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Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 14

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FREE

Week of February 1, 2011



The Jonathan's Restaurant team is ready to particate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters bowling event later this month. Raising money will be, left to right, Christina Risteski, restaurant owner Mary Georgopoulos, Mary Larin (better known as Mary Two) and Rojna Miripour. The restaurant will also sell "pin-ups" for a buck each. "Pin-ups", those white items in front of the team, are also available at Kwik Kopy Printing, King Henry's Arms and the Meridian Credit Union in Aurora. Last year, you'll remember (inset), restaurant employee John Bootsma dressed up to give his boss a few bowling tips. Big Brothers Big Sisters, now located in Aurora, will hold its fundraiser at Gateway Lanes, Saturday, February 26.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Aurora to review Code of Conduct

of Conduct is now in the hands time and referring anything to of councillors and Town staff after councillors voted to open the documents up for review and condense them into a single

Such a review will also take into account comments, concerns, and recommendations filed with the Town by Integrity Commissioner David Tsubouchi before he tendered his resignation earlier this month.

His report was received in December.

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, evaluating the merits of the Code of Conduct should be a matter solely for the coun-

"I still think this is a political decision, it is not an administrative decision," Councillor Buck said at last week's Council meeting. "If council wishes to have a Code of Conduct it is council which should debate the merits on the basis of our past experience and if we wanted to refer it to staff to tell us how we should behave, if that is a majority decision, I won't be supporting it. I don't see any point in

Aurora's controversial Code wasting [staff resources] at this them for the Code of Conduct."

> Tuesday's meeting also saw members vote to remove the Code of Conduct complaint against Councillor Buck from the Town website.

> Before councillors gave their approval, however, Ballard Councillor Chris expressed some concerns over the legal ramifications of such an action.

> "I just want to make perfectly clear in my mind there is no legal downside given all the issues surrounding the Code of Conduct complaint," he said, addressing Aurora CAO Neil Garbe and Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper.

"I can't directly speak to the implications of removing it from the website, how that might impact the legal proceedings, but with respect to the Code of Conduct complaint, I don't think there are any legal ramifications outstanding," said Mr. Cooper.

The motion to remove the notice was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tsubouchi's resignation comes into effect February 20.

Aurora town office gets address back

Applause rang out from most of the audience last Tuesday night when councillors voted to turn back the clock and restore the address of Town Hall to 100 John West Way, honouring former Aurora mayor John West.

In her motion in favour of the name change Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out that there were seven elections in between when Town Hall was christened 100 John West Way and dissatisfaction had not been expressed in the intervening years until it was removed in 2004 by the Council of the day.

"An election would have given people the opportunity to raise these concerns during the campaign, including the people that supported taking this honour away from a man who had served for 29 years in elected office, and that is only part of the service he contributed to the community," she said.

Councillor Gaertner, one of only two councillors still in her seat from the 2004 vote along with Councillor Buck, said her position, however, remained unchanged.

"Over the course of the years in Aurora there have been many politicians who have contributed greatly to the Town," she said. "I feel it is inappropriate to single out one person. I certainly have nothing against John West. He served the Town well for a long time.

She and Councillors Chris Ballard and John Gallo also expressed reservations that such an address change might be in contravention of the Town's street naming policy and moved a motion asking for a staff report on the matter, a motion which was defeated 6-3.

"It is not a street name change," Please see page 15

Briefly

Market sets dates

The winter's Farmer's Market is coming back to the Aurora Cultural Centre. Two more dates were announced this week.

Dates chosen include Saturday, February 19, and Saturday, March 26

On the 19th the market will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For further information; call 905-713-1818 or send an e-mail to info@aurora culturalcentre.ca.

Appointment

Prime Minister Stephen Harper Sunday selected Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown as a new parliamentary secretary.

Ms. Brown now becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation, who is Beverley Joan "Bev" Oda, 66, the first Japanese-Canadian Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister in Canadian history. Ms. Oda represents the riding of

Dies

Andy Godschalk, the "earthquake expert" in the Wells Street School discussions, died in his sleep Saturday night. Details were not available at press time.





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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Aurora Chamber of Commerce will hold an evening of networking at the Business After Five, hosted by Almac Conveyor Co. Ltd., at 420 Industrial Parkway South, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Cost is complimentary to members.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Today is the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day 11 at Osler Bluff Ski Club near Collingwood. Tickets are \$115 and the cost includes bus transportation, lift ticket, lunch and après ski.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, presents the second in a three-lecture series "Our Aurora Heritage: Taking a Closer Look", an informative series of evening chats by local historian Jacqueline Stuart. Tonight's feature: A Virtual Mystery Tour of Aurora. Can you identify these easily-passed-by spots? Where was this camera shot taken from? How well do you know your town? Complimentary admission and light refreshments, no registration required; starts at 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For information please call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Aurora Farmers' Market & Artisan Fair returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Site is fully accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca. Mark your calendars as well for the final indoor market of the season on March 26.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Are you ready for some heat? Warm up with classical guitar music performed by Robert Carullo. Tracie and Daniel will dance the Tango, Rhumba and Salsa in full costume and singer/actor Brent Titcomb will be featured in Bessada and Arbic's original short play, How Raven Stole the Sun. This is a fundraiser for the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign. Tickets for the show at the Aurora Cultural Centre are available online at www.pandorasboxsalon.com or by calling 289-221-0229. They are \$35 adult; \$25 student/senior; or \$95 for a family of four.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The annual Arctic Adventure takes place in the Town Park today and is an opportunity to bundle up and take in some great outdoor activities such as dog sled rides, snow shoeing, skating, live entertainment, professional ice carving, fire-eating demonstration, chili cook-off and "snow" much more. The event begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. For further information, check the Town Website at e-aurora.ca/arcticadventure.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts the Mayor's Luncheon today. Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe will be the keynote speaker and will talk about the Town's development of a new strategic plan and what that will mean for businesses in Aurora. The luncheon, sponsored by the Character Community Foundation of York Region, is being held at the Tuscany Event Centre, 222 Edward St., Aurora. Networking starts at 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch. Cost is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for guests – all are welcome but you must pre-register. Showcase tables are also available for \$30 at this event.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents the launch of the Great Artist Piano Series, with Canadian classical pianist Anton Kuerti in an all-Beethoven program. First in a series of four piano concerts. Tickets are \$30 or \$25 for students and seniors. Subscriptions are also available. Show begins at 8 p.m. For information or to book tickets call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Bowl For Kids Sake, presented by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, will hold its Aurora Community Day today from 1 to 5.30 p.m. at the Gateway Café and Lanes. Call Mary Lynn Stephenson at 905-726-2149, extension 305 to book a lane for your team.

Explore different colours, textures and designs in glass with Daniela Weston while you create your own unique stained glass sun catcher at the Aurora Public Library. Event costs \$15 which includes all materials and is open for youngsters ages 9 to 14. Event lasts two hours and begins at 1.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Retired York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge will be honoured by the Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District at its ninth annual Community Tribute Dinner tonight. The event will be held at The Manor, Carrying Place Golf & Country Club, 16750 Weston Road in Kettleby. The dinner is the major fundraising event of the year for Community Living and all proceeds will go to support people who have an intellectual disability. Tickets are \$125 each (\$1,000 for a table of eight) and can be purchased online through the Community Living website at www.clnad.com or by calling 905-898-3000, ext. 258.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Embarrassed by your bare wrists? Get beading! Show off your sense of style with a unique beaded backpack pin and a fashionable suede bracelet made at the Aurora Public Library from 6.30 to 8 p.m. This program is for youngsters aged 9 to 14 and costs \$8 which includes all materials.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

"I Love Rock & Roll" dinner dance takes place this evening at DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South beginning at 6 p.m. Dance to the music of Freddie Vette and The Flames and meet and have your picture taken with Elvis Presley, who is really Kevin Mills from Richmond Hill. Tickets sell for \$60 a person, which includes a three-course meal and are available at Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street. Proceeds go to the Aurora-Newmarket District of Community Living.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe St., Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m, to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

The Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinzle, meets every Wednesday afternoon in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Members meet at 1.30 p.m. and rehearsals are from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Dorothy Clark McClure: Then and Now Retrospective. Show continues through until March 26. Complimentary admission. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For information please call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and seni-retired PROfressional and BUSiness people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

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Town votes to partner with Neighbourhood Network

ner with Neighbourhood Network following Council's decision to vote in favour of a motion made by Councillor Evelyn Buck.

Councillor Buck's motion called for the Town to partner with the volunteer organization which, she said, links groups and individuals in need of assis-

"worthwhile purpose", Α many individuals and groups have benefited from their efforts and endorsing a partnership would be a "gesture of support for the principle of people helping people."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed concern with Councillor Buck's proposal, including the area of Neighbourhood Network's man-

"I know Neighbourhood Network does Aurora and Newmarket and I don't really like the idea of sending volunteers to Newmarket," she said.

She argued that if the "partnership" with the volunteer organization involved a contract it would be something on which

council would need further infor-

"What does the agreement require? How does the partnership agreement complement or clash with our current partnership with Info Aurora? Are there any legal exposures or liabilities? Perhaps this is a really important question - is the organization directly or indirectly related to Magna? If so, what would happen in the future if, real or perceived, there were any issues the Town has to deal with in respect to Magna?"

Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper said that it could possibly put the Town in a conflict, when asked by Councillor Gaertner, but added he would need to look into it further.

Neighbourhood Network is under the separate umbrella of Magna For Community and is represented by "ambassadors" Tim Jones and Tom Taylor, former mayors of Aurora and Newmarket respectively.

Councillor Buck addressed Councillor Gaertner's concerns.

"Just to respond to Councillor Gaertner's comments that we don't want to the only time that happened was when the Town would not allow the volunteers to plant trees in our Town and the tree planting program went north to Newmarket," she said.

"Mr. Jones explained that there was absolutely no liability, no requirement whatsoever in this invitation to partner with Neighbourhood Network," she added, regarding a potential conflict. "It was nothing more than an expression of support for their work."

As former Chair of the Aurora Public Library Board, Councillor Michael Thompson has had experience in working with Neighbourhood Network in a similar structure.

In voicing his support for Councillor Buck's motion, he said the Board asked similar Councillor Gaertner's.

"Certainly partnering or yourself involving Neighbourhood Network does not preclude you from having another volunteer organization like the Library does, like the Town of Aurora does with Info

Aurora," he said. "It is a partnership in principle whereby they are there to support the library's

"It certainly didn't put the Library at risk or make it liable for anything. I'm not opposed to having staff review the contract but, again, it is a partnership in the broadest sense. It is just a collaborative effort in terms of raising the issue of volunteerism in the Region and certainly I have full confidence in the CAO of the Aurora Public Library that she wouldn't have entered into any sort of partnership if she felt that there was any possibility to harm the library."

Neighbourhood Network was "quite happy" to accommodate whatever the Library wanted to do, he added, whether it was a full contract, a handshake, or a simple verbal agreement.

"It was whatever the Library wanted and I'm sure it is whatever the Town wants," he said. "Neighbourhood Network was very accommodating in my experience."

Council passed the resolution 7-2 with Councillors Ballard and Gaertner voting against it.

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nline Immersion registratior

Online Grade One French Immersion registration across the York Region District School Board begins today, in a new initiative which aims to eliminate the problems of congestion and long line-ups experienced last year by interested parents.

The online registration "lottery" has met with sharp criticism from parents who oppose the system because it doesn't give any additional consideration to students who already have siblings in the French immersion sys-

Conversely, the school board argued that giving preferential treatment to these

Rosemary Park, the chair-

person for Information Aurora,

will be the guest speaker at the

Probus Club's next meeting

Aurora Legion, begins at 10

a.m. and the guest speaker is

scheduled to begin her talk

about 11 a.m., for about an

full-time volunteer across many

sectors of York Region and has

served on numerous regional

Rosemary has worked as a

The meeting, slated for the

February 9.

Info Aurora chair

is guest speaker

kids would create inequity for families with only one child, or siblings enrolled elsewhere.

Registration can accessed through Board's website www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Families without access to the internet can receive assistance in the process at any school or York Region District School Board location, according to Ross Virgo, spokesperson for the School

"It is a very simple process that requires a minimal amount of information and following the close of the process after February 14 for those schools that have ade-

and provincial committees,

including the York Regional Environmental Alliance and the

Among other things, she is

expected to deal with people volunteering for local clubs,

neighbourhood associations,

community associations or

simply making a donation to a

charity and how they can know

their investiments of time and

For further information, call Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.

talent are well spent.

Aurora Children's Centre.

quate capacity or have fewer students registering than they have places, the places will simply be assigned to those students who have registered," he told The Auroran last month.

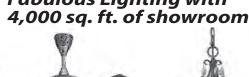
"In any schools where we have more registrants than we have places in the designated schools we will be having a computerized ranking system that will rank students on a random basis from one to the total number of people

who are registering and places will be assigned again using a random ranking basis.

begins

"Any students who remain on the list beyond the capacity of that designated school to accommodate them will be assigned a place in the overflow schools and the school board will provide school bussing to and from school and will accommodate those bus transportation needs for

all students who need it."





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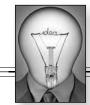
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100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

One of the most uncomfortable lessons I learned from Kung Fu is this one: "If you always put limits on what you can do, physical or anything else, it'll spread over into the rest of your life."

Comfort zones prevent us from accepting exciting opportunities. They can lock us into our tried-and-true ways of living and prevent exploring our potential.

The thought of leaving your comfort zone induces stress, that's because comfort zones are safe, life isn't.

Life is about pursuing dreams, and taking risks. Life in Aurora is full of the encouragement to do just that.

Letters to the Editor

Off-site workshop could have been held here

In response to Letters re Aurora's recent Offsite Workshop.

Taxpayers of Aurora, are you pleased that your money was spent for council to attend an overnight get together at an upscale venue in King City?

From what the taxpayers are telling me, the answer is

It was a closed education meeting that citizens were prohibited from attending.

This could have been held in Aurora, patronizing local businesses.

Your money could have been spent on helping our local

economy. The recent Letters to the Editor are correct on one point.

Some councillors did not attend. They felt it was an inappropriate way to spend your money.

Future letters can try and spin this inattendance any way

However it can not be disputed that an Auroran's money is better spent in Aurora.

Wendy Gaertner Aurora

EDITOR'S NOTE: Documents related to the Town of Aurora's off-site meeting are available online for public viewing. PDF files on a number of topics covered at the meeting, including a presentation on the Town's Official Plan, Premier Leslie M. Frost Accommodation, Land and Space Needs, and Litigation and Legal Proceedings can be downloaded http://www.e-aurora.ca/aurora/education meeting.

He agrees with those who didn't attend meet

I am one Aurora citizen who does not share the views of those who personally attacked Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Chris Ballard for not attending the off-site meeting.

These councillors demonstrated their strongly held beliefs in open, transparent, and accountable local government, where citizens can see their elected representatives in conducting Town business. This meeting should have been held at our Town Hall and open to any citizen who was interested in learning about the workings of local politics and administration.

Council members and staff could then have their team bonding at an evening dinner.

This may have been somewhat more difficult to organize and even uncomfortable for participants. So be it - political processes are often messy and cannot be equated in all aspects to commercial enterprise.

We hear a lot about strong leadership at all levels of government without any qualification or other attributes to describe good, effective, all round leadership. Strong alone is an inadequate characteristic dictators are usually strong leaders.

Many of us need this educa-Robert Cook Aurora \equiv THE AURORAN \equiv "Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper' Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc. at 95 Edward Street, Aurora, L4G 1W1 **Publisher Emeritus** Rosemary Schumaker Brock Weir k@auroran.con Advertising policy Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes mus be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



Premier of the day in 1953 was Leslie Frost who was at the throttle of "The Mogul", a CNR engine built in 1899. He piloted the CNR's Museum Train into Aurora to celebrate 100 years of railroading in the town and the centenary of steam locomotion in Ontario. We don't know who his friends were.

The way it was in Aurora when premier drove train

From the Toronto Star **Saturday, May 16, 1953**

Aurora, May 16 took on a new role today and chugged into Aurora dressed in overalls, goggles and engineer's cap at the throttle of "The Mogul," a CNR engine built in 1899. He piloted the CNR's Museum Train into town to complete 100 years of railroading in Aurora and the centenary of steam locomotion in Ontario.

The wood-burning "Toronto" engine hauled the first steam train into what was then known as Machell's Corners 100 years ago today.

The majority of Aurora's 3,358 citizens in holiday mood and colorful dress, turned out to welcome the train just as they welcomoed its flag-draped predecessor 100 years ago.

Mayor Dr. Crawford Rose, dressed in silk topper and ancient styled clothes, was surrounded by townspeople who dug into attic trunks for the oldest clothes they could find.

Driving the old train today Premier Frost was living some of the history of the province and of his fam-

"This line has great interest for me," the Premier said. "My grandfather, John A. Frost and his wife, Janet, went to Orillia over this line on July 1, 1867, our first Dominion Day.

"In those days the line ran from Toronto to Belle Ewart, on Lake Simcoe, across to Barrie and then to Collingwood, Belle Ewart was really the jumping off place for Orillia and all northern Ontario in those days. In fact my father has often told me that there was actually nothing in Muskoka in those days. Washago was something like the

"My grandfather and grandmother got off at Belle Ewart and went up Lake Simcoe to Orillia in the Emily May steamer," the premier recalled. "My father used to insist that he could remember the flags flying in Orillia on that first Dominion day. He would be only about three years and few months old then.

"My family stayed in Orillia till my mother's death in 1946," Premier Frost said. So Orillia and Simcoe County are among the indelible things in my life."

As he sat in the old day coach, one that was used in 1860, Mr. Frost was invited into the diner.

"My grandfather and grandmother never sat in a diner in their lives. They considered themselves for- Cadets had entertained tunate to be in the day them with their pipes, coach," he said.

six-car The CNR's museum train, loaded with hundreds of treasures of railroading from a metal Bible rack used on early trains to the orders Queen Aurora had planned not Elizabeth and the Duke of only for them, but for every-Edinburgh filled out for body who turned out for the chicken dinners on their cross-Canada trip in 1951, started from Toronto for Aurora at 1 a.m. today to make the historic journey.

The train powered by the old Mogul actually had three 19th century engines. Behind the Mogul, which did wayfreight service in Montréal before joining the Museum Train, was No. 40, a woodburning Grand Trunk engine built in 1872 and the last woodburner operated in Canada.

From The Aurora Banner Thursday, May 21,

Just a few seconds before noon last Saturday a white plume of smoke to the south of Aurora station

And, spang on the dot of noon Ontario's Premier Leslie Frost, turned railway engineer for the time being, brought old engine No. 674 to a halt right at the spot where Mayor Rose, Warden "Ace" Cook, Councillor Vic Jones and other members of town council and civic dignitaries waited to welcome him, the Museum Train which commemorated the journey of the first steam train to run in Upper Canada a century ago, and other important guests, come to help Aurora make whoopee for the day.

For an hour and a half before that Aurora residents-and many from other points-had been assembling to join in the welcome. Andrew's College recorded music had helped pass the time, a running commentary over the loud speaker system had helped to tell about important visitors and the welcome which big day.

"Cheer when the train comes in," Mayor Rose had suggested to the crowd of several thousand which filled every available inch near Aurora station, packing the platform and the open space around it, from Wellington Street to way down south the Museum Train's weekend terminal. He hardly needed to suggest it.

The crowd let out a spontaneous roar of welcome, punctuated with the bang of aerial bombs and the skirling of the pipes, as the three old engines and their string of yellow cars came to a halt.

Press photographers, with insistent demands for "just one more, Mr. started thousands of voices Premier," kept smiling "Les"

utes before he descended from the cab to be greeted in a warm speech of welcome by Aurora's Mayor, decked out in sideburns, "plug" hat and raiment reminiscent of the days when the first train ran through dense forests and partly cleared land on its way to what was then "end of steel."

Members of his council and many others had followed the Mayor's lead in dressing up in yesteryear's raiment, offering a striking contrast to the engineer's cap, goggles and overalls worn by the Premier.

In accordance with the promise made to members of the public that welcoming ceremonies would be as brief as possible in order to give them every opportunity of seeing the train at the earliest possible moment, speeches were kept to a minimum.

Even more remarkable developments would take place in the next century than had occurred in the past one, Premier Frost forecast as he responded to the welcome in a brief speech which recalled the progress made during the century since the first train ran to Aurora, Corners. Machell's Representing York County, of which he is Warden this year, Aurora Reeve A.A. Cook joined in the welcome of the Premier and the train, as did Councillor Vic Jones, chairman of the special committee in charge of Centennial Day preparations.

Senior representative of Canadian National Railway, Mr. S.F. Dingle, the line's operating vice president, expressed gratification at the warm welcome which had been given.

The Board of Trade was represented by its president Harry Seston.





Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

A tradition at New Year's is for people to make resolutions.

I used to do this and then see how long it would take before I broke one of my personal pledges.

Usually it would happen within a day or two, although I once went almost a week before abandoning the cause.

I stopped making resolutions a number of years ago. That particular year I vowed to curb my sometime use of profanity; not that I spoke like a merchant mariner that frequently, but on occasion, my language had been described as "earthy".

I made the solemn silent pledge to myself at about 11.58 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Within a minute or two of the clock striking midnight, I was walking down the stairs at home and almost slipped on some mitts that were on the stairs (I had left them there).

I let loose with a couple of invectives at said mitts. I then stopped and looked at the time - it read 12.03 a.m. - and I let out a big laugh. So much for the better me!

Also at this time of year, you see others who make that most basic of New Year's resolutions - to lose a few pounds and get in some semblance of shape.

As a member of the Aurora Leisure Complex in town, I see this every year.

During the first two weeks of January, the gym is much more crowded than usual and it is difficult to get on some of the gym equip-

The next few weeks see the extra crowds thin, and by late February, only a few new faces are seen and they become regulars.

And over the years, you slowly get to know some of these "regulars" or you may read about their exploits if they become one of the Aurora Leisure Complex's "Member of the Month".

Member of the month

Management at the Complex began awarding this award in 2000; each month's recipient receives a one-month extension on their memberships.

The latest recipient of the award was Mike Allen.

A partial excerpt from the Notice posted in the gym reads:

" Mike first joined our facility about 12 years ago in order to better utilize his time while his two daughters swam with the Aurora Ducks in the early morning hours. His wife, Sue, joined the centre a little while later and the two have been coming to exercise together ever since

"A huge part of Mike's motivation to keep active comes from the knowledge that his father passed away, from heart disease, at the age of 48 so genetics is certainly not on his side. Furthermore, doctors told Mike that he may experience symptoms even earlier in his life after being diagnosed, as he puts it, with the heart of a 20-year-old but the arteries of a 75-year-old.

"Sure enough, in early 2001 Mike began experiencing upper back pain following each Stairmaster workout. At first he passed it off as simply some type of muscular spasm but an appointment with a cardiologist revealed advanced arterial occlusion.

"The cardiologist recommended that if Mike adopted a strict vegetarian diet he could, most likely, reverse some of the damage however the chance would still exist that plaque could dislodge itself and form a clot unless bypass surgery was performed. In August of that year Mike underwent quadruple bypass surgery and was back in the gym by Thanksgiving. He has meticulously followed a vegetarian diet ever since.

"Five mornings each week, Mike and Sue attend Club Aurora's facilities for roughly an hour and a half. Mike generally devotes 45 minutes or more to cardiovascular exercise (he alternates between jogging, the Stairmaster or the Elliptical trainer) followed by an additional 45 minutes of strength training, primarily focusing on upper body and core exercises.

"Two years ago, Mike was sidelined with a bulging disc in the lumbar region which also radiated into the groin region forcing him to give up running for several months. On the recommendation of his physiotherapist, Mike took up Pilates along with balance training. He has integrated many of these exercises into his current routine and found an incredible improvement in his back problems ever since.

"Mike's motivation to persevere with an exercise program comes from the fact that he has been pain free for the past several years. He also realizes that, with his family history, a sedentary lifestyle is NOT an option. It also helps that his wife 'keeps him honest' by being a regular gym user as well.

"Congratulations again Mike and keep up all the good work!"

Not many of us can devote one and a half hours, five days a week, going to the gym.

But as Mike says, "a sedentary lifestyle is NOT an option".

Stephen can be contacted at: stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

This column interrupts my Behind the Scenes at Queen's Park series to focus on an issue about which I am receiving an increasing number of calls and emails: the Electricity Bill!

Apart from the fact that rates have increased by some 75 per cent since 2003, and the McGuinty government is promising they will increase by at least another 46 per cent over the next five years, and the confusion created by the so-called Smart Meters that track when we're using electricity and tries to tell us when we should be doing laundry and washing dishes, there is a charge on that bill that is calling into question the very integrity of our billing system and our government. And with good reason.

Debt Retirement Charge

For the past eight years, York Region families have seen a charge on their electricity bills amounting to between \$67 and

It's called the Debt Retirement Charge. Does anyone know what it is? What debt are we supposed to be retiring? How big is this debt, how much have we paid off and how long before it's paid off?

All legitimate questions, but why can't we get answers when those questions are asked of the government.

I and my colleagues in the Official Opposition have been asking those questions and we're not getting any answers.

Here is what I CAN tell you: The Debt Retirement Charge was first introduced to pay off a hydro debt dating back to the 1980's. Known as the residual stranded debt, it was reported to be \$7.8 billion in 2002, and it was scheduled to be paid off in 2012.

According to the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation, the amount that Ontario families and businesses have paid in Debt Retirement Charges over the past eight years is - \$7.8 billion

That should mean that even with interest charges, this charge should disappear from our bills in this next year. Right? No so!

The McGuinty government first pushed back the repayment date from 2012 to 2014, and has now informed us that they intend to keep the Debt Retirement Charge on electricity bills until as late as 2018.

Without explanation, they have repeatedly pushed back the debt repayment date - at a cost to Ontario consumers of about \$1 billion per year.

Moreover, since July of last year, the government has also applied the HST to the Debt Retirement Charge, netting them an additional \$80 million per year.

You Deserve Full Disclosure and Accountability

This past November, the Official Opposition brought forward a motion in the legislature that called on the McGuinty government to provide full disclosure and accountability for how the Debt Retirement Charge was collected and how those funds were used.

Specifically we asked for a full accounting, how much was left outstanding and that this amount be shown on electricity bills. (Can you imagine getting a credit card bill with no balance on it, just an amount to pay each month).

And finally, we asked when this debt would be paid off.

The government voted against this motion and has refused to provide the information that we believe every Ontarian has a right to know.

In fact, we are now being told that the Debt Retirement Charge will be on bills for at least another eight years, without

an explanation as to where the money is going.

Debt retirement charge - A

McGuinty money mystery

Is it possible that this is an attempt to turn the Debt Retirement Charge into another permanent tax grab?

We need to know why the McGuinty government will continue to charge electricity customers \$1 billion a year, plus HST for a debt that should be paid off next year. You deserve transparency and accountability.

A Call for a Forensic Audit

That's why I and my colleagues are calling for a forensic audit of the Debt Retirement Charge and the residual stranded debt.

I believe that you deserve to know what the McGuinty government is doing with your hard-earned money and how much longer York Region families can expect to see this charge on their already-skyrocketing electricity bills.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of the \$7 billion corporate giveaway to the Korean Samsung wind-energy company, a sweetheart deal hatched in secret by the Minister of Energy - details of which remain hidden from Ontarians.

Also last week, it was revealed that the McGuinty government has been paying other jurisdictions like Quebec and the United States, to take Ontario power - to the tune of \$1 billion.

In other words, our government is forcing us to subsidize foreign energy companies and the cost of electricity in Quebec and jurisdictions in the U.S. through our electricity bills.

I trust you agree that the government has to be held accountable for this gross mismanagement.

Let's see a forensic audit get to the bottom of this mess!

As always, I invite your questions, comments and advice through my website at www.frankklees.com or by calling 905-750-0019.

She's upset with council bickering, and may move

To the editor,

I would just like to give a standing ovation to Kathy Constable's recent letter to the editor.

My husband, infant daughter and I moved to Aurora in April and I have to say I am appalled at the waste and misuse of our tax dollars by council and the former mayor.

I have a friend back home in Bowmanville, Ontario, who is 26-yearsold, recently elected to council and shows way more maturity and respect for the town she serves than what I've seen here.

I have thought about writing letters in many of times since moving here.

One of these incidences was when I saw the former mayor in front of the No Frill's trying to garner votes the weekend before election day.

A man walked by and must have said something to her, and right in front of two young girl guides selling cookies they began to

It ended up with a man she was with asking the lovely mayor "who gives a

All right in front of two innocent children.

Our tax dollars at work, ladies and gentlemen...

But I am writing to you now because I have just had it with this town and am hoping what I have to say will re-focus council.

My husband and I moved here in April because we wanted to raise a family here.

I gave up our second car and support local transit, as said before I have an infant daughter.

I cannot tell you the amount of times this winter I have had to trudge up and down unplowed townowned streets.

I have pictures of my stroller getting stuck by the amount of snow (and I have the Escalade of strollers made for winter...), big huge boulders of snow built up from the VIVA bus-stop plows that the town never clears away that have caused me to have no choice but lift my stroller over a snow-bank and push it down busy Yonge St (the thought of doing this makes me cringe even now...) until I

can find a clear spot to get the winter. back on the sidewalk.

was when I was walking obviously north of Yonge and Batson/Orchard Heights to the Starbucks in St. Andrew's Plaza.

The sidewalk was so full of snow that I couldn't push my stroller through it, but council, it is your job to had to turn around, walk backwards and pull it through the snow which a big snow boulder and fall right into Yonge Street in front of a vehicle, narrowly avoiding getting hit.

So while council wants to sit and bicker and act like a bunch of immature fools I no longer feel like I live in a safe place.

It is a risk to even walk the streets here in

My husband and my But the worst time yet hard-earned tax dollars are meaningless because failing to do something as simple as plow a sidewalk at 2 p.m. following a snowy night is just poor customer service. And let me remind you, make sure the people are served by their town.

If things with council's then caused me to trip over behaviour and my dear snowy sidewalks do not improve then my husband

and I will be more than glad to move somewhere where our tax dollars are more valued and respect-

I believe passionately that living in town where one's family's safety is at risk just by walking the streets in the winter, while council bickers over who had coffee with whom, is not a place where we want to raise a family.

Mrs. Hughes Aurora



Change address back, reader says

To the editor,

On January 25th I attended the council meeting to speak to and support a motion made by Councillor Evelyn Buck to return the address of our Town Hall to its original and proper one that being 100 John West

This would accomplish three prime results.

Number one, it would restore the honour to Mr. West, former Mayor and Councillor, bestowed upon him by the 1990 Council.

Secondly, it would remove the confusion as to the location of our Town Hall.

Most Aurorans would know it is located on John West Way. However, to try and find it through it's current address of Municipal Drive is extremely difficult.

Municipal Drive is, after all, just the driveway into the Town Hall.

Also, hopefully, it would follow that with the removal of Municipal Drive, the Seniors' Centre would have a proper address on John West Way.

Lastly, it would overturn the nefarious way democracv was abused by five councillors in 2004 who voted for personal reasons to change the original address of our Town Hall.

I had requested and received official delegate status to address council.

My speech basically outlined the history as to how our Town Hall came into being and the reasons it was given the address of 100 John West Way.

I was explaining why I thought the 2003 council had no moral or democratic right to change the address when I was suddenly and very rudely interrupted Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

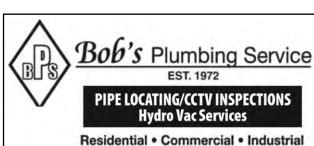
Apparently she did not like my comments, although everything I was saying is on public record and can be fully

documented.

I was taught from a very young age that it is extremely rude to interrupt somebody while they are talking.

Etiquette and proper procedure would be to allow me to speak uninterrupted and then ask any questions or concerns she may have when I was finished.

Graham Wride



905-727-3210

Reader explains why taxes went up by 10 per cent

To the editor,

Veen's regarding our new council's orange. large tax increase it would Aurora's tax bills from January to June are always cent - than the other five

Reader thanks ice staff for work on outdoor rinks

To the editor,

I would like to commend the outdoor ice staff at the Town of Aurora for a fantastic year on the rinks. The ice has been excellent. and clearing has been completed promptly after each snowfall, big or small.

Seeing families, friends, little ones learning to skate and fierce competitors alike sharing the ice at all hours is a joy.

Late at night, you can usually see a few hardy players out for a game and the scene is a true Canadian classic.

Good job - thanks.

Christine Woodley Aurora

months of the year.

To compare a January In response to Mr. bill to a November bill is letter comparing an apple to an In reality the 'factual

appear that he has forgot- increase' is less than one ten or didn't realize that per cent based on my tax

Imagine if the comparison had been made to December when no taxes are paid.

B. Heffer

higher – by about 10 per Reader liked Alison's show

To the editor,

Congratulations Cynthia, Ron, Staff and Alison Collins-Mrakas for the great "Live" show of "Our Town" which I just viewed on the Auroran website.

It was very innovative, informative

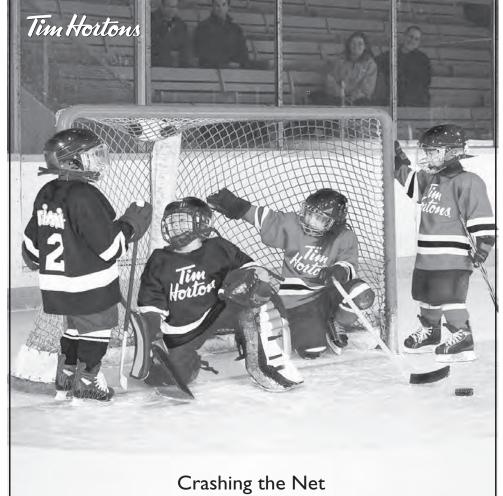
interesting.

A great first show and I look foward to many more. Nice tribute Alison made to Dick Illingworth.

He's probably trying his best to send her a huge

Marilyn Munslow Aurora





Every year, over 60,000 boys and girls play Timbits Hockey, where they learn the skills of the game, and make friends that will last a lifetime. Tim Hortons is proud to support Timbits Minor Hockey in Aurora.



The first goal is having fun.

Tim Hortons, 2008

Who got reader's Christmas gift?

To the editor,

I can see the headline now.

Mature woman in Oak
Ridges found laying face first in
snow bank outside home, in her
housecoat, apparently while
retrieving her morning papers.

I have a morning ritual – have to get up ('cause I have two large beasties breathing in my face, crossing their legs), open back door and let them out, turn on coffee, feed cat whose meowing would wake the neighbourhood, then go to front door to retrieve

my newspapers.

In good weather (which is about four weeks in Canada) I just walk down my stairs, go to the end of the driveway and head back before the neighbours see me.

I let the dogs in, pour my coffee and proceed to read two or sometimes three papers.

If I have an early morning meeting I get up at least two hours earlier to give me the time needed for my daily routine plus time to put myself together for public viewing.

Now to the point of this dissertation!

I believe that Christmas time is a good time to remember my various service providers with a token of my appreciation.

In the old days your paperboy (person) used to collect every week thus giving the opportunity to give him a little something extra.

Now my payments come out of my account automatically, the deliveries are made with a van so I never have any physical contact with the people who deliver my

newspapers.

Wanting to acknowledge their service, I, in two of the recycling bags that I normally put out every couple of weeks, put a labeled individual card, one each, and attached to the back of my van to be seen from the road.

Inside I had put a Christmas card and a Tim Horton's certificate -I knew one of them like Tim's as I have found empty containers at the end of the driveway.

In the morning, both were gone and one of my papers was right outside my door on the porch.

I was in heaven!

However, the other paper was at the end of the driveway.

Now, for a month, my one paper is still on the porch but the other one is being thrown in the snow bank – buried out of reach so that I have to get my extension thingy and sometimes that doesn't even reach.

So here is my quandary! Perhaps one of the drivers picked up both cards, by mis-

Maybe one of the drivers

doesn't like my choice of certificate?

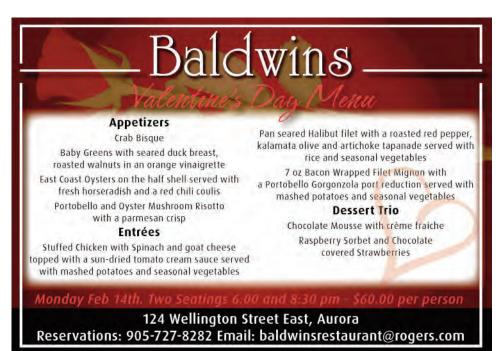
In any event, every morning I have a fear of being found outside, frozen, in a snow bank in my housecoat.

For the past week, I actually had to put my coat and boots on – too darn cold.

Any ideas how to correct this situation, other than waiting at the end of my driveway from 5 a.m. on, would be most appreciated.

Bonnie Tiffin Oak Ridges

Chis Month's Restaurant Teatures











Reader doesn't believe "electoral promises"

Open letter to Frank Klees, MPP

Good day, Frank, in regard to your article in The Auroran (and the recent e-mail) – if I can claim a moment on the soap

If you ask a vegetarian why there are so many health problems they would say it's the apathy of folks who just don't participate in the vegan lifestyle.

In turn if one asks a politician about people's cynicism on politics, a likely answer might be about peoples' lack of participation in the political process.

There's another viewpoint though - what one person of political persuasion might interpret as apathy, might in fact be a form of passive rebellion; an outright rejection of the Canadian political machine by overtly wanting nothing to do

Who believes "electorial" promises?

It's almost a farce to read what is promised but never delivered.

Conservatives,

NDP'ers – we've seen them all come and go, each one more 'promising' than the other.

Take the 407, one of the more glaring and galling results of politicians playing games but wasn't that the workings of your particular political affilia-

Though on the other hand. didn't Duke McGuinty 'promise' that, if elected, would do something about it? Yeah, right.

And didn't Emperor Harper promise that, if elected, he would do something about the one who started his own tradition of taking publicly funded vacations every January?

"Prorogue" wasn't even in the memory (or vocabulary) of most Canadians until he dictated his flaunting of common sense, no?

Moving on to bigger things, what about the continuing farce of having an 'official' political party that represents just one province?

How can any Canadian, not living in that province, of course, be anything other than down-

But then again, isn't he the right disgusted with a political system that fawns over those spoiled little children?

> And now we're having "Advertisement Wars" on TV. Terrific.

> But do political parties have so much money to consider a useful and productive way of 'educating' people?

> And when does 'education' become propaganda? Or just plain an insult to the intelli-

So, with all due respect to the political process in Canada, I, and probably many others, feel it probably doesn't deserve that much respect.

We don't think this country will crumble into anarchy without us, but on the other hand. we really don't want anything to do with the petty little games.

Off the soap box now...

Rick Piovesan Aurora

Illingworth kept council honest

To the editor and Alison,

Alison, your first show was absolutely bang-on! You are a true natural

I used to love Dick's show and remember how often Town staff would huddle and laugh or shake our heads over his col-

I also spent many years taking minutes at council meetings trying not to laugh out loud when Dick would burst out from the press seats "Turn your microphone on, Ev, for God's

He wore the hearing assistive device and couldn't hear her when she forgot to hit her button, it drove him crazy.

I also remember trying not to make eye contact with the councillors when he would blurt out his protests in response to any procedural mistakes during the proceedings. He was usually

He was our watchdog, he kept council honest.

absence from the council chambers allowed many things to change...slip and sometimes fall, without the benefit of his watchful eve.

When "Our Town" concluded, it felt like the end of an era. Cliche. I know. but it's true.

I think your timing and your choice of medium is exceptionally appropriate.

Aurora is going through a transition right now and Alison, I can't think of anyone more intuitive, eloquent and aware of the

issues than you to bring us forward with our eyes open.

So I send this to congratulate and thank you for being a much needed source of insight and reason for the residents and representatives of our Town.

I eagerly look forward to the next show.

Way to go Alison, you are an admirable lady and I'm proud to know vou.

Carrie Eastwood

Reader says Alison's wrong

To the editor and Alison,

Alison, I have listened to your comments on "Our Town", and respectfully, suggest your characterization of the law is wrong, or at best

misleading.

You state that government cannot sue for defamation of one of councillors or mayor.

That is correct, because reputation is personal.

But this action is by the

financially so sponsored) and if you reread the cases that you say support you, you will find legal confirmation of same.

Secondly, financial support by a government of a libel suit

mayor, and not the Town (albeit brought by a councillor or mayor, is not prohibited. I refer you to p.20-21 of Justice Corbett's comments.

> I would also suggest you review the "Holiday" decision (which is more recent and of a higher court,) with reference to Bussin libel action sponsored by the City of Toronto and was found to be proper cost commitment by the City.

> The Supreme Court of Canada has also ruled on a couple of cases since the decisions that you wrongly rely on. They may be of help and deeper reflection.

> Look, all in all, I am not happy with this situation, but if you are saying that as a Town, we should never protect the people we have elected, that's another matter.

> If someone accused you of fraud during your tenure as councillor, which was totally false, and that such accusations impacted on the Town and its governance, I would be in total support of sponsoring remedial actions.

I make no comment on the merits of the subject suit.

Guy L. Poppe Aurora

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Is the former mayor still pulling strings, he wonders

To the editor,

The municipal election we recently had was like a breath of fresh air, after all the votes were counted.

Unfortunately for us, though, some of the dysfunctional council we rid ourselves of remains. One elected council mem-

ber (whom I did NOT vote for) continues on, proudly carrying the flag of the previous in feuding council.

This council member tries

to bog down the town's business by "nit picking" about political procedure. council member refuses to acknowledge our mayor as such, but refers to him as "Mr. Dawe". And most recently, this council member does NOT attend the team building council meeting, which could possibly wash away any of the remaining dirt from the previous council.

I, like "frustrated Aurora resident" Kathy Constable, thought with the new council, The Auroran would have less editorial content. With the actions of this

incumbent council member, is it possible that Her Royal Highness, though properly de-throned at the last election, continues her "puppet master" ways, and is attempting to pull the strings of Aurora Town Council from afar?

Mark Holmes another frustrated Aurora resident

Ambassador seeking help from Aurora citizens

To the editor,

As the Aurora Ambassador for the 2011 Bowl for Kids Sake, team that is bowling. for Big Brothers Big Sisters, I would like to ask for your help in in the past raised anywhere making this fundraiser the best from \$1,500 to more than ever for this amazing group.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York provides a positive role model and adult friendships to children in York Region.

The BBBS group raises 85 per cent of their budget through fundraising initiatives like this bowlathon.

You can help in many ways. Perhaps call Mary Lynn Stephenson at BBBS, 905-726-2149 Ex 305 and add a team to the Bowlathon in Aurora February 26th at the Gateway Cafe and Lanes.

Perhaps sponsor a location, a lane or prize.

You can also donate to any

My team, Aurora Rocks, has

If you wish to donate to my team please call me at 416-8880173 and I will arrange to pick up your cheque.

Whatever you do, please help Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2011.

Thanks.

Nigel Kean, Aurora Ambassador. 2011 Bowl for Kids Sake



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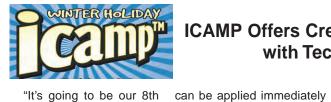
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............



"It's going to be our 8th summer in Aurora", says Nazar Hossain. He runs the Children's Workshop (CTW), which operates ICAMP™ - not your ordinary summer camp. There are laptops and LEGO pieces everywhere. The kids, instead of staring blankly into screens, are using their laptops to create something - movies, LEGO® robots that move, video-games and more.

game training would-be choose from!

"At ICAMP, children build a wide array of skills everything from critical thinking, to storyboarding and even geometry. All of the skills they learn here

ICAMP Offers Creative Adventures with Technology

to the real-world" says

Nazar. "The fact that the

children are in charge of

their Adventure gives them

a sense of ownership, which

is very meaningful to them." Watching a child work on

their Adventure is highly

gratifying. For example,

during a recent workshop, a

young girl was working on

her Fashion Designer movie

- a stop-frame based movie

Her mom

Technology

using props that she had Here's a typical week for fabricated. a child at ICAMP. Day 1, watched her reposition the plan a mission to Mars to props in careful detail to search for life on the Red shoot the next frame of the Planet and make a video movie. "It's incredible, she's completely immersed herastronauts how to befriend self into her story and is learning about all this techany aliens they may nology that honestly, we encounter. Day 2, dream up (my husband and I) would and film a blockbuster movie, recounting the have a hard time teaching adventures of the mission to her about at home." The Mars exploration team. Day end result was a 3-minute long movie shot at 12 3, engineer and build a LEGO robot, complete with frames per second - for a video camera and senthose of you doing the sors to simulate a real math, that means the girl NASA Martian exploration shot more than 2,100 picrover. This is just part of tures to create her masterwhat a typical week could look like at ICAMP. And that's just one Adventure there are 10 more to

"We want the kids to be really creative users of technology - that's the goal," says Nazar. The philosophy is that the computer should be an enabler - a tool to achieve a creative objective. The ICAMP environment is very fluid and collaborative - kids will walk around,

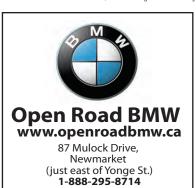
checking out one another's projects and even offer to help. Physical activity and breaks are part of a regular day, where kids will go outside and play a healthy mix of camp games. "Time outdoors is just as important as the creative learning being done indoors - the last thing we want to do is sit a child down for the whole day," says Nazar.

Believe it or not, one of the most popular questions that CTW gets is from parents wanting to register



Kids participate CTW's LEGO Robotics Challenge to design and build a LEGO robot to complete a series of challenging missions.

themselves as well as their kids. Until CTW introduces workshops for parents, we will just have to live vicariously through our kids engaged in one of their many programs. This summer, CTW will mark 8 years of summer icamp in Aurora - icamp will be running from Aurora High School, as well as several other locations across the GTA.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, January 30



SUBARU. www.richmondhillsubaru.com

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HOUSE LEAGUE

101 Timbits Red 4 - Ethan Solilo 2G 1A, David lacovetta 1G 1A, Bryan Cook 1G 1A, Mark Moscone 1A.
103 Timbits White 3 - Jack MacFarland 2G, Blake lezzi 1G, Marchel Woods 2A, Max Reeves 1A, Alex Morra 1A.

101 Timbits Red 4 - Cameron Boyd 1G, Bryan Cook 1G, Easton Irvine 1G, Stefano Basso 1G. 106 Timbits Powder Blue 0.

108 Timbits Grey 6 - Riley Pearl 3G, Ty Hartley 2G, Nicholas Pisapia 1G. 104 Timbits Blue 2 - Gavin Loria 1G, Reid McMann 1G.

103 Timbits White 12 - Max Reeves 2G1A, Stefano laversi 2G, Marco Djordjevic 1G, Alex Morra 3G, Matthew Gianforcaro 2G, Matteo Rossi 1G, Maxwell McConkey 1G. 102 Timbits Gold 4 - Jake McMillan 3G, Peter Mueller 1G.

104 Timbits Blue 7 - Kai Sillcox 2G, Jake Worthman 2G, Gavin Loria 1G, Macisaac Eveleigh 1G, James Boland-Wall 1G. 101 Timbits Red 5 - Mathew Lamanna 1G, David Iacovetta 2G, Ethan Solilo 1G.

103 Timbits White 5 - Stefano laversi 4G, Matthew Gianforcaro 1G. 101 Timbits Red 4 - David lacovetta 3G, Adam Flicker 1G.

102 Timbits Gold 8 - Luka Rodrigues 2G, Andrew Van Dalen 2G, Peter Mueller 2G, Liam Morassutti 1G, Ben Charette 1G. 104 Timbits Blue 7 - Matthew Elliott 1G, Gavin Loria 1G, Jake Worthman 2G, Aidan Quinn 2G, Christopher Goncalves 1G.

103 Timbits White 10 - Stefano laversi 3G, Maxwell McConkey 3G, Matthew Gianforcaro 4G. 108 Timbits Grey 2 - Riley Pearl 1G, Nicholas Pisapia 1G.

103 Timbits White 6 - Alex Morra 3G 1A, Jack MacFarland 1G, Matthew Gianforcaro 1G 1A, Ryan Cariou 1G, Maxwell McConkey 2A, Max Reeves 1A. 106 Timbits Powder Blue 1 - Lucas De Palma 1G.

104 Timbits Blue 2 - Macisaac Eveleigh 2G, Jake Worthman 1A, 105 Timbits Black 1 - Ryan Weeks 1G, Liam Taylor 1G, Jacob Smith 1A.

108 Timbits Grey 2. 101 Timbits Red 1.

108 Timbits Grey 2. 102 Timbits Gold 1.

103 Timbits White $\, 5 \,$ - Alex Morra 1G, Max Reeves 1G, Stefano laversi 3G. 107 Timbits Kelly Green $\, 0 \,$.

106 Timbits Powder Blue 3 - Michael More 1G, Christian Troubitsin 1G, Lucas De Palma 1G. 104 Timbits Blue 2- Jake Worthman 2G, Kai Sillcox 1A.

202 Caravan Kids Gold 8 - Jonathan Avgousti 2G, Ryan Fowler 1G, Liam Vivian 3G, Michael Pantalone 1G, Brennan Powell 1G. 204 Caravan Kids Blue 4 - Liam Graham 3G 1A, Robert Baccellieri 1A, Mitchell Weatherall

205 Caravan Kids Black 4 - Ethan Joiner 2G 1A, Matthew Cowl 1G, Aiden O'Toole 1G, Jackson Galbraith 1A. 206 Caravan Kids Powder Blue 3 - Jack Nicholson 1G, Ian Hildendorff 2G.

201 Caravan Kids Red 8 - Carson Tidd 4G 1A, Alex Jones 1G, Luke Pignatelli 1G, Jonah Spataro 1G, Evan Winter 1G. 203 Caravan Kids White 5 - Evan Ramasra 1G, Jack Sutherland 3G, Christian Romas 1G, Ethan Mohamed 1A.

404 Tilemaster Blue 6 - Andrew Campbell 1G, Giuliano Iervasi 1G, Dillon Varone 2G, Aaron Preiano 1A, William Reid 1G, Ethan Cohen 1G. 409 Pfaff VW Teal 2 - Christian Fermo 1G, John Dol 1A, Riley Jackson 1G, Joseph DiMichele 1A.

407 H.J. Pfaff Audi Kelly Green 3 - Mathew Hastings 3G. **404 Tilemaster Blue 2** - Aaron Preiano 1G, Benjamin Godber 1G.

404 Tilemaster Blue 4 - William Reid 1G, Benjamin Godber 2G, Paul Cotturo 1G, Claudio Basso 1A. 409 Pfaff VW Teal 3 -

Liam Patterson 1G, Evan Bryan 1G, Christian Ridd

403 Optimist Club Of Aurora White 5. 402 Omar's

Shoes Gold 5.

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 8 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 3G 1A, Vaughn Hewgill 2G, Nicholas Sever 1G, Andrew Ryman 1G, Kyle Gillies 1G 2A, Jay Sieber 2A. 408 Crabby Joe's Grey 1 - Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G, Jack Chivers 1A.

404 Tilemaster Blue 4 - Dillon Varone 1G, Aaron Preiano 2A, Nicolas Alverez 1G, Adam Wochenmarkt 1A, Giuliano lervasi 1G, Claudio Basso 1G 1A. 402 Omar's Shoes Gold 3 - Cole Sheremeta 1G, Michael Vivian 1G, Noah Dempsey 1A, Christopher Walsh 1G, Jacob Turriff 1A

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 6 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 3G 1A, Andrew Ryman 1G 1A, Kyle Gillies 2G, Carson Purcell 2A, Stetson Colicchio 1A. 409 Pfaff VW Teal 2 - Liam Patterson 1G, Evan Bryan 1A, Cristian Franze 1G

602 Wedi Corp.Com Waterproof Tile Solutions Gold 5. 611 Gmarkets Inc. - Purple 0.

610 Swiss Chalet & Harveys Orange 3. 602 Wedi Corp.Com Waterproof Tile Solutions Gold 1.

601 Municipal Engineering Solutions Red 7 - Christian Pearce 2G, Troy Lane 2G, 2A, Matthew Glionna 1G 2A, Evan Knowles 1G 1A, Nicolas Pearce 1G, Owen Bourrie 1A, Anthony Livia 2A. **611 Gmarkets Inc. - Purple 3** - Stanley Volchock 2G, William Morin 1G.

610 Swiss Chalet & Harveys Orange 3. 605 Lakeshore Valu Mart 1.

608 Crabby Joe's Grey 3 - Jack Dion 2G, Matthew Colucci 1G, Jamie Finlay 2A, Liam DeSouza 1A. 607 Envirocar Kelly Green 2 - Jacob Fenchak 1G, Shawn Mason 1G, Ian Rucker 1A.

601 Municipal Engineering Solutions Red 3 Nicolas Pearce 1G 1A, Tyler Justice 1G 1A, Troy Lane 1G,
Matthew Glionna 1A. 603 Diamond Groundskeeping
Services White 2 - C. Dyer 1G 1A, Skelhorn 1A, J.
Leblanc 1G, J. Samson 1A.

604 Orr & Associates Insurance Brks Ltd. Blue 6 - Matthew Rotman 1G, Darren Tree 1G, Adam Wilson 2A, Colin Read 1A, Tyler Wilson 3G, Blake. 611 Gmarkets Inc. - Purple 1 - Sam Speranini 1G, Holtby 1A, Ben Kissack 1G, Justin Miller 1A, Tarek Koudmani 1A.

, 606 Aurora Chrysler Powder Blue 4 - Will Ashton 2G, Alex Carter 2G, Lucas Ackerman 1A, James Kellett 1A, Dylan Cowell 1A, Jordan Elliott 1A, Girogio Venosa 1A, Matthew Barnett 1A. 609 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 1 - Joshua Fallavollita 1G, Jack Hughes 1A, Calem Pollock

801 Rogers Red 2 - Keith Jarvis 1G, Brett Bond 1G, Alex Harrison 2A, Brady Wilson 1A, Scotty Barker 1A. **805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 1** - Joshua DiVincenzo 1G, Lucas Marek 1A, Joshua DiVincenzo 1A.

801 Rogers Red 2 - Keith Jarvis 1G, Alex Harrison 1A, James Johnston 1A, Jamie Wilson 1A, Brett Bond 1G 1A. **810 Pizza Pizza Orange 2** - Robert Ruscica 1G, Max Brown 1G, Mitch Palmer 1A.

906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 3 - Josh Lawlor 2G, Alexander Seto 1G, Dylan Sutton 1A, Zachary Seto 1A, Mackenzie Macintosh 1A, John Dinocolantino 1A, Mathew Stewart 1A. 904 St. Louis Blue 1 - Matthew Warner 1G, Eric Bulloch 1A, David Roberts 1A.

905 ATS Healthcare Black 2 - Vince Duggan 1G, Duncan Eveleigh 1G, Adam Durante 1A. 901 Graystones Restaurant Red 1 - David Schueller 1G, Mathew Hart 1A.

907 Wooder Food Safety Consulting Kelly Green 5
- Michael David 1G, Daniel Antoniel 1G, Gabriel Bauset
1G, Cody Sandersun 1G, C. Karagiannis 1G 1A, Gavin
Matheson 1A, Bailey Miller 1A, Tal Litmanovitch 1A, Wade
McFarlane 1A, Liam Devlin 1A. 903 Optimist Club of
Aurora White 5 - Andrew Walter 1G, Kyle Coughlin 1G,
Ryan Dowling 1G, Kelly Hudson 1G, Quinn McGowan 1G,
Coulton Speight 1A, Scott Cosentino 1A, Nicholas
Bertrand 1A, Evan Jones 1A, Mac Cawfield 1A.

909 North York Plumbing & Heating Teal 4 - C. Mulhern 1G 1A, Matthew Roach 1G, Austin Boudreau 1G, T Thiessen 1G 1A, Robert Bulgaretti 1A, E Foxwell 1A. - Daniel LaFlamme 2G, Sam Steenhorst 1G 1A, Ryan St.

Germain 1G, Ali Akbar 1A, Brian Pedron 1A.

908 Crabby Joe's Grey 5 - Ryan Eberlin 3G, Ryan Dalcin 1G, Jason Eberlin 1G, Trevor George 1A, Gregory Milligan 1A. 902 Boston Gold 3 - Jonathon Hurtubise 2G, Graham Joiner 1G, Connor Flynn 1A, Ward Benn 1A, Dylan Indos 1A.

902 Boston Gold 3 - Trevor Rice 1G, Connor Flynn 1G, Brian Tree 1G, Jesse Borin 1A, Jonathon Hurtubise 1A, William Allen 1A, Dylan Indos 1A. 909 North York Plumbing & Heating Teal 1 - Justin Stevens 1G, Austin Boudreau 1A, C Mulhern 1A.

908 Crabby Joe's Grey 3 - Jason Eberlin 1G, Eamon Reilly 2G, Chris Beach 1A, Marco Ghegin 1A, Ryan Dalcin 1A. 903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 1 - Kelly Hudson 1G.

904 St. Louis Blue 1 - Konstantin Bakdonow, shutout, Alex Woodward 1G, Andrew Hall 1A, Eric Bulloch 1A. 907 Wooder Food Safety Consulting Kelly Green 0.

905 ATS Healthcare Black 2 - Michael McCreesh 2G, Austin Megit 1A, Duncan Eveleigh 1A, Will Brogan 1A. 906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 2 - Zachary Seto 1G, Josh Lawlor 1G 1A, Will Miller 1A.

910 Philly Orange 3 - Ryan St. Germain 1G, Daniel LaFlamme 2G, Andrew Boehmer 1A. 901 Graystones Restaurant Red 2 - Andrew Begg 1G 1A, Michael Rodrigues 1G, Andrew Martin 1A, Mark Presacco 1A.

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select - Aurora 1 - Charles Huxley 1G, Nicholas Giorgio 1A, Todd Cook 1A. Ajax 1.

Novice A - Aurora 2 - Brett Pearce 1G, Liam Mahoney 1G, Brandin Harris 1A. **Barrie 1.**

Novice A - Barrie 5. Aurora 0.

Novice AE - Aurora 4. Stouffville 1.

Novice AE - Aurora 3. Stouffville 2.

M Atom AA - Aurora 3 - Anthony lacovetta 1G, Luke O'Keefe 1A, Harris Goan 1G 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G. Richmond Hill 2.

M Atom A - Aurora 5 - Dylan Prescott 1G 1A, Cory Read 1G 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1G 2A, Sam Ashton 1G, Matthew Gram 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Brendan Sanford 1A. Nobleking 3.

M Atom A - Aurora 5 - Sam Ashton 3G, Dylan Prescott 1G 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Colby Prymych 1A, Cory Read 1A. Richmond Hill 3.

M Atom A - Aurora 2 - Blair Crabbe 1G, Dylan Prescott 1G, Sam Ashton 1A, Adam Wloka 1A. Bradford 1.

M Atom A - Orillia 3. Aurora 2 - Ryan Cunniam 1G, Cory Read 1A, Connor Thomas 1A, Matthew Gram 1G, Jason Gage 1A.

M Atom A - Orillia 6. Aurora 2 - Dylan Prescott 2G, Cory Read 2A, Cooper Judson 1A, Maeve O'Connor 1A.

M Atom A - Newmarket 5. Aurora 2 - Matthew McConnell 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Dylan Prescott 1G, Brendan Sanford 1A.

M Atom A - Aurora 2 - Ryan Cunniam 1G, Dylan Prescott 1G, Cory Read 1A, Matthew Gram 1A. Bradford 2.

M Atom A - Aurora 5 - Sam Ashton 2G, Blair Crabbe 1G 2A, Ryan Cunniam 1G, Jason Gage 1G, Colby Prymych 2A, Jack Campbell 1A. Richmond Hill 1.

M Atom A - Innisfil 5. Aurora 3 - Matthew Gram 1G, Jack Campbell 1A, Sam Ashton 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Matthew McConnell 1A, Dylan Prescott 1A.

M Atom AE - Georgina 4. Aurora 0.

Atom AA - Aurora 2. Barrie 1.

Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Finn Reeves 2G, Adam

DePiero 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Braeden Joynt 1G, Nicholas Keller 1A, Braden Reid 1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A. Markham 3.

Atom AE - Aurora 2 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1G, Finn Reeves 1A, Stephen Silverio 1A. Markham 2.

1G, Adam DePiero 1G, Braeden Joynt 1A, Braden Reid
1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1A.
M Peewee A - Bradford 4. Aurora 1 - Reid

Atom AE - Markham 5. Aurora 2 - Thomas Morra

Carpenter 1G, Thomas Kostoff 1A.

M Peewee A - Bradford 5. Aurora 1. Ethan Brooks

M Peewee AE - Aurora 0. Markham 0.

Peewee AA - Markham 5. Aurora 1 - Keegan Matthew 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A.

Peewee A - Aurora 3 - Cameron Zinner 2G, Bryan Manweiler 1G, Daniel McConnell 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Cole Chapman, shutout. **Markham 0.**

Peewee A - Aurora 1 - Cameron Zinner 1G, Mathew Tyndall 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Matthew Tanel, shutout. **Bradford 0**.

Peewee A - Markham 2. Aurora 1 - Tristan Kuchar 1G, Cameron Zinner 1A, Shaun Broad 1A.

Peewee AE - Aurora 2 - Christian Arcuri 1G 1A, Brendin Ramsav 1G. Newmarket 1.

Peewee AE - Newmarket 3. Aurora 2 - Christian Arcuri 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Charles Bennett 1A, Brendin Ramsay 1G, Michael Jollimore 1A.

Peewee AE - Newmarket 3. Aurora 1 - Michael DaCosta 1G. Christian Arcuri 1A, Michael Jollimore 1A.

M Bantam AA - Aurora 2 - Chris Klinowski 1G, Nathan Romanchych 1A, Matthew Leroy 1G 1A, David O'Connor 1A, Peter Andreakos 1A. Barrie 2.

M Bantam A - Newmarket 8. Aurora 3.

M Bantam A - Aurora 4. East Gwillimbury 2.

M Bantam A - Aurora 2. East Gwillimbury 0.

M Bantam AE - Aurora 5. Georgina 4.M Bantam AE - Aurora 4. Georgina 0.

Bantam AA - Aurora 3 - Ryan Manson, shutout, Lucas Pozzebon 1G1A, Quentin Campbell 1G, Konner McMillan 1G, Spencer Green 2A, Jake McKee 1A, Tait Snedden 1A. Barrie 0.

Bantam A - Aurora 3 - Kyle Niece 1G, Shadoe Storm 1G, Alec Ground 1G, Liam Coll 2A, Austin Persaud 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A. Richmond Hill 1.

Bantam A - Richmond Hill 4. Aurora 1 - Liam Coll

Bantam AE - Aurora 4 - Kyle Nice 1G 2A, Kyle Strachan 1G 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G, Nicklaus Steiner 1G, Parker Baile 1A, Nathan Sinclair 1A, Nelson Hossack 1A. Barrie 1

Bantam AE - Aurora 5 - Brayden Beswick 2G, Ryan McGolrick 2G, Joel Gouveia 1G, Scott Kostin 2A, Robert Doswell 1A, Kyle Nice 1A, Parker Baile 1A. Barrie 3.

M Midget AE - Aurora 4 - Matthew Reeves 3G 1A, Eliot Harkin 1G 1A, Connor Moody 2A, Collin Laird 1A, Jeffrey Lam. TNT 2.

M Midget AE - Aurora 3 - Connor Moody 1G, Matthew Reeves 1G 1A, Paul Steiner 1G, Eliot Harkin 1A, Kyle Fedec 1A, Jeffrey Lam 1A. Pickering 1.

M Midget AE - Aurora 3 - Connor Moody 2G, Kyle Fedec 1G, Matthew Reeves 2A, Eliot Harkin 2A, Daniel Jones 1A. East Gwillimbury 1.

Midget AE - TNT 4. Aurora 3.

Midget AE - Aurora 4. TNT 1.



Tigers gain precious point, but lose

While the Aurora Tigers were losing 5-4 in overtime Thursday night, their arch-enethe Newmarket mies, Hurricanes were actually doing them a favour.

For the 2nd straight visit to the Markham Centennial Centre, the Aurora Tigers overcame a third period deficit to force overtime with the hometown Waxers.

However, the results were different.

Unlike the last time, the Waxers would prevail 5-4 in the extra frame as Mike Sullivan's shot snuck past Aurora goaltender Dylan Ellis.

Despite the loss, Aurora gained a valuable single point in the standings thanks to Sloan Stewart's equalizer with 1.8 seconds remaining in the third period, which sent the game into

were Jordan Gidaro, EJ Faust and Brendan Bell.

Meanwhile, in Newmarket the same night, the Hurricanes had little trouble handing the Orangeville Flyers a 7-2 drubbing as Orangeville desperately needed the two points, with playoffs less than two weeks away and the Tigers and Orangeville fighting for a playoff

The victory also ensured the Hurricanes would clinch the regular season North Division Title.

A hat trick from Tyler Sikura, two goals from Kevin Balas, a goal and two assists from Bowman Webster and three assists from Morgan Bonner provided the offense the Canes needed to win for the 21st time on home ice this season.

The Canes scored two quick goals half way through the first period to take the early 2-0 lead. Also scoring for the Tigers The Webster - Sikura - Bonner

line scored both goals as each player had a quick two points.

Sikura's 19th made it 1-0 and Webster's 17th made it 2-0. Sikura's 20th goal of the sea-

son came late in the first to make it 3-0 for the home team.

It looked as if Newmarket would cruise to victory holding Orangeville to only three shots after the first period.

But, the second period was a far different story.

Newmarket only got three shots on net in the second and gave up 17.

The Huricanes escaped the lackluster second period thanks to Jimmy Sarjeant, the goalie, who stopped all but one powerplay goal.

Orangeville played the Hurricanes tough and trailed 3-1 after two periods.

The third period showed why the Canes are in first place as Newmarket took over the

goal early in the third to make the score 4-1 Canes.

Jeff DiNallo scored four minutes later to increase the lead to 5-1.

Orangeville continued to play hard and managed a second goal, but it was too little too late as the Canes were ahead and kept their foot on the gas.

If there was any doubt left Balas' second goal of the night, scored shorthanded, crushed the Flyers' chances.

All that was left to do was complete a hat trick and Sikura made no mistake as he scored his third of the night to make it 7-2 Newmarket.

The win sealed the North Division lead for Newmrket but there is still plenty to play for in the regular season.

Upcoming for the Tigers this week are games against the

Hurricanes, Stouffville Spirit and Kevin Balas scored a great the Markham Waxers. All three teams have more points than Aurora.

> The Tigers are in for a battle against the number one team in the league, the Newmarket Hurricanes Thursday, February 3rd at 7.30 p.m. in Newmarket.

> The Hurricanes are currently first in the standings for the North Division and the entire league for that matter, leading with 78 points.

The next night, Aurora will be

on home ice to take on the Stouffville Spirit.

That game starts at 7.30 p.m.

Then on Sunday, February 6th, the Tigers will look for revenge from their overtime loss against the Waxers in a hometown match up.

The puck drops at 2:30 p.m. With just two weeks remaining in regular season matchups the Tigers currently sit in sixth place in the North Division standings with 41 points.

On-line show receives raves

Praise is rolling in for former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas following the first two broadcasts of her live on-line show "Our Town", picking up where the late Auroran columnist and former Aurora mayor Dick Illingworth left off.

With two episodes in the can, and despite the first instalment being marred by technical difficulty, Ms. Collins-Mrakas said the show is getting "fantastic feedback".

"I think the show is going very well," she said. "We have the obvious start up issues - technological problems to work out, how to deal with my dog that seems to like to snore through the show, loudly - you know, the

"I have enjoyed it immensely so far. The feedback has been fantastic [and] I had two people stop me on the GO platform to say they were enjoying the show."

Continuing the legacy of Mr. Illingworth, Ms. Collins-Mrakas got things rolling on her debut show by paying tribute to the man himself.

"I am honoured to carry on his tradition of public engagement through broadcast media," she said. "He called things as he saw them and held everyone to the same exacting standards as he held himself. I hope we can do justice to his legacy."

Ms. Collins-Mrakas says she has tried to incorporate the elements of Mr. Illingworth's original show, such as highlighting events around town, and Council Watch, but has added her own elements on political

"I already have some feedback from viewers about future topics so I am excited about moving forward," she

Viewers have been asking Our Town's host whether future shows will have guests ("Absolutely, I would love to have guests.") and she says she hopes to include a new monthly "kitchen table" coffee chat on particular issues.

"We will have guests either interested in the topic or with expertise in the living increase, and additionarea," she says. "I have a al money could also be number of people already interested in being guests."

In her debut instalment, noting right off the bat "for the more litigious minded viewers" that the show is her opinion and hers alone, Ms. Collins-Mrakas looked at former mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million defamation suit against three local bloggers.

Citing a number of cases in such regions like Halton and Wellington County, Ms. Collins-Mrakas examined the question "Should politicians be given unfettered access to the public purse when pursuing civil litigation?'

After examining legal decisions, Ms. Collins-Mrakas concluded that a government can't sue their own citizens and dismissed the argument that good candidates would be deterred from entering public life for fear of being sued as "hornswoggle".

if they sue the government, and they are on the hook if a member of the government sues them? Does that seem fair or even logical to you? If you're going to fund a politician's private civil action, then you'd better be prepared to fund a private citizen's legal action because I think there is equal legitimacy for both arguments."

Her second program focused on the upcoming budget process.

"It is important for the public to provide input on what municipal priorities should be, how council should balance the competing wants and needs of the corporation, keeping in mind the future needs and challenges of the municipality," she said. "It is not unlike what we have to face every day in our own household budgets."

Focusing on "stressors", Ms. Collins-Mrakas said a number of new positions are being brought online due to Council's approved organizational review and money needs to be found to continue with those plans. Salary and benefit costs could also be a stressor with a cost of

required for fire and emergency services and the continued rehabilitation and replacement of Aurora's capital assets and infrastruc-

"Eventually you're going to have to pay the piper and a number of our capital assets are at a stage when replacement as opposed to rehabilitation is needed," she said.

"The Town is growing and many of our key amenities and infrastructure and service needs are aging. They're not going to get any cheaper to replace so I think our council is going to have some pretty difficult decisions in the years to come."

This week's show focuses on additional issues pertaining to the budget, including a look at Regional and educational taxes.

Viewers can catch the third evening of Our Town online Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on theauroran.com.

"I love the ability to speak to residents about topics that they are interested in and I am interested in as well," she says. "It gives the residents another opportunity to become engaged in their community, to become more involved in how their municipality is governed [and] another opportunity for residents to stay informed and involved because it's Our Town.'

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Aurora Ducks create splash in Pickering

Ducks Swimming of "The public is on the hook Aurora and Stouffville traveled south recently to attend the Pickering Winter Swim Fest late in January.

The Ducks competed with 59 swimmers and placed second in the meet with 1419 points behind the host Pickering club which scored 1632 points.

Ten GTA clubs and more than 500 swimmers attended the two-day event at the Pickering Leisure Centre.

High Point Awards were awarded to two Ducks swimmers

Erica Savage, 12, captured the 11-12 girls category with five wins and one second placing. Paul Wong, 16, also

received a High Point plaque, winning all eight of the events he entered. Samantha Kaczor, 12, raced to a new Eastern

Canadian Championship standard in the 100 Backstroke swimming a time of 1:08.20 minutes. In all, the Ducks had 39

different swimmers grabbing a total of 53 gold, 39 silver and 37 bronze awards.

Swimmers were also

successful in moving up the competitive ladder.

Ted Pispidikis qualified for the provincial championships.

New "A" time standards were achieved by Grace Harris, 10, Matthew Stubbs, 16. and Victoria Wicks. 14.

New "B" time standards were achieved by Laird Douglas, 10, and Karina Robb,12.

Victoria Bridges and Lise Cinq-Mars swam to new "C" time standards.

"The team was upbeat and excited coming off of the school holidays and training camps," said coach Sam Montgomery, "This meet not only marks our first competition of the year, it signals our entry into the short-course, 25-metre, championship season and our hopes are high for outstanding performances in the coming months".

Ducks will compete at the Central Region Championship in Etobicoke this weekend; the Eastern Canadian Championship in London, February 17-18-19-20, and the Provincial Championships in Nepean February 24-25-26-27.



Further information call Lois

905-727-8089

www.auroradiggersgirlssoftball.co

Monday night

TEAM STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	Т	GF	GA	Pts.
Masterclean Contracting	11	3	3	72	40	25
Copper Creek	9	7	1	69	61	19
Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	8	6	3	55	52	19
Baldwin's	8	8	1	74	78	17
Rec Cycle N' Sports	7	7	3	51	51	17
FPL Aggregates	7	8	2	56	64	16
Tom & Jerry's	5	10	2	48	57	12
Priestly Demolition	5	11	1	58	75	11
						- 1

WEEKLY RESULTS

Rec Sports	6	Masterclean	6
Copper Creek	0	Priestly Demolition	1
Tom & Jerrys	5	Baldwins	5
FPL Aggregates	3	Highlands Chev	3

FPL Aggregates 3	Highlan	ds Chev	3
PLAYER	STANDINGS		
	G	Α	Pts.
John Archibald Copper Creek	15	18	33
Tom Hussey Copper Creek	12	17	29
Mark Sedore Priestly	16	10	26
Al Perkins Baldwin's	14 9	11 15	25 24
Steve Kavanagh Baldwins John Andersen Rec Sports	14	8	22
dom / maciser rece oports	11	11	22
Paul Wolanski Copper Creek	11	10	21
Darren Yaremko FPL	10	10	20
Ryan Spampinato Tom & Jerry's	12	7	19
Ryan Bryce Masterclean	10	9	19
Phil Podstatzky Priestly	12	6	18
John Leeder Baldwin's	8	10	18
Kevin O'Keefe Highland's	8	10	18
Ed Kilroy Rec Sports	8	9	17
Gareth McDonald Priestly	6	11	17
Rob Carnegie Masterclean	1	16	17
Rob Blakely Masterclean	9 4	7 12	16
Craig McConnell Highland's	8	7	16 15
Don Nichols Copper Creek Jeff Sleep Rec Sports	10	4	14
Steve Robertson Masterclean	7	7	14
Glen Bince FPL	5	9	14
Ed Jackson Baldwin's	8	5	13
Ron Thiessen Tom & Jerry's	6	7	13
Alain Boudreau Masterclean	4	9	13
Ken Fisher Highland's	9	3	12
Dave Caverley FPL	5	7	12
Doug Adair Rec Sports	6	6	12
Raz Khamissa Tom & Jerry's	6	6	12
Darryl Thompson Tom & Jerry's	5	7	12
Nick Weedon Rec Sports	2	10	12
Hugh Alcorn Masterclean	1	10	11
Murray Campbell Highland's Steven MacDonald Tom & Jerry's	5 5	5 5	10 10
Vince Greco Tom & Jerry's	4	6	10
Scott Crabbe Highland's	6	3	9
Peter Briand Baldwin's	5	4	9
Ken Rumble Highland's	5	4	9
Jody Matthews Highland's	4	5	9
Chris Neale Copper Creek	4	5	9
Scott Thomas Tom & Jerry's	3	6	9
Mike Caicco Copper Creek	2	7	9
Andrew Dalton Rec Sports	2	7	9
Richard Fava Tom & Jerry's	1	8	9
Billy Fetherston Priestly	4	4	8
Scott Harris Tom & Jerry's	4	4	8
Bob Nunn Baldwin's	4 4	4 4	8
Ken VanNoort Baldwins Sam Speranini Masterclean	4	4	8
Brett Vickers FPL	4	4	8
Craig Gellatly FPL	3	5	8
Dave Mayberry Priestly	3	5	8
Peter Briand Baldwins	2	6	8
Mark Lemmon Masterclean	2	6	8
Ken Heinrich Rec Sports	1	7	8
Dennis Tonello FPL	1	7	8
Les Nip Masterclean	6	1	7
Paul Gibson Tom & Jerry's	4	3	7
Gerald Briand Baldwin's	3	4	7
Jerome Flanagan Baldwin's	3	4	7
Brian McCartney FPL	3	4	7

Discussions to resume hockey results on swim-time available

Aurora expected to discuss a recommendation that the Town go back to using its 2008 draft pool allocation policy at this week's general committee meeting, a move which the Aurora Selkies swim team vocally opposed earlier this

Delegates from the Selkies made their views known again at the last general committee meeting on January 18.

The delegates were responding to an item on the agenda which would have seen the 2008 policy remain the guideline for the upcoming season "until excess pool capacity exists" and Town staff prepare a report on the benefits of implementing three-year pool permits for area swim clubs, including the Aurora Ducks and the Master Ducks.

Selkies, David LeClair said he to a "fair and collaborative solution that removes the need for municipal intervention" in a commercial competitive issue, echoing comments the team made to Swim Ontario. council last year.

in favour of term permits provided a rational, transparent, and agreement amongst all three had been scheduled. established swim clubs."

2008 policy.

The plan creates "significant uncertainty" with regard to business growth and planning and fosters "unfair competitive prac-

"The before us today would penalize the Selkies and reward the Ducks and Master Ducks for failing to meet their publically stated commitments to council," he said, citing earlier failed attempts to come to an agreement. "The initiative to negotiate a commerstructure."

In his presentation he prosor representing the Town, and a mediator from Swim Ontario.

"Any club that chooses not to participate or negotiate in good faith would not have their pool permits renewed for the 2011-2012 pool season at the discretion of the committee chair," he

As the discussion went on, Councillor Evelyn Buck questioned Mr. LeClair on the Selkies rejection of additional swim time

councillors are at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, particularly hours on Sunday, as well as hours on ning this cat, and we're all look-Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The 20-strong Selkies supporters in the audience indicated conflicts with school hours accounted for objections to the latter offer.

In his presentation to council which followed Mr. LeClair, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Leisure Services, indicated that there is more demand for pool lane hours in Aurora than supply. Countering what he described as "perceptions that we are unfair in the allocation" he underscored that no consensus of pool policies allocation exists amongst swim clubs or Town

"We were based on residen-Speaking on behalf of the cy of members, not the number of members in a club," he said of was on hand to advocate a path conditions. "Permits were issued on June 25, as directed by council for the 2009-2010 season following a meeting with club owners and a representative from

"None of the clubs at the time "The Selkies are unequivo- were in agreement with the polically opposed to the recommen- cy as written or amended... dation," he said. "The Selkies are [Clubs] were to meet within the next three months to discuss a resolution. Staff did enquire sevequitable pool allocation process eral times with regards to the is implemented and there is meeting date, however nothing

"The clubs had gone away Such allocation processes and they had made a commitunder this plan would remain ment to council that they would arbitrary, he argued, noting that meet within those three months. all swim clubs objected to the After six months there was no progress. It was clear that they did not intend to meet or come to a resolution. A policy as drafted and amended is not an agreement with the swim clubs or staff and that left council with an recommendations agreement that no party was in support of."

The residency of club members could also be taken into account when allocating pool times, he said. The Aurora Ducks have 175 members, with 105 of those living in Aurora. The Master Ducks have 253 memcial solution amongst the clubs bers with 111 Aurora residents, failed for lack of process and and the Selkies have 151, with 45 Aurora residents.

"The Ducks have 140 hours. posed an alternate solution to the the Selkies got 49.5 hours of time plan: a committee being struck for their swimmers, or 2.8 hours led by a chair (most likely an to the Ducks for every one of the appointed member of council), a Selkies, a fairly close comparimembership comprised of the son," said Mr. Downey. three local swim clubs, an advi- "(Compared to the Master Ducks), the Selkies received marginally more swim time for their master program than the Master Ducks did when you deal with the number of residents in overall membership.

"I appreciate that Mr. LeClair is looking for other ways of skining at ways to resolve this. I believe that what I presented to you this evening was a fair and equitable distribution pool plan. I believe we have done everything we possibly can to address the needs of the Selkies as well as respecting the needs of the

Masters and the Ducks. I believe we have addressed the needs of residents.

"At this point, I would place it on them and I don't think we should be a part of that equation in resolving how they feel they should be slicing this pie."

In the interests of time, the matter was referred to this week's meeting.

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Hartwell Way to link two sections, Region says

Aurora Council voted 6-3 last week to accept the modifications to the Town's 2C Secondary Plan recently handed down by the Region of York.

Region's report The caused some councillors to question the recommendations when it came before general committee January 18, particularly extending Hartwell Way through from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street.

"The Region has requested that Hartwell Way be extended to connect from 2B into the 2C secondary plan," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning in a report to Council. "The prepared option plans for the 2C secondary plan indicated that Hartwell Way would be extended from the 2B area into the 2C. However, this connection was removed by council upon consideration of the final plan.

"Hartwell Way was designed as a collector road to join the 2B area to the 2C area and the 2B subdivision agreements provide details pertaining to the connection and funds have been provided to the Town to secure the infrastructure. Engineering and Planning Staff from the Region, Town Staff, and Town's consultants, have expressed support for the connection and have indicated there is a need for such a connection."

At the January 18 genercommittee meeting Councillor John Gallo said he still wanted more time to consider the Region's report, particularly Hartwell Way. The previous council's decision was not fully outlined in the report, he said.

"Obviously I supported not having it continued the last time around." he said. "I would have liked to have seen the opposite perspective. If we are going to have a fulsome report and have council analyze what is before us, there is nothing in this report or has been said that would have given you some type of indication of why we decided in the last council to stop Hartwell Way.

"There is a neighbourhood there that doesn't fully know what is happening."

evidently Word got by the around time Tuesday's council meeting was convened as two residents from the Hartwell neighbourhood appeared before last Tuesday's Open

"This extension can and should be avoided," said resident Mario Crudo. "These views are not only mine, but the views of many neighbours who I have come to know in the area, many who have refused to come because I have been told my efforts have been futile in the

"I do understand that this extension has been planned for a long time, going even as far back as 1996, but much has changed and evolved since then. We have a community park that is the envy of other neighbourhoods. The park is used vear-round because of its outdoor skating rink. I do not believe that when the item was first proposed anyone was aware that we would have this park. As a result, there are countless cars on a daily basis, as well as many, many children that cross Hartwell to use this park."

Connecting the road from Bayview to Leslie would be a "recipe for a possible future tragedy", he added.

Mr. Crudo asked for the Town to put more thought into resolving the issue by engaging with the surrounding community.

ers, and consultants may have the expertise, but they do not live here and do not see the reality day by day," he said. "I believe that compromise can perhaps be achieved. That said, please do not confuse my willingness to compromise with giving in.'

discussing In matter, Councillor Sandra Humfryes, who opposed the modifications at general committee, explained why she changed her mind over the week, citing e-mail from Ian Laing, Fire Chief for the Central York Fire Services, explaining the extension could improve response times in the area.

"For me, safety concerns of neighbourhoods are definitely a priority and getting that information really helped me go to the next level," she said.

Councillor While Humfryes' position changed by last Tuesday's meeting, Councillor John Gallo's position remained the same.

"The whole purpose of that road is to take people from the west and move them east," he said. "There is no other reason for that road and I'd say that the

"The planners, develop- people west of the significant feature are doing that quite well.

"I do share the concerns from the letter from the fire department, although it does indicate some of those concerns are all over Town."

The history of the proposed extension, and the responsibility for it dominatthe ed much of the debate when this item first came before council at general commit-

> Town engineering staff have always "strongly supported" the connection, explained Town Planner Jim Kyle at the time. That was always the Town's position at the table, he added.

> While Councillor Gaertner, for instance, insisted that Hartwell Way as a collector road was under the jurisdiction of the Town, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, councillors, and Town Staff confirmed that the Region was the "approval authority" for the secondary plan in ques-

"We have to pay for the construction, we have to pay for the maintenance," said "We Councillor Gaertner. don't have to approve this road. This is our road. The choice is up to us. We have to decide what is best for our residents and our environment."

Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper agreed, however, that the Region "has the approval authority."

To reject the Region's recommendations would bring the matter before the Ontario Municipal Board and, thus, out of Council's hands, argued Councillor Buck.

"What would our option be, that we would join the throng going to the Ontario Municipal Board and appeal against the Region's official plan?" Councillor Buck asked. "That's our only option, in other words. We can accept their authority or we can fight them at the OMB."

But where are the jobs: Gaertner

While Aurora councillors approved Regional modifications to the 2C Secondary Plan, some councillors harboured reservations over their suggestions above and beyond the Hartwell Way extension, not the least of which was modifications to the Town's designated business park.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner was among those who voiced concerns, particularly over the Region of York's recommendation to allow for 20 per cent retail in the business park lands, designated for the lands north of Wellington Street between Leslie Highway 404.

Her misgivings lay in her concerns that this change would mean a reduction in anticipated tax revenue from the area.

Leslie is our future employment land and, to make it very clear, we desperately need the taxes that comes from employment land and we desperately need the jobs," she said. "We have a proposal from the Region that says we should take up to 20 per cent of this land and change it from employment land to retail land."

"Retail uses are not employment land, so we are diluting this very important piece of land down to 20 per cent which will not be in the strict use of the [phrase] 'employment use' come to that," she continued, asking Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning how he felt the recommendation

was in order considering the Town's "desperate" need of employment land.

Mr. Ramunno did not agree with Councillor Gartner's assessment. however, noting the recommendations from the Region tighten up commercial permissions and are ultimately more consistent with the Town's Plan.

Regional policy allows for up to 20 per cent "ancillary retail uses" within business park designations, he added, and that retail is still considered employment

"That is why staff can support it because, in fact, the Region's proposed modifications tighten up the amount of commercial uses that can be permitted within that employment area," he said. "It is really a maximum of 20 per cent "This whole area east of and does provide some flexibility with respect to allowing it not solely along the east side of Leslie, but perhaps internal.

> "This modification is consistent with the Regional employment land policies and staff agree."

Councillor Gaertner continued her line of questioning with Mr. Ramunno, asking why the Region would be "interferring" with the Town's land use designations, a question which Mayor Geoffrey Dawe asked her to rephrase so as to not put Mr. Ramunno "on the spot".

She was in the middle of with the resultant taxes that duly rephrasing her question when Councillor Evelyn Buck interrupted on a point of order, and said this type of discussion makes council meetings "drag on forever".

interpreted Councillor Gaertner's questions as a point of clarification, noting that that would be the "last

Councillor Gaertner objected to this being the last one, saying there is "no limit" to the number of questions for clarification she can ask.

"I am trying to understand an extremely important issue that is of extreme importance to the Town of Aurora," she said.

"You're supposed to understand before you come and not participate in a debate," Councillor Buck interjected. "You're supposed to [be prepared to] bring your position forward. This is endless, endless, endless, and then we don't complete the Town's business and we're here until one in the morning and still don't complete the agenda."

The dialogue between Ramunno and Councillor Gaertner continued with the odd interjection from Mayor Dawe notthat Councillor Gaertner had spoken multiple times.

In the middle of all this, Mr. Ramunno addressed her question, and said the Region has to conform to the Provincial growth plan to ensure protection and strength of employment land policies.

"I appreciate you giving me your time over the last couple of days to answer all of my questions so that I could come here understanding," said Councillor Michael Thompson to Mr.

Ramunno, adding that the Mayor Dawe said he retail sector provides "ample opportunity" for jobs and further employment.

> The changes were carried 6-3 with Councillors Chris Ballard, John Gallo, and Gaertner opposed.





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By BRIAN WARBURTON

Interesting people abound among seniors, and Seniors' Centre chess player and athlete George Biondic is one of them.

About a month ago, George joined the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) Chess Club, and I enjoyed excellent chess with George, John Inglis, Bill Pressmar, George Jarko, Peter Hardy, Nick Dedic, Bernie Prost and others.

However, back to the incredible George who informed me that he had recently completed a marathon, which he had intended to walk, but actually walked and then ran for about four minutes in each hour simply to generate some bodily heat, even though running was not part of his strategic plan.

George found the right mix for his endurance and ability, and his fitness level driving his superb senior body to a resounding triumph.

The "Across the Years" threeday race was set to begin December 29th, and since this race was in the vicinity of Phoenix, Arizona, George expected cool to warm weather, excellent for physical exertion.

Instead, unusually cold and rainy weather greeted him,

which he had not dressed for, but true to the indomitable spirit of a true marathoner, George thrived and continued wearing a poncho distributed to him.

In the 72-hour race, George finished first out of the 48 who completed the course, completing 400 Kilometres or 248.548 miles, and if that sounds insane to you, it sounds insane to me and I also ran distance in my younger years, with the Bradford Harriers.

The two racers well ahead of George had agreed to finish together and turned down an offer from him, to make the race a three-way tie, but the offer met with rejection and produced an outstanding winning result for our Canadian, and a shot of adrenalin for everybody who reads this story.

George continued with increased determination, caught and passed his competitors who finished as they planned except that they were second and Canadian and Auroran hero George Biondic was easily first, to the delight of his greatest supporter, his wife Erlinda.

The racers did not sleep very long, the second night George writes that he slept for half an hour, and increased his running to eight minutes.

At the beginning of the race, George set his goal as the middle of the pack and 200 miles total goal, but found he moved through the pack unintentionally, which resulted in his offer to share first place.

Erlinda supported him through the race and. in fact, authored their participation since she entered George in the race as a surprise for him.

George, who merely hoped to finish in good shape in the centre of the pack, created an enormous thrill for them both with tenacity and durability.

Skin rubbed raw, painful muscles, the loneliness of the run and the cruelly persuasive desire to find somewhere to lie down and sleep, may provide an inkling of what a race of this length and duration demands of competitors.

The promoters invited George to compete in next year's race, a prospect that thrills him on one hand and imposes a decision to consider because of the lengthy training required to prepare for it.

He has a decision to make. George is a delightful man and will be an enormous credit to the Seniors' Centre and to seniors everywhere.

Most seniors reading this will be in awe, and some may dream longingly of a time long ago when they competed in a sport or contest of some description.

Aurora is not likely to produce another, man or woman, who can win such a race, since it happens infrequently.

Nevertheless, Aurora continues to produce residents and members of the Aurora Seniors' Association, who excel in a variety of ways, often of benefit to people in need.

In addition, these seniors, men and women, tackle the marathon of life and live their lives in love and respect for what they do and how they do it.

The door to the Seniors' Centre is open to all who have reached 55 years of age or more, and most members live ordinary lives, with outstanding members emphasizing accomplishments.

George and others in the Seniors' Centre Chess Club may enter the 1600 level tournament at the 2011 Canadian Open Chess Tournament.

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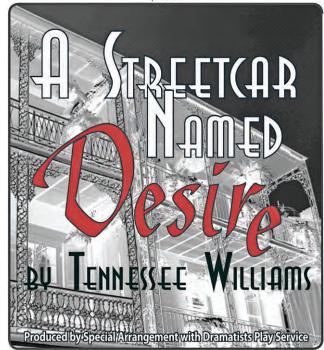
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Town hall address changes

From page 1

said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "John West Way is a name that exists. It is just changing the address of the Municipal Building from 1 Municipal Drive to 100 John West Way. My understanding is the address 100 still exists and can be used."

Councillor Gallo also wondered about the financial implications of changing the address. Aurora CAO Neil Garbe indicated, however, that they would just need to let the old Town stationery run out and put a change of address notification in the Town's Notice Board.

"Allow the Town Stationery to run out and then in the next order we would replace the address," said Councillor Buck, referring to the costs of the change. "We just take down that silly little thing at the end of the driveway saying Municipal Drive."

With the majority of councillors at the table supporting the change, some expressed regret that the change to 1 Municipal Drive occurred in the first place.

"I thought it was an honour to bestow," said Councillor Michael Thompson.

"The fact someone had to live being stripped [of the naming honour], I just couldn't stand it at the time and I am pleased to move that motion forward in support of going back to 100 John West Way," added Councillor Sandra Humfryes.

Their comments reflect those of resident Graham Wride, who appeared before council earlier in the evening as a delegate to support the name change. His remarks were critical of the council responsible for 1 Municipal Drive.

"Councillor Nigel made a motion that would remove this honour," said Mr. Wride. "The motion, seconded by Councillor Vrancic would

to be changed. Supporting this motion were Councillors Wallace, Gaertner, and Morris. There was no reason given.

"Councillors Buck, Hogg, and Mayor Jones spoke eloquently and to some length as to why the address should not be changed. The proponents remained silent. It took sevenand-a-half months of pressure from myself and other citizens to finally learn that this motion was brought about and passed because these councillors did not then like the address named after John West.

"In order to accomplish this mean-spirited motion, the driveway into Town Hall had to be called a road."

The motion was passed despite several citizens coming forward as delegates and in open forum, Mr. Wride went on to say, with all opposition falling on councillors' "deaf ears". This move set the tone for the next several years of council which he branded "dysfunctional".

"I request that you return transparency, sensitivity, decorum, and democracy to our Town Council," he concluded.

Arguments presented by

cause the address of Town Hall Councillor Buck in favour of the name change included the fact Municipal Drive is not recorded in Perly maps, cannot be found on GPS systems, and that it

"removed an honour bestowed by the community on a man who served with integrity and distinction in multiple elected offices for several decades."



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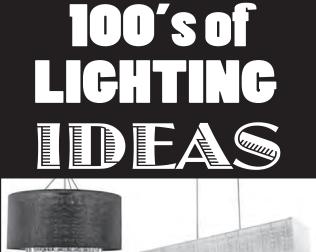
"The Genius of Beethoven"

Gregory Burton, Conductor Guest Artist: Elissa Miller-Kay, piano **Program:**

BEETHOVEN Symphony #1 - BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto #4 SIBELIUS Symphony #5

Saturday, February 12 - 8:00pm at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora... 79 Victoria Street Sunday, February 13 - 7:30pm at Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts.. 10268 Yonge St

> Tickets Saturday: Adults: \$28, Seniors: \$23, Students: \$12 Sunday: Adults: \$30, Seniors: \$25, Students: \$15





Lampshades, Repairs & we can arrange for installation



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You'd better not be on cell because police are watching

York Regional Police are stepping up enforcement to target drivers who continue to talk on cell phones and text while driving.

Today, February 1st, marks one year since new legislation came into effect prohibiting the use of all hand-held communication devices while operating a motor vehicle.

However, police continue to observe those drivers who think the law does not apply to them.

Commencing today through Friday, as part of Operation Stay Focused, York Regional Police will be assigning both uniform and plain clothes officers in unmarked police vehicles to enforce this legislation.

Drivers observed Driving with Display Screen Visible to Driver and Operating a Hand-Held Communication Device or Entertainment Device While Driving will be charged.

Hollandview Trail

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

effect a year ago, York Regional Police have issued a total of 2,931 tickets for such offences.

More than 740 drivers have received warnings.

The set fine for these offences carries a penalty of \$125.

Officers from the Traffic Bureau, Community Oriented Response Units and uniform patrol continue to focus on awareness and education by urging drivers Since Bill 118 came into to keep their hands on the wheel, to drive responsibly and stay focused.

During the operation, drivers disobeying the law will receive tickets.

Dialling and texting has been found to carry the highest degree of risk of all cell phone-related activi-

For more information contact Sergeant Edmond Villamere at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7703. Questions are also welcome at traffic@yrp.ca.

The 4th annual Aurora Christmas Dream team volunteers gathered at an Aurora restaurant recently to hand over a cheque for \$15,796.92 representing funds collected prior to the event which saw 130 people enjoy a Christmas meal and gifts. Sharing the wealth were representatives from the Aurora Food Bank, the Salvation Army and Welcoming Arms. At the cheque presentation were, left to right, Sher St. Kitts, Susan Ferrante, Natalie Craparotta, Chloe Collita, Monica Day from the Aurora Food Bank, Major Brian Bishop of the Salvation Army, Beverley Wood of Welcoming Arms, Kent Dinning, Jan Freedman, Susan Walmer, Jessica Nerling and George St. Kitts.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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You're Invited

to come visit us and take advantage of our upcoming events in February:

Diabetes Presentations and Screenings

Wednesday, February 2nd & 16th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Heart & Stroke Seminar

Tuesday, February 8th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Blood Pressure Clinic & Complimentary Yoga Class for Seniors

Wednesday, February 23rd

Blood Pressure Clinic from 9:00 – 10:00 am / Yoga Class from 10:00 – 10:45 am

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