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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 9

905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of December 18, 2007



Children from the Foster family enjoyed their visit with Santa Claus last week as the Aurora Rotary Club held its annual Christmas dinner for children at Victoria Hall. Children are, left to right, Sarah, Alexis, and Megan, and father, Greg Foster is Rotary's president this year. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Jones is easy winner

A little weather, obviously, doesn't bother a Liberal.

Aurora, reeling under one of its worst snowstorms in recent history, was deluged Sunday afternoon to the point where stores closed and people simply stayed home.

Unless you were a Liberal and you wanted a new candidate for the next, as yet uncalled, federal election.

Then you ignored the weather, got in your car, drove to Aurora's DiNardo's Mansion and cast a vote in favour of the next Liberal candidate.

When the snow had settled, it was no contest as former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones handily won the nomination 279 to 87, defeating 24-year-old Gus Khouri from Newmarket.

Please see page 13

BRIEFLY

Auroran holidays

It doesn't happen very often, but it happens this year. Christmas and New Year's fall on a Tuesday.

No way we can deliver the paper on those days, so the next best thing is (stop applauding, staff) to shut The Auroran down for two weeks.

So, today's paper is the last of 2007 and the next one you see will come to you on or after Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

In the meantime, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2008.

Rosemary remembered

Welcome Wagon established the Rosemary Schumaker Award, following her death in 2005.

Rosemary, publisher of The Auroran, was with Welcome Wagon for more than 25 years.

The award is presented annually to an area manager who exemplifies the "Rosemary Schumaker Spirit".

The presentation, made at the annual Welcome Wagon Management Conference held in Niagara Falls this year, was made to Pat Walker, area manager for Fraser Valley and Southwestern British Columbia.

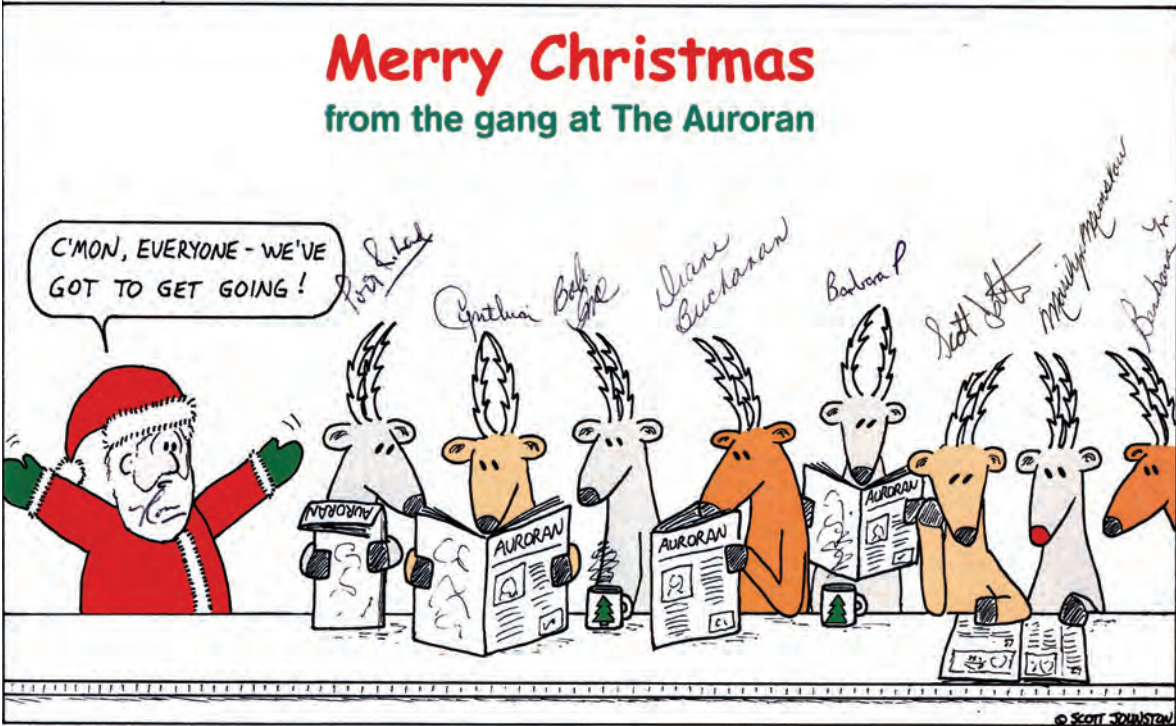
Goodbye, hair

On Thursday, Dec. 20, Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers, is going to lose his hair.

When the town's United Way payroll deduction campaign started, Rogers said if 30 employees signed up for payroll deductions he would shave off his facial and head hair.

Now that the Town has met its goal, the CAO is going bald.

The event will happen at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers.



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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.aurorafair.ca.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see page 19



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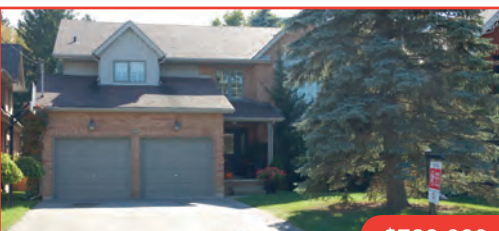
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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA

Are your year end tax planning strategies in place?

Now is the time to make all payments and donations that qualify for tax breaks or sell investments with accrued losses to offset capital gains. Taking care of this before the end of the year allows you to apply them to your 2007 tax return.

Contact us today for your free copy of **"Pay your share of taxes and not a penny more"** offering a checklist of tax strategies to consider before the end of the year.

Jennifer Christensen B.A., CFP, CDFA, TEP
Executive Financial Consultant
jennifer.christensen@investorsgroup.com
Phone: **905-726-8236**



By flying a Canadian flag, you show support for July 1 parade

Here's a chance to support Aurora by joining a growing group of people known as Hot Canadians.

With a little perseverance, you, too, can have a Canadian flag on an Aurora map, showing the world you support the return of the July First Canada Day parade.

Organized by the person who wants to see the parade returned to the list of

Aurora's July First activities, Sher St. Kitts, the event takes place at www.clickmy-community.ca.

Get to a computer and go there.

"Let's paint Aurora red and white with Canadian pride," Sher said.

There will be a Canadian flag located on a map of Aurora, showing people in town who support the project.

Just go to www.clickmy-community.ca and click the "Get Flag Now" banner.

Fill out the form and within 24 hours a flag will be raised above your house and you will be an official supporter of Canada Day Parade Revival 2008.

Then check back frequently to see the growing number of flags being raised in Aurora, and don't forget to tell your friends.

Council selects company to renovate historic school

For the past few years there has been considerable discussion at council and in committees about the cost of renovations to the Church Street School for its conversion to the Aurora Heritage Centre.

In September, 2006, then Councillor Ron Wallace, representing council on the Aurora Historical Society, stressed the need for action as there was an urgent need for a decision and the cost to complete the restoration was increasing due to council's delay.

Council approved the renovations in the 2007 capital budget at a cost of \$2,530,000 based on a consultant's estimate.

A total of 29 firms picked up tender documents and attended the mandatory site visit in September.

The tender closed in November with a total of seven bids.

Two were non-compliant.

Lawyer leaving

In a surprise announcement at the end of Tuesday's council meeting, Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers announced that town solicitor Shelley Pohiola was leaving Aurora after six years of service.

She has accepted a position in the Town of Whitby.

He explained that she would be establishing a new legal department at Whitby and in addition, it was much closer to her home.

The solicitor is the third senior staff member to leave during the year with the departure of Public Works Director Wayne Jackson who accepted a position with the City of Peterborough and Planning Director Sue Seibert, who is retiring.

Council has engaged a recruiting firm to search for candidates for the Public Works and Planning positions.

After reviewing the bids, the evaluation committee recommended the contract be awarded to Rutherford Construction, the lowest compliant bid at \$2,184,408,

It was pointed out that the firm has had considerable experience with large scale institutional and heritage projects including the Aurora Seniors' Centre, Lester B. Pearson Public School, Bayview Hill Elementary School and the train station in Aurora.

In addition to the base contract, the firms were asked to submit prices for alternative items including a new heating and air conditioning system, improved lighting, new windows and additional millwork at a cost of \$889,900 and staff included the alternatives in the Cultural Spaces Canada grant application.

Councillor Wendy

Gaertner said she couldn't support the recommendation to award the contract to Rutherford Construction as she wanted a firm with more experience.

A letter from a firm of architects stated that the references submitted by Rutherford Construction were for projects of a similar nature.

Town staff members said Church Street School was a renovation, not a restoration and the evaluating committee were happy with the company's experience in Aurora and other areas, but Councillor Gaertner was not convinced, saying she didn't feel comfortable with the contract award.

However, other members of council didn't feel the same way and the staff report and recommendation were adopted as presented.



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Poor Richard

I'll be home for Christmas

*I'll be home for Christmas,
The words ring a happy note;
Of families and friends together,
Not sitting alone on a boat.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Christmas is a time for families.

As children grow up and move away from home to start families of their own, every effort is usually made to get home for Christmas.

Unfortunately several members of our Armed Forces will be unable to get home for Christmas as they serve in Afghanistan and other foreign lands and although everything possible will be done for them, they are still alone in a foreign land and away from family and friends.

Most ex-servicemen will recall how they spent their first Christmas away from home as the memory of it stays with them.

The worst Christmas that I can recall was in 1943.

The dark clouds of war hung over England and the free world.

The Battle of the Atlantic was still at its peak and there was an urgent need for aircraft and supplies of all types.

After completing my navigation training at Malton, I was assigned to 45 Group of the RAF Ferry Command, based at Dorval, Quebec, the jumping-off base for most trans-Atlantic flights.

I didn't have long to wait for my first assignment, as due to the illness of another navigator, I was crewed up with Captain Mark Rusiecki of the Polish Air Force to fly Mitchell FR198 to Scotland.

We took off from Dorval in the early hours of Dec. 4 for Goose Bay, Labrador.

While I had carried out a "dry run" of a simulated trip across the Atlantic no one told me where Goose Bay was.

More by good luck than good navigation we found it after being in the air for 4 hours and 40 minutes, but it wasn't until Dec. 15 that we took off for Greenland, due to poor weather and an unsuccessful 90-minute search for a missing aircraft in the Melee Mountains just east of Goose Bay.

When the weather cleared, we got away for the next leg of the trip to the American base in Greenland which took 4 hours and 45 minutes.

The single landing strip was 50 miles up a narrow fjord.

It was necessary to make contact with an island at the entry to the fjord with the call sign "Blondie" to make sure there wasn't another aircraft in the fjord.

The call sign of the airstrip was "Dagwood".

The next day we took off for another American base in Iceland but after two hours and 15 minutes in the air we were recalled to Greenland due to poor weather in Iceland.

On Dec. 18 we made the five-hour flight to Iceland and on Dec. 20 completed the final leg to Prestwick, Scotland, in 4 hours and 30 minutes for a total of 26 hours and 40 minutes in the air.

We had barely landed in Scotland when we were hustled onto buses for a trip to Greenock, outside Glasgow, to board the Acquitania for a voyage to New York.

Mark, my pilot, had married a Scottish lass and he and his Polish radio operator were able to arrange leave and enjoy Christmas in Scotland.

That left me alone to spend Christmas somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean.

The ship's crew did everything possible to make us comfortable and even served a turkey dinner on Christmas Day but it was a lonely day as pretty well everyone was lost in their own thoughts.

As troop ships were dry, there was nothing to bring people together.

We docked late Dec. 30 and thought we might be able to enjoy New Year's Eve in New York, but that was not to be.

A special train was waiting at dockside and we were loaded on for the overnight trip to Montreal.

As I had a few days between deliveries, I was able to catch the night train to Toronto and spent New Year's Eve on the train.

As you sit down to your Christmas dinner in the warmth of your home with family, think of the soldiers in foreign lands.



This is a photo of the members of the Aurora Police Department, taken in 1969, shortly before the formation of the York Regional Police which took place in January, 1971. This photo, courtesy of Don Lewis, Sr., appeared in a book called "The History of Policing in York Region", and was published by the York Region Police in 1991. Aurora's police chief at the time was William Langman.

Letter to the Editor

Aurora: wonderful place to live

To the editor,

Joy to the World and especially in the Town of Aurora...

'Tis the season to be jolly! so let's do it.

If the worst thing we can whine about is a missed item on our agendas, some small inconvenience, or the fact that we didn't get everything done that we wished we could have; or no one listened to our great idea when we wanted....then we definitely are the lucky ones!

Look around, Aurora, remember how other people in our world live.

Let's choose a positive focus. Let's focus on the good news - remember the good things and feel the warmth and joy such reminiscing can bring us all.

Let's share our joy!

I'm a Snowballian who looks over and sees a little Town overflowing with dreams fulfilled and goals achieved!

So much so, many of us don't even realize there are those in need living in Aurora.

We forget.

It's like when you had an ache and it stops. You forget about it.

But there are so many in Aurora who never forget and help the rest of us do the right things for our souls, especially at Christmas and I wish to thank them. Those who are always helping. I'm asking us all to remember and realize we can rejoice and celebrate our great luck and beautifully charmed lives!

We are a blessed community that cares and nurtures one another.

I see this first hand

daily as calls come in from Aurorans wishing to volunteer their precious time to help the Aurora Christmas Dream on Christmas Day... its truly amazing.

We have more than enough volunteers - thank you, Aurora!

We're still raising funds to continue to feed those in need over the Holiday Season and your support is greatly appreciated as it will be given to those who are always helping!

What a great Town to live in - indeed the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is one of the most active in all Canada.

Chamber members support one another working together to create a warm heartbeat, a pulse and flurry of activity supporting The Aurora Food Bank, Welcoming Arms, the York Region's Women's Centre, the Yellow Brick House and so many other outreach organizations.

The town newspaper, The Auroran, remains the 'most' read news in Aurora, because Aurorans appreciate their own town based news.

Community backbone organizations like The Rotary Club, the Lions and Optimists Clubs are constantly busy doing things to help those in need in this wonderful town.

On top of this there are also many Aurorans who are out there helping out - who don't wish to be named and just do it because they truly care!

This is a special place to live and Aurorans are very lucky.

The town is growing by leaps and bounds and so there are and will contin-

ue to be a few popped buttons, torn seams and bumps along the way as Aurora and its people expand their capacities to care for so many new people and situations.

We can choose to embrace the thrill of growth and change rather than harbouring fear of some perceived failure... or a fall!

You know perception is an individual truth and we all need to be reminded of that from time to time.

Think of all the great things gained by choosing a positive tack.

Aurorans share news, problems and best of all solutions with one another. Aurora is a solutions

based community of people willing to find the best ways to improve situations.

Honest debate and idea sharing help bring understanding and new future plans towards an even brighter Aurora.

All I'm saying is - for now - Aurora, it is Christmas and the Holiday Season.

I'm writing the editor to ask him to remind us all to deck our lives with Boughs of Jolly!

Because we can!

Merry Christmas and Thank You, Aurora Sher St. Kitts Aurora Dream Team

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

In Aurora we have, if memory serves correctly, the annual candlelight tour of fine homes as well as an annual summer tour of home back yard gardens.

Although I have not been on any of these excursions, I have heard they are very interesting and I do hope to attend in 2008.

So my plan was, this Christmas season - and so as to temporarily forget about the goings on at Town Council, all the talk of ward systems, term limits, and extra seats on York Region Council - that, through this column, I was to add my own kind of Christmas tour for interested Aurora residents.

I was going to rather modestly call this sightseeing expedition the "Stephen Somerville Fantastically Grand Tour of Aurora Home Christmas Lights" or "SSFGTAHCL" for short.

Unlike the other tours, this one would not cost you anything. Mind you, donations would be (and always are) welcome to the "Please Give Somerville a new 2008 350 HP Corvette Fund".

But the focus of this intended column has changed a few times over the past week.

First I was going to offer the readers a guided tour of Christmas lights throughout Aurora, then I decided to pick out just a few streets from each quadrant of the Town, but now this column has evolved to just picking out, not the best light displays, as there are too many to choose from, but what I find interesting, or out of the ordinary.

It didn't have to be the best, the most expensive or the most ostentatious display of electrical creativity known to man; it simply had to catch my eye.

I went out this week on a night when the Leafs were playing Tampa Bay. I wanted to limit myself to basically driving throughout town for about 90 minutes or so.

I believe one should undertake such a tour to reduce the stress of figuring out how to pay off that second mortgage known as little Johnny's Christmas gifts.

I kindly suggest doing this tour just after 8 pm - when it is dark but not too late that people will have turned off their lights, or worse, the police may think you are casing people's homes.

Make sure to stop by your favourite coffee shop before you proceed.

Bring the kiddies along as well.

Then turn on some Christmas music in the car and settle in for your drive through the Aurora streets.

If you don't mind the stress, do like I do, and take the tour while listening to the Leafs game on the radio. At least no one can hear the curses at your heroes' missed opportunities!

Here are some things that caught my eye on the tour, but it is not a Top 10 list by any means.

At the northeast corner of St. Johns Sideroad and Bathurst Street, the backyard of this home has a beautiful set of lights on the trees.

In the small Brentwood subdivision just north of St. John's Sideroad and near Bathurst Street, a number of houses on Joseph Tuck Court, just off Woodlands Hills Blvd. are very well done, with the lights on one home in particular standing out.

Just south of St. John's Sideroad, near Bathurst, on Lenarthur Court, is one house in particular, with a snowman

and Santa and his sled.

On Willow Farm Lane you will find a large Christmas tree decked out very nicely, and my favourite lighted tree - done in blue and white lights - is just down the street, near Hodgkinson Cres.

At the corner of Kennedy Street West and Corner Ridge Road, sits a massive tree done in Royal Blue lights - quite spectacular.

Near Davidson Road on Murray Drive you will find a home with lights, a snowman, and Santa with his sled.

On the east side of Yonge, east of Cameron Avenue, a home on Royal Road has a small lights display, but the use of the coloured spotlights creates a pleasant mood.

Near Walton, on Cedar Cres., a truly massive Christmas tree is done up with all kinds of different lights.

Finally, on Oak Court, off Mark Street, sits a dwelling with lots of different coloured lights on the house, trees and bushes.

I apologize for not visiting all parts of Aurora, but while I was driving around and listening to the Leafs game, the announcer stated that Nik Andropov actually threw a crunching body check on a Tampa player.

I was so excited and skeptical of this that I had to race home to check it out on my television set!

My apologies if I missed those of you who have laboured over your lights and spent countless dollars and hours chasing perfection.

Cheers.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

The night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas...

Santa-Mommy was getting tired.

There were bags and bags of Christmas loot to unload into the stockings she'd hung by the chimney with care...and she still had to peel the price tags off.

There were boxes and boxes to tuck under the tree, but a few of them still needed to be wrapped.

Everybody knows that Santa doesn't "buy" gift wrap! The elves make it, silly!

That means Santa-Mommy had been running all around Aurora (and surrounding vicinity) for weeks looking for plain red wrapping paper and wondering: why do gift wrap manufacturers not know this?

There was so much work to be done, but Santa-Mommy couldn't do any of it - yet.

The children had already put out milk and cookies for Santa, but they were too wired to be nestled all snug in their beds...much less have visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads!

Santa-Mommy's super-ears were well trained to pick up tiptoe sounds and whispers, and she could hear them all right!

She had to be very, very quiet and wait...and try not to fall asleep.

Finally, not a creature was stirring - not even Santa-Daddy! He was blissfully asleep on the couch. She shook

him awake.

"Come on," she whispered. "Let's do it!"

Santa-Daddy's eyes popped open.

"What time is it?"

"Just after one."

Santa-Daddy yawned. "I vote we let Santa Claus do it this year," he said rolling over.

"That would be nice," said Santa-Mommy. "Except we ARE Santa Claus, so get up and put this on!"

Santa-Daddy stared at the Santa cap he had just been handed and when he tried to shove it under a couch pillow, Santa-Mommy grabbed it and jammed it onto his head - tight!

Santa-Mommy led a groggy Santa-Daddy in a red furry headlock down into the basement to exhume the buried treasure.

There were Ninja Turtles, comic books, Play Doh, mitty-clips, and a book on how to draw Superheroes to stuff into the good little boy's stocking. They didn't fit.

Then there were Barbie Dolls, flavoured Lip Smackers, hair clips, little toy puppies and little toy kittens to stuff into the stockings belonging to the two good little girls. They didn't fit either.

Santa-Mommy magically produced a package of red plastic bags and tied one to each of the stockings with a red pipe cleaner. Of course the stocking hangers couldn't take

the weight...

Yup, they came crashing down off the mantle!

Santa-Mommy suspected it was the king size Toblerone bars, but it could have been the gallon jars of gumballs.

In any event, there arose such a clatter that the children sprang from their beds to see what was the matter!

Busted...

"Mommy, Daddy!" shouted three excited children - one girl wearing Snowflake pajamas, the other wearing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer pajamas and the boy wearing Frosty the Snowman pajamas.

"Did Santa already come?"

Santa-Daddy stared like a reindeer caught in headlights.

"Well, it looks like he did!" said Santa-Mommy.

Her heart pounded as she hid the package of red plastic bags behind her back...and hoped they wouldn't notice the economy pack of red pipe cleaners on the coffee table...

"Mommy," asked the good little boy. "Why aren't you and Daddy wearing your Santa pajamas?"

Yup, Santa came a little early. 'Twas only 4 in the morning!

Happy Christmas to all of Aurora's Santa-Mommies and Santa-Daddies, and to all a Good Night!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
ccaaurora@rogers.com

Bouquets &

BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Santa's elves who reminded Poor Richard that this was the period of the year to forget past differences and say nice things about all people and issues, so it's all **BOUQUETS** this time.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Council for adopting a general committee report at a recent council meeting without lifting a single item for further discussion, which was rare since items are lifted even though a full discussion and vote took place at the committee level.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Council for including on their agenda a one-line explanation of the items to be discussed at a closed meeting of council.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Dierdre Tomlinson for her positive letter in The Auroran about how lucky the people are who live in this part of the world compared with other areas.

BOUQUETS to the members of the Aurora Community Arboretum on receiving the Environmental Giant Award at the recent Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority awards ceremony. It was well deserved.

BOUQUETS to Janet Stacey of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association for presenting a cheque from the Toronto Marlies Community Fundraising Practice to the Aurora Food Pantry.

BOUQUETS to Frank Condlin, Amanda Newman and Rebecca Carmino who tied for first place in the Great Blue Box Guessing Game sponsored by the Environmental Advisory Committee recently and received their prizes from committee member Catherine Marshal.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Council if they will arrange a public meeting to discuss whether a ward system should be considered for Aurora, bearing in mind that many homeowners in the east end of the municipality have not yet moved in.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Pathfinders Novice team as they went undefeated to win their second consecutive tourney as the girls outscored their opposition 19-0 to win the 16th annual Sharkfest Tournament in Barrie.

BOUQUETS to Sheila Ghazarian who teaches the Aurora Seniors' Beginners Art Group on having two of her etchings accepted in the prestigious Varley Gallery Exhibition which runs until January 13.

BOUQUETS to the organizers and all the participants in Aurora's Santa Claus Parade for bringing so much happiness to the thousands of children of all ages who lined the route to greet Santa Claus recently.

BOUQUETS to all the letter writers to The Auroran as they provide a true cross-section of public opinion and if politicians at all levels would read the letters they wouldn't need to hire consultants or pollsters.

BOUQUETS to Theatre Aurora for inviting Aurora's senior citizens to attend the final dress rehearsal of their productions at no cost to the seniors.

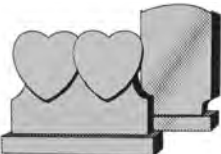
BOUQUETS to Tom Williams who wrote to The Auroran to advise that he is alive and well in Laguna Beach, California, after he learned of an article in The Auroran about his innovative Pals Restaurant, which he operated until it became a Shoeless Joes and Tom disappeared.

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Letters to the Editor

This reader says unnecessary spending totalled \$3.5 million

To the editor,

The following is a general estimate of unnecessary spending by council during 2007.

\$56,000 - councillors' room in the Town Hall. The first item on the agenda of the new council.

\$70,000 - seniors' building outside stairs and direction sign.

\$50,000 - trees for arboretum. The provincial government will supply trees.

\$6,000 - donation to hockey tournament.

\$2,500,000 - renovation of Church Street School the historical society dumped on the town, who bit for a Heritage Culture Centre.

\$134,000 - Overrun on traffic calming project in heritage Aurora. Council voted against the project because of the cost of \$214,000. The original estimate was

Aurora a nicer community than newspaper suggests

To the editor,

My wife and I lived in King for a number of years before moving recently to Aurora.

While we enjoyed the countryside, the wildlife and the neighbours in King, we were not close to all the amenities available in a larger community.

There was a lot of driving involved to acquire most of the necessities.

We moved to Aurora where the amenities were a lot closer.

We were also introduced to The Auroran newspaper.

But, reading all the grumbling about the Town Council, the Mayor, closed sessions, and traffic calming therein, one could almost conclude that Aurora is not a very nice place to live.

However, our experiences have been exactly the opposite.

In our dealings with the var-

\$80,000. The council changed its mind after a group demanded the project be completed.

\$3,500 - tickets to attend the Aurora Chamber of Commerce business gala.

\$6,000 - local home owners demanded vines and trees on road fence on Vandorf Sideroad after the road was complete.

\$72,000 - Knowles Crescent demand by a few home owners before the project was finished. Council bypassed the town engineers and hired a consultant at about \$11,000 to do the four or five home owners' bidding. The contractor of the project was sent home.

\$600,000 - artificial turf for soccer field with a 35 year payout in savings, justified by savings of not buying land for more soccer fields. If current players not living in Aurora were not allowed to play

ious enterprises here we have invariably been treated in a pleasant, courteous and professional manner, whether it's a dentist, a flower shop or the local barber.

One example. In the Wellington Mall there is pharmacy run by two gentlemen who really know their business and who continually provide excellent service. For instance, I had a heart bypass at Southlake last year and was released on a Sunday with a considerable list of prescriptions which needed to be filled.

This pharmacy is normally closed on Sunday but, when I was released, the two of them opened the store, filled the prescriptions and delivered them to my house the same day.

That's service!
We are both very happy to be here.

Les Gray
Aurora

there would be no problem in available playing fields. Also, the St. Andrew's playing fields were not available in 2007.

\$900 - for promotions at the Farmers' Market. What a waste. If the farmers want to promote their wares, they can do so without taxpayer dollars.

\$30,000 - a consultant to check parking spots in downtown Aurora.

If my addition is correct, the total is \$3,539,400 to do projects for special interest groups.

Hopefully, the 2008 budg-

et will be balanced.

As stated by a councillor, \$200,000 was one per cent of the 2007 budget, so these items were 17.68 per cent of the budget.

It also means without nice-to-do projects, the budget would have been balanced.

Regardless of where the cash came from, development funds, money from the sale of Aurora Hydro, or taxpayers, the budget would have been balanced.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora



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Hockey practising students concern teacher

To the editor,

At 11 a.m., a slightly disheveled but exuberant child enters his classroom. "I've been playing hockey since 4 a.m. this morning!" he beams. "Really," I retort, trying my best not to sound judgmental. After all, it's not completely his choice nor is it at all unusual that this happens in our classrooms on a regular basis. Rep hockey in Aurora is a coveted and glorious privilege for any young boy. Still, I can't help feel irked by the dynamic at play here. At 1 p.m., a completely exhausted child is a shadow of his former alert self, barely functioning in the classroom.

He's done. As I've seen countless times in the last three years, and will inevitably see again, his academic learning has been sacrificed for the day. It's difficult to repress the "See?!?" that my teaching voice wants to shriek out. I remind myself that sports are part of a well-rounded education. That sport brings a unique level of team building, sportsmanship, social development and sense of community. But scheduling hockey games or tournaments during school hours?

I can't help wonder why hockey is trumping school? What kind of message are we sending our children? Four o'clock games in another town will take a child out of school at 2 p.m. "It's just a Friday afternoon," a parent once quipped. Would sneaking off work to play golf every other week, be bragged about to an employer? Would a few missed appointments because you went to play slow-pitch instead, be as acceptable? We have impressionable children. As a billet for a Jr. A.

hockey player, I notice that encouragement in academic pursuits is high on the list of goals. There aren't any games played during weekdays. Period. Our novice rep teams are practicing almost as much as our Jr. A. players do. I've heard arguments and grumbings about the impossible task of getting ice-times for those even younger aspiring NHLers. However, do they really - really - need to practice as much as they do? Does an eight-year-old seriously need ice-time seven out of ten days? Is traveling to umpteen tournaments an integral part of his social and athletic development? The expectations are fierce and I wonder how much of it is truly for the child. I hear the sighs of exasperation coming from parents insisting that it isn't within their control, agreeing emphatically that it is too much. Some even admit regret of their choice to involve their child in such a highly competitive level of sport. "But he's good," they'll sheepishly add to assuage any guilt they have for having betrayed

their rep community. I have no doubt. And I can absolutely, without hesitation, applaud parents who support their child's strengths. You are your child's greatest advocate - academically and athletically. Striking a balance is a responsibility that rests on the parental community. Sacrificing academics for a 7 a.m. Friday game in Georgina or 4 o'clock

Thursday game in Owen Sound is something that parents deem acceptable - or not. I suppose, as a teacher, I wonder how there isn't enough time in the week to keep both balanced. When there are dark circles under little eyes, and exhausted children, the balance is in question.

**Anonymous
Aurora**

Waste of money

To the editor,

I was working out of town most of the summer and when I returned this fall, I discovered my part of town had been over run with speed humps and chicanes. Yes, I live in the northeast part of town near Walton and Mark Street. Now I'm reading that

Murray Drive near the high school could be the next area to be targeted. These things are a waste of taxpayers' money and a plain nuisance. Can someone explain to me why, if we want the speed of the traffic to slow to 30 km/hr, we can't just change the speed limit signs and let the police do their job?

I'd rather see that tax money used to hire an extra police officer, than used to build a speed hump or chicane. A police officer might even catch the kid bringing a handgun to school or bullying another kid! I know a chicane can't do that!

**B. Knox
Aurora**

Plows anger resident

This letter was sent to Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris and a copy was sent to The Auran:

I am writing to you because your staff can't seem to understand what I'm telling them. Recently, clearing of the snow from both the road and sidewalk left three high piles of snow blocking my driveway. This happened after I had left for work in Toronto. By the time I returned home that evening, freezing rain and some snow during the day left these high ridges completely frozen, and I was unable to clear anything. I barely made it into my driveway and almost got stuck again the following morning, when I had to leave at 6 a.m. Since the mess had been left by snowplows, I called the Town and explained the problem, and asked that they please clear away the piles. I also made it clear that I

had almost gotten stuck in the sidewalk because of the three ridges, and that I wasn't going to take another chance. I told them I would park on the street until it was cleared. I came home later to find a voice-mail message indicating that I received no less snow than anyone else and that nothing would be done. That had nothing to do with it. I cleared my snow earlier, but the snowplows created the problem. Because of my predicament, I parked on the road, as I had nowhere else to leave my car. I was subsequently ticketed. Last year, I experienced similar problems with snowplows leaving huge hills in front of the driveway, after I had already spent over an hour shovelling. I then had to start again. At that time, I called the Town and was told that the plows clean between the

driveways and don't leave a lot of snow. This is obviously not true. The property taxes here in Aurora are higher than many homes in Toronto, and I don't believe residents should have to clean up after the plows. I have a bad back and have been experiencing great pain in my collarbone/upper arm. I would like to think I can grow old in this town and not have to worry about crippling myself as a result of incidents similar to what I'm experiencing now. I would appreciate hearing your response as soon as possible. I'm assuming this problem will continue unless it is resolved in council. On behalf of the many homeowners who are likewise fed up with the situation, I thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Gitta Berg
Aurora**

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Aurora Council thanked for support of Williams

It doesn't happen very often but it happened Tuesday at the council meeting when a resident publicly thanked members for their support in saving the Dr. G. Williams Secondary School from being moved from Dunning Avenue.

Dan Remington had previously appeared before council on behalf

of 125 households to solicit council's support to save Williams, which the board of education was considering moving to a site on Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington Street.

He said many residents had worked hard along with the parent councils of Aurora's elementary schools, fighting to keep Williams on Dunning

Avenue, where it has been for about 50 years.

He added that much of the credit was due to the support of council and he just wanted to express his appreciation and that of the 125 households that he represented.

Shocked councillors expressed their appreciation noting they don't often receive thanks.



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THE AURORAN

SPORTS

Page 12

Week of December 18, 2007

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Tigers win two games, cancel one

With the Collingwood Blues scheduled to arrive here Sunday afternoon, and with a predicted snowstorm beating them, the match against the Aurora Tigers became one of 10 Provincial Junior A hockey games cancelled because of bad weather.

No matter. Aurora already had four points in its pocket and a by-themselves hold on third place in the standings.

They got to that position courtesy of a 4-3 victory over the Orillia Terriers at the Community Centre Friday night, and secured it with a 5-3 out-of-town win Saturday against the last place Villanova Knights.

Friday, the Tigers came out strong, led 2-0 after the first period and increased that to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

They then withheld a late-game resurgence to secure the slim win.

Forward Mike McLaughlin led the way for the winners with two goals while Paul Dupont and Jordan Smith added singles.

Aaron Barton stopped 26 of 29 shots to record his 11th win of the season.

That victory moved Aurora into sole possession of third place in the league's North Division.

Saturday afternoon the Tigers kept pace to make their hopes of a continued rise in the standings a reality when they visited the last place Villanova Knights.

Single goals from Jordan Smith, David Morley Jeff Harbach, Matt Thomson and Jeff Vanderlugh allowed the Tigers to beat the Knights

by a score of 5-3.

Matt Beirnes got the call in net for the Tabbies, picking up his eighth win of the season.

With the win Saturday and a loss by Orilla that same night, the Tigers put an additional two points between themselves and the Terriers further securing their hold on third place in the North Division standings.

The current six game winning streak by the Tigers has put them in an excellent position going into the Christmas break.

With a game in hand each on second place Newmarket and first place Huntsville, the Tigers look to close the gap going into the final weekend before Christmas.

And for those who were looking for last year's Tigers at last Friday's game, it really is sched-

uled for this Friday at 7.30 p.m.

At that time, the team from last year will be honoured for their capturing of the Royal Bank Cup, making them Canadian champions.

Banners will be raised to mark the event.

Following that, the Villanova Knights return to the community centre for a rematch of Saturday's game.

Assuming it doesn't

snow.

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Aurora's Novice AA Tigers win another two contests

Aurora's Novice AA Tigers added two more victories to their impressive season last week with a 5-1 win over the Georgina Blades and a 2-1 squeaker over the Richmond Hill Stars.

Morgan Frost was again the leader in both games, scoring twice in the first contest, and adding the winning goal in the second.

And that goal came while Aurora was short-handed.

In the Georgina contest, Tigers open the scoring early in the first period when Jack Liotta spotted an open Brady Futterer who made no mistake putting the puck in the net.

Halfway through the game, the score remained unchanged until Anthony Issaris moved the puck and found Alexander Simardone.

Simardone crossed the Blades blue line and opened a spot for Frost, who scored his first of two.

Blades brought the score back within reach early into the third period.

But the Tigers showed why they are vying for top spot in the loop.

Fewer than 30 seconds later Simardone picked up a loose puck in the Tigers end and moved it into the neutral zone passing to Andrew Sergejewich.

Sergejewich then hit a hard charging Frost who scored Aurora's third goal.

Josh Brecht and Philip Wolanski scored to put the game out of reach.

Wolanski's marker came with only five seconds remaining on the clock.

Playing goal, both Brady Sarazin and Robert Stewart made several huge saves while the score was tight to keep their team ahead.

The Tigers, in their first three meetings this season, have handled the Richmond Hill club easily and the team was hoping for a similar fate this week.

It was a little tighter than they expected.

The first period saw nei-

ther team score as the much improved Stars fought hard.

Early into the second period the Stars took the lead but the Tigers never let up. Forty seconds after falling behind, Dimitri Mikrogriannakis carried the puck through the centre ice area and found Liotta in the Stars end. He passed the puck to Futterer who put Aurora on the scoreboard.

To that point and for the balance of the game, goal-tenders Stewart and Sarazin kept their team mates in the game.

Finding themselves in a tight game, the Tigers were trying to kill off a penalty when Simardone broke out of the Tigers end and executed a well played two on one with Frost who took the pass and scored the short-handed, winning goal.



Members of the Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE team went on a shopping spree last week at Aurora's No Frills store to buy food for the Aurora Food Pantry. Participating in the event were, left to right, Louie Kirkos, Christian Arcuri, Adam Caicco, and Connor Downs. Aurora also got help from other teams in the league including Markham, East Gwillimbury, Georgina and Richmond Hill. In addition to the shopping trip, No Frills also donated 144 cans and 38 bags of pasta. The club collected 469 cans at home games and \$168 in cash, which they used to purchase another 155 items, meaning next week, the team will deliver 806 items to the food pantry.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Jones wins nomination

From page 1

He will carry the Liberal colours for the Newmarket-Aurora riding when the election is called.

Nearly 400 people voted at the nomination meeting, but there were lots more than that in attendance.

There were no spoiled ballots.

For the young Gus Khouri, it might be guessed the Liberals have not heard the end of this person.

"It's been a privilege and an honour to run in this riding," he told The Auroran. "Personally, this is just the beginning."

And the person who had served four terms as Mayor of



TIM JONES

Aurora, and several years prior to that as a councillor,

Tim Jones was amazed at the result.

"I'm overwhelmed with the support, especially in this weather," he said. "I'm looking forward to the next stage."

And at this moment, no one knows when the next stage will come about, but candidates are already waiting the call of the next election.

Most parties, with the exception of the New Democrats, have candidates ready to run in this riding in the next federal election, which might be called in the spring.

Jones replaces Belinda Stronach, the controversial candidate who started out winning a seat for the Progressive Conservatives, then crossed the floor to become a Liberal.

She battled, and won, two election campaigns, then elected not to seek re-election in a third go-round.

Publicly, she threw her support to Jones.

Monday Night Hockey League Standings						
TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	8	3	1	55	30	17
Rec Cycle N' Sports	5	3	4	54	47	14
Highland Chev-Cad	5	3	4	50	46	14
FPL Aggregates	5	4	3	46	44	13
Tom & Jerry's	4	4	4	41	44	12
Masterclean Contracting	3	6	3	46	58	9
Law Insurance Brokers	3	6	3	35	47	9
Baldwin's	3	7	2	41	47	8
WEEKLY SCORES						
Rec Sports	5		FPL Aggregates	5		
Priestly Demolition	5		Law Insurance	1		
Highland Chev	3		Tom & Jerry's	1		
Masterclean	3		Baldwin's	1		

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Aurora Skating Club results

The following members of the Aurora Skating Club successfully completed tests recently at the High Test Day held by the Bradford Skating Club.

Junior Silver Dance

Keats Foxtrot - Shauna O'Connor, Carly Steiner.
Harris Tango - Samantha Duncan, Hailey McGrath.

Senior Silver Dance

Starlight Waltz - Amber Cioffe.

Kilian - Jeannine Brunton.

Gold Dance

Viennese Waltz - Hailey Riggs, Tayler Sim.

Quickstep - Allie Sutton.

Argentine Tango - Jordana Goldman.

Skills

Senior Silver - Jacqueline Relke.

Meanwhile, 14 members of the Aurora Skating club competed in the "Lindsay Skate 2007" Competition at the Lindsay Recreation Complex Dec. 8 and 9.

Results were as follows:

Pre-Preliminary Ladies B

Flight 6 - Courtney McGrath, 1st.
Flight 7 - Alexandra Johnston, 2nd.
Flight 8 - Julia Steiner, 2nd.
Flight 10 - Nicole Marino, 4th.

Preliminary Ladies B

Flight 1 - Kailee O'Connor, 1st.
Flight 2 - Shannon Lacombe, 6th.
Flight 3 - Samantha Duncan, 5th.
Flight 4 - Carley Steiner, 2nd;

Marilena Perri, 4th.

Flight 5 - Savannah Hendy, 6th.

Preliminary Ladies C

Flight 3 - Hailey McGrath, 7th.

Junior Bronze

Ladies Freeskate

Flight 3 - Katie Sutton, 2nd.

Flight 6 - Jihyun Cha, 4th.

Ladies Gold Interpretive

Flight 1 - Allie Sutton, 3rd.



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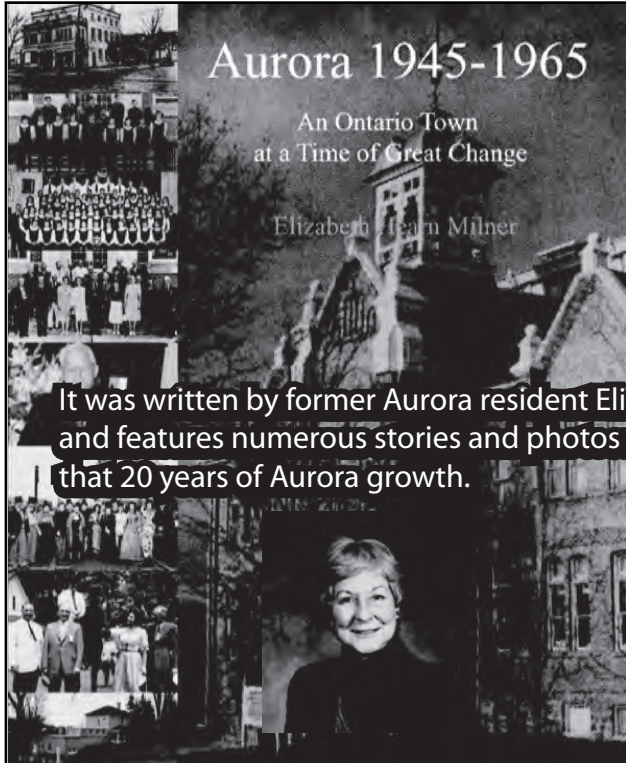
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Damir, Tanya, Heather & Cathy
Wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season



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It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner
and features numerous stories and photos relating to
that 20 years of Aurora growth.

New book!!

Fifteen copies of a new book on Aurora are expected to arrive at R & R Revisited this week.
Seven have already been sold.

A great last minute Christmas idea!!

If they sell out - and they likely will - we'll issue a gift certificate
for the book. Another shipment is expected in January.

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905-727-3300



Tyrke

105 Tim Hortons Avalanche 3 - Jack Snedden
1G 1A, Christian Ridd 1G, Braeden Joynt 1G. **104 Tim Hortons Penguins 2** - Nicholas Rountes 2G, Jack Davies 1A.

107 Tim Hortons Sharks 4 - Anthony Magnate
3G, Ethan Cohen 1G, Branden Reid 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Leafs 3** - Trevor Smith 1G, Vincenzo Rotondi 1G 1A, Quinn Bruckner 1G, Chris Sands 1A, Peter Leontis 1A, Louis Woods 1A.

108 Tim Hortons Wild 4 - Jaedon Jackson 1G, Callum Gorrell 1G, Ryan Jamieson 1G, Christopher Foschia 1G, Brett Walsh 1A. **101 Tim Hortons Flames 2** - Wayne Freeman 1G, Parker Lantz 1G.

106 Tim Hortons Bruins 3 - Nicholas Robinson 1G, Lucas Surace 1G, Tristan Hicks 1G, Ben Spittle 2A, Jacob Cowl 1A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators 1** - Ben Liotta 1G, Cameron Harbaruk 1A.

Novice

201 Penguins 5 - Joshua Fallavollita 2G 1A, Cameron Dyer 1G, Jacob Leblanc 1G, Andrew Sutherland 1G, Tyler McKechnie 1A, David McGee 1A. **202 Leafs 1** - Dan Atasiei 1G, Chris Roche 1A.

Minor Atom

303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 4 - Walter Karabin 1G, Michael Montesanti 1G, Tyler Wilson 1G, Jake Schacter 1G 1A, Colin Dyer 2A, Jordi Serverini 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A, Adam Wilson 1A. **302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 3** - Theo Meadows 2G, Bradey Adams 1A, Alistair Johnston 2A.

304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 7 - James Eydt 3G, Jordon Elliot 1G 1A, Will Ashton 1G 1A, Jake Schacter 1G 1A, Connor Reilly 1G, Matthew MacDonald 3A, Alex Carter 2A, Tyler Williams 1A, Lucas Ackerman 1A, James Kellet 1A, Giorgio Venosa 1A. **306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 0**.

301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 7 - Christian Pearce 3G, Brett Diamond 2G 1A, Michael Jollimore 1G 1A, Nicolas Pearce 1G, Michael Dowling 3A, Daniel Mettel 1A, Maxwell

AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday December 16th

Jones 1A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 2** - Connor Tripp 2G, Sam Speranini 1A, Matthew Johnson 1A.

302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 4 - Nicholas Hatzitolios 1G 1A, Daniel Della Rocca 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Alistair Johnston 1G, Theo Meadows 2A, Bradey Adams 1A, Paige Crossley 1A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 2** - Connor Tripp 2G.

303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 4 - Michael Montesanti 2G 1A, Blake Holtby 1G, Lucas Ruscica 1G 1A, Jordi Severini 2A, Tyler Wilson 1A, Justin Nisbet 1A, Adam Wilson 1A. **304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 1** - Matthew MacDonald 1G, Tyler Williams 1A.

301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 6 - Michael Jollimore 2G, Christian Pearce 1G 1A, Nicolas Pearce 1G, Jack Bishenden 1G, Conor Braund 1G, Brett Diamond 1A, Maxwell Jones 1A. **306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 1** - Alex Sesto 1G.

Atom

402 3 - Rory Hamilton 2G, James Power 1G, Matthew Neice 1A. **401 3** - Connor Kemp 1G, Anthony-Stanley Georgieff 1G, Matthew Hall 1G, Cole Johnson 1A.

402 3 - 404 -0.

404 Tilemaster Colorado 3 - Christopher Baggio 3G, Taylor Simpson 1A. **405 Omar's Shoes Toronto 3** - Michael Hosmer 1G, Ryan Donovan 1G 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1G, Colin Dunlop 1A.

Minor Peewee

508 Aurora Hockey Parents Auxiliary 4 - Russell Johnson 3G, Joey Stel 1G, Graham Killby 2A, Tyler Hindley 1A. **507 Perfect Moves 2** - Tyler Abushinov 1G, Kevin Spiering 1G.

503 Greenpoint Laser 3 - Morgan Walker 1G, Harry Smith 2G, Zachary Kroll 1A, Adrian Ramirez 1A, Tim Pare 1A, Michael Roell 1A. **504 Mastermind Toys 2** - Mitchell Arnold 1G, Max Brown 1G 1A, Matthew D'Allesandro 2A, Benjamin Black 1A.

501 Highland Chev Olds 5 - Alexander Harrison 1G 1A, Nathan Sinclair 2G, Michael Liscio

1G, Nicholas Marrelli 1G 1A, Nelson Hossack 2A, Michael Slack 1A. **506 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 2** - Nicholas Steiner 1G, Braydon Babineau 1G, Andrew Foresi 1A, Oliver Jones 1A, Matthew Reynolds 1A, Rio Speller Drews 1A.

505 ADC Aluminum 2 - Alexander Cicchino 1G, Christopher Sanita 1G, Jake Arcangeli 1A. **502 North York Plumbing 1** - Joel Gouveia 1G.

Bantam

808 3 - Matthew Bishop 3G 1A, George Chalmers 1G, Ricky Evans 2A, Kenton Gamble 1A. **803 Pizzaville 3** - Braden Drummond 2G, Tyler Jensen 1G, Paul Andrews 1A, Greg Lacroix 3A, Christopher Morin 1A.

806 Cosentino Produce 6 - Jonathon Alcock 1G, Alex Payne 1G 1A, Lucas Cristillo 2G, Joey Lombardi 1G, Logan Weber 1G 1A, Scott Tonello 1A, Roman Attwell 1A. **807 Backyard Pool & Spa 3** - Rosario Arcuri 2G, Christian Davies 1G 1A.

802 Wait's Bathroom Plus 6 - Jack Doty 1G 1A, Curtis Stobo 3G, Christian Avolio 1G 1A, Adam Clark 1G, Mario Rotundo 2A, Benjamin Pringle 1A, Mark Tanel 1A, Kevin Tree 1A. **804 Danny's Boys 4** - Taran McGowan 1G, Matthew Burns 2G, Brett Richardson 1G 1A, Phillip Mueller 1A, Etienne Bicego 1A.

805 CAA 3 - Nick Sbrolla 1G, Michael Vance 1G, Stephen Newby 1G, Scott Sturges 1A, Kevin McCrudden 1A, Brody Hunter 1A, Colin Sandquist 1A, Chris Waller 1A. **801 I.O.O.F. 2** - Michael Wood 1G, Egan Fennell 1A, Liam Martin 1A, Andrew Smitten 1A.

803 Pizzaville 5 - Braden Drummond 4G, Greg Lacroix 1G, Paul Andrews 2A, James Simpson 1A, Cooper Catt 1A. **801 I.O.O.F. 4** - Michael Wood 1G, Egan Fennell 1G, John Zorzit 1G, Kyle Rojas 1G, Aaron Nusbaum 1A, Michael Bernier 2A.

806 Cosentino Produce 1 - Roman Attwell 1G, Anthony Selski 1A, Scott Tonello 1A. **805 CAA 0**.

802 Wait's Bathroom Plus 4 - Benjamin Pringle 2G, Jack Doty 1G, Paul Tuck 1G, Adam Clark 1A, Mark Tanel 1A, Christian Avolio 2A, Liam McGoldrick 1A, Kevin Tree 1A. **808 4** - Matthew Bishop 1G, Jake Hindley 1G, Tanner Brewer 2G, Adrian Tobin 1A, George Chalmers 1A, Ryan Kennedy 1A.



804 Danny's Boys 4 - Taran McGowan 2G 1A, Brett Richardson 2G, Phillip Mueller 1A. **807 Backyard Pool & Spa 4** - Chris Follett 2G, Michael Reilly 1G, Eamon Reilly 1G 1A, Joel Piovesan 1A, Christian Davies 2A, Daniel Fusco 1A, Hayden Sands 1A.

Minor Midget

905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 5 - Evan Casselden 1G, Rhys Williams 1G, Sean Ellison 1G, Curtis Rose 1G, Drew Coley 1G 1A, Kyle MacCallum 1A, Connor Dinwoodie 2A, Garrett Lewis 1A, Sean Ellison 1A, Evan Casselden 1A. **901 Remax Barb Blaser Calgary Red 4** - Kyle Blaser 1G, George Marshall 1G, James Hilchuk 1G, Ben Crouse 1A, Mike Delplavignano 1A, Daniel Sampieri 2A, Kyle Blaser 1A, Nick Palombo 1A.

903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 3 - Marco Santella 1G, Scott Cunningham 1G, Michael VanBakel 1G, Dexter Speller Drews 2A, Jordan Adams 1A, Julian Biasoni 1A, Devin Scudds 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Neil Gaston 2G, J.J. Lam 1A, Matthew De Sousa 1A, Christopher McGill 1A, Evan Jones 1A.

906 Wood Brothers Drywall Pittsburgh Black 4 - Grant Wood 1G, Scott Parry 1G, Brendan Beatty 1G, Liam Braithwaite 1A, Aaron Morrison 1A, Neil Gaston 1A, Caleb Gould 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 3** - Sean Ellison 1G, Wendel Martins 1G, Ian Stock 1G, Drew Coley 1A, Connor Dinwoodie 1A.

902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 4 - Eric Seguin 1G, Neil Gaston 2G, Geoff Gianopoulos 1G, Liam Braithwaite 1A, Aaron Morrison 1A, Neil Gaston 1A, Caleb Gould 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 3** - Sean Ellison 1G, Wendel Martins 1G, Ian Stock 1G, Drew Coley 1A, Connor Dinwoodie 1A.

901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 2 - Peter Durst 2G, Tyler Friars 1A, Mike Delplavignano 1A. **906 Wood Brothers Drywall 1** - Jakub Sykora 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1A.

903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 2 - Devin Scudds 1G, Marco Santella 1G, Marco Santella 1A, Jordan Adams 1A, Scott Cunningham 2A. **904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgandy 1** - Julian Savosardaro 1G.



Warm Hearts, Warming Hands project has been termed a success in Aurora. The new initiative is supported by the Town of Aurora's Character Committee, the Aurora Seniors' Association and Town of Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas. It provides grade school teachers in Aurora with a few spare sets of outerwear for children who may have forgotten the items or may not own them. Each bag contains three sets of hats, scarves and gloves. Each classroom in the lower grades will be participating. Outerwear will be distributed to all elementary schools in Aurora. Pictured, left to right, are Jennifer Burt, teacher at Regency Acres Public School in Aurora; Flo Murray and Joan Levert, both from the Aurora Seniors' Association; and Chris Catania, Aurora's Youth and Community Development Co-ordinator.

Farmers' market proposed move to Town Park hits a roadblock

At a recent meeting, Aurora Councillor Stephen Granger gave Notice of Motion regarding moving the highly-successful Farmers' Market from the Temperance Street parking lot to another location because it has outgrown the parking lot.

At Tuesday's council meeting, he said vendors approved a move in order to accommodate further growth and success of the Farmers Market in 2008, but they wanted to remain in the downtown core.

He said the Farmers' Market Committee sought council's support in its choice to relocate the market from Temperance Street to the Town Park in 2008, and the existing

bylaw be amended to address the move and to include the permitted times of operation to be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from May 3 to Oct. 25.

In addition, the committee asked that council agree to continue its services in-kind in 2008.

He moved the motion, and requested the enacting bylaw be brought back to council at the earliest opportunity in 2008.

Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed the proposed move on the basis the Temperance Street parking lot was selected in order to bring people to the downtown core to help the Yonge Street merchants.

In response to a ques-

tion as to where it was proposed to locate the market within the park, Councillor Granger said there was an internal road leading to the Splash Pad and it was proposed to locate in that area as it was still downtown.

Other questions were asked and it was suggested the market be located on Wells Street in front of the school and the roadway blocked off as it was during school days.

Due to confusion over the proposed location, the issue was referred to staff members to work with Councillor Granger and to bring back a report with a map which was adopted by council.



Senior Scope

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Christmas, the greatest feast day of the year for majority of us, is occupying our attention as it approaches.

Sprucing up the home with Christmas decorations, shopping, setting up a tree, real or artificial, and decorating the tree and home while ensuring Christmas cards have been sent and nobody has been inadvertently forgotten, is a ritual that occupies the majority of us right up until it is hopelessly too late to correct any oversight.

Preparing for Christmas is a ritual of December, it is time consuming and expensive, it can wear and tear the strongest of us down and yet, it is also a time of joy that holds our hearts and imaginations in a tenacious grip.

I doubt that too many societies, whether Christian or not, disregard this great celebration.

In tandem with the Christmas festivities life continues, children continue their schooling and employment continues for those who work, even if work receives a little less attention than at other times.

One of the great administrative tasks of the year for the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is the clerical work involved with renewal of memberships for the next 12 months, and this is underway already.

Most members will renew early and the bulk of the task will be completed in January but the undertaking will continue year long.

It is our time also to urge all seniors who are not members to join with us, because if you are not a member, the promise of the ASA is unfulfilled in your case and, you are an asset as a member and the ASA wants you!

Sixty or so seniors and members of council and town administration attended the first "Holiday High Tea" at the centre and the event was a resounding success judging by the very good humour of those present.

The aura of success was underscored by the presence of a large and very visible cheque which was presented to town council later in the evening.

Later, at the council meeting, Charles Sequeira and Ruth Church represent-

Holiday Tea culminates with cheque presentation

ed the ASA, and presented a cheque to council in the amount of \$58,079.83.

Charles said the cheque was the second ASA installment for a total paid of \$184,772.18 out of a total of \$250,000.

He said he expects the full amount to be paid, possibly two years earlier than agreed.

Charles indicated that fundraising by the seniors is

taken seriously and that support for the ASA has been generous and was generated from many different sources and events.

Flo Murray is the director responsible for fundraising and to describe Flo as indefatigable in her fundraising efforts is clearly justified. She has been supported by donations, initiatives and active help and encouragement of all kinds.

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Bryan Moir

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

Think globally and act locally

Many of us know that Magna is one of the largest employers in the Newmarket-Aurora area.

The recent announcement made by Magna's founder Frank Stronach to allow the CAV into his plants, was a reflection that times are changing and that we need to think differently about roles and how we accomplish things in business, and the economy as a whole.

This is a big step and a risk for Magna in order to achieve labour peace and stability.

But Frank Stronach did not build one of the greatest companies in Canada by not taking risks.

Magna has created thousands of jobs for many of our residents as well as positions for the odd ex-bureaucrat and politician.

In addition, the company's generosity towards the community has been unparalleled.

For every job in the industry's Big Three, companies like Magna employ three. For every job that Magna provides, there are at least two other jobs created directly or indirectly in our local economy.

The residents of Aurora and York Region have been the major benefactors of Magna's daring and Frank's genius.

But how do we keep this economic engine stoked?

Magna's change in labour strategy is a signal to us all that we have to change the way we view existing economic relationships.

Long gone are the "us" versus "them" days. To prosper we need a greater degree of co-operation and creative thinking.

With globalization, many of our well-paying manufacturing jobs have gone offshore. As a result, our economy has more "Mac-jobs" at \$8 per hour than \$60,000 per year manufacturing jobs - the type that allow you to pay off a mortgage or send your kids to college.

So what can be done locally to stem the export of jobs and change the paradigm so that as a community we continue to prosper?

To start, local government needs to show the same type of creative and bold thinking that Frank Stronach has displayed at Magna.

The last major sections of raw land in Aurora, commonly referred to as the 2C lands, are to be opened up for development. In addition, there are acres of land owned by the Town of Aurora by the 404.

As taxpayers and residents, we are the shareholders of the corporation known as Aurora. With a dwindling supply of real estate, we need to maximize our return on this land. The question is how?

The way to maximize the return to the shareholder is not by selling it to government agencies at below market value, or by placing restrictions on how the land should be developed, but by creating-- through legislation-- something economically unique and valuable - a free trade and research and development zone along the 404 corridor.

A free trade and R&D zone would result in a substantial cash-flow saving to companies like Magna, as taxes and tariffs would not be paid until the goods are sold.

This cash-flow saving would allow firms to make larger investments in technology and equipment, thereby improving the productivity of labour and reducing the cost advantages of low-wage countries.

A free trade zone would encourage Magna and others to concentrate their manufacturing in Aurora rather than exporting jobs to plants elsewhere.

A free trade zone would allow the auto and other industries to centralize their manufacturing in an area with a highly skilled labour force, and would encourage manufacturers to invest in new plants.

Canadians would retain their good manufacturing jobs instead of seeing them exported to China or Mexico.

Proximity to two airports, a rail line, several major highways, and in the vicinity of major plants for domestic and international carmakers, is a real bonus.

Aurora could become the international portal for goods coming into the North American market. The implication for jobs is obvious.

Real estate values across the board would escalate and a building boom would soon follow. This would benefit residents and developers alike.

The federal and provincial governments would benefit through increased personal income taxes.

The municipal government would benefit from a major infusion of property tax dollars to rebalance the currently "out of whack" municipal/residential - industrial tax ratio.

So why not explore the idea? Why not focus on a strategy that in the end benefits those who live in this community?

This requires leadership and vision.

It requires municipal, provincial and federal politicians to put aside their party differences and do something of significance rather than only looking for the next petty political victory.

Sometimes you have to step outside the box and change the dynamic: Think globally, act locally. So, let's act locally so we can sell globally.

Ireland did it. Raleigh, North Carolina, did it. Singapore did it. Maybe it is time for Aurora to do it as well.

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



MPP Frank Klees and Marie Nielsen, of Aurora, take time out for photos during event at Queen's Park recently.

MPP Klees acknowledges work of Aurora youngster

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees welcomed nine-year-old Marie Nielsen and her mother Bente, both of Aurora, to Queen's Park recently and acknowledged Marie's achievements in the Ontario Legislature.

She is the recipient of both the Canadian and American National Jack Russell Trials

Second parkette

At an earlier meeting, Aurora Council received a request from a group raising funds for the Southlake Regional Health Centre to participate in a live auction by granting the naming rights of a parkette in the Brookvalley subdivision.

There was considerable disagreement by some members of council who claimed that only council should have the naming rights, while others wanted to know who would get recognition for the donation.

Finally council approved the naming rights for a parkette as requested and at the fund-raiser three bids, worth \$100,000 each, were received for the naming rights.

Only one parkette, however, was available.

Bidding was stopped at that point as officials feared the two other bids would be lost.

Information was received that the two bidders had also offered \$100,000 for the naming rights and would pay the amount if two other parkettes could be found.

Newmarket donated the naming rights for one parkette and Aurora was asked to consider donating the naming rights for another parkette within the municipality.

The general committee directed staff to work with developers and to report back to council.

At last week's council meeting, Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers reported that Ballymore Development would be willing to have the parkette in their subdivision at Bathurst and Bloomington named under this process.

The CAO's report and recommendation were adopted by council without comment or discussion.

"Child Handler of the Year Award".

"Through her commitment and dedication to what she loves to do, Marie has won these prestigious awards that represent public acknowledgement for her innovative hard work by leaders in her field of interest on both sides of the border," Klees, an Aurora resident, said. "That Marie has accomplished this at the age of nine is a further tribute to her willingness to work hard and her dedication to excellence. These qualities deserve to be recognized."

"On behalf of the Parliament of Ontario, I join with Marie's family, friends and her community in proudly congratulating her on her achievements, he said."

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Living space in industrial area rejected

In January, 1969, Aurora Council rejected a request to have an apartment built above an industrial building on Industry Street.

Midway Construction planned to use the building for workshops, office space and to house heavy construction equipment.

The Building and Development Committee reported that it was undesirable to incorporate living and industrial space and pointed out that the proposal did not meet the town's zoning requirements.

In spite of strong support from Councillor Ron Simmons council adopted the committee recommendation and agreed to explain to the applicant its reasons for doing so.

HAIR STYLISTS MOVE

In August, 1983, after 11 years at its Aurora Heights Plaza location, Luigi Bevacqua and Mario Caruso's House of Hair Design moved to 42 Wellington Street East.

The business duo purchased the century home for their new location and on their first day there celebrated with an Open House and in the evening the official ribbon was cut by then Mayor Dick Illingworth.

After a few years there the business was closed and the building was renovated for other commercial uses.

WHEN AURORA RAN A BUS SERVICE

In July, 1977, council approved a committee report recommending that Aurora buy its own bus to travel existing daily passenger routes in town, although Travelways of Newmarket was then providing the bus service in Aurora.

Under an agreement, Travelways would operate and store the town-owned vehicle.

The major feature of the town-owned bus was a hydraulic lift attached to the rear door to allow residents restricted to wheelchairs easy boarding.

When in operation, it would be the first public transit system in Ontario and possibly Canada designed to carry the handicapped, and there were some doubts as to whether the Ministry of Transportation would pay the 75 per cent subsidy for the purchase of the vehicle.

The cost of the bus without the lift was estimated at \$60,000 and if the subsidy was received the cost to the town would be about \$13,000.

It was expected to obtain the wheelchair lift through a Wintario grant.

EARLY DAYS OF RECYCLING

Today the blue box program for recycling is taken for granted but in May, 1978, recycling was in its early stages.

Aurora was one of the municipalities selected by the province for the introduction of its Divide and Conquer recycling program.

Bins were installed at various shopping places around the town and residents were encouraged to take their recyclables to the bins.

Two members of the Works Department's 13-man staff spent half a day six days a week picking up the recyclables from the bins.

It had been expected that the staff members picking up

the materials would only be required one half day per week, but the program was so successful that it was necessary for a daily pick-up.

This caused Councillor Ron Simmons, a member of the Works Committee, to complain about the money and manpower the program required and suggested it be discontinued as it was cheaper to let the garbage collectors pick it up.

But other members of council defended the program and it stayed in place, to eventually be replaced at a later date by the blue box program.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REGION'S YOUTH COMMITTEE?

In November, 2001, York Region's Planning Committee gave preliminary approval to the formation of a Youth Advisory Committee to provide input on issues and initiatives.

The proposal was submitted by Newmarket High School student Matthew Cloutier who had been trying for months to form such a committee.

The plan endorsed by the Planning Committee was for a panel of 19, two from each of the region's nine municipalities.

The panel would meet regularly and forward comments to the region.

The idea of forming a youth committee started when young people were invited to review and comment on the region's 2026 document and municipal development until then.

It was expected that the inaugural of the Youth Committee would be held in the spring of 2002.

It didn't. What happened?

FIGHTING FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING

In September, 1971, former Mayor Dr. Crawford Rose who served in that capacity in 1948, 1949 and 1952 to 1954 recalled when Aurora was a friendly little town.

He remembered the town's first council meeting in January, 1943, at the old Town Hall, where the Scotiabank now stands at Yonge and Mosley Streets, when the Mayor and members of council held office just for the glory of serving the community and fighting for the privilege to do so.

He remembers when high school students crossed the street in groups instead of dawdling along singly or in pairs while the traffic piles up in all directions.

He also recalled when he could walk down Yonge Street and call 90 per cent of the people he met by name, many by their first name.

He recalled members of the Aurora Police Department walking a beat on Yonge Street.

He remembered Hurricane Hazel and the wonderful cooperation of police, firefighters and private citizens when many people had water running in the back door and out the front of their houses.

He thrilled with the ride he had with Police Chief Fisher Dunham leading the Santa Claus Parade and the three wonderful Centennial Celebrations: the railway in 1953, Aurora in 1963 and Canada in 1967.

That was Aurora of the past.

Planned day off expensive: Klees

Using an Aurora business as an example, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees last week questioned the government's timing to give Ontario a new statutory holiday this coming February, calling it a "\$2 Billion Holiday Tax".

Klees referred to Aurora's Alutron Modules that was recently forced to lay off one quarter of its employees because of prevailing economic conditions.

He also referred to a BMO Capital Markets report that estimates the cost of the new Family Day as high as \$2 billion in lost production and overtime.

"This decision was all about politics but is void of responsible decision-making," said Klees. "Everyone welcomes

another day off, but it's irresponsible to impose a \$2 billion cost to businesses without consulting employers and giving them reasonable lead time to incorporate it into their business plans."

Klees, an Aurora resident, called on the Minister Responsible for Small Business to consult with the business community before unilaterally imposing policies such as the new holiday on such short notice, especially

given the uncertainty of Ontario's economy in the coming year.

"What the Minister and this government seem not to understand is that many small and medium-sized businesses are already finding it difficult to stay afloat, given Ontario's tax rates and the recent threat to manufacturing posed by the strong dollar," he said. "The irresponsible handling of this issue may well result in a permanent

holiday for some businesses and their employees."

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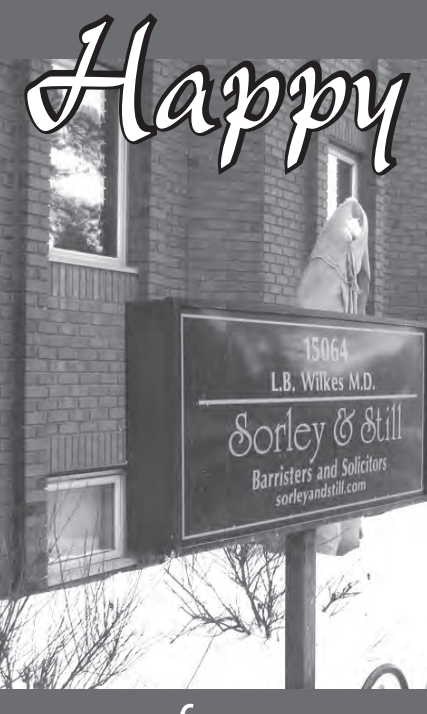
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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5 p.m. at the seniors' centre.

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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve candlelight carol service with guests Bonnie and Jerry Wallace, at the First Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East, beginning at 7 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.

The Town of Aurora will celebrate New Year's Eve with Family First Night from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. Evening includes free swimming and skating, sleigh rides, bonfire, sing along and more surprises.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Happy New Year.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" at Aurora Online Inc., 325 Industrial Parkway South. 5.30 p.m.

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 at Harrison Avenue. 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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Aurora Chamber of Commerce new member orientation breakfast at the chamber building at 14483 Yonge Street, corner of Industrial Parkway South. 7.30 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

On well water and a septic system? Or about to be? Learn about well construction, maintenance, upgrading and septic maintenance at "Well Aware", presented by Windfall Ecology and hosted by the Town of Aurora's environmental advisory committee at 7 p.m. at the seniors' centre, 5 Municipal Dr., Aurora. Free. For more information visit www.windfallcentre.ca or www.wellaware.ca. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" at Dentistry in Oak Ridges, 13291 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill. 5.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the York Simcoe Literacy Council, invites 3-5 year olds, with parents or caregivers, to a pre-school storytime. 10 a.m., in the Lebovic Room at the library. Pre-register at the Children's Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 5.

Season's Greetings

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