a presentation as to the background of the training exercise.

Major Fred Moore also made a more detailed presentation of the exercise being held in Aurora and thanked the town staff and council for their cooperation and approval.

The 32nd Canadian Brigade Group is an Army Reserve formation of some 2,300 part-time troops based in local armouries from downtown Toronto to Barrie and Owen Sound.

Carpenter House may have offices

The Carpenter House, 69 Wellington Street East, was built in 1872 by William Atkinson, a carpenter and joiner who came to Aurora in 1856.

Soon it may become an office building.

It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1985.

Atkinson never lived in the Carpenter House as it was sold to the Hillary family who later sold it to a family friend and the house has had a long history of owners ever since.

An application has been received to rezone the property to a site specific Exception Zone to permit a business or professional office as an

additional permitted use with minor reductions to the buffer strip on the west property line.

The application was heard at a public planning meeting with planning staff making a detailed explanation of the application.

It was pointed out that the property was located within a Heritage Resource Area which permits limited commercial uses in residentially designated structures such as small scale businesses or professional offices.

Staff members advised they had no objections to the application subject to the submission of a site plan.

Please see page 2

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COMING EVENTS

Continuing until April 15 from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. winter parking restrictions are in effect on Aurora streets.

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

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

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its third season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., comfort food and a sense of community is available in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

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

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

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third

Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

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

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

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

Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932. Also every third Sunday at 1 p.m.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Tree Lighting Ceremony from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Town Hall with festivities, carol singing and tree decorating.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Aurora Historical Society invites you to an evening of Christmas music with piano recording artist Carol Gibson and

singer Glori Gage, starting at 7.30 p.m. Performance will be followed with seasonal sweets and wassail bowl. Tickets are \$15 each and must be purchased in advance by calling 905-727-8991.

Aurora's York Chamber Ensemble, with the Trinity Festival Chorus, presents "Gifts for Noel," a choral concert at 7.30 p.m. The chamber orchestra, conducted by Tony Browning, is performing at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Tickets, available at the door, cost \$15; \$10 for seniors and students.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Amnesty International hosts its annual Write-a-thon at Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, from 2 to 4 p.m. Write cards of support to prisoners of conscience, or letters to governments re human rights abuses. For more information call 905-713-6713.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Aurora Seniors will visit the Great Blue Heron Casino near Port Perry. Lunch is included. Price is \$37 for members and \$40 for non-members.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The public is invited to the annual Berard Pears Chorale Christmas Favourite concert will be held at First Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street

East, beginning at 6.30 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-4531.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Enjoy a "Quiet Christmas" at the Wesley United Church with music by David Kyle and inspirational singing by Sarah Kyle and Joe Likuski. The free event begins at 4 p.m.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

The Aurora Seniors will celebrate New Year's Eve with a Dinner Dance at the seniors' centre from 6.30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Ticket prices are \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members and are available at the Centre.

TUESDAY JANUARY 1

Happy New Year.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Aurora Film Circuit presents "Once" a 2007 Irish film which caused Steven Spielberg to comment, "A little movie called Once gave me enough inspiration to last the rest of the year." Tickets are \$10 and available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prizes at 6:45 p.m. and film at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

Carpenter house converted?

From page 1

Gary Templeton, representing the applicant, agreed with the staff report and pointed out parking was not an issue as more spaces had been provided than are required under the bylaw and fencing and landscaping was proposed to protect neighbouring properties and the requested variations were minor.

Klaus Wehrenberg expressed concern about the loss of trees to create a parking lot, even though many may be in poor condition.

He was also concerned about dealing with applications in isolation and there was a need to look to the future. He also questioned proposed signage.

Staff members explained that according to the official plan, each property was to be considered on its merit and that no request had yet been received regarding signage.

Templeton said it was not planned to place any signage on the house but use a small lawn sign.

Councillors questioned the

loss of trees with staff replying that all the trees proposed to be removed had been assessed for the most part as being in poor to fair condition.

The application was approved in principle subject to the resolution of outstanding issues and comments from the public.



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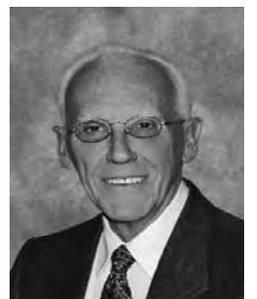
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Honoured

Members of the Aurora Rotary Club welcomed District Governor Lynda Ryder to its meeting last week, and handed out a few awards along the way. In the top photo, former town councillor Dave Griffith, left, was honoured with the coveted Paul Harris award. Making the presentation is District Governor Ryder and Rotarian Barry McDonough, right. In the photo at left, Rotarian Eric Smith accepts an award from Governor Ryder for serving with the Aurora club for 57 years. Smith was one of Aurora Rotary Club's founding members.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace



Seniors finish first in line dancing

Senior line dancers from Aurora, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Bradford, took first place in the line dance competition held recently at the Jackie Horner Semi-Annual Line Dance and Ballroom Week at the Fallsview Best 5 Resort and Spa in the Catskill Mountains in New York State.

Encouraged by instructors Jill Baker, Dianne Bishop, Bunny Burton and Debby Wilcox, the dancers performed a routine to GI Jive by Elvis Presley (choreographed by Dianne Bishop and Gloria Kirchner).

More than 40 dancers wearing Canadian collars and bow ties made by the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place Craft Room, provided a sea of red and white.

All waved either Canadian or American flags as part of the grand finale as they exited the floor and made their way up through the audience.

Senior Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, Nov. 26: N/S - Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg, Irene Kubica and Dave Legallais; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White. EW - Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Rose White and Gloria Smith.

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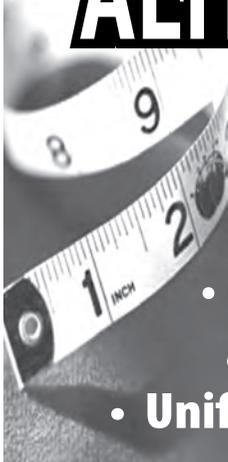
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Poor Richard

Accomplishments few in number for Aurora Council

Comparisons are odious but often necessary. To make sure an important point gets across; Councils are elected to make decisions, And poor results often point to the boss!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Aurora Council has been in office for almost a year and has very little to show for it, except they passed the 2007 budget after about five months of haggling.

They also agreed to take over the renovations of the Church Street School, but haven't decided which department will operate it.

They agreed to sell the Leslie Street lands, but then according to an alleged leak from a closed door meeting refused to sell part of it for the Police headquarters.

In spite of four to five hour council meetings, most of the other decisions were house-keeping items.

Yet many were referred back to staff personnel for more information after third-degree questioning of staff reports, as if the staff couldn't be trusted, before some were finally adopted, while others are still outstanding, such as the Business Plan for Leisure Services, which should have been fairly routine.

Still outstanding are major issues, such as the future of the Hydro building on Industrial Parkway South, Library Square, the future of the Community Gardens if the Jack Wood's property is sold, a final decision on the proceeds from the sale of Aurora Hydro or the use of the money received from Whitwell Development to help revitalize the downtown.

There is still the long outstanding request for a Youth Centre to be decided and the more recent recommendation that a Youth Councillor be appointed.

Also on the books is the location of a BMX track and the purchase of the green space on Henderson Drive almost opposite the town-owned Case Woodlot.

What about the Good Neighbour Award; property for a Habitat for Humanity home; entering the Communities in Bloom competition approved some time ago; newspaper box licensing and historical plaques for parks, just to name a few?

The mayor and council received nation-wide publicity over their environmental Right to Dry clothesline project, but have failed to take any action from a challenge from Richmond Hill dating back to June, 2006, when it was recommended by the Environmental Advisory Committee that an anti-idling program be adopted and the challenge accepted.

It was not the best of years and there are three more to go in the term.

Compare this with Newmarket, our neighbour to the north, as their Community Report lists the municipality's significant accomplishments for the latter part of 2006 and the first half of 2007.

The report tells how council and staff worked together to create a legacy of sustainability for generations to come by preparing to face a new era of growth.

The 28-page publication features two articles: The story of a Sustainable Town and The Project of the Year.

It focuses on environmental and financial sustainability through responsible governance with the year's project being Newmarket's new Official Plan.

In May, 2007, at a special ceremony at Queen's Park, Newmarket was recognized by Play Works as a Youth Friendly community for its commitment to providing youth with opportunities to play, participate and contribute to their community.

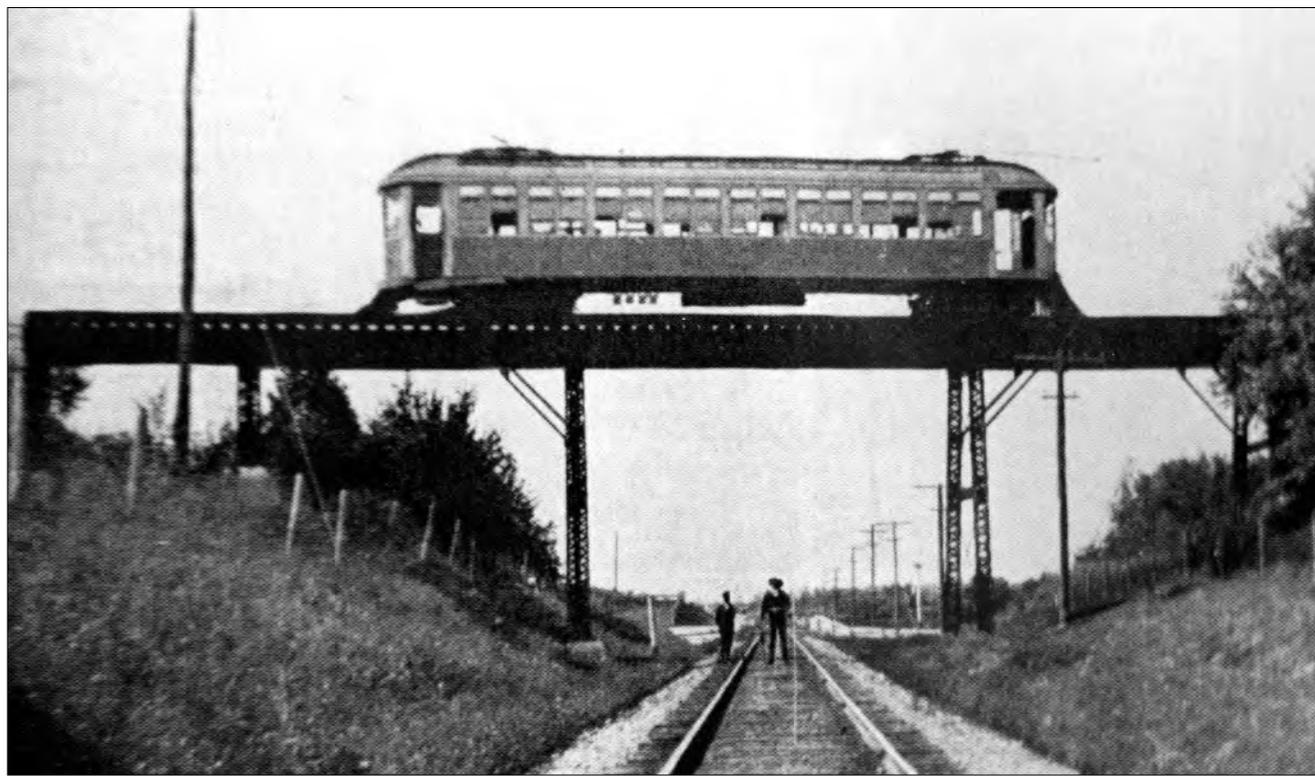
Just recently, Newmarket celebrated the groundbreaking of Canada's greenest residential housing community with Ontario Environment Commissioner Gord Miller and Andrew Bowerbank of World Green Building Council in attendance.

At one time Aurora was the leader when it introduced its July First celebrations and became Canada's Birthday Town in 1969.

It was the first municipality in the area to twin with another municipality, Leksand, Sweden, in 1974.

It can be done again but council and staff must work together as a team in the best interests of all residents and forget about personal attacks, nitpicking, and delaying tactics.

They need to start working with and trusting staff members.



This photo, taken from the out-of-print book "Riding the Radials", shows a Metropolitan line car of the Toronto & York Radial Railway crossing the Grand Trunk Railway tracks "south of Aurora". Well, it's not south of town anymore. This crossing was just north of Industrial Parkway South, east of Yonge Street. Part of the bridge structure has been saved and is visible next to Thompson's Funeral Home.

Letters to the Editor

Impressive Aurora Council disappoints me, reader says

To the editor,

November marked the first anniversary of Aurora's newly-elected council.

After attending an all-candidates' meeting, taking copious notes, and reading all available literature and The Auroran, I was very impressed with the slate of candidates running.

For professional expertise at the municipal level and fiscal responsibility we now have Grace Marsh, Evelina MacEachern and Al Wilson.

Wendy Gaertner and Stephen Granger enthusiastically represent the interests of youth and sport.

Alison Collins-Mrakas has the academic and professional qualifications to make strong environmental proposals.

Deputy-Mayor Bob McRoberts, with his knowledge of local history and long-term residence in Aurora, I saw as a logical choice for a "community guardian" to oversee the interests of all Aurorans.

Mayor Phyllis Morris was my unquestioned choice with

her expertise on complex technical issues such as the controversial hydro lines, her strong work ethic and her approachability and responsiveness to constituents.

I had great expectations of change, co-operation and consensus.

I have to admit disappointment.

There is still acrimony on council, vindictive leaks, and a council that appears to advance the interests of one group of citizens as opposed to the majority.

Traffic calming measures in the northeast quadrant were expensive, inconvenient and I am still waiting to see the first snow plow or fire vehicle take out a cement wall.

Now I read about the suggestion of a southeast heritage district.

More chaos in the Yonge-Wellington corner to follow.

Driveways on Knowles Crescent were another expensive boondoggle.

However, these issues pale in comparison to the matter of the police headquarters and technical serv-

ices unit on Leslie Street.

I read Poor Richard's column in The Auroran - he deserves a bouquet - which seems to suggest to me that with the police headquarters remaining in Newmarket because of space availability, Aurora Council is now refusing to sell the previously approved 2.4 acres for the technical services building.

This defies all logic.

The personnel who work there would readily access the stores and restaurants going up in the gateway complex.

It seems a bit arrogant to ignore those economic benefits.

If this is, indeed, the case,

I feel taxpayers have a right to know who in the 4-4 split voted for and against the motion.

The "leak" and the appointment of George Rust D'Eye to investigate it at an undisclosed cost are secondary to this deliberate blocking of freedom of information.

In closing, I understand the editor's need to protect the source of all this controversy, but, needless to say, there will be no Woodward-Bernstein Award for investigative journalism forthcoming.

**Judy Salmon
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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Staff woes fault of former mayor, reader maintains

To the editor,

If the Town of Aurora's senior management staff are operating a culture of bullying and have disregard for my hard earned tax dollars, as an anonymous letter writer to The Auroran has alleged, then the blame must lie squarely on the shoulders of our former Mayor, Tim Jones.

These types of behav-

ours do not occur overnight; they take years to evolve and entrench.

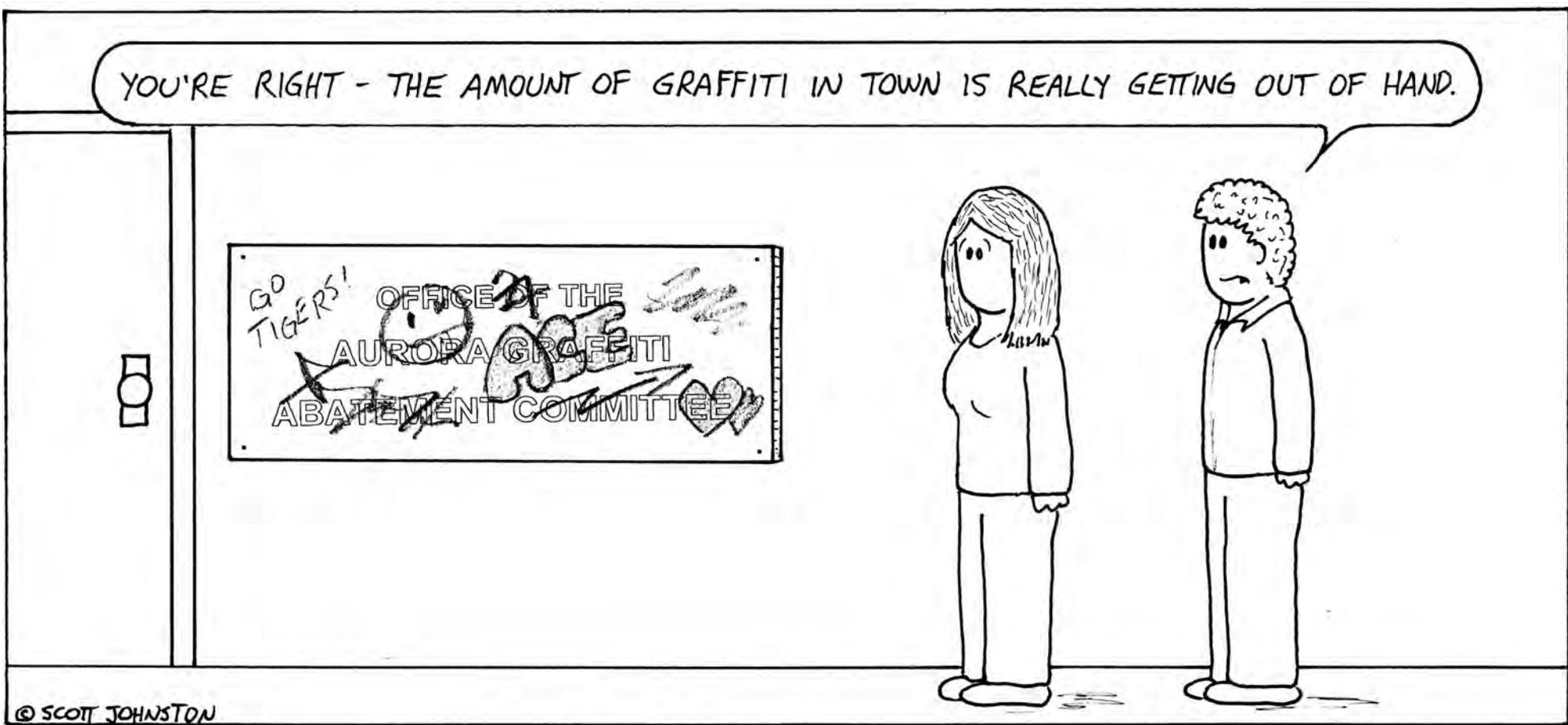
As Aurora's mayor for 12 years, Mr. Jones must take full responsibility for his weak leadership and his failure to reign in his senior staff.

Perhaps this is another good reason why he's now the FORMER mayor.

**Jim Day
Aurora**

Editorial policy
Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

An extra Aurora Regional seat?

There have been many media stories lately regarding the clash between the Ontario provincial government and the federal government over the number of House of Commons seats that Ontario would have after the next riding re-distribution.

The Federal Conservatives' Bill C-22, according to a recent Globe and Mail story, "seeks to add seats in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario to bring those provinces' representation in the Commons closer to their share of Canada's population."

The story goes on to note that, "In Ontario, however, even the addition of 10 seats, as the bill proposes, will not close the gap. Currently, that province has 38 percent of the population and 34.4 per cent of the seats. Even if Bill C-22 passes, the gap will grow by 2011 (population 39.4, seats 35.3), grow further by 2021, and grow further still by 2031."

To achieve real representation by population would require an additional 16 seats for Ontario, not 10.

This could become an important issue during the next federal election.

Aurora has its own "rep by pop" issue.

Some background is in order.

According to the York Region website, "The Regional Municipality of York is one of six Regional Governments in Ontario.

"The 21 members of York Regional Council (including the mayors of the nine municipalities) set policies, direction and budgets for The Regional Municipality of York.

"In York Region, members of Regional Council are chosen by voters in what is termed a "double direct" form of election.

"That is, a successful candidate for the office of Mayor or Regional Councillor in a municipality earns a seat on both local and Regional Council for four years.

"The Chair of Regional Council is elected at large by the mem-

bers of Regional Council at their inaugural meeting and also serves a four-year term."

York Region is comprised of nine municipalities (March 31, 2007 population in brackets) - Aurora (49,716), East Gwillimbury (22,721), Georgina (46,026), King (20,386), Markham (283,297), Newmarket (79,448), Richmond Hill (178,327), Vaughan (250,032) and Whitchurch - Stouffville (27,788).

Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch - Stouffville and King each receive one seat, while Georgina and Newmarket have two seats, Richmond Hill three seats, Vaughan four seats and Markham gets five seats.

Aurora, based upon the fact that its current population is greater than Georgina, should have two seats.

Is there anything that we can do about getting another seat?

I posed this question to Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris in a brief telephone interview.

She stated that she is currently gathering information in preparation for a detailed motion that she will be putting forth - on behalf of Aurora Council - to York Region Council early in the New Year.

"It's important that our motion really make the case for the additional seat," she said.

She added, that in addition to providing Aurora with simply more representation, this extra individual would allow for better coverage of the various York Region Task Forces and Committees.

In addition to her duties as mayor and sitting on York Regional Council, Ms Morris also sits on three York Region Committees; Health and Emergency Services, Solid Waste and Planning and Economic Development.

The mayor stated that, with her other responsibilities, "time will not permit me to sit on the rest of the committees, but I keep

abreast of their developments and potential impacts on Aurora."

I then asked the mayor "assuming we do get a second seat, are you in favour of having a direct election for a regional councillor, like in Newmarket, or would you rather see the person with the second most votes - the deputy mayor - as the representative?"

The mayor did not want to answer this question at this point in time, as she wants to first discuss this with her council colleagues and get their views.

But she did point out one thing that will have to be taken into consideration and that is the fact that most York Region committee work occurs during the day so the second region representative would have to be paid to do this full-time.

Having this extra seat could dovetail quite nicely with the introduction of a ward system in Aurora.

If the additional representative is directly elected by us town folk, he/she would also sit on Aurora Council as an "at large" councillor.

The argument for Aurora having another seat, while no doubt sound, doesn't mean this is a slam dunk by any means.

After all, we are talking about Aurora receiving something extra, which implies another municipality losing out.

Moreover, true rep by pop does have its limitations.

If having a population of 50,000 people means having two region seats, then the good people in Markham and Vaughan may start clamouring for additional seats to preserve the status quo.

Lots to think about; I intend to follow up on this early in the New Year once the mayor's motion is put forward to York Region.

Stay tuned.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

A chair is just a chair...

I bought a chair. It is just a chair. It doesn't do much except sit there waiting to be sat upon...

But it's not an ordinary chair. It is a unique chaise with the audacity to have only one arm and the arrogance to claim elegant superiority not in spite of its lack of symmetry, but because of it. I fell in love...

Of course I got it on sale. Yes, it was 40 per cent off and that meant that "free delivery" was not part of the deal.

Since the delivery charge would drive the price of the chair up by 15 per cent, I decided to pick it up. A good idea, except among the half dozen vehicles that create a parking nightmare in my driveway, not a single one of them could accommodate my chair.

But my father owns a van and a trailer and all the little bolts and pins that allow a trailer to be attached to a van, so I thought it was going to be easy, especially since my dad said he would hitch the trailer to the van for me.

How hard could it be? Put the chair in the trailer and drive, right?

Not so fast...

I had to pick up my chair at 10 a.m. in Woodbridge and had to be back before noon to attend an Aurora Chamber of

Commerce luncheon, so I arrived at my father's house already dressed for the luncheon. Mistake...

I stepped out of my car and...it started to rain.

This meant I couldn't bring the chair home in an open trailer - it would get wet!

Hands on hips, I surveyed the van with trailer already attached (for my convenience!), and wondered how difficult it would be to detach the trailer.

It was a lot harder than I thought. All the bolts and pins were rusted, and by the time I was done, my hands were stained, missing a few fingernails, cold and very sore.

But the job wasn't done yet. The seats inside the van had to be removed, and these babies pack about 80 pounds each. That would be nearly 70 per cent of my body weight.

There were four of them and one of me...in high heels. That would be roughly the equivalent of childbirth.

Continuing to do the math, I immediately realized a woman did not design this van.

By the time I dragged the last seat into my dad's garage, I was exhausted and aching all over. My hair was frizzy and my feet were killing me. Plus, I was wet and dirty and running late.

I got into the van and shouted: "Nothing else is allowed to go wrong! Did you hear me?"

And nothing else did.

Sometimes I talk to myself, but this time I was talking to my life.

Because there are only two ways to live: we can let our environment dictate to us, or we can demand from our environment.

Sometimes I forget this vital piece of truth, but I wanted that chair! And being powerless wasn't going to stop the rain or unhitch the trailer or get the seats out of the van.

So I chose to persevere and be like my chair: outrageous, audacious and not quite balanced!

Okay, so it's just a chair. Like any chair, it just sits there waiting to be sat upon...

But it was worth it. Because every time I'm near it, my chair whispers to me.

"There are only two ways to live," it says.

And it won't let me forget.

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



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Carl Rom-Colthoff of Aurora and partner Kyle Soehn of Red Deer, Alberta, for coming from third place to win the Gold in the synchronized Trampoline Tumbling Championship in Quebec City in the 17-18 age group.

BRICKBATS to a justice system which allows the Crown to drop its case against four men charged in a massive cocaine trafficking case allegedly linked to organized crime because the five investigating RCMP officers were on sick leave.

BOUQUETS to Samantha Sendal of Aurora on winning the Silver in the under-17 at the Trampoline Tumbling Championship in Quebec City. She will be eligible to qualify for the Canadian team for the 2012 Olympic Games.

BRICKBATS to the motorists who forgot to remember and travelled noisily past the Aurora Cenotaph while the Remembrance Day Service was taking place. What happened to council's previous decision to divert traffic on Yonge Street during the service?

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Legion for the Remembrance Day Parade and Service and to the Legionnaires who travelled to Camp Borden to join in the their Remembrance Day Service with Aurora's Parade Marshall Ken White and Silver Cross Mother Dorothy Gummersall laying wreaths.

BOUQUETS to Thompson Funeral Home for transporting families affiliated with Hospice King/Aurora to and from the Ontario Provincial A Hockey League game between the Aurora Tigers and the Couchiching Terriers Family Night at the Aurora Community Centre.

BRICKBATS to whoever provided a 14-year-old boy with the money or sold him a 1991 car without his family's knowledge. He took two school-mates on a ride, crashed, killing both of them. He is under arrest. There are a lot of questions to be answered.

BOUQUETS to all the people who are going to volunteer for the 2007 Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive to assist those in need. All the money raised in Aurora is used to fund Salvation Army programs in Aurora. If you can volunteer a couple of hours during the month of December, call 905-727-8214.

BOUQUETS to all the volunteers who are answering the call of the Ontario Safety League and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to participate in Operation Red Nose to give partygoers a free ride home when they are incapable of driving. Aurora is one of seven Ontario municipalities participating in the operation. Call 1-877-253-0033 to volunteer.

BRICKBATS to the Harper government for paying a \$10 million settlement to kill a contract designed to modernize the long-gun registry's computer system. According to the Liberal opposition the government has wasted \$80 million of work already done and was further proof the Tories are opposed to gun control.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Police on winning an award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police for its anti-gang strategy, which supports youth and mentoring programs and provides free transportation to recreation centres.

BOUQUETS to Santa Claus, the star of last week's nighttime parade for travelling the entire length of the parade without assistance from the PA system in his sled that wasn't working.

BRICKBATS to Commissioner William Elliott and senior officials of the RCMP for not taking action to correct the force's policy of dispatching single officers, without backup to settle cases in Northern Canada, which has resulted in the recent loss of two officers.

Letters to the Editor

Who is going to pay legal bills?

Open letter to Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris:

I have read the media release and letter to the editor you presented to council as a fait accompli Nov. 20 which you signed as Mayor and Councillors.

Since councillors were not apprised of the letter, the press conference or the media release, until after the fact, it is difficult to comprehend why you felt you had that authority.

I wish not to be associated with either document for the following reason.

While the release and letter state what was not illegal and what did not take place at the closed sessions, they do not acknowledge what town business actually did take place.

They are a masterpiece of obfuscation.

I have been attempting to understand the purpose of Mr. Rust-D'Eye being retained by yourself and seven members of council.

On Nov. 13 you declined to respond to my request to specify reasons for your precipitate action.

I have requested by e-mail, Mr. Panizza to forward terms of reference and parameters of the contract with Mr. Rust-D'Eye and the section of the Municipal Act which provides authority to expend public resources on this matter.

Three weeks later the information has not been provided. From my perspective, the situation is even less clear today.

Mr. Rust-D'Eye informed me Nov. 13, he had been provided with and had read numerous documents; blogs, e-mails and letters to the editor written by me. Since my purpose in writing these missives was to share my thoughts on town matters with anyone who might wish to read them, I have no concerns about the solicitor becoming familiar with how I think and communicate with those I am committed to serve.

However, it throws no light on why Mr. Rust-D'Eye has been retained at substantial cost to the public treasury. The question looms large in the minds of many in Aurora.

Council was informed Nov. 20, after the fact, that Mr. Rust-D'Eye was on hand at your press conference. He was quoted in the media release.

Rules of evidence, Madame Mayor, dictate that unless a witness is present, comments are hearsay and therefore not valid evidence.

The press conference was in rebuttal to a column in The Auroran. That is a political action, Madame Mayor.

Consequently, it appears Mr. Rust-D'Eye's services were used to support your political agenda. The Corporation's interest was not affected.

The question derived from all of this is, who will pay for Mr. Rust-D'Eye's service in this context?

I believe it is incumbent on yourself and those councillors who agreed to retain the gentleman's service to indicate how they intend these fees to be paid.

If not at their personal expense, then how is the public expenditure to be justified?

You indicated, Madame

Mayor, all in-camera meetings will be suspended.

It is not clear why or how you propose to suspend dealing with essential items of town business and what part of the Municipal Act gives you the authority to make this unilateral decision.

I note we had an in-camera agenda for Nov. 27.

How does that reconcile with your dictum there will be no such meeting until an undetermined date?

As you can see, a number of significant questions are posed. We hold office to deal with the public agenda.

Personal and political matters are not part of our function as members of council.

I take no comfort or assurance from your concept of how public business should be conducted.

That is regrettable.

I cannot, however, allow it to interfere with my own responsibility to keep my commitment to the people who gave me their trust.

**Evelyn Buck
Councillor**

What good is high-priced lawyer, reader wonders

To the editor,

What happened to our "transparent" government?

It is with great dismay to see another example of both secrecy and the abuse of taxpayers' dollars with the

purported "investigation" into the leak over a secret council meeting.

Why are taxpayers on the hook again?

What good is a high-priced lawyer going to do any of us since the leak has

occurred and is now, thus, the past?

It cannot be undone.

Even if a source were identified, it is not as if there would be prosecution or other action.

Since the meeting was so "secret" and only councillors were wherever they were, it limits the culprits to those at this "secret" meeting.

Can't they sort it out over a drink on their own time and dime?

Don't waste any more of our public tax dollars - it is

not at all appreciated when there are many more projects needing funding, such as our infrastructure.

You can't play a CD on our roads (I've tried and after three plays they skip ever after).

And, whatever happened to funds from the sale of Aurora Hydro?

I guess that will be decided in secret, too.

We all deserve better than that.

**Linda Stephens
Aurora**

Governor enjoyed her visit to Aurora

Open letter to Aurora Rotary Club president Greg Foster

Bob Maxwell and I would like to thank you for the warm welcome we received from your club last evening (Monday, Nov. 26).

Although this was our last "official" visit, I hope to hear and see you throughout our new year.

What a terrific and fun club you have.

It's the perfect combina-

tion of hard work and play.

You are doing a wonderful job as president - just give me a call if you need anything.

Thank you again.

Please extend my gratefulness to David Pierce for the wine and jokes. Also to Ron Wallace for his hospitality.

It was exactly what was needed on a snowy evening.

**Lynda Ryder
District Governor**

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Cloak, the mouse hunting cat at Aurora Home Hardware, top photo, is now back on the job, and was welcomed home with a cake.

Auroran photos by Bob Ince

"Cloak" the cat, is back

To the editor,

I would like you to retract your story about "Cloak".

Your representation of what happened was totally untrue.

We had a customer who was extremely allergic to the cat and we were unsure what to do about the cat.

"Cloak" went to an employee's home for two days.

"Cloak" is back now as we decided that we would rather have one cat than many rats.

The number of calls we have received in a negative way since this article was written is ridiculous.

The cat was back even before the article went out in the paper.

Please retract your story.

Chris Barfitt
Aurora Home Hardware

ED. NOTE: Consider the story retracted, however, it did originate from a store employee. Meanwhile, this story generated one of the highest responses of letters to the editor that we have ever received. Since Cloak is back home we have elected not to print the letters. Thanks to all those who wrote in.

Wouldn't condone misuse of information, Jones says

To the editor,

RE: Access to phone log information (The Auroran, Letter to the editor from Richard Johnson, Nov. 27)

I was perplexed when I read in Tuesday's Auroran about an investigation into access to phone logs of members of council in 2004.

Upon calling the Chief Administrator of the Town of Aurora, I was advised that he was unaware of any investigation.

As Mayor and Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Aurora for 12 years, I was privy to a lot of information in various circumstances that would be considered confidential.

I was charged with being responsible for the fiscal affairs of our Town and needed to make decisions and act at all times in the best interests of the Town as a whole.

If that meant ensuring to the best of my ability that processes and procedures were being followed as they should be by staff and mem-

bers of council, and not being misused, I acted accordingly.

At no time would I condone the misuse of confidential information.

Tim Jones
Former Mayor
Town of Aurora
1994-2006

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True Christmas meaning

To the editor,

I would like to congratulate the organizers of the Aurora Santa Claus Parade.

I believe that this was one of the best in recent years.

I say this based on my personal belief that the parade was more in line with the true meaning of Christmas to me.

Different level but Tim same

To the editor,

Everyone is now on the band wagon for more tax dollars from Ottawa for municipal infrastructure.

Tim Jones, looking for an issue for the upcoming federal election, has commented that the Conservatives are not doing enough.

His cry for more of your tax dollars would have a higher degree of creditability if he had actually done something locally during his tenure as mayor.

The truth of the matter is despite raising the Aurora portion of our municipal tax bill more than 50 per cent in the last six years, there was no real growth in local infrastructure spending and Aurora now faces a \$35 million repair backlog.

Do we really want more of the same from Tim at the federal level?

John Galt
Aurora

It was great to hear some of the participants wish the crowd Merry Christmas rather than happy holidays.

I also enjoyed hearing Christmas Carols.

Most floats were the best that I have seen as were the great bands and the many marchers.

Thanks to the local churches for reminding us what Christmas is all about with their wonderful floats.

Thanks to the local schools, both elementary and high schools for showing great spirit, in particular Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and Highview Public School.

I am not sure if there were other schools and if there were I am sorry I missed them.

Thanks to the many local businesses that actually decorated their floats and vehicles rather than just advertising their business.

In closing I would like to say that I believe that the town mayor should be in the parade but it was disappointing to see would-be politicians have a float hoping to pick up votes just in case there will be a federal election soon.

Nigel Kean
Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

This show will overwhelm you

To the editor,

Recently, I opened 11 e-mails from people asking if it is all right not to give me a gift this year.

Some letters are from people saying they are too tired to come to a show, and from people feeling too tired to bake, too tired to entertain, too tired to decorate, too broke to buy presents and all in some way are describing the overwhelming feelings this holiday season is bringing to them.

I feel alien to these thoughts because I love this time of year.

It's when the good stuff comes out, it's when I actually feel like knitting and

baking and wrapping presents.

I love making or shopping for that perfect thing for a friend, and trying to express in writing my feelings of appreciation to them for the warm flow of love they give to me.

I love that the houses sparkle with lights and décor, and ancient tales of family holiday moments gone by are told with laughter and glistening eyes.

This is the season when people in the Christian faith think about the birth of Jesus.

We are told these Wise Men studied the stars, and they travelled to Bethlehem, still following the star, and when the star

guides them to Mary and Joseph's home and to the baby Jesus, we read that they were overwhelmed with joy.

The Wise Men bow down and worship Jesus, and offer him precious gifts, and then return home, having seen what they set out to see, and having been warned in a dream not to go back Herod's way.

When was the last time you were overwhelmed with joy?

The downside of being in an dark overwhelmed mood, is that it is sometimes hard to be overwhelmed with joy.

It is sometimes easier to go through the motions, to be busy with the details, to

be worrying about what comes next.

But if Christmas comes and goes, and we miss out on the joy, if we forgot to be moved by the story, or if we never stop to appreciate the magnitude of the gift being given to us, then we've missed out on Christmas all together, missed as much as those who believe Christmas is just a day to exchange gifts and get presents.

The star has stopped, and we are meant to be overwhelmed with joy.

This Christmas I hope that each of you remember to take your family out of the house.

Perhaps to one of the beautiful rinks we have for a skate, or to walk by the windows of Aurora shops, or to come and see one of the many plays and shows going on in live theatre this holiday.

The Aurora Performing Arts Group is presenting Amahl and the Night Visitors this season at Newmarket Theatre December 13-16.

This wonderful, short, inspirational musical is about a miracle that occurs when a young boy offers a selfless generous gift.

It is performed by a large cast of Aurorans.

It's a festive and joyous musical and it's worth leav-

ing the comforts of home for one night to come out and experience.

We hope that our celebrations of Christmas music on stage will evoke a response so that we can all really let go of all the gloom and the doom so that we can fully receive, be totally overwhelmed, by what goodness there is in this world.

I wish for all of us that we may carry with us the overwhelming joy of Christmas, that we may keep with us the gift of holiday spirit, long beyond the

time when we undecorate, beyond when new toys have lost their luster, beyond when our thoughts have turned to spring and summer again.

This year, still overjoyed, overwhelmed with Christmas, I hope we can all open our hearts and offer to our loved ones and the world our finest gifts.

Looking forward to seeing you in the audience.

Sarah Kyle
General Director
Aurora Performing Arts Group

No respect for staff from council: reader

To the editor,

Former Councillor Bill Hogg should write a weekly column in The Auroran.

He served this community for two terms as he indicated, six years.

Obviously, although sitting on the sidelines, he is still passionate about his town, passionate enough to give us his take once in a while based on his knowledge and experience of town matters.

Unlike "Anonymous", who clearly hasn't a clue based on his/her view of town staff and their relationship with management. Has he/she even

been in the town hall?

I've lived in this community now for 15 years and I never heard any talk about an inside union up until now.

I've read more controversial stories about staff leaving the town employ over the last year than ever before.

Senior management in the town hasn't changed but there was a municipal election this time last year.

Just look at how the seating has changed in the council chamber this year. Us (council) on one side and them (department heads) on the other side.

Who do you think

made this decision?

It's pretty clear to all who watch the council meetings how little respect some of our elected officials have around that table for the management team.

Just listen to how they publicly attack staff.

That's where a culture of micro-managing will lead you.

There's no point in restating all the problems in town that can relate back to only one cause...leadership.

I can't wait to see Mr. Hogg's one year report card.

S. Williams
Aurora

Reader can't wait to see lawyer bill

To the editor,

History tells us our friends to the south of us faced a crisis in Watergate. Apparently right here in Aurora we have our own crisis heretofore referred to as "The Leak".

Thank goodness our mayor and some council members have committed to get to the bottom of it, apparently at any price.

I can't wait to see what this bill comes in at.

Dick Illingworth points out to us that George Rust D'Eye, an "expert on municipal law", has been retained at who knows how much, to look into "The Leak". Apparently, again according to Mr. Illingworth, this same solicitor was retained to provide an opinion on whether an off-site retreat or workshop was legal in the eyes of the Municipal Act.

Dick goes on to inform us that even though this same

solicitor "prepared a draft bylaw which would cover such meetings", the same members of council who are leading this charge, refused to support this legal direction.

How will these same members of council vote this time?

And what will it cost to repair "The Leak"?

How fortunate we are to have The Auroran and Dick Illingworth acting as our "watchdog" to keep us informed.

B. Harris
Aurora



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To the members of Branch 385 and the people of Aurora

We wish to thank you

For your generous contribution to the 2006-2007
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which enables us to carry out obligations to our veterans,
their dependents, hospitals and bursaries programs.

The following is from the 2006-2007 Poppy Trust Fund

Income from campaign and all other sources \$36,898.66

Campaign expenses	
Poppies and Wreaths	\$7,896.24
PRO Material	\$1,482.02
Local expenses	\$1,286.86
Sub-total	\$10,665.12
Grants to ex-service persons/dependents	\$11,497.47
Bursaries and donations	\$4,475.00
Sub-total	\$26,928.47
Total expenses & distribution	\$37,593.59

Balance 2006/7 campaign [694.93]

Len Whines
President and Poppy Chairman

What has happened to Christmas?

To the editor,

Christmas has always been my favourite time of the year.

I even have a red brick house with a green roof. Variations of these colours permeate my home.

I enjoy the festive decorating, cooking specialities of the season, entertaining friends, having all my family together over the holidays,

seeing children excited and happy and the giving (I don't receive well – but that is another story) of self going to a Christmas service and, of course, the presents.

Over the years some things have begun to irritate me, spoiling my Christmas spirit.

Crowded stores filled with anxious people buying for the sake of buying and the tedious finding a parking spot

so I tend to avoid malls and finish my shopping very early to the annoyance of my friends.

I like to make presents or at least find something the recipient I hope will enjoy. Like most people I have a tendency to overeat, overspend and if there is such a thing, overenjoy!

I have watched with curiosity Christmas become Xmas wondering how X per-

tains to this holiday.

Does X mark the spot and if it does what spot is it?

X, according to Oxford is a letter, a Roman numeral, first unknown quantity, incalculable or mysterious factor or influence.

Oxford also notes that Xmas is the abbr. Christmas, festival of Christ's birth, 25th Dec., devoted esp. to family reunion & merrymaking etc.

Once I looked up Xmas – thinking that ("the powers that be") they took the Christ out of Christmas – and learned that it was just a cover-up. Why the secrecy?

In Canada we celebrate Queen Victoria's B-Day and no one seems to complain. Years ago there were Christmas pageants in the schools with mangers and everything.

What happened?

In most public buildings Christmas trees are not allowed – because they are decorated for Christmas, also used as Chanukah bushes for the celebration of the festival of lights?

What possible harm does putting decorations of a fir tree cause?

Some narrow-minded individuals have always considered symbolism evil. During the 18th century, in England, all religious symbols were

banned so a dedicated Christian candy maker started with a piece of pure white hard candy, fashioned a "J" (or shepherd's staff) then placed three small red stripes around the candy (representing the "holy trinity") and a single bold red stripe through the candy representing the redeeming power of Christ's blood.

Sometimes a green stripe was added – green is the colour of giving.

Watch – pretty soon candy canes will go the way of Xmas (we all know what the X stands for now – an abbr. for Christmas) pageants, lights, carols, trees etc. Santa Claus (as we know him) is safe – he was invented by Coca Cola.

You can mess with religious symbols but not a megaconglomerant.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Questions need answering

To the editor,

In the wake of all these closed door discussions as we listen to the mayor and other members of this council who tell us that this term is different because they are "open and transparent", I have a few questions.

I ask these questions while the mayor authorizes expenditures on frivolous matters that speak more to personal vendettas against other members of council than they do to what's good for our community.

What's happening to the abandoned hydro building?

What about library square, which has sat unutilized as the buildings continue to deteriorate while any number of community groups look for space to meet? What about Church Street School and the Heritage Museum?

Any talk about a much needed youth centre?

Maybe they've spent the funds from the hydro sale and we just don't know about it yet.

These are just a couple of questions I'd love to have

answers to.

Issues that will affect the quality of life for ALL residents.

Who knows? Perhaps that's all been decided, like the police headquarters opportunity, in private.

Perhaps that's for them to know and us to find out.

Thank goodness this community got wind of the police proposal.

How else would we ever have known? Scary stuff.

S. Brown
Aurora

Remove Aurora chicanes before someone gets hurt

To the editor,

Unfortunately I have to complain again about the chicanes installed on Walton Drive and Mark Street.

They are very, very, very dangerous as proven when slippery heavy wet snow fell on Monday evening, Nov. 26.

An oncoming car just narrowly missed me as the driver lost traction going around a

chicane on Walton Drive.

Also the speed-humps installed in that northeast quadrant are way too aggressive.

I invite you to try riding in a school bus going over these speed-humps.

The contractors who installed these chicanes said that two-way traffic can occur with school buses.

From what I've seen there

is no way two-way traffic can occur when a school bus is navigating through the chicanes, not even the short buses because of their width.

The only thing these chicanes are good for is to put your garbage out on. These chicanes must be removed before someone gets hurt.

Alex Andruszkiw
Aurora

Chamber supports route

An open letter to members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce

Here is a quick follow-up on the York Region Transit (YRT) proposal to cancel Bus Route 34 along Industrial Parkway:

- based on the member feedback received on this issue, the overwhelming majority of businesses are opposed to the cancellation of public transit service along Industrial Parkway;

- I attended the Town Council meeting Nov. 13 to communicate the feedback received from members. At that time, I provided Town Council and YRT authorities with our preliminary comments on this issue; and

- YRT officials at the Town Council meeting committed to further consultation with local businesses regarding public transit service on Industrial Parkway and other industrial areas in Aurora. This consultation is to occur prior to any changes being implemented such as the cancellation of Bus Route 34.

We will keep you informed of further developments on this issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional comments or concerns on this issue.

Carla Adams
Executive Director
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

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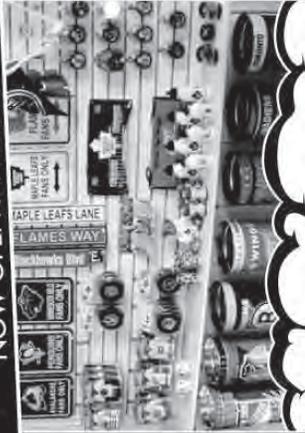
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Tigers entertain hometowners with two wins

By JOHN KLEIN

Their frozen stage surrounded twice on the weekend by a crowd of nearly 500, the Aurora Tigers managed a pair of wins against two of the top teams in the Provincial Junior A hockey north division.

Friday night, against the, at the time, first place Huntsville-Muskoka Otters, they edged the division leaders 4-3, then followed Sunday afternoon with a 6-3 victory over the Whitchurch-Stouffville Spirit at the Aurora Community Centre.

Friday, Aurora trailed twice in the game, 1-0 in the first period and 2-1 midway through the third, but they battled hard and bested their rivals 4-3.

New Tiger Captain Mark Thorburn scored twice, first tying the game and then later putting the Tigers up by a score of 3-2.

After the Otters were able to even the score at threes near the middle of the final frame, the eventual game winner came from defenseman Aaron Barton recorded the victory stopping 32 shots that came his way.

He improved his record to 9-3-2.

Jordan Smith gave the Tigers a solid effort on defense, adding an assist and getting involved in a spirited tilt with

acquired from the Burnaby Express, and former Tiger Jordan Smith, who was re-acquired from the Collingwood Blues, each added two assists.

Goaltender Aaron Barton recorded the victory stopping 38 shots.

Sunday afternoon the Tigers returned to the Community Centre, to meet another key North Division rival from Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Going into the game the Tigers had played the Spirit four times this season and boast a 3-1 record against their neighbouring rivals, including a recent 5-3 victory last weekend.

Aurora's Paul Dupont scored twice, including a short-handed marker and Captain Mark Thorburn scored the game winner as the Tigers improved to 4-1 against the Spirit this season with a 6-3 win.

Additional scoring from Aurora came from Sam Yearsley and Micheal Sardella. Jeff Harbach and Matt Thompson both had two assists in the victory.

Aaron Barton recorded his second straight win on the weekend stopping 32 shots that came his way.

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Jordan Smith gave the Tigers a solid effort on defense, adding an assist and getting involved in a spirited tilt with

Stouffville's Corey Fulton late in the game.

With the weekend sweep the Tigers improve their record to 19-6-3, and are now within a single point of the Couchiching Terriers for third place in the North Division.

The Tigers also have a game in hand on the Terriers and two in hand on the Newmarket Hurricanes who regained their first place standing over this weekend's action.

The Tiger's next game is Friday at home when they host the Seguin Bruins. Game time is 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre.

The next day, it's up to Collingwood for a Saturday night affair with the Blues.

AURORA 4 HUNTSVILLE 3
First Period

H: Rob Waddell (Williams, Pinkney) PP 10.36

Second Period
A: Mike McLaughlin

(Watts) SH 3.06

Third Period
H: Brad Williams (Waddell, Chambers) 2.30

A: Mark Thorburn (McGarry, Thomson) 8.09

A: Mark Thorburn (Harbach, Smith) PP 13.19

A: Thomas Middup (Smith) PP 13.58

H: Josh Vatri (Barss, Ball) PP 18.39

AURORA 6 STOUFFVILLE 3
First Period

S: James McIntosh (Archibald, Trivino) 0.48

A: Michael Sardella (Morley, Middup) 7.59

Second Period
S: Ethan Werek (Sullivan, Smith) 1.47

A: Mark Thorburn (Watts, Harbach) PP 17.03

A: Paul Dupont (Smith, McLaughlin) PP 19.21

Third Period
A: Mark Thorburn (Watts, Harbach) 11.44

S: Corey Trivino (Smith) SH 13.14

12.11 A: Sam Yearsley (Vanderlugt, Thomson) 18.13

A: Paul Dupont (Thomson) (Vanderlugt, Thomson) 18.13

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WINNERS

Another tourney win for Peewee Tigers

The Aurora Peewee A Tigers captured their second tournament championship this season at the Doug Robinson Tournament in Lincoln, Ontario, recently.

The Tigers have been on an impressive run so far this year and expected to face some tough competition at the tournament.

has gone undefeated during regular tournament play. The championship game was a rematch against Dorchester.

The Dragons came out physical with the intent to get the Tigers off their usual fast paced play.

The game stayed close

until Aurora's speed wore Dorchester down and the Dragons got into penalty trouble.

The result was a convincing 8-0 triumph for the Tigers.

The squad now looks forward to achieving similar success at the upcoming Silver Stick qualifier.



They weren't disappointed, encountering a stiff challenge in the very first game from the Dorchester Dragons.

The opponents attempted to use their size and the smaller ice surface to their advantage by slowing the Tigers down.

However, the speedy Tigers had seen this strategy before, and raised their own level of intensity.

The result was a hard fought 3-1 victory for Aurora.

In the second game, the team drew the hometown Blades.

Tigers dominated the play throughout the game but Lincoln kept it close, with some strong local support behind them.

But Aurora held the lead from the start winning 3-2, with the Blades pressing hard.

The third game against Grimsby looked like it might be the biggest challenge for the Tigers.

Grimsby needed a win to advance to the finals.

This was another physical match but again it raised the determination of the Tigers.

The boys carried the play and cruised to a 2-0 win.

So far this year the team

Tough Kingston squad spoils Aurora's chances

Two ties and a loss highlighted play of the Aurora Novice AA Tigers last week as they tried to advance in the Georgina Regional Silver Stick Qualifying Tournament.

In the first game, they skated to a 2-2 draw against the Georgina Blaze, with Dimitri Mikrogiannakis and Jack Liotta scoring for Aurora.

Tigers open the scoring on a strong end-to-end rush by Mikrogiannakis late in the first period.

With only 48 seconds remaining, Georgina tied the game, then took the lead mid-way through the middle frame.

Two minutes later the Tigers fight back with a great play by Ben Langlois, who carried the puck up the wing and put it on the net. Liotta jumped on the rebound to tie the score.

Both Brady Sarazin and Robert Stewart kept the tie alive in goal for Aurora.

Later that day, they battled the Clarington Toros to a 3-3 draw, setting up a much-needed win to advance in the tournament.

Toros open the scoring midway through the first period.

Tigers were then assessed two minor penalties back to back and the team responded with an outstanding effort keeping the Toros off the scoreboard while getting several chances of their own.

Shortly after the penalty kill, Aurora knotted the game on a nifty effort by Morgan Frost, who moved the puck in the Toros end, passed to Liotta and Jonathan Malowney deposited it in the net.

But the Toros answered back quickly to take a 2 -1 lead into the second period. The Tigers, needing to get points in this game to stay in contention for the tournament, roared back with a goal 34 seconds into the second frame.

Mikrogiannakis moved the puck up into the Toros end putting the puck behind the net where Malowney spotted Frost, who buried the puck behind the Toros netminder.

Less than a minute later, Aurora took the lead with a play started by Thomas Wilson, who passed to Mark Kalmisto, who weaved through several Toro defenders and put the puck onto the stick of Philip Wolanski who gave the Tigers a short-lived lead.

The Toros, however, came back quickly to tie the game.

Aurora pressed hard but couldn't regain the lead.

The next day, Aurora needed a win or a tie to stay alive in the tournament, but it wasn't to be as they fell 4-2 to the Kingston Ice Cats.

The Ice Cats opened the scoring 30 seconds into the game but Aurora roared back two minutes later on a play started by Mark Kalmisto.

He passed to an open Frost, who made no mistake tying the game.

In the second, Aurora enjoyed a short-lived lead when Mikrogiannakis finished off a pass from Brady Futterer.

The Tigers played well for the balance of the second period and into the beginning of the third, but the strong Ice Cats were not done yet and scored three times in three minutes to take the lead and win the game.

Society desires to know about you

Since the work of the Aurora Historical Society involving the proposed Heritage Centre has been assumed by the town, the Board is planning several strategy sessions to focus on its direction in future years.

A number of subjects will be discussed, including the newsletter, general meetings, what is being offered to members and what might be offered to them in the future.

In order to obtain information from members for the planning sessions, a survey has been distributed to all members.

The focus of the survey is Hillary House, interpretation, restoration, future directions and outreach activities.

Survey questions include length of time as a Society member, reasons for joining the Society, length of time living in Aurora, frequency of attendance at meetings, the reasons why meetings are attended or missed, and the number and type of special events sponsored by the Society.

Over the years since it started in 1963, Society members have worked hard to preserve Aurora's heritage.

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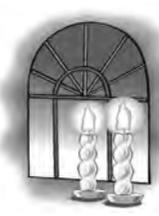
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TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	8	2	0	48	16	16
Highland Chev-Cad	5	3	2	42	38	12
Rec Cycle N' Sports	4	3	3	45	39	11
FPL Aggregates	4	4	2	36	38	10
Tom & Jerry's	3	4	3	35	41	9
Masterclean Contracting	3	5	2	41	49	8
Baldwin's	3	6	1	37	42	7
Law Insurance Brokers	2	5	3	28	40	7

WEEKLY SCORES

Rec Sports	7	FPL Aggregates	4
Tom & Jerry's	3	Priestly Demolition	3

Law Insurance	3	Baldwin's	6
Highland's	3	Masterclean	6

SCORING LEADERS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts
John Anderson	Rec Sports	17	9	26
John Archibauld	Highland's	18	7	25
Mark Sedore	Priestly	9	15	24
John Yaremko	Masterclean	10	11	21
Scott Crabb	Highland's	10	9	19
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	11	6	17
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	5	12	17
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	14	17
Pat O'Mahony	Baldwin's	10	6	16
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	7	9	16
Jason Muise	Priestly	8	7	15
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	8	14
Mark Swirla	Priestly	6	7	13
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	6	7	13
Steven McDonald	FPL	3	10	13
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	8	5	13
Ron Van Noort	Rec Sports	4	9	13
Dave Caverley	FPL	8	3	11
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	8	3	11
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	7	4	11
Craig Donaldson	FPL	5	5	10
Gerald Briand	FPL	5	4	9
Mark Lemon	Baldwin's	4	5	9
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	3	6	9
Dwayne Smith	Baldwin's	3	6	9
Darren Yaremko	Masterclean	3	6	9
Bruce Ing	Highland's	0	9	9
Dean Iwai	FPL	4	4	8
Sam Speranini	Law Insurance	4	4	8
Dave McQuestion	FPL	3	5	8
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	5	8
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	3	5	8
Les Nip	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Steve Rezwick	Tom & Jerry's	3	5	8
Steve Robertson	Highland's	2	6	8
Dan Smith	Tom & Jerry's	1	7	8
Gord Lee	Priestly	4	3	7
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	3	4	7
Glen Butler	Baldwin's	2	5	7
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	2	5	7
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	5	7
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	5	7
Brian McKenzie	Rec Sports	1	6	7
Ron Theson	Tom & Jerry's	0	7	7
Murray Campbell	Priestly	3	3	6
Mark English	Masterclean	3	3	6
Dennis Giles	FPL	2	4	6
Mike Kensit	Rec Sports	3	3	6
John Leeder	Law Insurance	3	3	6
Ken Rumble	Highland's	3	3	6
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	2	4	6
John Spicer	Priestly	2	4	6
Mike Nesbitt	Baldwin's	2	4	6
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	1	5	6
Steve Bromley	Baldwin's	1	5	6
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	1	5	6



The annual Open House at the Women's Centre of York Region located on Yonge Street in Aurora was held last week, with several gifts being offered for needy Aurora families. Among the participants were Women's Centre employees, left to right, Shelley Lundquist, Cristen Tatone, Milena Boden and Faith Malcolm.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Council supports regional reps

Of the six items for discussion at Tuesday's Aurora Council meeting, only one item was lifted for discussion and that was an appointment to the Source Water Protection Committee.

The Clean Water Act came into force in July with the purpose of enhancing source water protection in the province through the creation of source protection plans for each watershed.

Under the Act the various source protection agencies are required to establish Source Protection Committees for the purpose

of preparing terms of reference, assessment reports and the source protection plans for each source protection area.

There is to be a municipal sector representative to sit on the Source Protection Committee and as York Region straddles two watershed areas, it is required to appoint a representative for each source protection area.

Regional council has recommended Ms. Debbie Korolnek as the municipal representative for York Region and its constituent municipalities on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and

Central Lake Region Source Protection Committee.

It also recommended Ilmar Simanovskis be nominated as the municipal representative for York Region and its constituent municipalities on the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Protection Committee.

Local municipalities were supplied with the regional report with the request that the two regional nominees be endorsed which the Aurora general committee did without question or comment at a previous meeting.

There was some surprise that it was on the agenda again.

Staff members pointed out that it was necessary to

adopt a resolution for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and it was necessary to appoint a voting delegate for the purpose of electing the two Source Protection Committee municipal representatives.

Municipally, there was some discussion as to whether the voting representative should be a staff member or a politician and as David Atkins, Acting Director of Public Works volunteered, council was quick to confirm his appointment as the voting delegate.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday December 2nd



Atom

402 3 - James Power 1G, Ryan Batten 1G, Rory Hamilton 1G 1A, Bryn Burbank 2A, Michael Fisher 1A, Darren Tree 1A. **403 3** - Riley Weller 1G, Christian MacGillvary 1G, Adam Hoffman 1G, Zack Keller 2A, Connor Cann 1A.

406-Ab Cox Pittsburgh 5 - Austin Waite 2G, Matthew Iezzi 2G, Robert Cabral 1G, Chris Sutherland 2A, Ethan Mills 1A, Cameron Pyle 1A. **404-Tilemaster Colorado 4** - Michael Walsh 3G, Patrick Bourrie 1G, Michael Dilosa 3A, Taylor Simpson 1A, Ryan Ouwroules 2A, Lockhart McMann 1A, David Leeper 1A.

401 6 - Joseph Hodgson 3G, Anthony Stanley Georgieff 1G, Johnny Sherwood 1G, Cole Johnson 1G, Nathan Dinatale 1A, Conner Kemp 1A, Mathew Hall 3 A, Eric Cumiskey 1A. **405 2** - Alexander MacKinnon 1G, Ryan Donovan 1G, Keenan Nocon-Willatts 1A, Michael McKerracher 1A, Evan Nichols 1A.

Bantam

804-Danny's Boys 3 - Taran McGowan 1G, Etienne

Bicego 1G, Brett Richardson 1G. **808 2** - Matthew Bishop 1G, Kenton Gamble 1G, David Scott 1A, Jake Hindley 1A, George Chalmers 1A.

805-CAA 1 - Jaret Meron 1G. **803-Pizzaville 1** - Braden Drummond 1G.

806-Cosentino Produce 2 - Alex Payne 2G, Jonathan Alcock 1A, Logan Weber 1A. **802-Wait's Bathroom Plus 2** - Curtis Stobo 1G, Anthony DeCesare 1G 1A, Mario Rotundo 1A, Andrew Hunter 1A, Mark Tanel 1A.

801-I.O.O.F 2 - Michael Wood 1G 1A, John Zorzit 1G, Liam Martin 1A, Jamie Saabas 1A. **807-Backyard Pool & Spa 1** - Eamon Reilly 1G, Chris Follette 1A.

Minor Midget

901-Remax Barb Blaser Calgary Red 2 - Peter Durst 1G, Daniel Sampieri 1G, Tyler Friars 1A. **906-Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 1** - Jakub Sykora 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1A. **903-Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 2** - Julian Bionani 1G, Scott Cunningham 1G, Robert Fiorini 1A.

904-Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 0.

905-Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 4 - Sean Ellison 2G, Evan Casselden 1G, Michael Orschel 1G, Drew Coley 1A, Kyle MacCallum 1A, Wendel Martins 1A, Sean Ellison 1A, Curtis Rose 1A. **902-Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Michael Madigian 1G, Niel Gaston 1G, Geoff Gianopoulos 1A.

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 3 - Julien Savosardaro 1G, Anthony Marsillo 1G, Chris Tillsley 1G, Julien Savosardaro 1A, Anthony Marsillo 1A. **901 Remax Barb Blaser Calgary Red 1** - Peter Durst 1G.

906 Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 2 - Jacob Sykora 1G, Paul Duggan 1G, Aaron Bentley 1A, Matt Raponi 1A, Ryan Bagshaw 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 1** - Wendel Martins 1G, Evan Casselden 1A.

902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2 - Liam Braithwaite 1G, Evan Jones 1G, Matthew De Sousa 1A, Brandon Hurst 1A. **903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 1** - Marco Santella 1G.

Commuter program would help get you to work

With gridlock on most of the arterial roadways, commuting to and from work is time consuming and expensive, and there may be better ways if properly organized under the Smart Commute program.

According to Debra Scott of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, Smart Commute is one of the most innovative transportation initiatives ever undertaken in Central York.

The Town of Newmarket and the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce launched the Smart Commute Central York program in partnership with the Region of York and Transport Canada.

The program is designed to help businesses get their workers to work by the most efficient means, this reducing single vehicle trips.

The Smart Commute program was founded by the municipalities across the GTA, supported by Transport Canada and has grown into a successful transportation demand management program funded by local and regional municipalities.

At Tuesday's council meeting Carla Adams, general manager of the

Aurora Chamber of Commerce, advised that the Aurora Chamber of Commerce had entered into a partnership with the Newmarket and East Gwillimbury Chambers to deliver the program to area businesses.

She asked councillors to be leaders in assisting in alleviating the commuter gridlock problem and supporting Smart Commute.

Loy Cheah of York Region Transportation Department also addressed details of the Smart Commute program and why it was important for Aurora to support it.

He explained that a Transportation Management Association works with local businesses, municipalities, school districts and other non-profit organizations to help reduce traffic congestion, increase mobility and access to work and represents business interests on transportation issues.

The TMA also acts as a single source of information on commuting options for employers and employees and the local TMA receives funding from a variety of sources including the Region, Newmarket, and corporate sponsors.

The impact in Newmarket and Aurora by leaving one car at home during the morning rush hour would reduce the peak hour volume by 410 vehicles one day a month or 1,600 vehicles one day a week which would save on construction costs and reduce emissions.

A request was made to Aurora to support the initiative with a \$30,000 contribution to help the TMA achieve its goals.

In early 2006, a presentation was made to the general committee by representatives of York Region, the Town of Newmarket, Town of Markham and the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce regarding the Smart Commute initiative by the region and some regional municipalities.

Cheah pointed out that work was required to establish a proposed Newmarket/Aurora TMA.

Because there was some urgency to proceed, the active participation of Aurora was encouraged in establishing the TMA, he said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck questioned why municipalities should provide initial funding as the initiative was for the benefit of the employers.

They should pay, she

said.

It was pointed out that by reducing the number of cars on the road there were benefits to the municipality including road maintenance and an improvement in the environment.

After further questions and discussion, councillors agreed to receive the presentations and refer the issue to staff members for a report.

In May, 2006, the Economic Development Committee recommended Aurora's participation in the Central York TMA as well as implementing an employee trip reduction program similar to York Region and Newmarket programs.

It was also recommended that the report be forwarded to the Environmental Advisory Committee for endorsement and referred to council for approval in principle and that staff members submit a further report regarding financial details.

In spite of a request for a staff report by the general committee and support from the Economic Development Advisory Committee, no action was taken by Aurora Council.

In April, this year, Smart Commute in Central York, Newmarket and

Aurora was officially launched with the aid of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce.

At Tuesday's meeting councillors wanted to again know what the town would receive for its \$30,000, and the number of Aurora commuters that would benefit from the

program.

Finally, Councillor Al Wilson who said he supported the program and regretted Aurora was the last to get on board, moved that the request for funding be referred to the 2008 budget deliberations which was approved by council.



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Reminder: 2007 Toys for Tots Campaign



Members of York Regional Police are proud to participate in the 11th Annual Toys for Tots campaign, which runs until December 16, 2007, collecting toys and cash donations for kids who often have to make due with less during the holiday season.

The Toys for Tots Campaign, in partnership with the Canadian Tire Corporation, began in 1996 and so far has raised more than \$185,000 worth of toys for kids during the holiday season.

Residents are encouraged to donate Canadian Tire money, cash or a new unwrapped toy at any York Region Canadian Tire store during the campaign. The cash donations are used to purchase toys for those York Region children in need.

Anyone wishing to donate a new, unwrapped toy and/or Canadian Tire money can also deliver it to any of the five York Regional Police headquarters over the duration of the campaign. Their locations and addresses may be obtained by visiting our website at www.yrp.ca, then click on YRP Units and then on Districts.

During the campaign, donations will also be accepted at the Community Safety Village of York Region, located in Bruce's Mills Conservation Area in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Students who visit the Village with their individual schools are also encouraged to take an active role in their community and this worthwhile fundraiser by donating a toy or Canadian Tire money when they visit the Safety Village for their class trip. Individual schools may also choose to direct their \$2 per-student fee as a donation to the Toys for Tots campaign.

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, police officers joined Emergency Services and Fire Services personnel at various Canadian Tire store locations to encourage residents to be generous during a special 9-1-1 day.

For more information please contact York Regional Police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7977 or 7099, or campaign chairperson Linda Matheson at 905-252-9613, or by email at lmatt@rogers.com.

In addition to the Toys for Tots campaign, for the past 15 years members of York Regional

Police have worked with the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board on the Quiet Food Drive. Over the years, the remarkable generosity of the students, their families and school staff has meant that more than 28,000 people were provided with food over the holidays.

This drive operates in partnership with the Jump on the Wagon campaign initiated by Court Security staff and invites residents of York Region to fill a York Regional Police paddy wagon with food items. The remaining dates for Jump the Wagon are as follows:

- December 8 and 9 - Zehr's - 24018 Woodbine Avenue, Keswick and Loblaws Supermarket - 200 Bullock Drive, Markham

All items donated through the drives will be collected at a central depot in Newmarket and distributed to local charities with the assistance of volunteers and members of York Regional Police on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at the Newmarket Health Centre, located at 194 Eagle Street East.

P.A.C.T. (Police and Community Together) are looking for new volunteers. If you are looking to serve your community contact us at:

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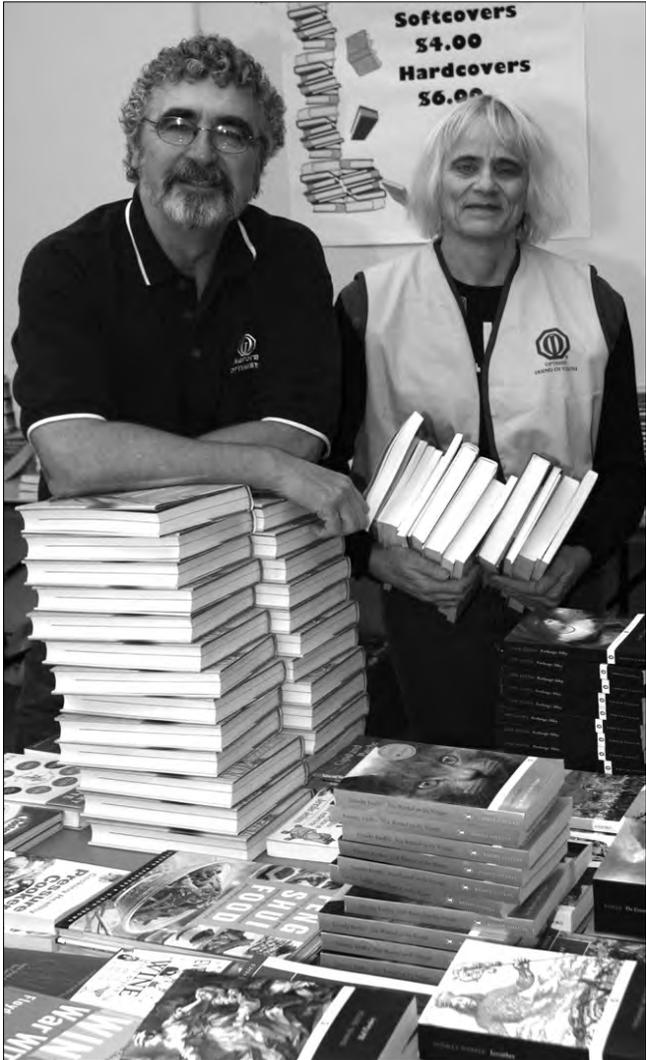
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Once again the Aurora Optimist Club held a very successful book sale at the Aurora Library. Participating in the event were Ken McIsaac and Nora MacDonald, co-chairs of the sale. Officials said Saturday's turnout was the largest in the history of the sale. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Bloomington Road needs widening

Currently Bloomington Road, the cross-street which acts as Aurora's southern

boundary, is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders and roadside ditches.

Agenda problems

Normally at a council or committee meeting the agenda is approved as presented, but not last week.

The agenda included "That council convene into a Closed Session to consider legal, personnel and labour relations matters".

Councillor Evelina MacEachern moved adoption of the agenda without the closed session, resulting in questions whether there were items on the closed session agenda that needed council's attention.

The CAO said of the five items, two were legal issues and had been withdrawn until a later date, but the other three issues were personnel issues and should be discussed.

The MacEachern motion was defeated and a motion by Councillor Grace Marsh to approve the agenda with the three items for a closed meeting carried on a 6-2 vote with Councillors MacEachern and Al Wilson in opposition.

The busy street is expected to be beyond capacity within the next 10 years, and it needs to be widened.

York Regional Transportation and Works Committee reports the widening and reconstruction of Bloomington Road will provide additional east-west capacity to improve traffic operations for the travelling public and meet the expected growth of the area.

The committee also recommends that the front portion of Aurora Vehicle Recycling Limited, also known as Carcone's Auto Recycling, be acquired for the widening.

The property has been approved with about one of the 9.94 acres being used by the owner for estate residential use and the remainder of the lands used for the auto recycling business and storefront operations.

The building improvements are not within the lands required by the region and there are no development plans pending on the property.

The total amount of compensation involved in this transaction is \$87,355 plus legal fees and these amounts have been included in the 2007 regional budget.

Lions Club comes home twice

In May, 1981, the wandering days of the Aurora Lions Club came to an end as it found a new home in the Mechanic's Hall, but for the club it was an old one.

The club owned the building at the southeast corner of Mosley and Victoria streets back in the early 1950s but sold it to the Calvary Gospel Church in 1956 and met in various halls around Aurora.

Then, in 1981, the club re-purchased the hall for \$60,000 and have held their meetings there ever since as well as renting it out to other groups and organizations.

The club had been losing members in previous years because they didn't have their own den to hold meetings and social functions and it was hoped the purchase of the hall would give the club a new look.

The hall was originally built in the late 1860s by the Mechanics Institute.

The Aurora Lions Club, meanwhile, received its charter May 8, 1944, and the first executive included Charles Spence, Bill Morris, Charlie Copland, Frank Underhill, Marshall Rank and Ernie Houghton.

The club was sponsored by the Richmond Hill Lions and it was the first service club in Aurora.

While the Aurora club did not receive its charter until 1944 it dated back to 1938 when meetings were held in the Mechanic's Hall.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of the members and it was agreed a service club was needed in Aurora.

Over the years the club has lived up to its motto "We Serve" by being active in the community providing assistance to the needy in the form of Christmas baskets, eye glasses, dental and medical care.

In May, 1969, the Lions held their 25th Anniversary as a service club in Aurora and for all of those years held their weekly dinner meetings in the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Hall.

Back in April, 1972, the Lions Club recommended an artificial ice surface be built in the Town Park with a view to enclosing it.

In their submission to council, it was proposed the area be used in the summer months for dancing, roller skating, tennis, volleyball and various other activities and in the winter for family skating, winter carnivals, hockey, etc.

It was the intention of the club to turn the facility over to the town on completion, with the provision that the club retain some jurisdiction in the

allocation of time to ensure that ample time was reserved for public and family skating.

The club planned to construct the facility in phases with the hard surface and piping installed first, then the artificial ice plant, followed by change rooms and at a later date they would enclose the facility.

Council decided to hold the submission pending a meeting with the parks and recreation committee, the Lions Club and other interesting parties.

It is not known if the meeting was ever held but the facility was never built.

In May, 1975, the club offered to contribute \$100,000 over 10 years to help develop a major recreation area and it was suggested by council that the logical site should be Sheppard's Bush.

Later council rejected Sheppard's Bush as a possible site on the basis the bush was being developed as a regional attraction, not a local recreation area.

It was also pointed out that local groups might have to get permission from the Conservation Authority to use the facilities provided by the Lions Club in their own municipality.

Council referred the Lions' offer to the parks committee to investigate sites on the east or west bank of the creek running through the former Jack Wood farm, which had been acquired by the town as an industrial park.

The facility was never developed and the creek banks are still vacant.

On returning to their original den a dinner dance was held as members, their wives and guests officially marked the re-opening of the 100-year old hall. They were back in their home after years without one.

The old building, once used as a roller rink, was completely refurbished by Lions members.

In addition to club use, it was planned to rent the two halls on both levels of the building, with a fully equipped kitchen, stage and smaller meeting rooms.

Sports-minded members of the club sponsored and worked with local teams. The club also worked on behalf of the annual Easter Seal campaign for crippled children.

The club was also a strong supporter of York County Hospital and provided bursaries to students and cooperated with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in creating a school for seeing-eye dogs.

The club assisted in the construction of the original band shell in the Town Park, the washroom and storage

facilities in Fleury Park, the original clubhouse facilities in McMahon Park, the park area adjacent to the George Street outdoor swimming pool and the parkette at Catherine Avenue and Yonge Street.

It provided almost all the furnishings and furniture for Victoria Hall.

Every May the Lions sponsored a carnival in the Town Park with rides and games for citizens of all ages.

Lions helped to raise funds by providing catering services for wedding receptions, banquets and meetings. They also sold their famous beef on a bun at the July First Celebrations and at the annual pancake breakfast during sugaring off time at Sheppard's

Bush.

In May, 1992, the club was honoured for its work with the People in Distress Network and received an Outstanding Achievement Award for a Non-Profit Group.

At Christmas the service club distributed 32 hampers filled with clothing, toys and food. Each hamper was valued at \$75.

In May, 1994, the Lions Club was awarded the Community Organization Award as part of the Civic Awards Ceremony.

The Aurora Lions, although their membership is low, are still active and continuing with their "We Serve" mandate to work on community projects and helping those in need.



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Senior Scope

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Bazaar attracts bargain hunters

The Christmas Bazaar was successful with more merchandise available than ever before and many more bargain hunters than last year enjoyed a treasure hunter's field day.

The crafts produced by the seniors have become more sophisticated and the wood working shop is contributing for the first time and made a top quality first effort.

Tables were available again for rent by private vendors and this appears to be a successful practice in building a successful and improved working model for a bazaar.

This expedient allows the ASA to offer a selection of merchandise, which would not otherwise be available, and the whole presentation was more varied, interesting and cost effective.

And a volunteer, Louise Williams, stepped forward and assumed the role of convener, to ensure the smooth running of the bazaar, and with splendid success!

The weather, which has been remarkably mild, showed us it has a mind very much its own with cooler weather and the first significant snowfall which melted away soon enough.

Nevertheless, it is past time for seniors to take care of automobile necessities and to get the automobiles winterized if that chore has not been done already.

I had planned to renew my rear tires in the near future but had put it off as something I would do when I was in the mood and had plenty of time, and for being a little tardy my left rear tire deflated on Leslie Street.

An upcoming trip which could be enormously popular as a Christmas gift is a trip Jan. 4, 2008, to the Ontario Science Centre's Titanic Exhibit.

During your trip you will visit a Special Titanic Exhibit with real artifacts from the ship, a behind the scenes Titanic tour, and lunch and tour through the Science Centre.

Registration date is Dec. 19.

Another trip with lots of appeal is Medieval Times, scheduled for January.

This trip includes show and dinner and would also appeal as a gift for Christmas. Registration date is Jan. 4.

Full details can be obtained at the front counter for all trips.

If you plan to take computer lessons in January, please sign up for them Dec. 11, in the computer room between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

This is the only available date in December to do so.

If a computer is your gift this Christmas, then lessons will probably help you.

I would like to point out that seniors learn to compute more slowly than young people and we teach and repeat the lessons as often as necessary to get the message across.

In other words, do not be deterred, if you want to learn to compute, sign up and you will probably succeed.

And for our considerable body of movie lovers, "Last Holiday" will be presented Dec. 11, and "Miracle on 34th Street" will show Dec. 18, starting at 6 p.m.

Region needs room at its headquarters

From page 1
year and an additional 15,000 to 20,000 square feet of corporate space will be required by the year 2011.

In September, 2005, regional council adopted its first Strategic Accommodation Plan which identified the Newmarket consolidation as a priority and final approval of this plan will be sought in 2008.

If approved, construction will not be completed for approximately three years, resulting in the need for interim space to accommodate growth during that period.

Property staff conduct-

ed a search in the Newmarket area for available office space and identified 11,000 square feet of vacant space in the Newmarket municipal building and a three-year agreement has been arranged between the town and the region.

Tannery Creek pollution source remains unknown

During the fall of 2003 and again in 2004 an investigation revealed sections of Tannery Creek showed significant pollution with metals and chemicals likely to harm aquatic life.

The investigation found high levels of chromium and arsenic at a spot downstream that would appear to place the source of contamination at the former Collis Leather plant on Tyler Street.

Collis Leather operated the plant from 1912 until 1988 and it was believed that cow hides had been pickled in salt and sulfuric acid and soaked in chromium salt.

Aurora Council commissioned Earth Tech Canada to carry out a more extensive investigation and in June, 2004, received a report regarding surface water and sediment contamination sampling of Tannery Creek in the vicinity of the former Collis plant.

A copy of the report was sent to the Ministry of the Environment with a request that the Ministry exercise its jurisdiction to require the existing property owner, Maple Leaf Foods, to conduct the necessary on site investigation to fully identify the scope and extent of the contamination.

Copies of the report were also forwarded to Maple Leaf Foods, Region of York Health Department, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Environment Canada and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Council also recommended that a public information session be held to inform property owners abutting Tannery Creek downstream from the contaminated area.

Later in the month, Jeffrey Miller, representing Maple Leaf Foods, appeared before council to present a technical report relating to the town's Earth Tech study and an investigation carried out by their consultant, Barenco Environmental Engineering.

The Barenco report included information about historical land uses upstream and surrounding area to determine possible historical causes for the contamination.

At a subsequent meeting Ian Kerr, representing Maple Leaf Foods, pointed out that the town's study had concentrated primarily around the former Collis Leather plant, whereas the Barenco

study pointed out that several other industries had been located along Tannery Creek which could have contributed to the contamination.

He requested that portions of a general committee report, which proposed agency action be deleted due to lack of consideration of all possible factors and insufficient study parameters.

Council directed that the Barenco report be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment with a request that the Ministry complete its investigation and advise the town of the next steps to be taken.

In July, 2004, council questioned whether any information had been received from the Ministry, Environment Canada or the Region's Public Health Department and were advised no.

In August, 2004, information was received from the Ministry advising that officials would like to meet with the town, the town's consultant and the regional Department of Public Health, which staff members were arranging.

In October, 2004, based on a recommendation of the Environment Advisory Committee, council endorsed a request that a Ministry representative provide an update.

In January, 2006, council requested the mayor to make another request to the Ministry of the Environment for information regarding the Tannery Creek contamination to allow staff to prepare a comprehensive report and hold a public information meeting.

In May that year, council received correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment in which the Ministry did not recommend removal of the contaminated sediments from the creek bed and did not see a contamination risk to local groundwater from these sediments.

The Ministry deferred tak-

ing a stand on any potential health impacts of the contaminated sediments by referring this issue to the Regional Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry review did not agree that a source of contamination had been identified as there was insufficient information available to isolate a single source of contamination and that significantly more information was required to resolve the issue of the source.

Staff members advised they were continuing to work with Ministry officials

as to the scope of additional work that might be required.

In March, 2007, in a letter to the Ministry, staff agreed that the sediment contamination was historic and at the time it could not be determined if ongoing migration was still occurring.

It was noted that to carry out further investigation it would be necessary to carry out tests on private lands and as the town's access was limited, Ministry assistance was requested.

This issue has dragged on for four years and there are still lots of questions but no answers.



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A New Year's Eve party for kids

In December, 1994, for the first time, Aurora hosted a New Year's party especially for kids.

Since midnight in Newfoundland was 90 minutes ahead of Aurora, the town's special events committee thought it would be legal to recognize the new year at 10.30 p.m. for the kids.

After the kids were put to bed, the parents could return for the second celebration of the night to welcome 1995 at the traditional midnight hour.

Included in the evening's celebrations were free skating and swimming, music and dancing, refreshments and food.

The event was named Aurora's First Night and it replaced the Levee held New Year's Day by the mayor and council, which had been started by Mayor Dick Illingworth in 1984.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs had written to all municipalities in November, 1983, suggesting municipalities hold a Levee in 1984 to celebrate Ontario's Bicentennial.

In spite of the short notice, Aurora Council decided to try it and it was held at the Leisure Complex with more than 150 citizens in attendance.

It became an annual event until it was replaced by First Night in 1994.

NOW YOU KNOW

Just in case you wondered how the Christmas cracker originated, the story goes something like this.

In the early 1800s, an English cake baker was in France on a holiday when he came across some sugared almonds wrapped in coloured paper with twisted ends with the trade name Bon Bon.

He took some back to England, wrapped love notes with the candies and his sales increased.

He then substituted a little toy or novelty for the sugared almond.

Sitting by the fire one Christmas Day he heard the fire logs crackle and the idea of a Christmas cracker with a bang was the result.

If you want to give your true love all the gifts listed in the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" be prepared to go to the bank for a loan.

Back in 1994 some mathematician figured out the price of wooing your true love with 12 drummers drumming to a partridge in a pear tree would cost \$21,845.

PRESERVING ONTARIO'S HERITAGE

In December, 1988, Ontario Minister of Culture and Communications Lily Oddie Munro wrote to Aurora to

congratulate the town for taking advantage of the Designated Property Grants Program of Preserving Ontario's Architecture.

She advised that a Designated Property Grant had been awarded to 69 Wellington Street East and noted that conserving heritage properties was a mark of good citizenship as it enriches the life of a community and helps build confidence for the future.

The Carpenter House is located at 69 Wellington Street East.

It was built in 1872 and was designated by the Aurora Heritage Committee in 1985.

It was built by William Atkinson, a carpenter and joiner.

The house is a unique example of a picturesque style in architecture and incorporates Italianate elements and Classical elements in its design and its wooden ship lap siding provides an interesting contrast to the brick facade of the surrounding properties.

ERROR OR CLOSED DOOR DECISION?

In a report to council last month Treasurer John Gutteridge referred to the Aurora Recreation Complex as the "Stronach Recreation Complex".

Councillors showed no surprise and asked no question about what appeared to be a new name.

Yet there has been no recent discussion in open council or approval for a name change.

Was it an error on the part of the Treasurer or was a decision to change the name made behind closed doors?

During the fall of 2005 in-camera (or closed-door) meetings of council were held to develop a policy for the naming rights causing a heated discussion as to whether the meetings were contrary to the Municipal Act regarding topics to be discussed at closed meetings.

By December, 2005, the question of naming rights for facilities was still undecided and staff was directed to develop a policy.

By May, 2006, the general principles of the proposed policy suggested that namesake agreements be established in a manner that was organized and consistent and safeguarded the town's assets and interests.

Also, a corporation or external organization could have their name on a facility in recognition for its financial support, where it was mutually beneficial and consistent with the policy.

At a previous meeting like a bolt out of the blue, Mayor Tim Jones announced a \$2 million donation from Frank Stronach to assist in the capital funding of the complex.

As no details of the conversation had been provided to council members or if a commitment had been given, the general committee approved a motion that the mayor report his conversations at a closed meeting of council.

That's the last time there was any discussion about naming the facility in open council, so explanation, please?

PARKING ON YONGE

Much is written from time to time about the lack of parking in the downtown area of Aurora even after a \$30,000 study indicated there was lots of both on-street and off-street parking in the area.

Several recommendations were made to improve parking in the area, but no indication of implementing them was made.

Back in March, 1970, an independent traffic engineer was engaged to carry out a traffic study and one of his major recommendations was to install parking meters on Yonge Street to eliminate the all-day parkers.

He also recommended better signage to direct motorists to municipal parking lots.

No action was taken on the parking meters as they had been removed a few years earlier and sold to Newmarket.

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Petch log cabin future in doubt

Unless council approves an estimated \$108,000 in the 2008 capital budget, the future of the Historic Petch Log House is in doubt.

The Heritage Advisory Committee recommended that the report entitled "Options for Relocation and Restoration of the Petch Log House" be received but a copy of the report was not attached to a recent committee report.

The committee also recommended the expenditure of \$108,000 for restoration as part of the 2008 capital budget, that Whitwell Developments fulfill the obligations related to its agreement with the town to permanently relocate the House to town-owned land at the southeast corner of Industrial Parkway and St. John's Sideroad.

The house was built in 1844 and is said to be the oldest in Aurora.

Based on a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee in 2003, council approved an agreement with Whitwell Developments to move the house to a temporary loca-

tion on the town-owned Leslie Street property until a permanent location could be found with the developer paying the expenses of relocation.

In 2005 the Advisory Committee received an update on the house and staff members were asked to bring forward a report outlining progress and an update on restoration.

No funds were included in the 2007 capital budget for restoration nor were any plans presented for a permanent location for the heritage home.

Councillor Evelyn Buck asked for clarification of the \$108,000 expenditure and wanted to know who would use the 800 square foot building.

She also disagreed with the proposed location and pointed out that the proposed expenditure represented a one per cent increase on the tax bill.

Staff noted that the Community Arboretum may be interested in the building if it was restored and relocated to the proposed location, but recommended that a public offering be made to community groups after restoration.

It was suggested that staffers find an interested group before the budget discussion with staff responding it would present a problem if a community group was found and council didn't approve the expenditure.

There was considerable

discussion as to the recommendation of the proposed permanent location and it was agreed to amend the report to a location to be determined on budget approval and in spite of continued opposition from Councillor Buck, the report was adopted as amended.

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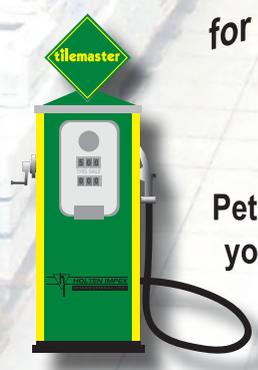


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