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Susan Crawford

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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
Aurora High School GRADS 2012 Art Show opens today throughout the Aurora Cultural Centre and continues through until January 19. Gallery hours Tuesday – Saturday, 1 – 4 pm, and during special events; free admission. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
Amnesty International writes letters to support human rights, 7.30 p.m. in the Rectory, Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., Aurora. All welcome. Information: 905-713-6713.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
The Town of Richmond Hill, Toronto International Film Festival and RBC Royal Bank present the French language film The Women on the Sixth Floor at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts Centre at 7 p.m. A group led by the Newmarket French Language Meetup Group, an informal group of local French speakers which meets regularly on Murray Drive, will be heading down to the screening for discussions before and after the film. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 in advance by calling the box office at 905-787-8811 or online at www.rhcentre.ca. Tickets are also available at the door for \$12.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents local historian Jacqueline Stuart with the illustrated heritage lecture "Little Jerusalem"; 7 p.m. start. Admission by donation gratefully received; complimentary light refreshments provided. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
The Oak Ridges Trail Association welcomes visitors to its 2012 Discovery Night to hear a talk and presentation from association member Diane Charlton on her travels in the Canadian arctic. The event will be held at the Ballantrae Community Centre at 5592 Aurora Road in Stouffville. Admission is a \$5 donation. Refreshments and door prizes will be available. For more information, contact Diana Smyth at kikingdi@sympatico.ca, or Garry Niece at gniece@yahoo.ca or at 905-655-8040.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
An open house in honour of Ron Wallace's retirement will be held this afternoon at the Royal Canadian Legion on Industrial Parkway North. The event runs from 3 to 6 p.m. All are welcome.

Get out your beads and bling and join CHATS - Community & Home Assistance to Seniors at our Mardi Gras-themed silent auction fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, Aurora. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the silent auction taking place 6.00 to 7.30 p.m. Auction items include golf packages, gift baskets, lawn care packages and much more. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event, open to the public.

The event marks the wrap-up of CHATS' annual Virtual Walk for Wellness fundraiser, whereby participants walk a total of 4,000 km, "virtually" arriving in New Orleans in time for the launch of Mardi Gras! The fundraising target for the walk is to raise \$25,000 in pledges, to support CHATS' services for seniors. The event will also include a draw to win tickets to the Mardi Gras for Southlake Gala Fundraiser, which takes place Feb. 18 at DiNardo's Mansion in Aurora. For more information about the CHATS event, e-mail walk@chats.on.ca, or call 905-713-3373, ext. 6014.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual Robbie Burns Night this evening at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. Enjoy a wonderful evening of music and dance along with a dinner of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, tatties and neeps, and, of course, haggis. Entertainment by the White Heather Pipes and Drums, and Celtic Rock group Hadrian's Wall. Cocktails at 6.00, dinner at 7.00pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from band members or at the Legion.

Sacred Heart High School Grade 12 Grads Show opens today in the Aurora Room Gallery and continues through until February 4. Gallery hours Tuesday – Saturday, 1 – 4pm, and during special events; free admission. Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

"Celebration of Art 25th Anniversary SOYRA Show & Sale." Opening Reception today 1 – 4 pm; all welcome. Continues through until February 5; Gallery Hours Tuesday – Saturday, 1 – 4 pm, and during special events. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
SchoolHOUSE Concert at the Aurora Cultural Centre, featuring vocalist Judy Marshak, whose CD A Matter of Time was chosen by JAZZ FM91 as one of their "Favourite Releases of 2009." With a charming combination of jazz standards and classic pop (from Bill Withers to Henry Mancini), and a voice compared to the Norah Jones, Marshak and her popular ukulele accompaniment promise a relaxing evening of music in the heart of Aurora. Tickets, \$15 plus HST – light refreshments included; available in advance or at the door. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Story Quilts: The Threads That Bind Us, a 40 Year Retrospective of Angela Krotowski in the Blue & Red Galleries. From traditional heritage-inspired designs, to contemporary commen-

taries, this collection of over 40 quilts gives voice to one woman's connection to the stories of her Canadian home. Artist Reception March 10, 1 – 4 p.m.; all welcome. Continues through until March 31; Gallery Hours Tuesday – Saturday, 1 – 4 pm and during special events. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Under Sacred Skies; panoramic oil paintings by Michael Fromowitz in the Great Hall Gallery. Artist Reception February 18, 1 – 4 p.m.; all welcome. Continues through until May 5; Gallery Hours Tuesday – Saturday, 1 – 4 p.m. and during special events; free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
The Aurora Seniors' Association is in the planning stages of Men Can Cook which has been set for this evening. Further details will follow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents local historian John McIntyre with the illustrated heritage lecture "Antique Furniture From 19th-century Ontario." 7 p.m. start. Admission by donation gratefully received; complimentary light refreshments provided. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Family day at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Drop by and create some fun heritage

crafts, tour the historical buildings and visit the gift shop. A great experience for the whole family! Admission: \$2 per youth. 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Bowl for Kids Sake 2012 will take place today at the Gateway Café and Lanes at 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Five and 10 Pin lanes are available. Call 905-716-2149 for more information. Pledge forms, location maps, fundraising tips and event updates can be found online at www.bbbsy.ca.

Aurora Farmer's Market at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Favourite market vendors with a wide selection of produce, bakery fare, jams & jellies, artisan goods – and more! Free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance.

History Hands-On (H2O) in Winter at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. 12.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Visit the Log Cabin and try your hand at some Pioneer chores. Help prepare treats in the Farmhouse kitchen and complete your lessons on a slate in the 19th century classroom. Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted. 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
2nd annual "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" dinner dance will be held at the Mansion (formerly Dinardo's) tonight. A website www.iloverockandroll.ca is also up and running for further information. Tickets are available now by calling 905-727-8600 and expected to sell out fast so if you are planning to attend and don't want to be disappointed, get your tickets soon.



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Wildlife Park may move forward next week

By Brock Weir

A master plan for Aurora's Wildlife Park could begin as early as this month following a presentation by experts on January 17.

Plans were initially in the works to go forward with drafting the plan at the end of last October, but Councillors ultimately voted to defer the item pending a further report. The deferral came at the request of Councillor Buck who said she and her fellow councillors would benefit from having a full report and presentation on the history of the project before moving forward.

"I would like to move that this item be deferred until Council has had the opportunity to receive complete information going right back to when the previous Council adopted this plan," said Councillor Buck. "I believe that Council should have the opportunity to be fully informed of all particulars of this proposal before this decision gets made."

The referral in October originally had a December 6 date for the report and presentation from local landscape architect David Tomlinson, one of the most prominent advocates of the Aurora Wildlife Park, but the presentation was rescheduled to a Special General Committee meeting which will be held next Tuesday, January 17 at 5.30 p.m. in Town Hall.

The proposed Wildlife Park covers lands within both Aurora's 2B and 2C lands and has been discussed as far back as 1998 with a proposal by Mr. Tomlinson. The proposed area includes the East Aurora Wetland Complex owned by Ducks Unlimited. Mr. Tomlinson developed a concept master plan for the park in early 2007 and the Community Wildlife Park was endorsed by the Town of Aurora the following January.

Taking off from Council's approval, a working group was established for all of those who had a stake in the project ranging from the municipality

to Ducks Unlimited to Mr. Tomlinson himself. This group also looked at how the development of the 2C area in town - lands bordered by Wellington Street in the south, Town limits in the north, Highway 404 to the east, and Bayview Avenue to the west - would impact the proposed park.

If Councillors decide to approve the drafting of the master plan following Mr. Tomlinson's presentation on January 17, Town Staff estimate the plan would take 20 months to complete and include engineering and hydrological fieldwork, a year's worth of water sampling and well monitoring."

This work will act as background data to guide the rest of the master plan and the scope of the work entailed.

According to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, had the recommendation for the master plan gone forward last fall, the plan would have come back to Council in the late spring or early summer of 2013.



Environmentalist David Tomlinson has spearheaded the proposed Aurora Wildlife Park. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Town could crack down on “ragged” flags

By Brock Weir

Home and business owners flying the flag should take more responsibility if the maple leaf gets torn, faded, or "ragged", according to Councillor Evelyn Buck.

Councillor Buck made her feelings known at a recent Council meeting where she called for amendments to the Town's Property Standards bylaw to legislate that the "owners of public spaces such as shopping centres, choosing to display the country's flag to maintain the flag in good condition at all times."

"A Canadian flag flying in disrepair is disrespectful and offensive to community standards and such negligence is unacceptable," said Councillor Buck in her motion.

"The purpose of my motion is not to require anybody who doesn't want a flag to fly a flag," she elaborated. "If the property owners take it upon them-

selves to fly the country's flag then the least they could do is keep it in good repair. If they get ragged very quickly, take it down. Don't let it fly in shreds."

While Councillor Paul Pirri said he agreed with the spirit of Councillor Buck's motion, he questioned whether Council would have the authority to mandate something like that. Indeed, Town Solicitor Warren Mar said he couldn't think of another municipality that had similar provision and added he didn't think the property standards bylaw was the "appropriate place" to implement something of this nature.

"The property standards bylaw...is specifically with respect to the maintenance of buildings as defined in the building code, so I would concur with Mr. Mar that it may not be the appropriate statute to pass this type of bylaw," said Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw Services. "I would be very happy to work

with Mr. Mar in coming back with more information."

After some back and forth between Councillors and Staff on whether what Councillor Buck proposed - if passed - would essentially amend the bylaw before finding out if it could be done, they ultimately voted to refer the matter to staff to come up with a report which should be presented back to Council this winter.

"We would look to the authority of the building code act and the property standards bylaw as well as other statutes that may allow us to pass such a bylaw and report back to Council," said Ms. van Leeuwen."

Councillor Buck agreed to this change of plan.

"I would like it to be referred to the Town of Aurora property standards bylaw and if it comes back to us that we can't do it and we're overstepping our legal responsibility I'm sure staff will advise us."

Briefly

YORK REGION TRANSIT STRIKE CONTINUES

The York Region Transit Strike rolled into its eleventh week on Monday after striking workers rejected an offer from Miller Transit on Friday. 87 per cent of voting workers represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union 1587 rejected the offer. Viva employees are expected to vote individually next week on an offer previously rejected by their union reps.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP NEXT WEEK

Christmas tree collection has been scheduled for next Monday, January 16. All decorations, nails, stands, and bags must be removed for pickup and the Town cautions that pickup crews will be unable to dig trees out of snow or climb up on top of snow banks to get them.

RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS

If you have computers, computer equipment, TVs, VCRs, and almost any variety of electronics you want to get rid of, you may have your opportunity next Saturday, January 21 at 10.00 a.m. for the Town of Aurora's Electronic Waste Recycling Event. The recycling program will be held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School on Wellington Street. Vehicles enter off Industrial Parkway North. ARTEX Environmental Corp will handle the recycling and, according to the Town, "no e-waste is ever re-sold or ends up in local landfills or developing nations." Appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, ovens, air conditioners, vacuums, toasters, and blenders are not included in the recycling program.

THINK A HERITAGE PROJECT DESERVES RECOGNITION?

Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee is now accepting nominations for its 2012 Heritage Advisory Committee Awards of Excellence, recognizing preservation, restoration and enhancement of cultural heritage properties. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 27. To download nomination forms, visit: <http://www.aurora.ca/aurora/index.aspx?ArticleID=4172&lang=en-CA>

CORRECTION

Last week, we reported local bloggers Richard Johnson and Bill Hogg were seeking \$40,000 in costs from former mayor Phyllis Morris, stemming from her \$6 million defamation lawsuit, which included \$5,500 in costs for their motion to strike in March 2011. That \$5,500 figure is actually related to their previous motion to strike from October 2010.



Brent Forrester
Thompson Funeral Home



Mary Rourke
Senior Investment Advisor

Extend an invitation to members of our community to attend an Information Session:

Estate Planning: Strategies & Options of Benefit to You and your Family

Date & Time: **JANUARY 19, 2012 at 10 AM & 2 PM**

You are welcome to select the time most convenient.

Information will be provided on topics to include:

1. Strategies to minimize taxes and other fees at death
2. Merits and options regarding pre-planning your arrangements
3. Your entitlement regarding Government benefits
4. Strategies to ensure a smooth transition of your estate to your designated beneficiaries

There will be a short presentation allowing time for questions!
Light refreshments will be served

**Location - Meeting Room, Thompson Funeral Home
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Brock’s Banter

By BROCK WEIR

Giving heritage some teeth

There are few things that inspire as much passion at every single point in the spectrum in Aurora than somebody looking sideways at a heritage building.

Take the fate of the Petch House, for instance. What seemed to one group of residents to be an invaluable part of Aurora's history, was just the most luxurious wildlife water closet in York Region to another. After years of heated debate, it now lies dismantled, drying out and waiting for the next step in its illustrious history. But, of course, illustriousness is in the eye of the beholder.

There are more tangible examples of buildings that have captured the public's imagination in one way or the other, of course, above and beyond a dismantled house. Depending on who you talk to, the grand old building at Church and Victoria is either the Church Street School or the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Residents put up a vigorous fight two earthquakes ago to keep open Wells Street School, which was deemed structurally unsound. For all the debate, the recent news that the building is going to find a new lease on life as lofts garnered barely a whimper from its neighbours, but that may just be a matter of time.

But what happens when a building designated for its heritage is suddenly stripped of its significance with just a raised hand and a stroke of the pen?

In recent months, Aurora Council has added several "new" buildings to its heritage roster. The latest additions are two houses on Wellington Street East - the John W. Knowles House at 68 Wellington and the Robert Hughes House at 70 Wellington. These buildings, however, are filling vacancies left from buildings struck off the list.

Last month, Council voted to take the George Browning House on Yonge Street off the list. The building was designated at the request of the owner less than three years ago, the plan being to restore the building for use as a private school. Since then, however, the owners decided to redevelop the land with Yonge Street access.

Another example of this is the 1880s Issac Petch Farm House at 1623 Wellington Street East which was taken off the list of historically significant buildings to pave the way for a "mid-rise office building." Although it was put on the bottom tier of heritage significance, it was designated nonetheless. One stated reason for staff permitting its demolition was that the house had deteriorated to the point "where the structural integrity of the building had been compromised."

In May, Council did not oppose the demolition of the 1841 Wells House in south Aurora - a building which may have already been a home when the Petch House was but a twinkle in the logger's eye - to make way for the Westhill golf development near Leslie and Bloomington. Staff said it was a "remarkable example of an 1840s settler house" but since its designation in 1997 was left "mostly vacant and its physical condition had deteriorated significantly."

At the time, one local historian said heritage bodies have been trying to figure out a way to ensure designated properties are cared for to maintain their integrity, but it often comes down to money.

Perhaps it is time to go back to the drawing board and find a solution to this "conundrum" (her words). If the Town, the Province and stakeholders are going to spend the time and resources to designate buildings based on their historical significance and protect them from demolition, it might be worthwhile to prevent owners from pulling the metaphorical plug to let them fall down on their own accord.

A South East Heritage District in Aurora is being drafted. One can't help but notice several inconsistencies between it and the existing North East Heritage District. Conspicuously absent is Aurora's Historic Main Street. It is puzzling when commercial units on the north side of Wellington are included yet to do the same for Yonge Street is immediately met with speculation of increased costs and a fear of resistance from local business.

None of which was an issue with the North East district. Nor did it prevent Newmarket from rejuvenating their main street while including it in a mixed Heritage District.



100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

<i>A La Carte Menu</i>	
SPECIAL THREE DECKER SANDWICHES	
CLUB STYLE	
Club—Chicken, Bacon, Tomato, Lettuce, Pickles.....	.25
Aurora Special—Sliced Ham, Cheese, Tomato, Lettuce, Pickles.....	.25
Dairy Special—Bacon, Tomato, Lettuce, Pickles.....	.25
Sliced Ham, Peanut Butter, Jelly.....	.25
SANDWICHES .10	
PLAIN OR TOASTED	
Made Fresh to Order on Brown or White Bread	
Lettuce or Mayonnaise, if desired.	
Sliced Ham.....	
Fried Egg.....	
Peanut Butter.....	
Egg Salad.....	
Grilled Ham.....	
Grilled Cheese.....	
Tuna Fish Salad.....	
Kraft Cheese.....	
Tomato.....	
Sardines.....	
Salmon.....	
Grilled Bacon.....	
Western.....	
Chicken Salad.....	
COMBINATION SANDWICHES .15	
Sliced Ham and Pickle.....	
Mixed Ham and Olive.....	
Egg Salad and Tomato.....	
Ham and Egg.....	.20
Bacon and Egg.....	.20
SOUPS	
SERVED WITH CRACKERS	
Cream of Tomato.....	
Vegetable.....	
Cream of Mushroom.....	
Chicken with Rice.....	
TASTY LUNCHEONS	
Served with Bread or Toast, Tea, Coffee, Milk	
Grilled Bacon and Eggs.....	.55
Grilled Ham and Eggs.....	.55
Grilled Ham or Bacon.....	.25
Baked Beans.....	.20
Spaghetti.....	.20
SALADS	
Served with Bread or Toast	
Chicken.....	.35
Egg and Tomato.....	.25
Tuna Fish.....	.25
Ham and Tomato.....	.25
Salmon.....	.25
DESSERTS	
Home made Pies, assorted.	
per cut.....	.10
Butter Tarts.....	.05
Doughnuts.....	3 for .05
Cookies.....	3 for .05
HOT DRINKS	
Hot Chocolate, with wafers.....	.10
Hot Malted Milk, and wafers.....	.10
Hot Beervi with crackers.....	.10
Hot Tea, per Pot.....	.10
Delicious Coffee, per Cup.....	.05

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Special Banana Split .20	Fruit and Nut Salad .25
Black and White .20	Banana Royal .20
Aurora Dairy Special .25	
FAVORITE SUNDAES .15	
Pineapple Nut.....	Chocolate Walnut.....
David Harum.....	Banana Skyreaper.....
Fruit Salad.....	Patterson's Nut.....
Sunny Jim.....	Chocolate Marshmallow.....
Banana Mallow.....	Hawaiian Delight.....
French Chocolate.....	Maraschino Cherry.....
St. Andrew's Special	
DELICIOUS HOT OR COLD	
FUDGE SUNDAES .15	
Chocolate.....	Butterscotch.....
SUNDAES .10	
Butterscotch.....	Maple.....
Chocolate.....	Pineapple.....
NEILSON'S RICH ICE CREAM .10	
Chocolate.....	Vanilla.....
JUMBO DOUBLE DIP SODAS .10	
Chocolate.....	Lemon.....
Strawberry.....	Orange.....
Ginger Ale.....	Pineapple.....
Creamy Malted Milk	
All Flavors .10	
Triple Rich Malted Milk—all Flavors .15	
RICH MILK SHAKES	
ALL FLAVORS .10	
EGG NOGGS	
ALL FLAVORS .15	
Malted Milk Frost .15	Milk Shake Frost .15
Chocolate Milk .05 and .10	Buttermilk .05
REFRESHING FOUNTAIN BEVERAGES	
Fresh Orangeade .10	Fresh Lemonade .10
Grape Lemonade .10	Grape Frost .10
Grape Juice .10	Fresh Limes (in season) .10
Lime Ricky .05 and .10	Orange .05 and .10
Coca Cola .05 and .10	
Canada Dry Ginger Ale .05 and .10	
NEILSON'S DELICIOUS ICE CREAM	
TAKE A BRICK OR TWO HOME WITH YOU	

Above is an original menu from the Aurora Dairy & Milk Bar, courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society's collection. The menu features a several items with a local flavor including the "Aurora Dairy Special" and the "St. Andrew's Special" at what may seem like unbelievable prices to younger readers! The back panel of the menu informed Dairy Bar patrons they "would appreciate your summer patronage for dairy products at Lake Simcoe and Lake Wilcox." If you have any memories of tucking into any of these items, please share your memories at brock@auroran.com. We're particularly curious about what went into a St. Andrew's Special!

Letters to the Editor

Thank You for Caring and Sharing: Community Groups

To the editor:

The Salvation Army and Welcoming Arms wish to thank all the individuals, businesses and service clubs involved in the support of and preparation for the Christmas Dream Dinner held on December 25, 2011 at Jonathan's Restaurant. One hundred and forty-five guests (145) that included families, seniors and individuals enjoyed a delicious meal, friendly conversation, warm hospitality and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. The following comments reflect the gratitude of the dinner guests:

"Thanks to Jonathan's and the volunteers for putting on a wonderful meal and giving a lot of people a joyful time."

"Thank you to all the people who have made today a real Christmas dream for my family and me."

"For some people, Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year. Thank you for providing so much kindness, fellowship and food. We appreciated the abundance of smiles and laughter. Even Santa and Mrs. Claus were present."

After expenses for dinner were paid, a balance of \$7,000.00 was distributed equally between The Salvation Army and Welcoming Arms. These two organizations have seen a dramatic rise in the requests for assistance from individuals and families within our community and recognize the "need knows no season". These welcomed funds will continue to assist those in need as follows:

- The Salvation Army will direct funds to their emergency food bank/help centre, the development of ongoing wellness programs (i.e. Overcoming Anger, Financial Wellness, Grief Support and Emotional Rescue) along with support for a variety of children and youth initiatives.
- Welcoming Arms will be directing their funds to the purchase of food vouchers, York Region Transportation Tickets and caring for special needs. These purchases

went around in The Netherlands, that if Canada ever got involved in another war, there would be enough offspring to form a Canadian army.

Alex Vander Veen
Aurora

will assist in implementing their mission statement, "in loving partnership, we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ by promoting human, physical and spiritual well-being in our community."

On behalf of those in need in our community, we thank you for caring and sharing. Your contributions make a difference!

Major Brian Bishop
(The Salvation Army)
Beverly Woods
(Welcoming Arms)

For further information, please contact: Major Brian Bishop (The Salvation Army, 905-895-6276), Beverley Wood (Welcoming Arms, 905-726-1483)

—THE AURORAN—

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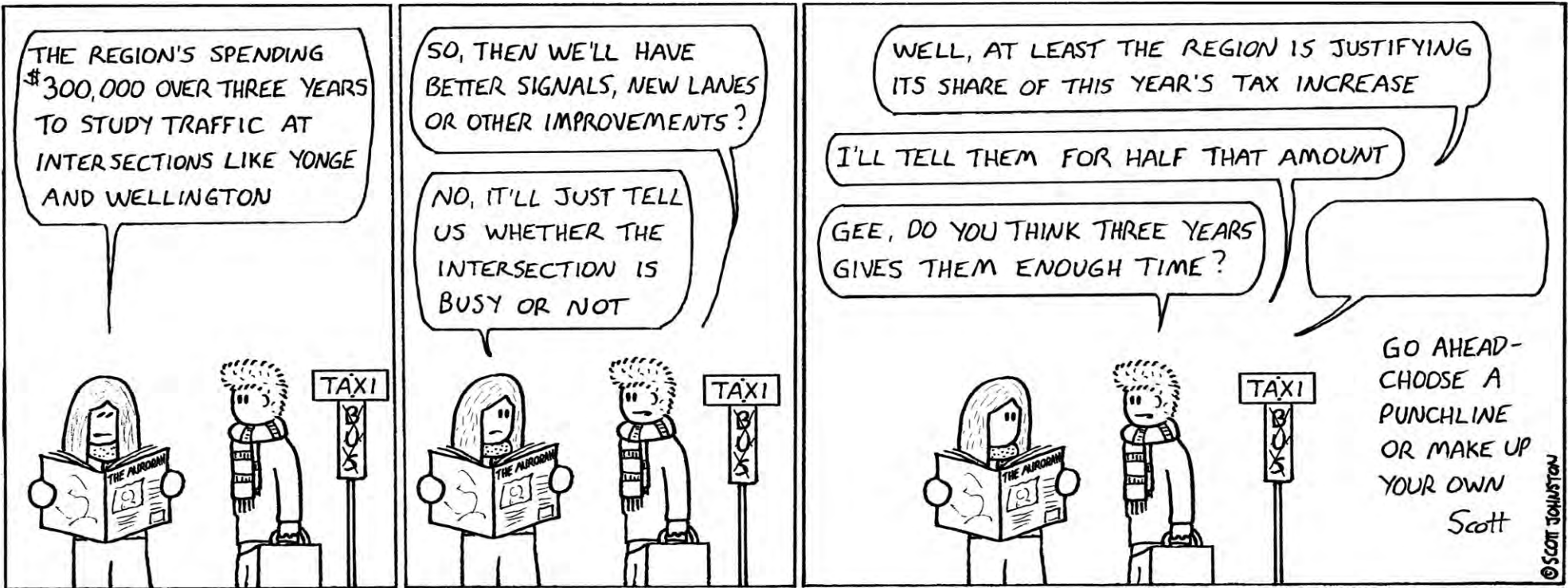
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Lois Brown

By LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Tips when travelling abroad

While we enjoy one of the safest and most peaceful countries in the world, such is not always the case abroad. The Department of Foreign Affairs regularly issues warnings and advisories for travelers and it is a good idea to consult these and to thoroughly research your destination of choice when considering travelling abroad.

A significant improvement for children travelling out of country was announced last month by the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with the announcement of an interactive consent letter.

This online tool is intended to make it easier for children to travel while preventing their abduction to foreign countries by a non-custodial parent. It was developed in response to the needs of parents, legal professionals and consular officials. Parents are required to carry a notarized consent letter signed by a non-travelling custodial parent as proof of permission to allow their children to travel and they can now easily compose a clear and concise document simply by filling out a form online. This new resource can be found at www.travel.gc.ca.

A number of other resources are available to the traveler and useful whether planning a short vacation or a long-term stay. A handy Traveller's Checklist, also found at www.travel.gc.ca, includes the following planning recommendations:

- Sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad service before you depart.

- Check for up-to-date Country Travel Reports and Warnings website at voyage.gc.ca.
- Learn the location of the Canadian government office in the country you plan to visit.
- Carry a Canadian passport that is valid well beyond the date of your anticipated return to Canada; keep a copy of the identification page separate from the original.
- Leave copies of your passport identification page, itinerary, and insurance policy with friends or family.
- Obtain any required visas well in advance.
- If travelling with children carry documentation proving your right to accompany them (e.g., a consent letter or court order).
- Arrange for supplemental travel health insurance.
- Anticipate financial needs such as local currency and departure tax.
- Take care of health needs: vaccinations, prescriptions, medical certificates, supplies, extra eyeglasses.
- Check whether dual citizenship is an issue for you.
- Carry an Emergency Contact Card with the coordinates of the nearest Canadian government office in your destination country.
- Obtain an International Driving Permit, if required.

Of course despite best laid plans, you can never predict when you might need support and assistance abroad. In the event of an emergency, the local Canadian government office can easily help if you are registered with the Registration of Canadians Abroad Service. This is a free, confidential service that will keep

you connected to Canada in case of an emergency such as an earthquake or civil unrest, or inform you of a crisis at home. You can register with this service before you depart by mail, fax, or online at www.voyage.gc.ca.

Canada operates over 260 consular offices in over 150 countries around the world. Consular officials can provide advice and information for items such as medical services, local laws and customs, replace lost or stolen passports and contact relatives or friends when you need serious help. If you do run into a problem abroad, whether a lost or stolen passport or something more serious, you can reach the nearest Canadian office through the Department of Foreign Affairs' Emergency Operations Centre. The offices and the Centre can be reached at 613-996-8885 and accepts collect calls, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can also reach them by email at sos@international.gc.ca.

My Pre-Budget Consultation meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on January 25 at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. This is an excellent opportunity to let your government know how you would like your federal tax dollars spent and your priorities for the future. An online survey is also available at www.loisbrown.ca and comments can always be faxed or mailed to my office. Many of your suggestions in the past have been implemented so please take the time to share your thoughts.

I wish you all the best for the coming New Year. I can always be reached by phone at 905-953-7515 or email at Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca.



Front Porch Perspective

By STEPHEN SOMERVILLE

Dream golf foursome

One of my favourite past times is golf. I love playing the sport and also watching it, either in person at the Canadian Open or on television. Some of you may think viewing golf on television is akin to watching paint dry, but hey, I also like watching CPAC and the provincial political channel. Yes, I don't get out much!

Other than watching the Masters tournament in early April and the U.S. Open in June, my other favourite golfing event is the Sony Open, played in Hawaii, in early January.

The weather up here is usually rotten; cold, lots of snow and the sun goes down around 5 p.m. every day.

This is in stark contrast to the scenery that unfolds on your television; lush palm trees, beautiful mountains, deep blue oceans and green fairways.

This also helps me bridge the gap to Easter when I watch the Masters with the great azaleas and the manicured fairways and the dark green dyed ponds.

What also got me to thinking about golf was a recent discussion in the dressing room with my "Old Timer" hockey teammates. We somehow got to talking about who we would want to have in our dream foursomes.

As you can imagine, the foursomes ranged from sporting heroes to religious figures to rock stars.

One gentleman kindly suggested that his foursome would include Ms. September 2011, Ms. October 2011 and the Ms.

November 2011 Playboy Playmates.

His defense partner suggested a friendly amendment to this; replacing Ms. September 2011 with Ms. June 2011!

So that I don't have to sleep in the shed behind my house, I will say that my dream foursome would only have three players; my wife, son and I.

Now, with that out of the way, I can unveil my secondary dream team.

I am going to cheat here. I will have two foursomes.

The first foursome will be my political foursome.

It will contain Sir John A. Macdonald, John Diefenbaker and Richard Nixon.

Sir John would have to be included as the first Prime Minister of Canada. As a thirty year Conservative party member, I would love to hear his stories and talk to him about the Pacific Scandal and Louis Riel. I would be sure to have lots of Scotch on the cart for him.

I never met the Chief (who passed away in 1979), but have read a lot about him and seen some documentaries on television and it was said that he was a wonderful story teller. I would like to hear him reminisce about his successful 1957 and 1958 national election campaigns.

I have always been fascinated by Richard Nixon. He was such a Shakespearian character, who attained great political heights but also was the only man to have to resign the U.S.

Presidency. I would like to ask him about his overture to China and as well about the Watergate saga.

My other foursome would contain Walt Disney, U.S. General George Marshall and Terry Fox.

My family and I love going to Disney World and I have read so much about this man. His vision and creativity are iconic. I would like to talk to him about Disney World and whether he is happy or not with the direction of the company today.

George Marshall was a former five star U.S. Army General who was the organizer of victory in the Second World War. The "Marshall Plan" was also credited with the economic reconstruction of Europe after this War. He also was a Secretary of State in the 1950's and a Noble Peace Prize award winner.

I would like to get his views on current world events and ask what he thinks of America's status in the world today.

As we all know, Terry Fox died much too young. I would like to ask him about the personal highlights of his run across this country and tell him about the enduring legacy that he left behind.

Who would be in your dream foursome?

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

Reader has suggestion for Yonge-Wellington corridor traffic

To the editor:

Re: "Traffic study won't help Yonge/Wellington corridor" (Tuesday, January 3, 2012, Pg 1)

Well, Mr. Steven Kemp, Director of Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems for the Region of York (who came up with that elongated title?), tell us something that we don't already know.

I personally have been trying to hammer home an idea for the Yonge/Wellington corner for years, yet nobody seems to want to listen, let alone move forward with fixing this. I have attended many workshop discussions over the years, made presentations to Aurora Town Council, made presentations in the discussion groups,

written letters to the editor, and it all falls on deaf ears.

The last time I made a presentation was to the Aurora Downtown Revitalization committee, and that was a few years ago.

The problem with downtown Aurora is if you follow some of the recommendations, it would speed up traffic flow at this corner, but it would literally kill any downtown businesses, and I'm not in agreement with that at all. The MTO has suggested years ago that all parking on Yonge Street in downtown Aurora should be eliminated.

Thank goodness no one listened to that suggestion. Then you have the problem of no one (myself included) wanting to tear down heritage buildings in the downtown core for the sake of traf-

fic flow. Numerous ideas have been tossed about, but there is only one option left that has not been given a chance at this corner: a right hand turn lane for southbound Yonge Street traffic to westbound Wellington.

If you install this right hand turn lane, one of the existing lanes for southbound traffic can be dedicated to left hand turns to Wellington East, leaving the other lane for straight through southbound traffic. This isn't a new idea at all, as I shall prove. I received a letter from Brian Harrison, Director Operations, Transportation Services Department Roads Branch for York Region at the time, which was December 2008.

In that letter, Mr. Harrison explained that it had been noted that the

Yonge/Wellington intersection was a problem corner, and there have been annual traffic studies conducted since 1997.

In 1999, Aurora Town Council requested from the Region, a study on an exclusive right hand turn lane from westbound Wellington to northbound Yonge Street. This right hand lane was installed rather quickly in 2005. Why, you may ask? Because Wellington Street falls under the jurisdiction of the Region of York, whereas Yonge Street is the responsibility of the Town of Aurora. So the Region identified a problem at this intersection, came up with the plan to fix it, and did so. Anyone who drives that area knows what an incredible difference that right hand turning lane has made.

Mr. Harrison's letter continued, and I quote, "The installation of the right turn lane was included in the Class Environmental Assessment for Wellington Street in 1999, but was constructed separately. The southbound right turn on Yonge Street at Wellington Street has been reviewed and also is warranted. In order for this to be constructed, and as Yonge Street in this area is a Town of Aurora road, the Town of Aurora would have to satisfy the Class Environmental Assessment requirements, complete the design, tender and construction, a process that could be done reasonably quickly, although the Town would have to confirm the timelines."

When I presented this letter to the roundtable discussions, all I was met with was "Where did you get that letter?"

The facts are there, people, and the Town of Aurora has been needlessly sitting on their thumbs, while the traffic flow continues to get worse with each passing year. I guess it's easier to call in a consulting group and pay them \$300,000 for another study on the traffic flow, when even a blind man can see what needs to be done. If Yonge Street was a regional road, then this right hand turn lane would have been installed years ago.

So the Town Council of the day requests the Region of York to perform a traffic study on the Yonge/Wellington corner in Town and then every Town Council since does absolutely nothing with the recommendations from that study. When is someone going to wake up at the Town Hall?

Mark Holmes
Aurora

Environmentalist seeks more bird data

To the editor:

Re: Owl Survey Update & Sighting Wild Turkeys and Ruffed Grouse:

We had a very good response from our letter in The Auroran in mid-November 2011, requesting information on the presence of owls in Aurora. As a result, we managed to locate six new pairs in Aurora.

We would now like you to tell us if you have, or had, any flocks of wild turkey on your property - indicating the location and number of birds in the flock, or any individual birds you may have seen.

We would also be very pleased to hear if you have seen any ruffed grouse (sometimes called wild partridge) on your property or other people's property in Town. To

date, we have only managed to locate one pair. In the 1970s it used to be a very common bird in the wooded areas of Aurora, but now appears to be very rare.

Please call 905-727-8979 and leave a message with your telephone number to report any sightings of these birds.

Due to a very heavy agenda, my presentation on the Wildlife Park to the Aurora Council on

December 6 had to be cancelled. It has now been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 17 at 5.30 p.m. at Town Hall, and the public is invited to attend.

If you are interested in seeing a presentation on the history and current status of this proposal I would appreciate your support.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

A response from the Town Treasurer

A response to Alex Vander Veen from the Town re: "Princely' Tax Bill":

Thank you for drawing our attention to our error. An internal process failed allowing our issuance of the tax notice to occur prior to another internal process which would have cleared these pen-

nies from your account. Our statements did indicate "DO NOT PAY" however, such communication failed us. We apologize for any inconvenience which may have occurred.

Staff are working with our software vendor to see if better solutions can be arrived at for both our treatment of the rounding

in the calculation, as well as the format used in printing our year-end statements. We are hoping we can integrate your year-end statements, often used by our clients for tax purposes, with our communications regarding the forthcoming instalments for the subsequent year. Unfortunately such inte-

gration is not possible for this year-end cycle.

Staff at Town Hall are committed to reducing administrative efforts, capturing efficiencies which are economically available, and always looking to improve our client services. Unfortunately, much to our displeasure and embarrassment, situations such as those [to which] you drew our attention, occasionally occur despite our best efforts.

Dan Elliott, C.A.
Director of Corporate and Financial Services (Treasurer)
Town of Aurora

Aurora considers finance committee

From page 1
instated for the 2006-2010 Council term.

"Other finance and budget committees I have seen in other municipalities follow that similar path, so they really look at that budget process as a year-round process. They do it quarterly to provide advanced input and thoughts on it and then certainly you have that intense two-month period where you're

meeting semi-regularly to go through the items as well.

"I think by evoking this committee early on you can get some of the initial process or questions out of the way, get a little bit more focused, and allow for a much more productive session."

Another budget session is likely in the works for next week. Councillors are expected to meet Monday, January 16 at

5.30 p.m. for a Special Council Meeting to hold another budget meeting. If Councillors vote in favour of having another meeting, the budget session will immediately follow.

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Peter Virtanen
CLU Agent, Aurora

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Next to No Frills

Birth mothers offer support and understanding

By Brock Weir

When Susan and Chris came forward last fall to share their experiences as teen mothers who put their children up for adoption they intended to offer themselves to residents as a support network.

The two women have formed Birth Mothers York Region, a group for likeminded women - and essentially anyone who has experienced adoption - in the hopes that their experiences would help others who have gone through the same thing to learn from each other.

In a "safe and confidential environment", the two offer comfort understanding, conversation and friendship and hope that people involved can find their own answers within the group and heal some of the still raw feelings that come with being birth mothers.

Throwing their idea out there to the community, Susan and Chris (not their real names for the sake of confidentiality) were not sure what sort of response they would get after The Auroran published their story, but one response in particular made the effort worthwhile, according to Chris.

"[The reader's] words were that when The Auroran arrived, she opened it up, got through the first paragraph and bawled because she felt those were her thoughts and feelings on paper," said Chris. "That, to us, is exactly what we wanted to do - let other people know that they are not alone. "There are tons of us out

there and we're just all afraid to speak to anyone about it."

Chris and Susan are just two of the countless women who, when in their teens, put their children up for adoption for various reasons including, they said, societal pressure and guilt inflicted on them from others. Susan gave up her son nearly 40 years ago and Chris her daughter 10 years later. They said that when they went through the birth and adoption process, outside support and resources were unavailable to them to help them to make them fully aware of the impacts and alternatives.

"The negativity you were getting from the nurses, the hospital, from society...you may have had to go somewhere else to have the baby so that nobody knew in the neighbourhood," said Chris, who has since been reunited with her daughter. "Unless you had family support it was hard, but then to realise that at a young age that later on what you gave up is a very difficult thing to replace. You just thought, 'This is what I am supposed to do because that is what society is telling me.'"

From Susan's perspective, her experience with her son was similar. As an only child living alone with her recently widowed mother, she said teen moms were often "branded" and left to languish without being informed of the resources available to them.

"Nobody came in, nobody offered you support, the mother wasn't allowed in the room with you," remembered

Susan. "When the baby was born, [the hospital said] 'Here are the papers. You can't expect your mother to raise this child. You can't raise it, you're too young and you can't give it the life another family can give.'"

"The deciding factor was we were both still in school, we were both still living at home. When I had the baby my mother said to me, 'We can't do this. I can't take on this child.' There were no resources, she didn't have the money to raise it...There was a lot of influence from outsiders we were dealing with at the time.

"He was born at night and there was a social worker in my bedroom the next morning saying, 'This is what you should do. It is better for the baby. It is better for you. You can go on with your life. You're doing him a favour. He'll be raised by great people.' There were a lot of outside pressures on you trying to sway you in the way they wanted you to be swayed."

The two women came together after meeting through the support group Parent Finders in Newmarket and since their meeting they have tried to find other women with similar stories, but both say this has been difficult due to secrecy and "stigma" that still surrounds their experiences.

"It takes a lot of courage, even in an anonymous email to send it to someone else and identify yourself," said Chris. "I personally feel there is a lot of stigma. I think as people get to know us [they would be surprised.] I see

people that still don't know about me [and] once I told them, they would say something like, 'Wow, you've got your family and you seem like a normal human being.'"

Since the initial article appeared in The Auroran in October, Chris said her family was initially concerned because it is a very emotional story, but they were very supportive in the end. She also received encouragement from friends who read her story and had got the idea that she was Chris.

"A lot of people said, 'Way to go, that was a big step,' and it felt good and that is one thing that I did relay to the girl who made contact who said, 'Don't give up on me,'" said Chris.

As for the girl who contacted the group, she and Chris have tentatively been in communication about their experiences but are taking things slow and have so far simply exchanged emails.

"She was asking me what it was like to reunite with my daughter because she has reunited as well and a lot of the thoughts and feelings are like you are not deserving of reuniting. When I thought about it since then I think it is because when you give a baby up for adoption you sign a paper saying you have no legal rights and I think that stays in your head even though when they are 18 you are allowed to make contact.

"I think that one of the barriers we face is we think someone is supposed to come to us and say, 'It's okay, now you can have a relationship with them.'"

Kettle drive surpasses goal by \$20,000

By Wendy Solodiuk

Central-York Region came through for the Salvation Army this Christmas.

Residents in Aurora, Newmarket and for the first year ever, Bradford, opened their hearts and their wallets to one of Canada's oldest, and most trusted charities, raising \$206,000 for the Region during the Annual Christmas Campaign.

This total (which includes donations received through mail, 15 Kettle stations and the annual Tag Program) surpasses last year's goal by \$20,000 - a success story that does not surprise Major Brian Bishop of the Salvation Army of Central-York Region (SACYR).

"Time and time again, the people of Central-York have supported the Salvation Army," said Major Bishop. "I had every confidence that the public would come through again."

Despite the turn-around, one week prior to Christmas totals were down nearly \$20,000 over the same time last year. Major Bishop credits media exposure and last minute donations from holiday shoppers to the overall success of the 2011 Campaign.

"I'd like to say congratulations and thank you. It's very

humbling to recognize the kind of support we receive from the community," he said, adding that in this town alone, totals were up nearly \$6,000.

"Way to go Aurora!" he said.

In addition to ensuring a happy holiday season, proceeds from the Kettle Drive will be used to fund community and family service programs such as Grief Share,

Bread Cap, Financial Wellness, Emotional Rescue, Anger Management (for adults and students), and gift certificates for clothing and household items at Salvation Army stores.

The Christmas Kettle Campaign began on the docks of San Francisco in 1883. At the time, the initiative was considered an innovative way to fundraise

to serve the poor. The Campaign came to Canada in 1906 and today, there are more than 2,000 Kettles nationally each Christmas.

As the needs and numbers of people served by the Salvation Army Central York Region continues to grow with the population, Major Bishop said he is pleased to see that the pot "was kept boiling" this holiday season.

Advertorial

Upcoming Workshop to Reveal Surprising Secrets of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and most Wrist/Hand Pain

If you suffer from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome or wrist/hand pain you should be aware that an upcoming workshop in Oak Ridges will reveal eye-opening solutions to help those suffering with these conditions.

The workshop will reveal the underlying causes of most wrist and hand pain as well as share why these causes are frequently overlooked by doctors.

Attendees will discover why a failure to address these underlying causes usually results in continuing pain and suffering. These ongoing symptoms may include pain, tingling, numb-

ness, burning, aching, stiffness, swelling, weakness and/or limited movements.

The workshop will discuss the track record of common treatments including pills, surgery, splints and exercise and reveal exciting non drug, non surgical treatments that are safe and effective.

Of major concern is that many patients continue to be plagued by wrist pain despite repeated visits to their doctor.

Many patients fear the risks and invasive nature of wrist surgery. The workshop reveals that many patients have wrist surgery but wind up frustrated that their pain

only resolves partially or not at all. In many cases the pain reoccurs later after surgery.

Surprisingly, a very common but hidden cause of hand and wrist pain is not even located in the wrist! The presentation explains why most doctors are not trained to check for this underlying cause.

The workshop is free and is being offered as a community service. It is provided to help eliminate pain and suffering in those affected.

The workshop will take place Wed. January 18, 7.30 pm – 9 pm. Seating is limited.

To make reservations call (888) 837-0407.



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Hundreds Expected to Cash In Today by Selling Silver & Gold Coins During Record High Market!

By **DAVID MORGAN**
STAFF WRITER

ICC will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1968 and U.S. coins made before 1970. Those that bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at by a specialist. With the help of these ICC members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1968. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1968 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors also known as ICC. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If it is rare enough, one coin could be worth over \$100,000 according to Eric Helms, coin collector and ICC member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record \$1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICC and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold, says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes can be worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on common coins made of silver. Helms explains that all U.S. half dollars, quarters and dimes made before 1970 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market he said.

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These coins always bring big premiums according to the ICC. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

Other types of items the ICC will be purchasing during this event include U.S.

currency, gold bullion, investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also at this event anyone can sell their gold jewellery, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Gold is currently trading at record high prices. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell, you will be paid on the spot – it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewellery and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If your're lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

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Library seeks budget increase

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Public Library has requested an increase of over \$208,000 for their 2012 budget.

The increase will allow the library to maintain 2011 service levels throughout the year as well as make a contribution to their reserves for repair and replacement of their assets, according to Library CEO Louise Procter Maio.

"For 2012 we have developed new objectives in the business plan that inform the budget," she said. "Most of all they align with the direction that is included in the library strategic plan which outlines the vision of library service in the community."

The Library will look into further performance measures, create a new position to promote the library's presence, profile and appeal in the community, and look to new partnership opportunities and programs, she said.

With the requested increase, the Library plans on putting a \$130,000 contribution into their capital reserves, and while Ms. Procter Maio conceded that it is a "significant" contribution, she said this will repair and replace their ageing assets and maintain service levels.

The Library building and most of its components are now 10 years old and plans need to

said she had indeed received that message but it was a no-go.

"We looked at our other expenditures and reviewed and contained them as best we could," she said. "They make up about 10 per cent of our budget and we contained them to a 2.5 per cent increase, which is below the CPI rate now."

The Library's proposed new position to bolster its profile came into question as well from Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said she thought the Library was doing "pretty well" in that regard. Ms. Procter Maio didn't disagree, but said their research found that residents still had a "very traditional" view of the Library and the new services they offered.

"This is a definite and purposeful focus in the strategic plan about communication and marketing and, as I said, this position has been on our books and has come forward on stream for 2012," said Ms. Procter Maio.

According to Library Board Chair Charles Levine, the Aurora Public Library is "critical" to people without the means to purchase access to the resources offered by the Library. The collections and services, he said, that cross the economic and digital divide enable "all residents to participate fully in society. This is especially important during economic downturns."



Ming Yang and her daughter Fiona stopped by the Library Saturday to pick up their Baby Bundles package from Jo-Anne Jordan. The Bundles serve to introduce new parents to the Library and are sponsored by the Optimist Club.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

be made to replace parts nearing the end of their lifespan, she said.

"We must also plan to put necessary new assets in place to meet the needs of our growing community, so we are facing the same expectations as the municipality with regards to asset planning," she said.

"The 2012 budget is a sound budget that enables us to maintain the standard of service we had in 2011. It includes cost for all existing 2011 staff plus funding new positions of public service support, [and costs] for all existing services and programs."

Councillors, however, questioned whether the figures presented during budget consultations last month could be cut. Chris Ballard asked Ms. Procter Maio if she too had been challenged by Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, as Town staff were, to reduce their departmental budgets down by one per cent. She

By last September, the Library boasted a membership of 30,600, or about 56 per cent of the population, added Mr. Levine. By the third quarter, nearly 481,000 items had been borrowed, about 8.7 items per person.

"Typically, over 6,200 people visit the Library weekly or, to put that further into context, about 100 people visit the Library every hour," he said. "Almost 8,900 people attended Library programs, 183,000 visits have been made to the Library website, and that equates to over 3.3 visits per person."

"I hope that it is evident that the Aurora Public Library provides a value added service to this community by connecting resources with people and contributing to the social capital of the community. We respectfully ask that you consider [the budget] and reflect that dollars transcend the bottom line to invest in this community."

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Students go continental to make dream come true

By Brock Weir

Students at Aurora's Ecole Renaissance will soon be hitting the catwalk to send a fellow student on her dream trip to Paris.

The kids from Ecole Renaissance - as well as students from their three local feeder schools including Ecole St-Jean - are banding together to hold a combination fashion and talent show on March 3 to help send Alexia Chabot to France with her family.

Alexia, a Grade 8 student, is expected to be back at school this week after receiving treatment for leukemia at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Through the Children's Wish Foundation, the school hopes the Paris-themed evening will top the \$4,000 raised last year for a student in similar circumstances.

"We're going to be doing auditions with our three feeder schools this month for talent because they are going to be participating and we have auditions going on in our high school for the next couple of weeks also," said Chantal Bertrand, pastoral coordinator for the school. "Then we're getting together with suppliers for the fashion show part of it because we're doing one fashion show for kids with Bonnie Togs and another for teens with French Connection."

The fundraiser for Alexia's trip to Paris is the latest event in a number of programs students at Renaissance have put together for their community in recent months, according to Ms. Bertrand. Things kicked off with a significant food drive in October, followed by a warm clothing initiative in November.

Their efforts to help patients at the Hospital for Sick Children kicked up during the holiday season when students from their International Baccalaureate program, Luciana Feneck, Danica Paré, Jeremy Roy, and Timothy Roy, collected items to deliver festive fun to the kids.

"[Through the International Baccalaureate Program] students do 140 volunteer hours in two years

of school as part of the program and they do leadership programs and different initiatives for the community," said Ms. Bertrand. "These four kids decided that with the pastoral committee we would run this campaign for Sick Kids."

"We had our Christmas tree and we had angels so people could basically buy a gift and put their names on an angel on our tree. We filled up our tree with these gold angels in our atrium and the Monday before Christmas [we were able to] deliver 242 gifts for Sick Kids."

Although the students collected toys for kids of all ages, at the behest of the hospital, particular emphasis was put on gifts for kids aged zero to eight and for teens. Ms. Bertrand said they initially thought of doing something similar to initiatives like Toy Mountain, but it was the students themselves who wanted to shift focus to the hospital.

"We kind of merged the two ideas together and thought, 'Let's do a gift campaign and do it for the kids at Sick Kids,'" she said. "Those four kids were actually in contact with the hospital to find out what the needs were [and the details] so the timeline was December 19. We launched our program on November 29 and it ran for three weeks."

Students went from classroom to classroom to discuss the initiative with their fellow students, broadcast the progress of the campaign through morning announcements, and encouraged students "to open up our hearts and give to these kids that aren't in a very good situation in comparison to us."

"We promoted it to our parents in newsletters and through emails that we sent out to our base, and the families responded very well," added Ms. Bertrand, noting that their three feeder schools participated as well, contributing \$630 to help the Renaissance students purchase gifts.

The fundraiser for Alexia Chabot and the Children's Wish Foundation will take place at the school on Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m.



Students at Aurora's ECE Renaissance spent the holiday season collecting toys for kids at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Pictured in the first row above, (left to right) are Cara O'Hearn, Shanny Ndayiragije, Isabelle Quail, Victoria Spiterie, Chantal Bertrand, Jeremy Roy, Kendra Legault. Behind them are Emily Li Niap Fah, Anny-Aysel Ineza, Taylor Fortin, Luciana Feneck, Timothy Roy, Danica Paré, Danika Bertrand, and Cynthia Boutin-Lacelle. The students are following up their holiday success with a fundraiser this month to help send a fellow student to Paris.

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Jackie Thorton entertained kids at the Aurora Public Library over the weekend by reading them *How to Build a Snowman*. Ms. Thorton read the story as part of the Library's first storytelling event of the year.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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Week of January 10, 2012



HOUSE LEAGUE

607 Crabby Joes 11 - David Tonelli 1G 1A, Tony Sul 1G, Christian Ferguson 1G, Anthony Livia 1G, Jack Chivers 1G, Brayden Pitre 1G, Dalton Slind 1G, Bradley Shennan 3G 1A, Roberto Iervasi 1A, Raffaele Parente 1. **611 Rotary Club 7** - Ryan Cameron 4G, Connor DeVogel 2G, Benjamin Godber 1A.

REP LEAGUE

Minor Atom AA - Aurora 1 - Evan Vierling 1G, Josh Lombard 1A, Daniel Gaeta 1A. **Georgina 0.**
Atom A - Aurora 6 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Anthony DiPietro 1G 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1G 1A, Blair Crabbe 2A, Spencer Morrison 1A, Andrew Park 2A Dylan Prescott 3A. **New Tecumseth 1.**
Atom AE - Aurora 2 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Matthew Gram 1G, Ryan McCartney 1A, Daniel Babcock 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A. **Forest Hill 2.**
Atom AE - Aurora 7 - Jack Patterson 2G, Luke Catania 3G 2A, Daniel Babcock 1G 1A, Alex Sandras 2A, Noah Johnson 1A, Jonathan Gianforcaro, shutout. **Brampton 0.**
Atom AE - Aurora 13 - Matthew Gram 3G 3A, Tyler Sawyer 3G 5A, Alex Sandras 1G 1A, Ryan McCartney 2G 3A, Luke Catania 1A, Daniel Babcock 2A, Carson Williams 2A, Owen Romano 1A, Noah Johnson 1A, Russell Tanaka 1A. **East York 1.**
Atom AE - Aurora 3 - Matthew Gram 1G 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Noah Dempsey 1G, Tyler Sawyer 2A, Jack Patterson 1A, Jonathan Gianforcaro, shutout. **Opponent 0.**
Atom AE - Aurora 4 - Tyler Sawyer 1G, Alex Sandras 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Luke Catania 1G, Jack Patterson 3A, Daniel Babcock 2A, Owen Romano 1A. **Opponent 2.**
Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Luke Catania 1G 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1G 2A, Cooper Judson 2A, Alex Sandras 1A, Noah Johnson 1A, Ryan McCartney 1A. **TNT 3.**
Minor Pee wee AA - Aurora 5 - Andrew Jorgensen 2G, Anthony Capraro 1G 1A,

Nicholas Rountes 1G, Nicholas Keller 1A, Matthew Ferry 1A, Brandon Vaughan 1A, Anthony Magnante 2A, Jaedon Jackson 1A. **Markham 1.**
Pee wee AE - Aurora 2 - Andrew Sutherland 1G, Cameron Dyer 1G, Alexander Simardone 1A, Jared Duthie 1A. **Barrie 2.**
Pee wee AE - Aurora 5 - Andrew Sutherland 2G, Keaton Thompson 1G, Sam Speranini 1G 1A, Cameron Dyer 1A. **Stouffville 1.**
Pee wee AE - Orillia 3.
Aurora 2 - Ryan Thornhill 1G, Eric Pears 1G, Cameron Dyer 1A.
Pee wee AE - Georgina 4.
Aurora 2 - Ryan Thornhill 1G 1A, Eric Pears 1A, Jared Duthie 1A.
Minor Bantam AA - Aurora 3 - Cameron Zinner 1G, Deven Duguara 1G 1A, Evan Woodhead 1G, Tyler Williams 1A, Jared Brown 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**
Minor Bantam A - Vaughan 4. Aurora 0.
Minor Bantam A - Caledon 5. Aurora 1 - Colin Kostin 1G, Will Ashton 1A, Ryan Coveart 1A.
Minor Bantam A - Aurora 4 - Tristan Kuchar 2G 2A, Colin Kostin 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Matthew Liscio 1A, Christian Arcuri 1A. **Burlington Eagles 1.**
Minor Bantam A - Innisfil 6. Aurora 3 - Cameron Zinner 1G 1A, Colin Kostin 1G, Ryan Coveart 2A, Austin Kiraly 1A.
Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 2 - Jack Bryant 1G 1A, Harrison Lambrinos 1A. **Newmarket 2.**
Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 1 - Christian Pearce 1G, Nicolas Pearce 1A. **Stouffville 0.**
Minor Bantam AE - Barrie 7. Aurora 1 - Jack Bryant 1G. **Minor Bantam AE - Barrie 2. Aurora 1** - Brendan Ramsay 1G.
Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 2 - Brendan Ramsay 1G, Nicolas Pearce 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 2A, Daniel McConnell 1A, Anthony Orlandi 1A. **Stouffville 2.**
Minor Midget A - Innisfil 3. Aurora 2 - Liam Beresford 1G, Zac Cowl 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1A, Austin Persaud 1A.
Minor Midget A - Aurora 2 - Kyle Nice 1G, Zac Cowl 1G, Matthew Tozer 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A. **Richmond Hill 2.**



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results, up to January 8, 2012

MONDAY NIGHT MEN’S LEAGUE

First Name	Last Name	Team	#	G	A	PT	First Name	Last Name	Team	#	G	A	PT
Tom	Hussey	Copper Creek	19	13	29	42	Scott	Harris	Highlands	4	1	4	5
John	Archibald	Copper Creek	14	23	17	40	Rob	Carnegie	MasterClean	5	1	4	5
Ryan	Bryce	MasterClean	19	13	16	29	Mark	Thompson	Priestly	14	1	4	5
Steve	Kavanagh	Baldwins	14	8	13	21	Giancarlo	Trimarchi	Priestly	44	4	1	5
Pat	O'Mahoney	Baldwins	11	10	10	20	Jason	Hurlbut	Rec Sports	8	2	3	5
Steven	MacDonald	Highlands	6	11	9	20	Matt	Salani	Rec Sports	10	1	4	5
Steve	Robertson	MasterClean	11	6	14	20	Brad	McMillan	Baldwins	8	1	3	4
John	Andersen	Rec Sports	16	9	11	20	Phil	Goodenough	Baldwins	17	3	1	4
Rob	Blakely	MasterClean	7	8	11	19	Scott	Sheppard	Baldwins	24	1	3	4
Ken	Heinrich	Rec Sports	2	6	13	19	John	Spicer	Baldwins	77	2	2	4
Mark	Swirla	Tom & Jerry's	91	12	7	19	Raz	Khamissa	Copper Creek	12	0	4	4
Paul	Wolanski	Copper Creek	77	8	10	18	Mike	Bishop	FPL	10	2	2	4
Andrew	Weedon	Copper Creek	9	7	9	16	Brian	Horton	FPL	11	2	2	4
Ken	Rumble	Highlands	19	3	13	16	Derek	Preston	FPL	15	1	3	4
Larry	Martin	MasterClean	4	8	7	15	Brad	Jackson	MasterClean	12	3	1	4
Jason	Moring	Rec Sports	7	7	8	15	John	Dickie	Priestly	18	2	2	4
Dwayne	Smith	Tom & Jerry's	9	7	8	15	Pat	Davies	Priestly	77	3	1	4
Ryan	Spampinato	FPL	2	5	9	14	Brian	McCartney	Rec Sports	11	1	3	4
Ken	Fisher	Highlands	11	4	10	14	Bob Leeming	Khamissa	Tom & Jerry's	14	0	4	4
Ed	Kilroy	Rec Sports	5	7	7	14	Steve	Bromley	Tom & Jerry's	17	1	3	4
Todd	Richardson	Tom & Jerry's	27	6	8	14	Scott	Weatherspoon	FPL	13	1	2	3
Gerald	Briand	Baldwins	4	7	6	13	Marty	McDermott	Highlands	3	0	3	3
Mark	Sedore	Priestly	8	7	6	13	Rob	Stroud	Priestly	5	1	2	3
Bill	Featherston	Priestly	22	5	8	13	Shayne	Dysart	Rec Sports	4	0	3	3
Doug	Adair	Rec Sports	9	8	5	13	Brad	Wilson	Tom & Jerry's	7	0	3	3
Justin	Hampton	Baldwins	16	6	6	12	Bob	Ince	Tom & Jerry's	15	0	3	3
Mike	O'Conner	FPL	7	4	8	12	Joe	Daly	Baldwins	9	1	1	2
Richard	Fava	Highlands	8	6	6	12	Brett	Vickers	FPL	3	2	0	2
Sam	Spranini	Highlands	14	7	5	12	Jerry	MacKrell	Highlands	17	1	1	2
Paul	Gibson	MasterClean	15	7	5	12	Dave	Maybury	Rec Sports	3	1	1	2
Peter	Briand	Baldwins	19	6	5	11	Darryl	Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	19	0	2	2
Jeff	Sleep	FPL	5	6	5	11	Dennis	Tonello	Copper Creek	8	0	1	1
Murray	Campbell	Highlands	5	4	7	11	Craig	Donaldson	FPL	20	0	1	1
Nick	Weedon	Highlands	16	4	7	11	Doug	Ikeda	MasterClean	16	0	1	1
David	Dewulf	Rec Sports	15	6	5	11	Mike	Ing	Rec Sports	6	0	1	1
Jesse	Ives	Tom & Jerry's	11	7	3	10	Andrew	Dalton	Rec Sports	14	1	0	1
Ken	Van Noort	FPL	9	4	5	9	John	Steenhorst	Rec Sports	17	0	1	1
Glen	Bince	MasterClean	20	3	6	9	Keith	Carruthers	Tom & Jerry's	5	1	0	1
Martin	Kusimarek	Priestly	28	1	8	9	Jimmy	Comfort	Baldwins	G	0	0	0
Phil	Podstatzky	Priestly	88	6	3	9	Don	Nichols	Copper Creek	5	0	0	0
Adam	Tzark	Copper Creek	16	3	5	8	Gary	Baxter	Copper Creek	G	0	0	0
Ron	Van Noort	Highlands	2	4	4	8	John	Nicholson	FPL	4	0	0	0
Bill	Hanlon	MasterClean	9	4	4	8	Jason	Bright	FPL	G	0	0	0
Jerone	Flanigan	MasterClean	17	1	7	8	Steve	Bacsalmasi	Highlands	G	0	0	0
Dan	Cote	Copper Creek	6	2	5	7	Ryan	Dover	MasterClean	G	0	0	0
Hank	Vanbakel	Copper Creek	10	3	4	7	Gord	Lee	Priestly	9	0	0	0
Darren	Yaremko	Copper Creek	17	3	4	7	Ryan	Priestly	Priestly	12	0	0	0
Craig	Gellatly	FPL	6	2	5	7	Jeff	Sproul	Priestly	G	0	0	0
Andrew	Bulmer	Highlands	7	4	3	7	Charlie	Harding	Rec Sports	G	0	0	0
Gareth	McDonald	Highlands	9	5	2	7	Walt	Karabin	Tom & Jerry's	G	0	0	0
Hugh	Alcorn	MasterClean	21	0	7	7							
John	Morning	Priestly	2	2	5	7							
Mike	Caicco	Priestly	4	1	6	7							
Les	Nip	Priestly	10	3	4	7							
Mark	Inglis	Tom & Jerry's	4	2	5	7							
Kevin	O'Keefe	Tom & Jerry's	10	3	4	7							
Ed	Jackson	Baldwins	7	1	5	6							
Mark	Lemon	Baldwins	10	3	3	6							
Dave	Caverley	FPL	14	1	5	6							
John	Leeder	MasterClean	14	3	3	6							
Scott	Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	65	3	3	6							
Bill	Collins	Baldwins	21	2	3	5							
Bill	Nunn	Baldwins	91	4	1	5							
Neil	Curran	Copper Creek	7	1	4	5							
Chris	Neale	Copper Creek	11	1	4	5							
Bruce	Ing	Copper Creek	18	0	5	5							
Scott	Leslie	FPL	12	2	3	5							

2011/2012 Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
COPPER CREEK	9	2	3	68	45	21
HIGHLANDS CHEV-CAD	8	2	4	56	39	20
MASTERCLEAN CONTRACTING	7	4	3	57	40	17
BALDWIN'S	7	4	3	51	51	17
REC CYCLE N' SPORTS	5	7	2	48	41	12
FPL AGGREGATES	4	8	2	41	56	10
TOM & JERRY'S	3	8	3	41	61	9
PRIESTLY DEMOLITION	1	9	4	41	69	6

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Tigers off to hot start in 2012

By Kevin Michie

You could call it a relatively successful week for the Aurora Tigers.

Following wins over Orangeville, Milton and Huntsville, the Tigers sit in third place in the North Division.

The Tigers suffered one loss, though, and it came at the hands of the Stouffville Spirit, the club that sits three points in front of Aurora for second spot in the division.

"If we can win 10 out of 15 games remaining, we can make a run at second place," said Tigers head coach James Richmond, following the win over Orangeville last Tuesday.

The head coach admitted that catching Newmarket for first was a bit unrealistic. Mr. Richmond would, however, be happy with second place as that would give the club a first round bye and give the younger players some time to rest.

"It's key to beat Stouffville, and the Markham games will be good, hard games," said Mr. Richmond. "If we can win ten (games), we can make a run at it."

"We want to be on a role the last two weeks of the season."

Even with the loss to Stouffville, the Tigers are still streaking. The ball got rolling last Tuesday against Orangeville and forward Nick Angelo said that winning that game was key to kicking off the New Year.

"We wanted to come out, work hard, and make a statement that we didn't really take a break," said Mr. Angelo, who racked up two goals and an assist against the Flyers. "This is a whole new season right now, from here on in. That's what coaches talk about and now we [have] to work and be successful."

While most of the club was left to the practice rink over the holidays, two Tiger players were staying in game shape as they were selected to participate in an OHA challenge tournament.

Tigers captain Jarrett Fennell and forward Taylor McCloy both travelled to Smiths Falls to represent the OJHL North Division in the Central Canada Cup Challenge. The three-day tournament pitted teams from the OJHL North against teams from the three other OJHL divisions as well as teams from the CCHL, NOJHL and QJAAHL.

The OJHL team ended up losing in the final to the only QJAAHL team at the tournament but McCloy said the experience was worthwhile.

"It was a great tournament," said Mr. McCloy. "Really fast and good hockey."

The Tigers forward said that it was odd playing with some of his division rivals, including nine players from the Newmarket Hurricanes.

"They're all good guys," said the all-star forward. "We were teammates for that weekend but that's it. Might be a little weird seeing them on the other team [now]."

The Tigers will play their fifth game in eight days Tuesday night. They will host the Huntsville Otters who will, no doubt, be looking for revenge as the Tigers downed Huntsville 5-1 on Sunday.

The club will then head to Georgetown on Saturday to play the Raiders, in hopes of taking two points away from the West Division leaders.

Aurora now has 11 games remaining on their schedule. Mr. Richmond was clear that it would take at least ten wins to reach second place in the North, which means that the club needs to win seven of its last 11.

The task is far easier said than done. The Tigers will play the North leading Hurricanes twice, Markham twice and

Stouffville one more time before the end of the regular season. Losses to Newmarket are affordable but, even one loss to the Spirit or Waxers, and the Tigers may kiss second place goodbye.

Puck drop for Tuesday's game is scheduled for 7.30 at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora 8 Orangeville 2

First Period

A - Eric Bouchard (Goldberg, Angelo) 3:05
A - Nick Angelo (Fennell) 9:43 SH
A - Dylan Sikura (Johnson) 12:18 PP

Second Period

A - Taylor McCloy (Kennedy) 2:05
A - Evan Fong (Shier, Nice) 16:39
O - Jonathan Demme (Jackman, Cummings) 19:00 PP

Third Period

A - Jarrett Fennell (MacPerson) 4:33 PP
A - Nick Angelo (Goldberg, Shaw) 7:31 PP
O - Daniel Holt (Lorenz) 11:32
A - Jeff MacPherson (Hinsberg, Goldberg) 16:05 PP

STOUFFVILLE 3 AURORA 0

First Period

S - Leonard Dziemianko (Powers) 15:30

Third Period

S - Christian Finch (Porter, Caggiula) 0:33

S - Andrew Doyle (Savory) 12:59

AURORA 6 MILTON 2

First Period

M - CJ Stellato (Renouf, Renouf) 5:44
A - Dylan Wallace (Bouchard, Fong) 8:46
M - Kane Elliot (Gourlay, Williams) 12:49

Second Period

A - Dylan Sikiura (Shier, Cook) 4:07
A - Evan Fong (Wallace, Shier) 16:01
A - Jeff MacPherson (Goldberg, Fennell) 17:09
A - Ryan Johnson (Barletta, Wallace) 18:41 PP

Third Period

A - Eric Bouchard (Bennett, Fong) 18:19 PP

AURORA 5 HUNTSVILLE 1

Second Period

A - Jeff MacPherson (Barletta, McCloy) 2:39
A - Ryan Johnson (Shier) 8:09

Third Period

A - Andrew Goldberg 9:23
H - Jordan Minello (Crnogorac, Clairmont) 9:47 PP
A - Kory Kennedy (Goldberg) 14:45 PP
A - Derek Sheppard (Shier, Shaw) 19:51 PP

Atom A Tigers win Newmarket Tournament

Aurora's Atom A Tigers captured the trophy in the 61st annual Newmarket Atom Tournament last month. The team earned a 5-1 victory against the Brantford 99ers in the final game at the Magna Recreational Centre. The Tigers began the tournament with a 5-3 win over the Saugeen Shores Storm and a 4-1 win over the Caledon Hawks. The third round-robin game versus the Brantford 99ers proved to be a little more of a challenge for the Tigers and they suf-

fered a 5-1 loss.

Placing second in their division, the Tigers were off to the semi-finals versus the undefeated Port Perry Predators. Knowing what had to be done, the Tigers remained focused and battled hard for a 2-1 semi-final victory. Facing the Brantford 99ers again in the finals did not faze the Tigers and after two close periods, Aurora put the pressure on in the third period, scoring three goals in less than two minutes for a 5-1 victory to capture the championship.

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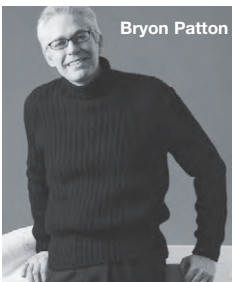


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Trustee steps down, work commitments a priority

By Wendy Soloduik

They say you can have it all - but not always at the same time.

For York Region District School Board trustee, Gord Kerr - a professional banker - the time to choose is now, and work has won.

Mid-second term, Mr. Kerr has tendered his resignation from the York Board, as he pursues new opportunities at his job.

"I work for one of Canada's large financial institutions, where I was assigned to a new role with a global mandate on November 1," Mr. Kerr told The Auroran. "It is that new global mandate that has made it necessary for me to resign my position as a public school trustee as it quickly became evident that I would no longer have enough time to balance my professional responsibilities and my responsibilities as a trustee. The right thing to do was to step aside so that the communities of Aurora and King Township can be served by someone else."

Now 50, Mr. Kerr says he

and his wife Briar (residents of Newmarket and Aurora since 1987) will spend any free time staying active and enjoying Ontario's bounty.

"We are avid Nordic skiers and cottagers in the Parry Sound area," he said. "For the foreseeable future, I will be consumed with the work involved in my new mandate."

First elected as trustee in 2006, Mr. Kerr served on several board-level committees, groups, and task forces within the YRDSB. He was also appointed to the Parent Voice in Education Project in 2004 by the then Minister of Education to advance parental and community involvement in Ontario.

"Having worked on school councils at the school level since 1995, the board level since 1999 and having the opportunity to work on the provincial advisory board in 2004 and 2005, I originally ran to continue the work on embedding the new provincial policy on Parent Engagement at the board level," Mr. Kerr said of his desire to become a trustee. "It was my intent to see through the implementation of

the provincial policy at the board level and, if necessary, contribute to fine-tuning the methods and approaches used to engage parents, families and communities from within the York Region District School Board."

"What I also discovered upon becoming a trustee was the need for a succession plan for the most senior leaders of the school board," Mr. Kerr continues. "In addition, there were a number of other operational issues that arose during that first term, including accommodation issues affecting the Dr. G. W. Williams and Wells Street school communities."

In his first term as trustee he served on a variety of board committees including the Parent, Family and Community Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Accommodation Review Committee for Wells Street Public School.

With meetings scheduled for early this month, the York Region District School Board will fill Kerr's position as quickly

as possible, through either bi-election or appointment - as several unfinished projects await the incoming trustee.

"There is a multi-year plan that has been defined and is in its second year of implementation," Mr. Kerr said. "That is work that will require continued focus and support. [Work is also] underway to refine the delivery of French language instruction across the board. I would like to see the consultation process completed in order to bring forward options for ensuring the continued and sustainable delivery of high quality French language instruction for all schools in the system."

Despite the loose ends, Kerr is proud of his accomplishments during his time as trustee.

"There are three items that I am most proud of," he said. "The first is that we successfully managed through the succession planning and executive search process to secure Ken Thurston as the new Director of Education for the York Region District School Board. He is arguably one of

the most, if not the most talented educational leaders in Canada and we were very fortunate that he chose to join our board. Through his leadership, the board now has a well-defined multi-year plan that is endorsed by the Board of Trustees and is guiding the work of all departments and schools within the system to further advance student achievement and well being.

"The second is that the Parent, Family and Community Advisory Committee is now embedded within the Board and operating as well as the Special Education Advisory Committee. This completes the work that I began at the provincial level in 2004 and, while it took some time to fine-tune it, it is now operating in a manner that is both sustainable and capable of further influencing the ways that the board engages parents and communities to support student achievement and well being. Involved parenting makes a

difference!

"Last, but certainly not least, is the incredible number of talented graduates that have completed their time in school while I was in office. I've had the honour of attending the graduation ceremonies for Aurora High, Dr. G. W. Williams and King City Secondary for the last five years and can say without a doubt that those ceremonies represent what we all strive for in public education. Graduation represents the culmination of 13 or 14 years of intense effort by educators, parents and every student that walks across the stage to receive their secondary school diploma and face whatever future pathway they have chosen.

"I am very proud of our graduates and will miss the joy of those ceremonies more than anything else as I leave office."

Looking forward, Kerr says he has no plans to run again for public office, but he, "will not rule it out in the future."

Liberals "look to tomorrow" in Ottawa

From page 1
elections."

Voting reforms within the party itself could also be in the offing, including a primary system to choose party leaders in a similar style to the ongoing Republican primaries in the United States. This is another option Mr. Peterson said he is considering but was leaning away from voting for it at press time.

One member, one vote - the current way in which the Liberal party selects its leader - is an "effective" way of doing the same thing, he said, and there is little need to change it.

"I think it is an effective way of seeing each member's voice is represented in the selection of leader," he said. "I think \$10 [party membership fee] is a small price to pay to be part of the political process, whatever

party you want to join.

"I think it is great that new ideas are coming to the surface, that's for sure, and they all come down to the details of whether or not each delegate will support a policy. [There are other resolutions] like a commitment to post-secondary education and commitments to daycare that are more national policies and I will certainly be reviewing those and leaning towards those that align with my priorities like a national daycare program, which I have always been for, and commitment to post-secondary education by the Federal government."

An additional resolution related to governance which has had its place in the spotlight but not necessarily in the party members' imaginations (at press time the resolution had just 18 votes compared to 271 for democratic renewal) was a

call from the Young Liberals to look at replacing the Monarch with an elected head of state, arguing that a "Canadian citizen can never aspire to be head of state of our own country" and that "an unelected individual can and is prepared to supersede the will of Parliament."

"I am going to review the resolution for sure but I don't necessarily think we need to change the way it is now, certainly not drastically," said Mr. Peterson. "Yes, the Queen is our head of state, that is a fact, but no one doubts the Canadian government has autonomy in all its affairs. I like to see [the Young Liberals] are still thinking outside the box. I joined as a Young Liberal about 20 years ago so it is good that it is getting mentioned and debated, but I don't think it addresses a problem that actually exists."

The party is mindful that there is going to be a significant amount of time between this

convention and the next Federal election, said Mr. Peterson, and this is only "step one" in rebuilding the name. Voters, he added, shouldn't expect a platform to come out of this because this convention is "not the forum" for that.

"What the public wants to see is the Liberals...creating steps to be a proactive and positive party in Canadian politics and are looking to put forward ideas and policies that resonate with Canadians, and also show Canadians that the Liberals are moving forward and not resting on our laurels, which seems to be an impression that has been in place the last couple of elections.

"I just think the Canadian public will be happy to see the Liberals are constructively working towards putting forward policies that will in fact be good governing policies and good policies for Canadians leading up to the 2015 election."



Kyle Peterson talks with a supporter during last year's Federal Election. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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It is little wonder that ballroom dancing is the choice for many social gatherings including the Aurora Seniors' Centre, which celebrated the New Year with a dinner and ballroom dance.

Motivated by the rhythm of music, ballroom dance has the capacity capable of producing sensations bordering on bliss, for those in love with the moment and each other.

Every senior possesses unexplored promise lying dormant and concealed, alarming those who believe their personal prospects have slipped away. Those who believe this to be true wonder how to bring fruition to fleeting thoughts and regret leaving the use of personal gifts to others.

For all the education and science that has influenced civilization, how much more remains undiscovered? How much potential and unused or forgotten discoveries lie discarded and unused? How many "Eureka" moments, when great ideas emerged, sank eventually to obscurity, frightened by the power and majesty of the idea, and by the possible reaction of a public challenged by a change in established beliefs?

Charles Darwin paused for ten fearful years, before publishing his work on evolution!

His ideas challenged academia and religion giving great reason for pause. Moreover, how many seniors fit the text above to some degree, great or small?

The Seniors' Centre may well fit the description of a senior's playground, and so it is - and it provides an enviable environment where ideas and inspiration may flourish, and do flourish!

Cultivating "eureka" moments

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Absent a Seniors' Centre, the commonwealth of senior society would diminish sadly, while the interplay of ideas and nourishing of audacious pursuits would collapse.

Seniors live, love and learn regardless of age and many modest "Eureka" moments occur. Each of us experience something, sometime that fills the description, perhaps not of great discovery, but of a personal nature when an opportunity or a course of action was realised or recognised but never make public.

The Seniors' Centre is a fertile garden for personal discovery, for opportunity to mingle among senior society, to explore specialties and fields of endeavour pursued by many and dreamed about by others, retired or near retirement.

The colloquial meaning of retirement refers to work, not to life itself, and the Seniors' Centre presents a smorgasbord of subjects, programs and activities enough to induce a new springtime into the so-called declining years in life. While imagination and enthusiasm drive expectations, ideas new and old govern a prosperous future, and the richness of imagination is remarkable in attaining achievements for those who dare to pursue dreams.

Everybody would create a brilliant future if it were possible and George Biondic underscores these words by setting his objective as the new Canadian record holder for kilometres covered on foot over three days. Four hundred and fifteen kilometres was his almost unbelievable target and the object of relentless yearlong training for the event, held in Phoenix, Arizona during the last three days of 2011.

George is an imaginative dreamer who resolutely pursues what he might achieve with incredible perseverance and luck. Unfortunately, about halfway through the event, his battered and blistered feet, worn beyond reasonable human tolerance, posed a high

degree threat of "Valley fever" after contracting an infection in his toe.

Medical advice prevailed over his powerful desire to continue. Steadfastness of purpose and the ability to absorb fatigue, pain and the loneliness of ultra marathon competition characterize men and women made of indomitable stock. While George, disconsolate, dejected and despondent, steeped in the abrupt and brutal termination of his dream, will rest, recover and assess continuation of his mission in life.

Perhaps rest and revived physical condition and appetite for competition will carry him forward and further than ever before!

Now in this New Year, inspired a little by George, could we all resolve to imagine or dream a little, preferably with friends and companions and consequently realize some personal improvement in life? A step forward may be the first of many in the right direction!

The holiday season is now in our rear view mirrors. Under the frozen ground, a baby spring awaits the lengthening days, ready to scramble towards the life giving sun.

Thoughts of spring are premature and audacious, but simply delicious to contemplate! Perhaps a trip to regions where oranges grow and alligators abound, would be possible - much warmer, quite realistic and very appealing with umbrellas replacing snow shovels, if precipitation occurs.

Please be aware that membership renewals for 2012 should be made at this time, if not already renewed.

Those who participate in the Seniors' Centre generally possess reasonably good health, everybody has some health issues, unfortunately, and everybody accepts that fact of life.

Life is what we make of it and the rule applies without discrimination. Find an interest, serene, sedate perhaps or with more vigour, and build on your fascination!

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The Town of Aurora passed a Council resolution earlier this year that would have allowed them to seek to recover the \$55,000+ of public money spent in former mayor Phyllis Morris' defamation suit against three local bloggers, among others, if she had been successful.

Now that Ms. Morris has dropped the suit,
should the Town still seek to recover the money?

RESULTS AS OF JAN 9, 2012	YES, it was a misuse (108) of Public money	NO, It would cost more (27) money to pursue it	UNSURE (4)
	77% .1	19% .42	2% .87

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Qualifications:

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OBITUARY

Mitchell, Relph R.

(40 yrs. Service at I.B.M. ,Toronto)
Peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket on Friday January 6, 2012. Relph, beloved husband of Betty of Aurora. Loving father of Wendy and her husband Bruce Hennigar of Aurora, Cathy and her husband Jody LaPlante of Schomberg, Brian and his wife Donna of Newmarket, Steven and his wife Judy of Bradford. Dear grandfather of Kevin, Carly, Andrea, Lisa, Mark, Jennifer and great grandfather to Annabelle. Also survived by his brother Earnest of Brampton, and many nieces and nephews. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora (905 727-5421) on Wednesday January 11 from 1pm until the service at 2pm. Donations to Southlake Regional Health Centre, Cardiac Care Unit, War Amps and Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences may be left at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com

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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture



Artist Herbert Pyke, pictured above in front of one of his paintings, is one of over 60 York Region artists who will have their work on show as part of the Society of York Region Artists' (SOYRA) anniversary exhibition this month.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

York artists celebrate 25th anniversary

By Brock Weir

The Society of York Region Artists is temporarily taking over the Aurora Cultural Centre January 21 to mark their 25th anniversary.

SOYRA's silver anniversary will be marked with a special exhibition which will compile the work of 62 of its members, past and present, and involve several community groups and partners, according to SOYRA's Linda Welch.

"We have huge involvement from the community," she said. "Local companies are supporting the organization so we have a public reception that will be held on January 21. As far as art is concerned, we will have art shown on all levels of the building. It is a very high-end show in that people have chosen their best to represent what the organization can offer, so it is a very lovely show to look at."

Ms. Welch is an artist working in a variety of media from watercolours to acrylics and oils, and while she said each medium is complementary of another she is currently focusing a bit more of her energy on photography. She first joined SOYRA 12 years ago looking for an opportunity to take a variety of local workshops by artists "at a reasonable price" as well as for the support its members provide each other.

"[SOYRA] has given me feedback and critiquing of my work," she said. "It has given me encouragement to show my work, it has intro-

duced me to other artists and other organizations that I can pick and choose from to further my own interests."

In her 12 years with the group, Ms. Welch said one of the largest changes she has noticed in recent years is the huge range of age amongst its participants.

"We have young people who are in art college, we have senior citizens probably in their late 80s who attend and everything in between," she said. "There is a huge range of interests bringing in new ideas, new approaches, enthusiasm, and a willingness to try out new ideas. Because they come from different places geographically it is a huge area that we cover. [Members] know of resources from different areas so we can share that with the members whereas originally it was just localized."

SOYRA was founded in September 1987 intending "to provide a forum for artists of all levels to exchange ideas, opinions, and assist each other in the advancement of their artistic goals."

They started off small but have grown considerably over the last quarter century, Ms. Welch said, now including regular exhibitions in the municipal offices in both Aurora and East Gwillimbury, as well as the Newmarket Court House, participating in the annual Aurora Art Show, and fundraising for the Southlake Regional Health Centre and the Aurora Public Library.

"[Aurora] approached the organization to come up with a visual arts program for the Town and part of that is to bring artwork to the community and there has been an ongoing art display at Town Hall," she said. "The Town also built the Skylight Gallery and it has a regular monthly art show by draw where participants can apply and there is a draw done [for exhibition time] annually. That would not have happened if the Society of York Region Artists had not been involved."

"This is the 50th year for Art Aurora in May and SOYRA has been involved and actually organized and ran that event for at least 25 years."

Being hands-on in the organization for their 25th anniversary exhibition, Ms. Welch said that her personal highlight of what is in store for the exhibition is not a piece of art, but the reception the group has received from individuals and organizations in the process.

"I am just really pleased and almost overwhelmed at the willingness of the community to offer their help," she said. "The name of SOYRA is recognized now, so when we say we're having a special event [they ask] how they can help."

"That is so rewarding, especially when you are doing things and you're not asking people for money - you are just providing them something to make their lives a little bit more enjoyable."

SOYRA's 25th

Anniversary Art Exhibition opens January 21 at the Aurora Cultural Centre with an official opening event from 1 - 4 p.m. The exhibition runs until February 5.

Register now for Winter Programs

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Group Guitar (2 levels)
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Watercolours
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Fine Arts for Teens (13+)
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My First Art Class (2 - 5)
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Classes start January 21

For information check the website, call for a brochure or drop in

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"Raising the Barn" for Round the Bend Farm

From page 1
tum," said Mr. Karabin. "There were other people we talked to and everyone seemed to have a memory of Round the Bend Farm. [The fire] seems to have touched so many people."

Tickets for Raise the Barn, which will take place Friday, January 27 at 7.30 p.m. at The Manor at Carrying Place Golf Course, are \$50 and available online at www.raisethebarn.eventbrite.ca, as well as from TD Canada Trust locations at Yonge and Wellington in Aurora, at Green Lane in Newmarket, branches in King Township, the King Town offices, the Nobleton Arena, the Trisan Centre in

Schomberg or by phone at 416-525-1056.

Organizers hope to fill 400 seats at The Manor and, in addition to a menu of hors d'oeuvres, pasta, and saganaki, ticket holders will be able to enjoy the music of The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, and Aretha Franklin, a silent auction and raffle. All net proceeds from the event will be turned over directly to the Feddema family.

While the fire has touched patrons young and old, the men behind "Raise the Barn" said their initiative, and the community's response as a whole, has also touched the Feddema family, and is consistent with the outpouring of support they

have received from people far and wide since the blaze.

"I talked to Sue just before Christmas and she was thrilled and excited and surprised at the outpouring of support from the community in all areas," said Mr. Karabin on Friday. "As late as yesterday I spoke to Brian and he asked, 'Do you do this for a living?' after giving him the Coles Notes update and I said, 'No, quite the opposite. We do this to live.'"

"The best of people come out when there is something in the community that needs help and he said he couldn't believe how many people had been showing up in his driveway to stand

there and look at the site crying. Brian said, 'I haven't shed a tear yet,

but there are people who have come by and have been crying in my drive-

way. I didn't know that we had that much of an impact."

Advertorial

QIGONG FOR WOMEN IN AURORA!

"If you want to be healthy and live to 100, do QIGONG."
~Dr. Oz

Over the past 5000 years the wealthy and elite of China had access to ancient secrets that helped them build and maintain health and vitality. This self-healing art was known as "Qigong" (pronounced chee-gung). No longer restricted to the privileged few, today Qigong is being practiced by over 100 million people across China to prevent and treat illness and to help with continued wellbeing. Scientifically

proven to reduce hypertension, high blood pressure and to boost overall immunity, the benefits of Qigong have become so well established the Chinese government encourages everyone to learn the practice. Not only does Qigong benefit the health of the population, it also saves billions of dollars in medical care annually.

From master to student, the forms of Qigong spread first from the elite to the general population in China; and now they're passing from East to West.

Having studied with mas-

ter teachers in China and Tibet, one of the leaders of Qigong in the west is Daisy Lee, founder of Radiant Lotus Women's Qigong (RLWQ), an empowering, nurturing program that promotes self-healing in women.

Traveling around the world ten months of the year to teach, master Lee decided to certify female instructors across North America and Europe to help share RLWQ with others.

One of these certified instructors is Aurora resident, Andrea Roth-Trimble. Having experienced personal healing through this system, Roth-Trimble is excited to share RLWQ with her community. "By integrating the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine with Tibetan practices and Western thought, Radiant Lotus Women's Qigong helps affect positive changes in women's unique anatomy. It facilitates the release of toxins while balancing female hormones. Women who regularly practice RLWQ have achieved lasting, measurable relief from menstrual pain, breast tenderness and menopausal discomfort," says Roth-

Trimble. "As physical symptoms resolve and their bodies come into balance, practitioners experience increased awareness, an uplifted mood and a deeper joy for life."

RLWQ uses beautiful flowing movements that are simple and easy to do, as well as accupressure points, massage techniques, sound vibration and meditation to open the body's energy channels. Flexibility, strength and grace are increased while stagnation is cleared from the heart and lungs, allowing for the release of long-held negative emotions.

Designed for women, these teachings offer a pathway to radiant health, inner peace and a positive outlook on life. The next session of Radiant Lotus Women's Qigong classes is starting in Aurora on Jan. 16th.

Master Lee will be coming to Aurora for a special presentation 'Qigong for Boosting the Immune System & Stress Relief,' January 13 at the Aurora Public Library from 7 - 9 pm. For more information re classes or workshops, email Andrea Roth-Trimble at qigongyes@gmail.com or visit <http://yogaforlife.ca>.



Local authors, including Malcolm, Elaine, Gail, April and Hyacinthe from the Writers' Community of York Region above, gathered at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Sunday for their first meeting of the year. The members – and other literary enthusiasts – enjoyed a talk by award-winning freelance author Dorothea Helms on "how she landed writing gigs as diverse as annual reports and humorous fortune cookies by keeping an open mind to opportunities," said Heather Anne Lambert of WCYR.

WCYR is a resource for writers – whether as individuals or in groups – ranging from poets to playwrights. Their monthly meetings, where members and non-members alike can learn about writing, marketing, editing, publishing, and distributing their work are open to the public.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Upcoming production is "departure" for Theatre Aurora

Theatre Aurora will take on the murder of university student Matthew Shepard in its first production of the New Year.

"The Laramie Project" opens at the Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive on January 27. The play, written by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project, is based on the true story of the 1998 murder of Mr. Shepard, a gay student, at the age of 21. The case led to a number of advances in American hate crime legislation.

According to Andrew Kipfer of Theatre Aurora, a cast of 10 will embody over 60 characters in short scenes bringing

the story to life.

"Director Sergio Calderon is returning to Theatre Aurora, as is producer Steve Wolfer," said Mr. Kipfer. "Mr. Calderon has long wanted to direct this show having seen it in Toronto several years ago."

In a statement, Mr. Calderon said this is a "departure" from regular Theatre Aurora productions encompassing unique technical components, six 40" TVs, three camera operators, and falling rain. Five original music pieces have been composed especially for Theatre Aurora.

"In support of the show, Aurora Public Library has a display in their lobby, themed

around the production, the events, and The Laramie Project itself," said Mr. Kipfer. "The display includes resources from the Library's collection, as well as media reports of the events. The Library previously presented a display in support of the Theatre's production of 'You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.'"

Tickets for The Laramie Project are on sale now, through the Theatre's web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or through the box office by telephone 905-727-3669, by email taboxoffice@bellnet.ca or in person.

The show runs through February 11.



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ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Hosted by Mayor Dawe

Saturday, January 21, 2012*

Bring all your unwanted or obsolete electronic devices to

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School

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10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



What's Included:

computers & peripherals (cables and cords), laptops, monitors, keyboards, copiers, VCRs, copier/fax machines, cell phones/pagers, printers, scanners, hard drives, TV, stereo & video equipment, shredders, gaming consoles, home theatre systems, radios, telephones and more!

What's NOT Included:

household and kitchen appliances; refrigerators, stoves, ovens, microwaves, air conditioners, vacuums, toasters, blenders, etc.

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* In the event of a snow storm, an alternate event date will be arranged. Please refer to the Town's Notice Board (Thursday edition of The Banner newspaper) or www.aurora.ca



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