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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 18 905-727-3300 **theauroran.com** FREE Week of March 1, 2011



Holy Spirit students Malachy Macdonnell, left, a Grade 2 student, faces off against Derrick Londono, from Grade 1, during chess competitions sponsored by the Optimist Club in Aurora held at the Aurora Legion last week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Petch House days may be numbered

The Petch House's days may soon be numbered. Aurora councillors decided on a recommendation from staff to not

restore and relocate the building this week. In a report at this Tuesday's General Committee meeting, staff

also recommended the Petch House be removed from the Town's Register of Properties of Cultural Value or Interest and that they direct staff to dispose of the structure in accordance with the purchasing bylaw should no one express interest in it.

The recommendation comes after several residents and interest groups responded to a solicitation of interest that was sent out in November.

Suggestions received ranged from relocating the house to Town Park to add to its "ambience" as a heritage site to using the house to "implement green initiatives" for future use as a pioneer kitchen financed by a not-for-profit group of volunteers looking for sponsorship and subsidies.

A number of renovators, contractors, and companies responded to the call as well, with some calling for a reconstruction and restoration with a new roof and new interior fittings on a new foundation in a new location.

Others suggested using reclaimed material and replacement

Please see page 8

Please see page 8

Town, Westhill set days for trial

Three days have been set aside this summer for a trial in charges filed by the Town of Aurora against the Westhill Redevelopment Corporation and owners Joseph and Wolf Lebovic, under the Town's tree cutting and zoning bylaw.

July 11, July 12, and August 11 were set aside for the trial after a resolution failed to materialize at the February 18 pre-trial hearing in Newmarket which looked at the charges handed down last year.

"Following the pre-trial, no agreements could be reached between the parties and the matter was put over for trial," said Jason

Ballantyne, Manager of Corporate Communications for the Town of Aurora.

The Town filed nine individual charges against Westhill Developments last June after the Town alleged the company removed 118 trees without a permit on their land at 1796 Bloomington Road near Leslie Street between June 23 and June 28.

At the time, Town Staff alleged that due to the nature of the trees razed a permit would have been required for their removal.

Councillor permitted to ask staff questions

Councillor Wendy Gaertner was once again permitted to ask questions of Town staff at last Tuesday's council meeting, an evening which also saw a number of items pertaining to former Mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million defamation suit brought to the table.

The first order of business in tackling the lawsuit was to hear a motion brought forward by Councillor Evelyn Buck to have the Town Solicitor release the full legal costs incurred in the lawsuit by Ms. Morris against three local bloggers, among others.

In her motion, Councillor Buck cited the invoices received by the Town for Ms. Morris' litigation services and called for council direction to staff to provide a memo of costs related to the matter. In explaining her motion, however, Councillor Buck conceded that the full scope of the information might not be released due to solicitor/client privilege.

"I am mindful of protecting the Municipality's interests and it may be that not all of the information can be released, but at the same time my intent is the community should have whatever they can to help them understand what stage we are at in terms of legal costs and I am content to leave it [with the Associate

Solicitor] to work out what he can and what he can't or shouldn't provide for public release," she said.

When Associate Solicitor Warren Mar responded to Councillor Buck's motion he suggested a resolution be passed to release the information in a limited manner to protect privileged and confidential information.

He also took the opportunity to correct erroneously reported figures reported last month on the cost that had been billed to the Town so far.

Last month council directed staff to obtain the services of lawyer George Rust-D'Eye to provide it with a report on the municipality's liability for Ms. Morris' legal costs and various options available to them to handle it.

After the motion was passed, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe estimated the current legal bill had been racked up to the neighbourhood of \$65,000 - \$70,000.

According to Mr. Mar, however, the total was actually sitting at \$55,298.92 as of February 22.

Please see page 8

Briefly

Mardi Gras dinner

On Friday, March 4th, Trinity Anglican Church, on Victoria Street, will hold a fundraising event to support their youth ministry program.

The event is a fun packed evening for young and old. It will start with appetizers and drinks and conclude with a dinner and dance.

During the evening other activities will include a nationally acclaimed magician, face-painting, creating your own mask and other crafts and activities for kids and will be known as a Mardi Gras dinner and dance.

Activities will begin at 6 p.m. and continue through 10 p.m. with magician and entertainer Jason Palter. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.



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COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Trinity Anglican Church will hold a fundraising event this evening to support their youth ministry program. The event is a fun-packed evening for young and old. The event will start with appetizers and drinks and conclude with a dinner and dance. During the evening other activities will include a nationally acclaimed magician, face-painting, creating your own mask and other crafts and activities for kids. The event is known as a Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance and will feature magician and entertainer Jason Palter. It will begin at 6 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. The event will take place at Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street and will cost \$30 for an adult and \$15. for children under 12.

MARCH 14-18

A March Break Vacation Bible Camp will take place at the Aurora United Church from 8.30 a.m. until noon for children aged 5 to 12. the camp will include movies, crafts, snacks, games and music. Cost is \$25 per child. Call the church at 905-727-1935 to register.

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, MARCH 26

The Aurora Farmers' Market & Artisan Fair final day at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, happens today 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Community Arboretum will be held in the form of a Meet and Greet at 7.30 p.m. in the Aurora Town Hall.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

The annual Rotary Club of Aurora Frog Race takes place today in Tannery Creek. Money raised is going to Easter Seals Camp Merrywood in support of a Family in Aurora with three disabled children. Tickets will be available at the home show or through any Rotarian.

Seedy Sunday happens today at the Aurora Legion from noon to 4 p.m. Seedy Saturday and Sundays are the days when the new gardening season begins in earnest. You can have an opportunity to learn more about gardening, hone and share your gardening skills, and buy or exchange vegetable and flower seeds. Details at http://www.living-raw-foods.com. For further information call 416-277-5432.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Join local resident Phillip Hodgson for an interactive seminar to learn about today's popular youth drugs, the impact on the individual, the family and the community, warning signs, and where to go for help. Phillip is a psychotherapist and counsellor who works and lectures in the field of addiction. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Library.

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 Heinze, 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 semi-retired PROfessional 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.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

Martha's Table runs every Thursday in the hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. The volunteer-operated program is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Lunch cost is minimal. Last year, more than \$6000 was given to local charities.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police offi-

cer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-713-9356.

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

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

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

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

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

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



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Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, centre, was the guest speaker at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting Thursday at Aurora's Dinardo's The Mansion. He's with Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown, left, and Chamber president Robin Taylor-Smith. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Parks Ambassador program close to becoming a reality

A partnership between the Town of Aurora and York Regional Police to bring a Parks Ambassador program to Town came one step closer to becoming a reality recently.

At a recent council meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe gave a Member of Legion, Norm Perkin dies

The man who was responsible for the building of the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway, has died. Norm Perkin died peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay in February.

He was in his 88th year.

Perkin was a member of the Legion and was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of a new building in Aurora.

Prior to the construction of the existing building, the Legion was located on Yonge Street and was buried within a building at the corner of Dunning Avenue, when a new structure was erected on the site.

Norm was the husband of Dorothy for more than 63 years and was the father of Shirley Morton and her husband Dale of Niagara Falls; Norma Thompson and her husband John of Whitby; and Donna Hughson of Uxbridge.

He was the grandfather of Nancy, Kristy, Bonnie, Alex, Brent and Laura and great-grandfather of Paityn, Alyssa, Madelyn, Nathan and Katelyn.

Norm's funeral took place in Whitby.

notice of motion, to be formally addressed later this month, to direct Town staff to "investigate partnering with York Regional Police to implement a Parks Ambassador Program."

"The whole Parks Ambassador program is an extension of community policing," Mayor Dawe, a former representative on a Regional committee on community crime prevention, told The Auroran. "I met a number of people in the force who are associated with that, and plus having met Cyndy Skillins with PACT, I just think it makes a lot of sense."

"The whole Parks Ambassador program is really a way to improve community policing with very little cost exposure to the Town and I think there are a lot of benefits to it."

Mayor Dawe's notice of motion comes after Ms. Skillins, representing PACT (Police and Community Together), appeared before the first working meeting of the new council December 14 to outline what the program could bring to the community.

Walkers, runners, and cyclists get training under the program to spot potential problems in assigned parks to police and relay their information to other appropriate authorities, she said.

A Parks Ambassador program would serve to "fill the gap" between a number of different crime prevention programs in the community including Neighbourhood Watch and Business Watch, and engage the community in going out to familiar environments and "interact with the proper authorities,"

she said.

"It generates local stewardship and it also generates local guardianship. It increases a local perception of the individuals that our community is safe. [The program] would be managed by Aurora PACT and the volunteers from Neighbourhood Network have also volunteered to help us. It is not exclusive of anybody."

Potential participants in the program must be over the age of 18 (16, accompanied by an adult) and they must commit to work in the public space on a regular basis, not intermittently.

They must also live and/or work in Aurora, with few exceptions, and obtain police clearance.

According to Ms. Skillins, Vaughan adopted the program in 2005, where it has been successful.

The success in the city is a testament to the program's integrity, she added.

Richmond Hill, Markham, and Barrie have also started similar programs.

"This is something very sustainable and we would like to bring it here."

The program has been endorsed by York Regional Police and local fire departments, and plans were under way to begin ambassador selection regionally this winter with an eye towards a spring launch.

Town audit will cost \$65,000

Council has given the okay to go ahead with the Town's 2010 year-end audit to the tune of \$65,150, excluding taxes.

The approval comes with the authorization to approve additional fees up to a further 10 per cent of the quoted fee for additional work if the auditors come up with "adverse findings".

The audit plan was presented to Councillors by Joanne Rogers, Partner in Grant Thornton LLP and Irfan Ahmad, Senior Manager of the same at a special General Committee meeting recently, sitting as the Town of Aurora's Audit Committee.

According to Ms. Rogers, the 2010 budget will take into account changes that have occurred over the past calendar year.

"Our methodology is to start with the base of our municipal knowledge, have discussions with management, knowledge of prior years, update what may have happened in the Town over the last year, any environmental things, political environment, and those kinds of things to get an understanding of what would be affecting your financial situation," she said.

"We would take that information and develop our audit plan. Our audit plan is risk based and we tailor it to your specific circumstances."

Risk areas identified by the auditors include taxation revenue, water and sewer revenue, purchases and payables, provisions for employee benefits, grants and subsidies, commitments and contingencies, and capital assets.

The audit will also take into account progress on issues brought forward from the previous year, she added.

"We're often accused of having long memories so one of the processes we would do is go through last year's management letter and look at where those are," she said. "We've done that. Any matters that were on last year's letter that were resolved last year will fall off."

"If there are points that were on last year's letter with recommendations that were to be implemented this year then they will be carried forward."

The services of Grant Thornton LLP were retained in a three-year contract by the Town of Aurora in a joint tender with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville which ended in 2009. Council went ahead with a two-year extension of the contract in December.

While Town Treasurer Dan Elliot said in a report that staff are not in a position to comment on the auditors' approach, there are "a number of significant changes in our audit documentation

requirements for the auditors this year and we are committed to meeting these challenges and producing results as per the timeline."

A year end visit with the Town by the auditors is expected to take place between April 4 and April 15. A date to present the audit results to the committee has not yet been set.

More than \$5,000 of the \$65,150 price tag accounts of the annual audit of the Aurora Public Library and will be paid directly by the Library.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Gloin’s funeral brings back memories of Star

Went to Lew Gloin’s funeral Friday afternoon, and unlocked a whole bunch of memories.

I first met Lew when I joined the Toronto Star as an editorial office boy in 1962. I was 18.

That was a long time ago.

Lew was sitting with the likes of Pierre Berton and Charles Templeton.

Lew was an editor for the largest newspaper in Canada, and his job was to make sure all the other editors didn’t screw up.

He was good at what he did except when it came to writing the “red line”, an across the top of the front page headline that always appeared in the final edition of the day.

At that time, The Star produced five editions daily, the same as the now-defunct Toronto Telegram.

You could always tell the final edition of the Tely, because its front page was pink.

It was my job to take the “red line” out to the composing room (where all those linotype machines were) and wait for a “proof”.

“Doesn’t he realize we don’t have rubber type out here?” some compositor would always say when the headline was too big.

So I’d remove words to “make it fit”, then take the finished product back to the unsuspecting Lew, who never, ever knew that I had rewritten the headline.

Fast forward to 1969 when I was working for the Richmond Hill Liberal (a paper owned by The Star, but that info wouldn’t surface for another six years) and I was sitting in the Richmond Inn having a beer with sportswriter Freddie Simpson and others, when Lew walked in and sat down at the bar.

I immediately went over and re-introduced myself.

“What are you doing up here?” I wanted to know.

“I live in Aurora and want to stop here for a beer on the way home,” he replied.

Several weeks later, I had a reporter’s the job at the Aurora Banner (also owned by The Star, but the information wasn’t made public until 1975) and Wednesday afternoons - once the paper was out, mind you - in Lew’s backyard on Jasper Drive became a regular event.

There was Bob Buchanan, who was my boss at The Banner, and David Haskell, who was the publisher of The Newmarket Era, and Lew and myself.

The Banner and the Era fought like cats and dogs, but today, both papers belong to the Metroland group...which is owned by the Toronto Star.

After the two papers merged, it was obvious they weren’t going to keep two high-priced editors in place (me in Aurora and Terry Carter in Newmarket), so I got moved to Etobicoke and became editor of the Guardian.

In 1984, there was a big fire on Yonge Street that destroyed the town’s only bookstore, and the rest is history.

I didn’t want to leave Aurora and neither did Lew.

Last year, he sold the house of Jasper and took up residence at Sunrise Retirement Home where he died last week.

Thanks for the memories, old buddy.



Lew Gloin in the area he was most comfortable...his back yard on Jasper Drive. He’d spend hours feeding the birds and other wildlife that would stop by. His attempt at a picnic table showed he wasn’t much of a carpenter, but he surely knew how to throw a party.



Two views of Aurora’s “Dead House” located at the Aurora Cemetery, one taken several decades ago, the other taken Saturday, show that little has changed. Currently, the building, which was constructed in 1869, is undergoing a facelift, and when complete, the Cemetery board will have invested about 30 grand into it. Only eight other similarly designed structures are known to have been built including those in Toronto, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, King City, Queensville, Bolton and two in western Canada. Its purpose was to hold people who had died during the winter because in those days, digging graves was impossible in the frozen ground. First picture was sent by former councillor Bob McRoberts from his postcard collection. Thanks, Bob, and thank you to Margaret Griffith, who also identified all the students in last week’s photo (her husband, Ed, was in the photo) and she told us the full name of the teacher: Gilbert McDonald.

Letter to the Editor

Tax hike “out of question”, reader says

To the editor,

An open letter to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Firstly, let me say that I have been impressed with your first few weeks on the Aurora Council (as seen on channel 10).

Your 25 years of business experience and community involvement, shows in the professional way you conduct council business.

That’s the stroking over with, now to the point.

It should be appreciated that business requires a degree of profitability; Aurora may be able to be managed as a business but is not a commercial enterprise.

It is a support mechanism to provide services to the community.

It is not there to make profit; in fact it exists to serve the community and should be fiscally neutral.

Yes, I understand that town growth, projects and other costs influence budg-

ets and it is okay to have a contingency fund, but not at the expense of raising taxes beyond the rate of inflation, which currently are around 3.3 per cent.

When I ran a business for almost 10 years, very profitably, we had to do more with less almost every year through efficiency, control and yes, some self-sacrifice!

Raising taxes by 7.82 per cent is entirely out of the question, Mayor Dawe, particularly on top of the recent objectionable HST rises in fuel bills, etc.

If departments cannot operate on their existing budget, then make efficiency savings.

Do what most businesses have to do, reduce staff, control benefits and pension costs – do more with less!

Mayor Dawe, we trusted your election promise to control expenditures and waste, yet we are still wasting money on re-naming roads, offsite meetings, etc.

The last council seemed

to be dysfunctional; please ensure that this council is business-like and more importantly fiscally under control.

Robert M. Grattage
Aurora

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Rosemary Schumaker

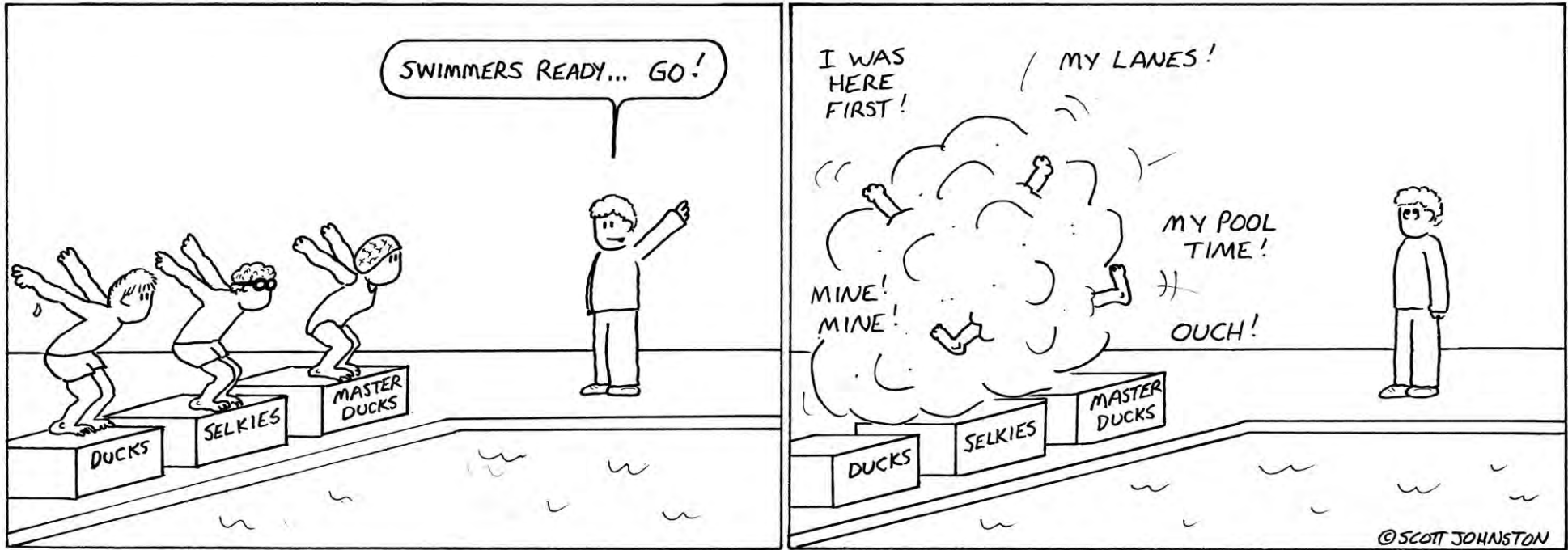
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

After examining some of the Aurora budget information my head is still spinning.

There are a lot of charts, numbers, power point presentations and spreadsheets to peruse.

But there are also some other interesting numbers out there.

And these other facts and figures present one with a pretty good picture of what Aurora is today and what it may look like in the future.

It's the information that is publicly available from the Town of Aurora website, under the Economic Development section.

One of the documents that I was perusing was the 2010 Town of Aurora Community Profile. It contained some fascinating information.

It also serves as a handy jumping off point for people to begin asking questions about the issues of growth, the level, quality and costs of services, and the appropriate level of taxation in our community.

Did you know that the Town of Aurora is home to more than 1,300 businesses, including approximately 150 major industries and head offices. The Town also features a strong entrepreneurial spirit with more than 84 per cent of Aurora businesses employing less than 20 employees.

Aurora has a current population of approximately 54,000. Our population has more than doubled since 1986 and is expected to grow to 62,288 by 2015 and to 69,688 by 2020.

We are the fifth largest of the nine municipalities that make up the Regional Municipality of York. York Region is the fastest growing part of the Greater Toronto Area with a total population is more than 1,008,000.

Fourteen per cent of the Aurora population is over the age of 65. The largest segment is the 7,955 people in the 45 to 49 age bracket (15 percent).

More than 35 per cent of Aurora residents have a University Certificate, Diploma or Degree, beating the Ontario average of 30.70 per cent and the Canadian average of 23 per cent.

Seventy-six per cent of the resident labour force commutes to employment outside Aurora.

The average price of a single family detached home is \$555,626.

The Town has an unemployment level of 4.7 per cent, which is lower than the comparable provincial level.

As of 2009 (the most current stats on the website), the average income of all private Aurora families was \$155,162. This is well over

the Ontario, after-tax median income of \$88,645.

The Town's manufacturing base is comprised of two main strengths: printing and related activities and advanced manufacturing activities.

The largest private sector employers in Aurora are State Farm Insurance and Magna International.

These are all wonderful facts, but the most important are the "livability" numbers.

Aurora "is rich in culture and home to the historical sites such as the Hillary House, Church Street School, Horton Place and the Morrison House."

We also have an abundance of recreational opportunities including 700 acres of woodlots and open spaces, 45 parks, 25 km of trails, 16 ball diamonds, 33 soccer fields, 11 municipal tennis courts, and three recreational complexes.

It is this last group of numbers that show me how truly fortunate we are to live in such a great community.

Check out the Aurora Town website at www.town.aurora.on.ca.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.co



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

Over the past number of weeks, every household in Aurora and Newmarket received a survey entitled - Have Your Say.

Through that survey I asked you to share your thoughts concerning the issues that are affecting you and your family and asked for your advice on how we can improve government and the services it provides.

I want to thank the many constituents who not only took the time to complete this important survey, but also provided valuable advice on issues beyond the scope of the questionnaire.

Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing the results of the survey in this column, and am dedicating this column to the one issue on which there was overwhelming consensus.

Stop the waste and duplication

In response to the question on what government should do to deal with Ontario's growing debt, the vast majority called for government to stop the waste and duplication.

This was also the most recurring theme for those who elected to write additional comments into the survey, and it was helpful to receive specific examples of how tax dollars were being wasted based on the observations of people just going about their daily business.

Tell me about the waste

In anticipation of the next provincial budget, and the challenge we will face meeting the needs of Ontario families in the face of a looming deficit, it's more important than ever that we identify and eliminate wasteful government spending.

I and my colleagues in the Official Opposition have a responsibility to hold the McGuinty Government accountable for its actions, and to present a clear alternative to the wasteful spending that has become a hallmark of the current government.

That's why I'm once again, asking for your help.

Government services

Whether it's accessing government services such as renewing licences or OHIP cards, inquiring about homecare, accessing healthcare or applying for job training programs, I want to hear about your experiences.

If you've been frustrated by the service or lack of it, or have seen the waste first-hand, please tell me about it and give me your advice on how the delivery of that service could be improved.

Regulations strangling small businesses

A recurring theme in the survey was the burden of regulations and time-consuming reporting and filings that are required of small businesses.

"Ontario bureaucracy is too big and too expensive. Bureaucrats have too much power. The nanny state is becoming a totalitarian state" wrote one constituent.

I want to hear from small business owners about specific regulations that are causing you frustration and unnecessary cost.

Tell me about your experiences with inspectors and auditors, and specifically, I want to know about the mind-set of the public servants who visit your place of business.

How "civil" are the civil servants with whom you come into contact? Do they approach their job with an

Stop the government waste

attitude that they are there to help you or do you feel intimidated?

After all, you and your business are paying the public service salaries through your taxes, and you deserve to be respected for the contribution you are making to your community and to the economy.

We want to find ways to make public services and the public service more responsive and more efficient. That's why your input is so important.

There is some urgency to hearing from you on these issues, as I want to include your advice in my pre-budget submissions to the Minister of Finance.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Send me your comments by email through my website at www.frankklees.com or by fax to 905-750-0050. The mailing address is 14845 Yonge Street, Suite 201, Aurora L4G 6H8.



100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

I was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of one of Ontario Rugby's greatest assets.

I can only expect this great loss did not go unnoticed by St. Andrews College here in Aurora.

Although Millar Young lived life with no differentiation between on and off the field, it was clear to all around him of one major distinction: life is not to be treated as a game, but a sport.

Although I never played the sport, in many ways I feel I do everyday thanks to such a great coach.

Put me in coach, I'm ready to play.

Letters to the Editor

Writers believe Garbe should be fired

To the editor,

Re: 'Town issues tender to build Nokiidaa piers'. The Auroran, week of February 22, 2011

Why you people continue to feel that it is so important to spend a large sum of money on this trail considering the hard fiscal times our country is experiencing and the fact that many Canadians live in poverty and go hungry is beyond our thinking.

We could open a homeless shelter with this cash.

It appears the Nokiidaa Trail people have a high sense of importance that

you think a boardwalk is more necessary than wildlife habitat and helping their fellow humans and Canadians to survive.

So go ahead, Noikiidaa Trail people, put your trail in.

Go ahead waste Aurora's tax dollars on this unnecessary ego booster.

Just know that we want Aurora's Corporate Administrator, Neil Garbe fired based on the following truths.

1) Total disregard of environmental and wildlife protection responsibilities.

2) Total disrespect of a dead man's efforts to protect Aurora's green space and create a wildlife sanctu-

ary.

3) Manipulation of the democratic process.

4) Manipulation of Aurora's seniors.

5) Selling out Aurora's youth future green space.

6) Withholding information and lying about alternative routes to this project.

7) Permitting animal and habitat destruction without providing an updated environmental assessment.

Know, too, self-serving Nokiidaa people, that in the future you will be asked by the original people of these lands to change the name of your national trail.

With the recent changing of our mayoral guard, it was

refreshing to hear from all the running mayoral candidates that all of them felt the trail should go to the east.

With Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, we thought the Marsh and the wildlife were protected.

However, it has come to our understanding, that the excuse is being used for the continuation of this project is that present day council cannot "undo" past council's decisions.

Since present council "undid" the lawsuit against the Aurora Citizen, this project can also be undone.

Regardless, it can be undone when the wildlife

have never been considered.

Besides, who is Neil Garbe? Aurorans didn't vote for him? He has no authority to make decisions on behalf of lobby groups over the citizens of Aurora.

Fellow Aurorans, are you aware the Corporation of the Town of Aurora has stolen our town and the responsibilities of mayor and council?

One of these positions, CAO and mayor, is redundant as we have two ship captains. How much does Garbe get paid?

Please know, Mayor Dawe and present council, not once were we granted opportunity to be heard by council as Neil Garbe chose to hire Ogilvie, Ogilvie & Company who usurped control of information using Aurora's cash.

This project is so very irresponsible to the children and so uncaring and disrespectful of wildlife habitat.

We have an alternative route here.

Respect wildlife habitat...do not disturb.

By the way, Christopher Watts, if you have degrading comments to us please put it in print for fellow Aurorans to view. Christopher, how long have you been in Aurora?

Heidi was born in Aurora and we were both raised here. Unfortunately, many of the newcomers to town don't realize how much of Aurora has been lost already and what the Marsh area looked like before. Why is the trail so important to you again?

Newcomers don't realize this east-west strip between Aurora and Newmarket was meant to be a green belt. Our forefathers did have vision.

Past Aurora councils forgot this and allowed for the sick development in this area.

Do you know, Christopher, the golf course, the subdivision, Hadley Grange....none of this should be there?

Heidi G. A. Stoecklin
David Philp
Aurora

Lew Gloin's death marks demise of big-city papers

To the editor,

The death of Lew Gloin is at very least a large footnote in the continuing demise of the big-city newspaper in Canada.

I first met Lew in 1979, when I joined The Star as a copy editor.

There were then all sorts of editors of different types and titles.

Lew was the slotman, the editor who checked what all

the other editors had done, the arbiter of good taste, fact, grammar and spelling, punctuation and newspaper style.

That also meant he was the final bulwark against arrant stupidity, the person who at the last minute saved the paper's butt dozens of times a night.

As the upholder of standards, back in the day when newspaper owners and managers actually cared

about such things enough to pay people to do them, he had a reputation as a bit of a pedant but, as a highly respected former Star managing editor told me after we learned of Lew's death "now I see the standard of current copy-editing I long for a bit of pedantry."

And since many of the editors around him on the overnight shift when the paper was produced were much the worse for much

drink or asleep, or both, we needed all the pedants we could get.

But even on the worst nights under the worst of conditions Lew remained the consummate gentleman, rarely losing his composure.

The most that might happen is that he would puff a little harder and faster on his ever-smouldering pipe.

Soon after I arrived at One Yonge St., in the interests of efficiency and modernization (read cost-cutting and penny-pinching), the system of editing was changed, the chain of command got shorter, and what went in to the paper got less attention and that attention came from people with less experience, more arrogance and less time.

The process rather than the goal became the governing factor.

By the time I left The Star in 1984 as news editor, Lew was still much respected, even venerated by some, but shunted into a corner doing "special projects," regarded as what some would now call "old school" and the paper was much the worse for it.

I hope he didn't read it too closely in the past few years, or he would have finally have shattered that famous composure.

Because he cared.

Secrets for those people wishing to renew passports

To the editor,

My passport needed to be renewed in March.

Not that I am planning on going anywhere – unless that Lottery win comes through!

I am starting to get cramps in my fingers from crossing them every week for many years. "Luckycrossedfingerosteosis" I believe is the correct medical term.

I decided to get my passport renewed, just in case.

I used the internet site to fill in the short form and then looked at the instructions.

I needed two passport pics and then perused the outlets that I could go to.

Well, to my dismay, according to all my preferred references the best place to get my pictures done was the Shoppers Drug Mart in Oak Ridges.

How handy!

As I would have to live with this photo for five years I decid-

ed to arrange my hairdressing appointment for the day of the picture taking.

Little did I know that you have to have a full face view.

I had to put my hair behind my ears and remove my bangs.

What a lovely picture it is!

However, I didn't have to wait very long and the lady who took my pictures was most accommodating and I highly recommend going to Shoppers in Oak Ridges for your passport pictures.

Then the hunt for where I should go to submit my paperwork.

I could drive to North York to save \$20 service charge and stand in line for what could be a very long time or I could take the short drive to Aurora to the Aurora Post Office.

Aurora it was!

I had a little difficulty parking (parallel parking is not one of my strong points) but eventually obtained one of the few

spots east of the TD bank.

I was greeted by a very nice gentleman, didn't have to wait in line, was treated courteously and was in and out in about 10 minutes.

And all this for a \$20 service charge!

I would have spent this on gas and parking in North York.

It is comforting to know that we have these services readily available in Oak Ridges and Aurora.

It will take about four weeks to receive my new passport – now I just have to win the Lottery and will have some time to decide where to go to get out of this winter weather.

Wish me luck!

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Simon Wickens
Cavan Township

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Tomlinson wins Heritage Award with family there

Local environmentalist and landscape architect David Tomlinson was joined by his wife, daughter, grandson, and Mayor Geoffrey Dawe Friday night at Queen's Park where he was awarded the Lieutenant-Governor's Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement by Lieutenant-Governor David Onley.

Recognized by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Mr. Tomlinson has had a month to prepare for the awards ceremony since receiving word of the award, which honours not just his work, but also, he notes, the achievements of the Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee's Naturalization and Wildlife Working group.

When asked what projects stick out in his mind when looking back to identify specific items that may have made an impression on the nomination committee, Mr. Tomlinson immediately pointed out the nest box project which was spearheaded by the working group.

"The idea originated in Aurora [with the idea that] we won't put boxes up unless we can get citizens to monitor them, he said. "We ran out of monitors so we decided we'd put some into the local schools and students monitored and sent the results in."

Midpoint International, he said, caught onto the idea and set to make the boxes out of plastic for distribution to any schools in Canada or the United States.

"They already have about 100 schools and they have only been doing it for a year," he said. "It is really moving and training kids to take an interest in monitoring birds. That is one of the best [projects]."

The initiative for the then wooden boxes started out as a citizen program on Earth Day with donations from local businesses such as Home Hardware and Home Depot for materials, which were then cut out and "banged together" at the Aurora Seniors' Centre for installation at a rate of about 70 nest boxes per year.

A resident of Aurora for more than 30 years, Mr. Tomlinson's interest in nature got off to an unusual start, almost under duress, when growing up in Manchester, England.

There, he said he was more interested in reading books than going outside until the age of 12 when his mother "kicked him out" of the house.

"When I went out and saw this really unusual bird I came back in and asked her what it was," he recalled. "She said, 'I don't know, but go to the library. The next time, instead of getting a storybook out, get out a bird book and see if you can identify it.' That is what started me off."

Settling into Town, Mr. Tomlinson made his environmental impact locally in several areas, including doing an inventory of the avian life in the McKenzie Marsh, spearheading Aurora's wildlife park, and developing the master plan for the

Aurora Community Arboretum.

Looking after the environment and natural heritage close to home is one of the biggest things the individual can do for the environment as a whole, he said.

"It is very difficult for the average citizen to sort of do anything about it other than write to their MP and protest," Mr. Tomlinson said of issues like global warming and population growth. "If everyone looked after their own wildlife locally in their own municipality then that would probably do more to protect the wildlife in Canada than any other thing because everyone will be looking after their own local McKenzie Marshes, the Wildlife Park, and Shepherd's Bush.

"If they just looked after local habitat and made sure it was protected and managed to the benefit of wildlife that would make an enormous difference to how it survives in urban areas and even rural areas."

But success in these areas is only as good as the people involved.

"I think Aurora is a very lucky town," he said. "It has a lot of highly skilled volunteers not just for the environment but sport, heritage, and all these things. My advice to the citizens is encouraging volunteerism as much as you can because there are a lot of skilled people in Aurora with a lot of knowledge on many, many issues and this reservoir should be used and encouraged."



Dana Atkinson, centre, was among four residents Tuesday night, recognized by the Ontario Heritage Trust for preserving, protecting and promoting heritage in Aurora. Dana won her award in the Built Heritage Category. Making the presentations were Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, left, and Don Pearson, a board member for the Ontario Heritage Trust. Other winners included Ron Wallace, who won the Cultural Heritage Category; Helen Roberts, the Lifetime Achievement Category (20-24 years) and David Tomlinson, who was presented with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement (over 25 years) last Friday in Toronto.

Advertorial

Town residents win awards from Heritage Foundation

Aurora residents Dana Atkinson, Ron Wallace, and Helen Roberts were honoured at council last week by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Town of Aurora in the annual Community Recognition Awards.

In the ceremony, which took place during Tuesday's council meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe paid tribute to the work members of the community undertake to preserve the Town's built and natural heritage, and also paid tribute to local heritage volunteer Andy Godschalk who died last month at the age of 56.

"He was a proud Auroran who believed in volunteerism and invested a great part of his time in helping the community," said Mayor Dawe. "He was an active member in the Heritage Community and worked very hard with other committee members on the preservation of Aurora's heritage and Andy will sorely be missed."

Mayor Dawe was assisted in his presentation by Don Pearson, a member of the Ontario Heritage Trust Board of Directors and general manager of Conservation Ontario, who noted the Town of Aurora, based on the advice of the Heritage Advisory Committee, has nominated more than 40 individuals and groups for outstanding accomplishment.

A long-time supporter of heritage conservation, Ms. Atkinson was the first resident to be honoured in the Built Heritage category.

Cited for "advocating for the preservation, restoration, and designation of heritage homes,"

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said she has played a key part in preserving the cultural integrity of the Wells Street neighbourhood.

"Dana is the proud owner of a heritage home built in 1923 and because of her strong belief in our responsibility in passing our heritage intact to future generations, she requested the designation of her house back in 2006," he said. "She also proceeded to encourage six of her neighbours to do the same."

Next, in the Cultural Heritage category, was former councillor and Auroran owner Ron Wallace, who, according to Mr. Ramunno, has played an important role in raising awareness of Aurora's heritage through both his careers in politics and in journalism.

"Since co-founding The Auroran in 2000, Ron has promoted the preservation of Aurora's heritage by publishing countless articles, historical photographs, and event listings," said Mr. Ramunno. "In 1996, Ron came up with the wonderful idea to celebrate Aurora's contribution to Yonge Street and proposed an event called 'The World's Longest Street Sale on the World's Longest Street. The event was a success and was soon adopted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to become a yearly celebration promoting local businesses within our Downtown district."

The final recipient of the evening was Helen Roberts, former president of the Aurora

Historical Society and long-time archivist for the Aurora United Church, who was honoured in the Lifetime Achievement Category (20 to 24 years).

"She became president of the society, leading it through a period of great change," said Mr. Ramunno. "One of Helen's most notable achievements was her role in leading the Church Street School project that resulted in the Aurora Cultural Centre."

"To this day, Helen helps educate the public and promote local history from her writings... and she has been involved in several heritage initiatives over the years, including serving on the Town of Aurora's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee assisting in the establishment of a plan for Hillary House, Aurora's national historic site, and organizing [the participation of Hillary House and the Aurora United Church] in Doors Open."

"In the last 30 years, Aurora has benefited from Helen's efforts, leadership, and guidance on heritage. She has been a long-standing volunteer who played a significant role in preserving and promoting Aurora's heritage."

As Ms. Roberts was unable to attend Tuesday's ceremony, her award was accepted on her behalf by local historian Jacqueline Stuart.

Local environmental activist David Tomlinson was also cited during the ceremony as a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. For more on Mr. Tomlinson's Award, see the story on this page.

X-Ray Associates Aurora Clinic Now Offers Ontario Breast Screening Program

Breast cancer is the most common female cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women. In 2010, it was estimated that 8,900 Ontario women would be diagnosed with breast cancer and that 2,100 would die from the disease.

Screening detects breast cancer earlier, when treatment has a better chance. Research shows that regular screening of women age 50-69 can reduce deaths from breast cancer by at least 30%. Breast cancer death rates for Ontario women in this age range have decreased by 35% between 1990 and 2007.

The Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) has been providing organized screening services to Ontario women age 50 and over since 1990. Since the program started screening women for breast cancer 20 years ago, it has provided more than 3.6 million screens to over 1.1 million

women.

Women who are screened at OBSP sites receive services that are accredited by the Canadian Association of Radiologists. The OBSP demands high-quality mammography and it meets Canadian standards for the early detection of small invasive cancers.

Women participating in this organized program receive:

- Results notification
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OBSP assists family physicians to keep track of the breast health of their patients and also allows patients direct access into the program without a doctor's referral.

X-Ray Associates offer OBSP at our new state of the art clinic located at 125 Pederson Drive in Aurora. From timely day and evening appointments, friendly and professional staff, to easy access wheelchair-accessi-

ble facilities, your experience is designed to be relaxing and comfortable. There is also ample free parking available at this facility.

X-Ray Associates Radiologists are medical doctors specializing in diagnosing disease and injury by interpreting images obtained from medical imaging procedures. Our physicians are all board certified and hold staff positions at York Central Hospital and Southlake Regional Health Center. X-Ray Associates work hand-in hand with regional hospitals to ensure that your health is always our top priority. X-Ray Associates offer four locations in the York Region with services in X-ray, Ultrasound, Bone Mineral Density, and Nuclear Medicine Imaging. For more information on OBSP and our locations and services you can visit our web site at www.xrayassociates.com or call us directly at (905) 751-1500.

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Councillor can quiz staff

From page 1
Council eventually opted to refer Councillor Buck's matter to Mr. Rust-D'Eye to come New rules may be in the wind

Significant changes to how council and general committee meetings unfold could be in the works if recommendations from Town staff are accepted in amending the procedural bylaw to, among other items, reduce the amount of time they can speak to an individual motion to five minutes down from the current 30.

Suggested changes put forward by Town Clerk John Leach would put a limit to the amount of time taken up each week by delegations and open forum at council meetings, presentations, and modify the rules of debate.

If the recommendations are accepted, open forum would no longer be considered a formal part of the council meeting, reversing a change that was made in the previous council term.

"It is being recommended that the previous process be adopted and that Open Forum not be a formal part of the meeting and that comments made in Open Forum not be included in the minutes of the meeting," said Mr. Leach.

Delegations would, in turn, be limited to meetings of general committee and advisory committees rather than at formal council meetings, and then only pertaining to items on the general committee agenda. Provisions would also remove the requirement for a delegate to provide written notice if the item they are speaking to is already on the agenda.

Mr. Leach said under the current practice councillors may receive the same information up to three times as delegates can appear before the advisory and general committees as well as council and that isn't the most "efficient" use of time.

"It is recognized that, should circumstances require, council would still be able to waive procedure on a two-thirds vote to have a delegate address council should it so desire," he said.

Mr. Leach's recommendations serve to also resolve some of the issues that have cropped up in these first few months of the new council such as giving notices of motion.

If the recommendations are approved, notices of motion given by the mayor and councillors can now be given in writing to the Clerk by 4:30 p.m. on the Thursday before council, where it would then be put on the Tuesday agenda for information under a new agenda section.

back with his report upon completion.

"I understand that is in short order," said Mr. Mar. "The delay of a week I don't believe would put council in too much distress to find out that information, as limited as it may be. But I do want council, whatever they do decide, not to expect much more than the simple numbers and breakdown they have already received."

Ms. Morris was in the audience for the bulk of Tuesday's meeting but left immediately before this item came up for discussion.

Following the referral of Councillor Buck's motion, council then tackled a confidential memorandum related

to the lawsuit from December 14, which went on to ignite the controversy leading to Councillor Gaertner accusing Town Clerk John Leach of "doctoring" Town minutes earlier this month.

The minutes of the December 14 meeting came up for approval at a council meeting in January which showed Councillor Gaertner as moving to receive the memo on December 14, something she said was inaccurate.

Council agreed to pull that item off the agenda and asked for a report to come back from Mr. Leach explaining why it appeared that way.

A report came back this month indicating Councillor

Gaertner was recognized by Mayor Dawe as the mover of the motion when it came out of closed session by requesting a recorded vote.

Suggesting the minutes had been "doctored", Councillor Gaertner refused to apologize for her remarks, despite the request from Mayor Dawe, and again refused to do at a February 14 budget meeting during which he, in turn, refused to direct her questions to staff until an apology was put on the table.

Councillors passed the memorandum with Councillors Gaertner and Chris Ballard voting against it.

The case is next before the courts March 11.

House days may be numbered

From page 1
of timber and other deteriorating segments through the Town's heritage salvage program.

Few of the proposals for reconstruction or restoration came with an estimated cost, but one proposal from Gary McLaughlin and Spectrum Renovation, who had previously appeared before council offering his services to restore the building, estimated his proposal would cost approximately \$120,000 "excluding mechanical, landscaping, [and the] foundation".

A \$145,000 estimate came from the consulting firm P2 Contracting Solutions which did not account for interior finishing, doors or windows.

"Due to the state of deterioration of the Petch Log House and the significant cost

identified in the previous cost estimate and [Request for Proposal] process, and due to the lack of detailed cost estimates received during the Expression of Interest process, staff recommends council not proceed with the restoration of the structure," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, and Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure, in their report.

"As a result of the numbers of years the structure has been in its temporary location and exposed to the elements and due to its current condition, staff is of the opinion that it is no longer feasible to attempt to restore the structure. However, staff is also recommending that the structure be disposed of in accordance with the purchasing bylaw. This would allow any

interested party to acquire the structure at a minimal cost."

A total of \$90,000 is available in the Capital Budget for restoring the Petch Long House, and financial commitments have also been secured from Whitwell Developments.

If Council does not accept staff's recommendation and proceed with restoring the building, they would need to send out a new RFP.

The Petch House is estimated to date from 1844.

It was moved to its present site on Leslie Street south of Wellington Street from its previous site north of Wellington in 2004 as a temporary measure until a new site could be found.

Westhill trial dates set

From page 1
Charges pertained not just to "multiple violations" of the Town's tree cutting bylaw, but also for site alterations on protected lands of the Oak Ridges Moraine under the zoning bylaw.

Two charges each were handed down under the Town's tree cutting bylaw, including the injury and destruction of five or more trees with a base diameter greater than 40 cm without a

permit and for five or more trees with a tree diameter of greater than 20 cm without a permit.

The maximum fine for a corporation under these circumstances is "\$50,000 or \$5,000 per tree, whichever is greater" while an individual could be fined \$10,000 or \$1,000 per tree.

Under the zoning bylaw, a corporation and individuals could face fines of \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively.



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Put us on same playing field as others, society prez says

The Aurora Historical Society wants to be on the same playing field as the Town's other cultural institutions, said Suzanne Reiner, president of the Society after Council discussed their request for a grant at a budget meeting last month.

At the February 14 meeting, Councillor Chris Ballard said he was prepared to grant them at least \$50,000 on the spot with the provision they came back with a business plan the following year.

"I need to know what they're doing with \$50,000 a year," he said. "\$50,000 barely keeps them alive and, in some ways, it is not fair. Either we want them or we don't want them, and I

would be willing to fund them for three years, make that commitment for three years, but I don't want to do that without a strong business case on their part telling us exactly what their plans are [for the money] they are asking for."

Following the meeting, Ms. Reiner told The Auroran that they will "definitely" bring forward business plans to show where the money is going.

"Every cent we have we have auditors, so we can show you exactly where the money is going and where it is spent," she said. "We're not hiding anything, we're being very open."

Without the \$50,000, the Aurora Historical Society won't have the

money for a curator and this would effectively doom their collection to storage for the foreseeable future, she said.

"We have our summer students that we are in a process now of applying for grants through the Summer Works program and they go through the collection, it is all documented in our database, and we try to get them out of the boxes and see what condition they are in because they have been moved several times in between," she said. "That is about as much as we can do."

"Once we start raising more awareness and more money then we can maybe look into hiring a part time curator to at least be able

to put some exhibits on, but it is one of those things - we're going to have a problem this year, we're going to have a problem next year, this is going to be ongoing."

Ideally, she would like to hand the Historical Society's collection to the Town, she said.

In looking at other museums and historical societies that are similarly structured she found several of the organizations were run municipally, similar to the structure of the Cultural Centre.

"The Town owns the building, but the Town gives large amounts of money to the Cultural Centre and with that they hire their four staff, they're part-time and

they run their programs," she said. "We would like to see something similar. We don't mind looking after the collection but if we have no funding for [it] and every year we are going to have to beg and cry. It is kind of hard to keep staff when you don't know if you can keep them on six months from now because you don't know if you have the funding."

Although Ms. Reiner said she considers the Society's collection as belonging to citizens of Aurora, it is technically property of the Society. They are its custodians in the absence of others.

"We're at a point where we can't manage a national historic site like Hillary House and a collection of 8,000 artifacts so we have to decide where we're going to go with this," she said. "I have to look at what other organizations have gone through [in turning the collection over to the Municipality] and what they have done to achieve this."

In speaking to The Auroran, Ms. Reiner also addressed some of the criticisms about the Aurora Historical Society that have been lobbed its way by Councillor Evelyn Buck, who has expressed concerns that items in the collection might be held as private property and, therefore, the Society using public money for a private enterprise.

Ms. Reiner said she views the role of the

Society in terms of its collection as holding it in trust in a secure, safe environment to keep it from deteriorating.

Anybody approaching the Society wanting to see the collection is taken through, she added, noting there is no reason to "hide it away".

"I can understand people have concerns that if we give it to you we'll never see it again," she said. "It's true because we have no staff. If we had staff and were able to put on exhibits that would be a different story but, again, we have no staff. It is hard to put on exhibits when you don't have the support system in place to manage the collection."

What the Historical Society would ultimately like is the stability that would come in having their services as a regular line item on the Town budget, which would ensure the collection and Hillary House for years to come.

"This collection is very important to us, but we're where we have absolutely no funds ourselves and we're actually in debt every year that more and more we're taking over reserves," she said. "If we keep doing this we're not going to have any money and we're going to have to shut Hillary House also."

"We're looking at every possible option and I'm hoping the Town is on board and sees the value of this."

If the money's there, collection should go on the road, AHS says

Should council infuse the Aurora Historical Society with some money out of the 2011 budget, one of the things they would like to do is take their collection on the road, not having to rely solely on the Aurora Cultural Centre for exhibition space.

"The Cultural Centre has to make money so they have to rent that space out, so that space for 2011 is already taken,"

said AHS president Suzanne Reiner. "They can't wait for us to decide when we put on an exhibit so I can understand that. I would love to see space dedicated just for us that won't be rented out to any other organization so we can take our time and not have to work around the Cultural Centre's plan."

"We're still very much connected to that building [but] I think it is important to also exhibit outside the

Cultural Centre, wherever there is space and whoever wants to take us."

This underscores the importance of the money they've requested from the Town, she said, part of which will go towards secure portable display cases which could be used to set up shop at venues like the Skylight Gallery at Town Hall, in the lobby of the new York Regional Police Building,

or in the atrium of the Regional Offices in Newmarket.

"We would love to definitely be more visible in the community," she said.

"We're putting [exhibit] applications down at the Ontario Legislature; we're trying to be anywhere. Even with Hillary House being a medial museum, we have Southlake and they have lobbies and we could put exhibits in there."

York Region's OSPCA benefits from fund

The York Region branch of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a beneficiary of this year's Sears Employee Charitable Fund.

A cheque presentation to the SPCA by Chris Bower, chair of the Fund, is scheduled to take place at Sears' Upper Canada Mall outlet Monday, March 7 at noon.

The Sears Employee Charitable Fund is a voluntary program in which funds are raised for various Canadian charities

through payroll deduction.

According to a release from Sears Canada, more than \$1 million has been raised for registered charities over the past two years. Sears supports 100 per cent of administrative costs so all funds raised go to charity.

"The fund allows employees to give what they can through the year to one or more registered charities on a regular basis, which makes giving more affordable," said Bower. "Together as a

team it adds up to a sizable donation to a wide variety of organizations in communities across the country."

Charities that have benefited from the pro-

gram along with the SPCA include the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

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HOUSE LEAGUE

102 Timbits Gold 1 - Dylan Andersen 1G, 105 Timbits Black 1 - Ryan Weeks 1G, Kenan Butler 1A, Jacob Smith 1A. **Orangeville: 3**

101 Timbits Red 2 - Cameron Boyd 1G, Ayden Whilby 1A. **107 Timbits Kelly Green 1** - Michael Valenti 1G, Hunor Kristoff 1A, Daniel Iwai 1A.

107 Timbits Kelly Green 4 - Hunor Kristoff 1G, Omar Ozturk 1G, Daniel Iwai 1G, Adrian Baggetta 1G, Michael Valenti 1A. **108 Timbits Grey 1** - Anthony Russo 1G.

101 Timbits Red 4 - Mathew Lamanna 2G, David Iacovetta 2G. **104 Timbits Blue 1** - Macisaac Eveleigh 1G.

103 Timbits White 3 - Stefano Iaversi 1G, Cayden Visser 1G, Alex Morra 1G, Max Reeves 1A. **102 Timbits Gold 2** - Melanie Nicholson 1G, Dylan Andersen 1G, Jake McMillan 1A.

107 Timbits Kelly Green 5 - Daniel Iwai 2G 3A, Nicholas Zambri 1G, Michael Valenti 1G 1A, Hunor Kristoff 1G 2A. **105 Timbits Black 2** - Jacob Smith 1G, Liam Taylor 1G.

101 Timbits Red 9 - David Iacovetta 6G 2A, Mathew Lamanna 1G 2A, Easton Irvine 1G 2A, Cameron Boyd 1G. **106 Timbits Powder Blue 5** - Michael More 3G, Calum Ormond 2G, Jordan Dool 1A.

108 Timbits Grey 4. 104 Timbits Blue 3. 204 Caravan Kids Blue 5. 205 Caravan Kids Black 2.

206 Caravan Kids Powder Blue 4 - Justin Just 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 2G, Ethan Edwards 1A, Matthew Pelan 1G, Alexander Ko 1A. **201 Caravan Kids Red 2.**

402 Omar's Shoes Gold 7. 403 Optimist Club Of Aurora White 5.

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 5 - Andrew Ryman 1G, Kyle Gillies 1G, Keegan Fisher 1G, Cody Fisher 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G 1A. **403 Optimist Club Of Aurora White 2** - Adrian Brstilo 1G, Jack Hosmer 1G, Scott Wilson Smith 1A.

402 Omar's Shoes Gold 4 - Noah Dempsey 1G 1A, Cole Sheremeta, shutout, Jacob Turriff 1G, Jacob Lopez 1G 1A, Jack Gauthier-Moulton 1G, Jacob Yap 1A, Mason Barone 1A. **406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 0.**

404 Tilemaster Blue 1 - William Reid 1G, Connor Elbaum, shutout. **405 Novintro Black 0.**

601 Municipal Engineering Solutions Red 4 - Nicolas Pearce 2G, Anthony Livia 1G1A, Matthew Glionna 1A, Christian Pearce 1G. **607 Envirocar Kelly Green 4** - Jacob Cann 2G 1A, Alex Sesto 1G 1A, Ian Rucker 2A, Ryan Motazedian 1G.

801 Rogers Red 4 - Randy Sutton 2G, Alex Harrison 1G 1A, Brady Wilson 1G 1A, Bryn Burbank 2A, Brett Bond 1A, Jason Glionna 1A. **806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 1** - Sean Foxwell 1G.

811 Caruso & Company Purple 8 - Riley O'Brien 3G, Ryan Batten 2G 1A, Rory Hamilton 3G, Austin Tanaka 2A, Matt Walker 1A, Daniel Wochenmarkt 1A, Ryan Batten 1A, Andrew Foresi 1A, Peter McKerracher 1A, Nicolas Chethuan 1A. **812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 4** - Nicholas Baczynski 2G 1A, Derek Capone 1G, Nick Armour 1G 2A, Luc Martineau 1A.

808 Crabby Joe's Grey 4 - Bill Haddock, shutout, Tyler Futterer 2G, Jeff Stobo 1G, Thomas McDonald 1G, Morgan Walker 1A, Cody Child 1A. **804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 0.**

803 Rotary Club Of Aurora White 3 - Justin Laird 2G, Matt Sanita 1G 1A, Matthew Niece 1A. **809 AHPA Teal 1** - Bradley Snoulten 1G, Joey Stel 1A, Graham Killby 1A.

810 Pizza Pizza Orange 4 - Robert Ruscica 1G, Jonathan Jin 1G, Scott Taylor 1G, Carson Elliott 1G, Carson Dupuis 1A, Ryan Owroules



**AURORA MINOR
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**
Results to Sunday, February 27



1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 1** - Landon Kirby 1G.

807 Danny & Scotties Boys Kelly Green 3 - Brent Legrow, shutout, Ben Goldman 1G 1A, Joseph Hodgson 1G, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A. **805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 0.**

808 Crabby Joe's Grey 7 - Tyler Futterer 3G, Morgan Walker 2G 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 1G 1A, Cody Child 1G 1A, Thomas McDonald 1A, Mivhael DiLosa 1A, Nathan Dinatale 1A, Michael Roell 1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 2** - Taylor Gadsby 1G, Ian Dunlop 1G, Connor Cann 1A, Neil Duggan 1A, Adam Petit 1A.

801 Rogers Red 7 - Alex Harrison 2G 2A, Brett Bond 2G 2A, Eric Bortolotti 2G 1A, Brady Wilson 1G 4A, Jason Glionna 1A, Jamie Wilson 1A. **806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 1** - Sean Foxwell 1G.

803 Rotary Club Of Aurora White 11 - Alexander MacKinnon 1G, Chris Sanita 2G, Matt Sanita 2G, Lockhart McMann 2G, Matthew Niece 1G, 2A, Ethan Mills 1G, Stewart Reid 2G, 1A, Justin Laird 4A, Aaron Rival 2A, Ian Coschi 2A, Cameron Pyle 2A, Nick Scougall 2A, Oliver Jones 3A, Zac Landry 1A. **810 Pizza Pizza Orange 1** - Robert Ruscica 1G, Jesse Joynt 1A, Michael Boorn 1A.

811 Caruso & Company Purple 7- Omar Rahal 1G, Austin Tanaka 1G 1A, Riley O'Brien 1G 1A, Rory Hamilton 2G 2A, Victor Chadarov 1G, Nicolas Chethuan 1G, Robert Cabral 1A. **804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 3** - Matt Pelkola 1G 1A, Kevin Siery 1G, Adam Ashraf 1G, Zack Keller 1A, Chris End 1A.

805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 6 - Joseph Veneziano 2G 2A, Michael Tanel 1G 2A, Ben Ashton 2G, Thomas Mason 1G, Carter Goan 2A, Joshua DiVincenzo 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A, Lucas Marek 1A. **812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 5** - Derek Capone 2G, Nick Armour 1G, John Sherwood 2G, Patrick Bourrie 3A, Chris Downs 1A.

809 AHPA Teal 4 - Russell Johnson 2G 1A, Graham Killby 2G, Michael Bitzos 1A. **807 Danny & Scotties Boys Kelly Green 1** - Declan Johnston 1G, Alex Negri 1A.

906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 3 - Jonathan White, shutout, Josh Lawlor 1G, Nick Theorodopolous 1G, Nick Moffatt 1G, Dylan Sutton 1A, Chris Falfalios 1A, David Marsillo 1A, John Dinocolantino 1A. **907 Wooder Food Safety Consulting Kelly Green 0.**

908 Crabby Joe's Grey 8 - Tyler White 2G, Jason Eberlin 3G 2A, Marco Ghegin 1G 2A, Ryan Dalcin 1G 1A, Quinn Harris 1G 2A, Ryan Eberlin 1A, Eamon Reilly 1A, Patrick Tardif 1A, Chris Beach 1A. **901 Graystones Restaurant Red 1** - Mathew Hart 1G, Brandon Plourde 1A, Cameron Staples 1A.

902 Boston Gold 5 - Kienan Osborne 2G, Jonathon Hurtubise 1G, Trevor Rice 1G 1A, Dylan Indos 1G, Jesse Borin 3A, Brian Tree 1A, Tyler Indos 1A. **905 ATS Healthcare Black 3** - Michael McCreesh 1G 1A, Duncan Eveleigh 1G, Adam Durante 1G, Vince Duggan 1A, Stephen Wilkins 1A.

904 St. Louis Blue 2 - Nicholas Reinholdt 1G, Braedon Mackenzie 1G, Jordon Caruso 1A, Eric Saeuble 1A. **903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 1** - Kelly Hudson 1G.

909 North York Plumbing & Heating Teal 1 - Francesco Vallacorsa, shutout, Tanner Thiessen 1G. **907 Wooder Food Safety Consulting Kelly Green 0.**

906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 6 - Josh Lawlor 1G, Zachary Seto 2G, Dylan Sutton 2G 1A, Nick Theorodopolous 1G, Alexander Seto 3A, Chris Falfalios 1A. **910 Philly Orange 2** - Graeme Allison 1G, Thomas Scougall 1G, Daniel LaFlamme 1A.

901 Graystones Restaurant Red 6 - Mathew Hart 5G, Andrew Staples 3A, David Schueller 1G. **904 St. Louis Blue 3** - JP

Hudon 1G 1A, David Roberts 1G, Eric Saeuble 1G, Braedon Mackenzie 1A.

906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 6 - William Tang 2A, Josh Lawlor 2G, John Dinocolantino 1G 1A, Zachary Seto 1G, Chris Falfalios 1A, Alexander Seto 1A, Mathew Stewart 1A. **905 ATS Healthcare Black 1** - Vince Duggan 1G, Michael McCreesh 1A, Austin Megit 1A.

909 North York Plumbing & Heating Teal 4 - Scott Wheeler 2G, Robert Bulgaretti 1G, C Mulhern 1G, Justin Stevens 1A, E Foxwell 1A. **902 Boston Gold 1** - Tyler Indos 1G, Dylan Indos 1A, Ward Benn 1A.

908 Crabby Joe's Grey 7 - Eamon Reilly 3G 4A, Jason Eberlin 1G 1A, Tyler White 1G, Ryan Eberlin 2G 1A, Quinn Harris 1A, Daniel Mcdonnell 1A. **903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 5** - Ryan Dowling 1G, Andrew Walter 1G, Quinn McGowan 1G, Mitchell Waite 1G, Kyle Coughlin 1G, Trevor Stephens 2A, Scott Cosentino 1A.

1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 8 - Ryan Antionel 3G, Lucas Cristillo 1G 2A, Michael McGoldrick 2G, Justin Killens 1G 2A, Brandon Giniotis 1G 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Chris Blumreisinger 1A, Chase Riddell 1A, Greg Lacroix 1A, Scott Tonello 2A. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 1** - Taran McGowan 1G, Braden Bortolin 1A.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 9 - Dylan Cross 4G, Dylan Jolivet 3G 1A, Ben Slimkowich 2G 1A, Matt Bishop 1G 1A, Hayden Sands 1A, Devin Scudds 1A, Kasey Piper 1A, Griffin Slimkowich 1A. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 7** - Kamran Karamchi 3G 2A, Jamie Hawkins 2G 2A, Nick Di Nallo 2G, Egan Fennell 2A, Josh Ashfield 2A.

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 3 - Kenton Gamble 1G, Matt Miller 1G, Kevin McCrudden 1G, Stephen Newby 1A, Adam Reid 1A, Brody Hunter 1A. **1004 Global Caffé Blue 2** - Kyle Rojas 1G, Ryan Taylor 2A, Lucas Poletto 1G.

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 4 - Daniel Howie 3G 1A, Craig Bennett 1G, Chris Tillsley 2A, Brett Matthews 1A. **1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 3** - Christopher Piron 1G 2A, Jonathan Boehmer 1G, Mark Tanel 1G.

1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 5 - Brandon Giniotis 2G 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1G, Chase Riddell 1G 2A, Chris Blumreisinger 1G 1A, Josh Bentolila 2A, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Scott Donello 1A, Lucas Cristillo 1A. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 3** - Kamran Karamchi 2G, Nick Di Nallo 1G 1A, Zach Ashfield 1A.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 6 - Scott Glaysher, shutout, Andrew McKay 2G 1A, Dylan Jolivet 1G 1A, Matt Bishop 1G, Hayden Sands 1G 2A, Eric Abel 1G, Dylan Cross 2A, Kasey Piper 1A, Devin Scudds 1A. **1004 Global Caffé Blue 0.**

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 5 - Kevin McCrudden 1G 2A, Trevor Best 1G, Matt Miller 1G 1A, Lucas Hargrave 1G, Jarét Meron 1G, Jamie Cherutti 2A, Brody Hunter 2A, Spencer Palmer 1A. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 3** - Taran McGowan 3G.

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 6 - Alex Heintzman 3G, Robert Horton 1G, Michael Morson 2G, 1A, Taylor Cooke 1A, James Harkin 1A. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 6** - Brayden Jackson 3G, Chris Fler 1G, Craig Bennett 2G 1A, Brett Matthews 1A.

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select - Aurora 2 - Anton Sopov 1G, Caden McHenry 1A, Charles Huxley 1A, Jacob Hoffrogge Todd Cook 1G. **Caledon 1.**

Novice AA - Richmond Hill 5. Aurora 1 - Samuel Morin 1G, Carter Beswick 1A.

Novice AA - Aurora 2 - Geoffrey Wilson 1G, Carter Beswick 2A, Daniel Gaeta 1G, Ethan Cameron 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Novice AE - Aurora 4. Richmond Hill 3. M Atom AA - Markham 4. Aurora 1 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Ben Liotta 1A.

M Atom A - Orillia 4. Aurora 2 - Sam Ashton 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Blair Crabbe 1A, Connor Thomas 1A, Jack Campbell 1A.

M Atom A - Aurora 2 - Dylan Prescott 1G 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1G 1A, Connor Thomas 1A, Cory Read 1A. **Orillia 2.**

M Atom A - Orillia 3. Aurora 1 - Dylan Prescott 1G, Adam Wloka 1A.

M Atom AE - TNT 2. Aurora 1 - Rony Wahab 1G.

Atom AA - Richmond Hill 4. Aurora 2. Atom AA - Richmond Hill 2. Aurora 0. Atom AE - Aurora 3 - Finn Reeves 2G, Justin Evans 1G, Stephen Silverio 1A, Lucas Surace 1A, Braeden Joynt 2A. **Schomberg 1.**

Atom AE - Schomberg 6. Aurora 5 - Stephen Silverio 1G, Adam DePiero 1G, Braeden Joynt 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Thomas Morra 1G, Thomas Morra 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A.

M Peewee AA - Newmarket 5. Aurora 1. M Peewee A - Aurora 4 - Thomas Kostoff 2G 1A, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Reid Carpenter 1A, Jack O'Keefe 1A, Ryan Thornhill 1G 1A. **Orillia 1.**

M Peewee A - Orillia 5. Aurora 2 - Ryan Thornhill 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Thomas Kostoff 1A, Ethan Brooks 1A.

M Peewee A - Aurora 5 - Mark Kalmisto 2G, Thomas Kostoff 1G 1A, Stewart Gable 1G, Eric McGhie 1G, Jordan Torres 1A, Reid Carpenter 1A. **Orillia 4.**

M Peewee A - Orillia 4. Aurora 1 - Colin McGoldrick 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1A.

M Peewee AE - Richmond Hill 2. Aurora 1.

M Peewee AE - Aurora 3. Richmond Hill 0.

M Peewee AE - Aurora 4. Richmond Hill 1.

Peewee AA - Barrie 4. Aurora 1 - Tyler Williams 1G, Evan Woodhead 1A.

Peewee AE - Aurora 4 - Michael DaCosta 2G, Connor Downs 1G 1A, Lucas Ruscica 3A, Cameron Anderson 1G, Christian Arcuri 1A. **Stouffville 1.**

Peewee AE - Stouffville 3. Aurora 2 - Connor Downs 1G, Nick Sansalone 1A, Michael DaCosta 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A.

Peewee AE - Aurora 2 - Brendin Ramsay 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1G, Michael Jollimore 1A. **Stouffville 1.**

M Bantam A - Aurora 4. Nobleking 0. M Bantam AE - Tigers 3. Stouffville: 2 M Bantam AE - Aurora 7. Stouffville 4. Bantam A - Aurora 4 - Jack Caldwell 2G, Mitch Arnew 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G, Erik Balkovec 2A, Robert Stokes 1A, Zac Cowl 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Shadoe Storm 1A, Evan Jackson 1A. **East Gwillimbury 2.**

Bantam A - Orillia 2. Aurora 1 - Liam Coll 1G, Mitch Arnew 1A, Evan Jackson 1A.

Bantam A - Aurora 8 - Shadoe Storm 2G 1A, Liam Coll 1G 1A, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Gabe Oulahen 1G 1A, Liam Beresford 1G 1A, Erik Balkovec 1G, Austin Persaud 1G, Graham Robinson 2A, Alec Ground 1A, Mitch Arnew 1A, Robert Stokes 1A, Zac Cowl 1A. **Orillia 1.**

Bantam AE - Aurora 1 - Ryan McGolrick 1G, Nathan Nealon 1A, Kyle Nice 1A, Johnathan Read, shutout. **Stouffville 0.**

Bantam AE - Stouffville 4. Aurora 3 - Brett Bond 1G 1A, Nathan Sinclair 1G 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G 1A, Brayden Beswick 1A, Kyle Nice 1A.

M Midget AA - Newmarket 2. Aurora 1. M Midget A - Aurora 6. Uxbridge 1. M Midget AE - Aurora 3 - Casey Severini 1G, Matthew Reeves 1G, Sasha Dajia 1G, Kyle Fedec 2A, Connor Moody 2A, Peter Sandwell 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1A. **Barrie 2.**

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 2 - Eliot Harkin 1G 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1G, Connor Moody 2A, Matthew Reeves 1A. **Barrie 1.**

Midget AE - Orangeville 3. Aurora 2.



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Kicking off the A & B Courier Run for Southlake ‘Mayor’s Challenge’ are, left to right, Tony Van Bynen, Mayor of Newmarket; Geoffrey Dawe, Mayor of Aurora; Virginia Hackson, Mayor of East Gwillimbury and Steve Pelligrini, Mayor of King Township. Run is slated for Aurora, May 1st.

Councils supporting Aurora Southlake Run

Local mayors, including Aurora’s Geoffrey Dawe, have issued a challenge to one another in an effort to do their part to help raise money for Southlake Regional Health Centre at the A & B Courier Run for Southlake, which takes place in Aurora Sunday, May 1st.

The run begins at the Aurora Community Centre.

Mayor Dawe, Mayor Virginia Hackson of East Gwillimbury, Mayor Robert Grossi of Georgina, Mayor Steve Pelligrini of King Township, Mayor Tony Van Bynen Of Newmarket and their councils have challenged one another to create their own teams, involve the largest number of constituents and to raise the most money for the Newmarket hospital.

At stake are regional bragging rights for an entire year and, more meaningfully, raising vitally needed funds for Southlake’s priority needs, including: a second Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine, and routine hospital equipment, like mattresses, wheelchairs and IV poles.

“The leadership of York Region understands just how important Southlake is as a Regional Health Centre,” says Aurora’s Steve Hinder, Chairperson of the Run for Southlake. “We are hoping that the example they set will be instrumental in encouraging others to raise money and participate as a community of communities.”

As host for the event, Aurora’s Mayor, Geoffrey Dawe is eager to help out and to welcome everyone to Aurora.

“As this Region continues to grow, we must all work to ensure that our hospital is able to keep pace with the demands of the community,” he said. “Raising money for Southlake allows us to help invest in the future of our healthcare.”

Those interested in pledging support for individual walkers/runners or teams participating in the Run for Southlake, can contribute directly online by visiting www.runforsouthlake.ca.

“I want to thank our wonderful committee and dedicated volunteers,” Hinder said. “I also want to thank all of our generous sponsors.”

The entire community is encouraged to attend the run.

With four unique routes to choose from, including a 5K Walk/Run, 10K Walk/Run, half marathon and the Mini Mile – as well as the Southlake KidZone for the little ones - there is something for everyone.

For more information about the run and to pledge your support for participants, visit: www.runforsouthlake.ca or phone 905-836-7333.

Southlake is the only non-teaching hospital in Ontario to specialize in both cancer and cardiac care.

Skaters shine at meet

Aurora Skating Club skaters competed at the Central Ontario StarSkate Competition in Brampton recently.

The following skaters participated and their results are as follows: Anastasia Severinets - Pre-Preliminary FS, 9th; Taylor Piotrowski - Jr. Bronze FS, 4th; Nicole Marino

- Sr. Bronze FS, 5th; Marilena Perri - Sr. Bronze FS, 9th; Raquel Burgess - Sr. Silver FS, 6th; Lauren-Cooper Gold FS, 6th and Lauren Cooper - Gold Triathlon, 2nd.

As a result of her placement in COS StarSkate Gold Triathlon Lauren Cooper qualifies for the 2011 Trillium StarSkate Championships to

be held in Mississauga later this month.

Also excellent results were achieved from a recent test day in Dance by Sarah Blois, Harris Tango; Nicole McCausland, Foxtrot; Alexandra Johnston and Emma Smith, Blues; Marilena Perri, Westminster; Raquel Burgess, Samantha Duncan and Nicole Calvert, Quickstep.

Nicole Marino completed her Pre-Novice Competitive Tests recently.

The following skaters have achieved gold status this year: Nicole Calvert- dance; Raquel Burgess-dance and freeskate; Marilena Perri- skills, dance and interpretive, and Hailey McGrath, dance.

Elyse Glen recently completed all golds in skills freeskate, dance and interpretive.

To learn more about Learn to Skate and StarSkate Programs contact the Aurora Skating Club at 905-713-1442 or visit www.auroraskatingclub.com.

Annual Relay for Life goes back to Magna

The 2011 Aurora Relay for Life, benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society, will once again be held on the grounds of Magna International June 10.

Potential teams and interested individuals were invited to attend an information night on Tuesday March 1 at the Aurora Public Library's Magna Room to learn more about the event, which raised \$80,000 for the society last year among 23 participating teams.

"The Relay for Life is the largest fundraiser that the Canadian Cancer Society has and the money that is raised at the Aurora event benefits research and support services in the community," said Lynn Pearson, Aurora event chair for the Canadian Cancer Society and a team captain for the five years Relay for Life has been in Aurora.

"It is an opportunity to involve friends, co-workers, and family members as we celebrate, remember and fight back for those who have cancer."

Online team registration of 10 to 15 individuals is taking place at www.relayforlife.ca/aurora.

York scores 33 medals

A group of seniors, representing York Region District 14 at the All Ontario senior 55+ games (Winterfest-2011) in Haliburton recently, brought home a total of 33 medals.

Four of the golds came from Aurora residents.

They included Ralph Burchert, in Alpine Skiing; and Lucille Sequeira, Audrey Robertson and Nan McLean all of whom won gold medals in Duplicate Bridge.

Les Mulick won a bronze medal, playing on a men's hockey team.

Competition came from seniors living anywhere between Windsor and Cornwall.



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Monday night hockey results

TEAM STANDINGS						
TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
Masterclean Contracting	15	3	3	87	45	33
Copper Creek	10	9	2	84	78	22
Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	9	8	4	65	61	22
Baldwin's	10	10	1	88	90	21
Rec Cycle N' Sports	8	8	5	61	62	21
FPL Aggregates	8	11	2	66	78	18
Priestly Demolition	6	11	4	74	90	16
Tom & Jerry's	6	12	3	62	73	15
WEEKLY RESULTS						
Copper Creek	5	Masterclean		2		
Priestly Demolition	5	Highlands Chev		1		
Tom & Jerrys	3	Baldwins		5		
Rec Sports	3	FPL Aggregates		1		
PLAYER STANDINGS						
			G	A	Pts.	
Mark Sedore Priestly			22	15	37	
John Archibald Copper Creek			19	18	37	
Al Perkins Baldwin's			20	14	34	
Tom Hussey Copper Creek			14	20	34	
Paul Wolanski Copper Creek			13	17	30	
Ryan Spampinato Tom & Jerry's			14	12	26	
Steve Kavanagh Baldwins			10	16	26	
John Andersen Rec Sports			15	10	25	
Ryan Bryce Masterclean			13	12	25	
Darren Yaremko FPL			12	13	25	
Gareth McDonald Priestly			7	16	23	
Pat O'Mahoney Masterclean			14	8	22	
Brad McMillan Baldwin's			11	11	22	
Phil Podstatzky Priestly			14	7	21	
Ed Kilroy Rec Sports			8	12	20	
John Leader Baldwin's			9	11	20	
Don Nichols Copper Creek			9	11	20	
Ed Jackson Baldwin's			6	14	20	
Rob Carnegie Masterclean			2	18	20	
Glen Bince FPL			8	11	19	
Alain Boudreau Masterclean			5	14	19	
Kevin O'Keefe Highland's			8	10	18	
Craig McConnell Highland's			4	14	18	
Ken Fisher Highland's			12	5	17	
Rob Blakely Masterclean			10	7	17	
Steve Robertson Masterclean			9	8	17	
Jeff Sleep Rec Sports			11	5	16	
Doug Adair Rec Sports			8	8	16	
Gerald Briand Baldwins			7	8	15	
Dave Caverley FPL			6	9	15	
Darryl Thompson Tom & Jerry's			6	9	15	
Nick Weedon Rec Sports			4	11	15	
Ken VanNoort Baldwins			4	10	14	
Mike O'Connor Copper Creek			8	5	13	
Ron VanNoort FPL			8	5	13	
Raz Khamissa Tom & Jerry's			7	6	13	
Dave Mayberry Priestly			6	7	13	
Ron Thiessen Tom & Jerry's			6	7	13	
Billy Fetherston Priestly			7	5	12	
Murray Campbell Highland's			6	6	12	
Steven MacDonald Tom & Jerry's			6	6	12	
Chris Neale Copper Creek			5	7	12	
Ken Rumble Highland's			5	6	11	
Ken Heinrich Rec Sports			4	7	11	
Mike Caicco Copper Creek			2	9	11	
Hugh Alcorn Masterclean			1	10	11	
Bob Nunn Baldwin's			5	5	10	
Sam Speranini Masterclean			5	5	10	
Vince Greco Tom & Jerry's			4	6	10	
Craig Gellatly FPL			4	6	10	
David deWulf Priestly			3	7	10	
Andrew Dalton Rec Sports			2	8	10	
Les Nip Masterclean			7	2	9	
Rob Stroud Masterclean			6	3	9	
Brandon Chappell FPL			5	4	9	
Scott Harris Tom & Jerry's			5	4	9	
Brett Vickers FPL			5	4	9	
Craig Donaldson FPL			4	5	9	
Paul Gibson Tom & Jerry's			4	5	9	
Jody Matthews Highland's			4	5	9	
Scott Thomas Tom & Jerry's			3	6	9	
Richard Fava Tom & Jerry's			1	8	9	
Bruce Ing Highland's			3	5	8	
Brian McCartney FPL			3	5	8	
Jason Moring Priestly			3	5	8	
Peter Briand Baldwin's			2	6	8	
Dan Cote Baldwin's			2	6	8	
Mark Lemmon Masterclean			2	6	8	
Dennis Tonello FPL			1	7	8	
Jerome Flanagan Baldwin's			3	4	7	
Jason Hurlbut Highland's			3	4	7	
Scott Pogue Priestly			3	4	7	
Marty McDermott Highland's			2	5	7	
Brad Wilson Rec Sports			2	5	7	
Brian Horton Copper Creek			4	2	6	
Mark Inglis Tom & Jerry's			3	3	6	
Larry Martin Masterclean			3	3	6	
Steve Bromley Tom & Jerry's			2	4	6	
Charlie Steenhorst FPL			2	4	6	
John Morning Rec Sports			2	4	6	
Julian Dalcin Priestly			1	5	6	
Pat Davies Priestly			1	5	6	
Doug Ikeda FPL			0	6	6	

Neighbourhood may be a safety zone

The neighbourhood around Conover Avenue at Halldorson Avenue could become a Community Safety Zone following a vote at last Tuesday's council meeting.

The move came after council refused a multi-way stop at the intersection the previous week despite concerns expressed by residents in the area.

Town staff did not recommend the four-way stop.

Studies showed the requirements for a four way stop - including a volume of at least 500 vehicles per hour for any eight hours on an average day, or an accident problem at the



Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees is shown where the pins are by Liam McPhillips Saturday as the York Region Big Brothers Big Sisters held their Bowl for a Boy fundraiser at Gathering Place bowling alley in Aurora, BBBSy, which just recently moved to Aurora, raised several thousands of dollars at the event, which was attended by York Region's new police chief Eric Jolliffe.

Auroran photo by David Falconcer

Taxes are cut...a bit

From page 1

to community grants.

The school council of St. Joseph's Catholic school was represented in the process to request acceleration for road improvements on Glass Drive, which fronts the school.

Problems in the area, they said, ranged from the lack of access to the front entrance of the school from the road without "climbing over a ditch", a lack of parking, and "extreme traffic congestion". These problems, they contended, could be tackled through the addition of a sidewalk on the north side of the street and a drop-off zone in front of the building.

Council asked that staff come back with a report to look at the design of the road reconstruction and look at options to resolve concerns.

Long-time trails activist Klaus Wehrenberg also suggested that infrastructure funds in the capital budget be shifted from roads to "greenways", including the construction of overpasses and underpasses for railroads and four-lane roads for cyclist and pedestrian use.

Items removed from the budget to reduce the tax burden include the removal of the Council Administrative Assistant position, the deletion of two replacement half-ton trucks from the schedule, and the deletion of a community garden storage building from the Capital budget.

Council also opted to split a project to replace carpeting in the Aurora Public Library into two phases and make any repairs for two further trucks in the fleet require specific Council discussion and approval at a later date if the needed repairs come it at over \$3,000.

Several items have been deferred as well for further reports and information from staff including the creation of a dedicated youth space until the youth needs analysis authorized by the previous council is completed.

While the final meeting for the operating section was scheduled to take place just after press time on Monday evening, items to be considered included converting the a contract zoning examiner positioned to a full time position, adding a by-law enforcement officer at \$85,000, converting the position of Accessibility Advisor from contract to full time for \$13,400, and a request from the Aurora Community Arboretum.

In the meantime, however, some projects have been put on the back burner until after the budget is finalized next month, including retaining an architect to look at Town Hall for a space needs assessment, and design work for renovations, and the retention of a consultant to develop a customer service strategy.

"Given that we're still looking at ways to reduce the budget, to me, when I look at the customer service strategy I think of it as a nice to-do," said Councillor Michael Thompson last week. "I don't necessarily see it as a need at this point in time."

"We have many tough decisions ahead of us and given that they're asking for an additional \$28,000 to put the customer service strategy into place. I would rather look at other avenues to spend money through this."

Monday, March 7 and Monday, March 21 have been set aside to finalize the budget.

Both meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 pm.

intersection - were not met.

"None of the above warrants have been met based on traffic monitoring and no collisions being reported in this area in the past three years," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report. "Also there are no sightline restrictions in this area."

Councillors were also presented with an option to make the area a community safety zone but were told in a report submitted for the February 15 general committee that the area was three points short of the 13 required for a safety zone.

Last Tuesday, however, Councillor Wendy Gaertner - who was not present at the February 15 meeting - suggested that be amended.

"It's true that this issue doesn't meet the traffic warrants, but I can tell you there is a lot of speeding because cars come off of Wellington and they are already going pretty fast," she said. "Sometimes we have criteria set out and sometimes there will have to be exceptions."

Considering there is a school in the area, declaring this stretch of road a community safety zone would allow for a doubling of speed limit fines and would increase pedestrian safety as well, Councillor Gaertner argued.

Councillors were nearly unanimously in favour of Councillor Gaertner's amendment, including Michael Thompson who lives in the area.

"I think that is an excellent recommendation and I would certainly support that," he said. "I know there was an e-mail or a letter I saw that was also asking for someone to take a look at the parking issue for parents picking up their kids. I do live in that area and it is true that at service times for the school Conover is inundated with cars. I don't know if the Community Safety Zone would address that as well or not, but I am happy to support it."

The one note of reservation came from Councillor Evelyn Buck who said the York Regional Police should be in on the discussions before council gives their assent because they will be the ones enforcing the measures. Citing a letter from a resident who argued that the York Regional Police do not issue tickets for infractions in the area "for a speed limit in excess of 40 km", police input is "essential" going forward, she said.

"[The letter writer] has gone out and had a conversation with the police officer and has been told they would not issue tickets for a speed limit in excess of 40 km," she said. "The urban speed limit which is recognized by all drivers is 50. When you reduce it to 40 the police will not enforce it."

"I think the police are being the responsible people for enforcing it and an essential party for discussion on whether or not this makes sense because everything relies on whether or not it is enforced."

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The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA), depends on a number of methods to deliver information to members and readers who have an interest in what transpires in the corridors and rooms of the Seniors' Centre, some of which is devoted to specialized activities.

All activities and programs play a critical role in providing information, which is dispensed widely, and that includes everybody with access to Internet service, and others who rely on sources such as the monthly newsletter.

Senior Scape finds readers widespread wherever The Auroran is available, and The Auroran has its own

website, so when you have nothing else to do you can find it on your computer, and so can readers in far away lands.

In addition, the ASA coordinators office publishes a monthly newsletter, which is also available on the internet sharing space with the ASA website.

The monthly update of the website plays a strong part in keeping computer literate readers informed.

Also available via computer is the seniors self-administered flash e-mail service, sent to members who have supplied their e-mail addresses, and allows prompt access for hundreds of interested readers to fresh news and timely adver-

tising of events.

The flash e-mail service provides information in a timely manner, and is very useful.

Communications have an importance, which includes a complete industry worth billions of dollars worldwide.

The potential for profit drives the industry to work efficiently and beneficially to the advantage of everybody.

However, addressing the needs of members of the ASA, and non-members who have interests drives the parochial requirements of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, and member interest is the driving force rather than profit.

Accurate information received by the various com-

municating sections, serves the membership and non-members who have an interest in the succession of uplifting events that continue to drive the ASA forward on its mission to make senior lives socially prosperous and actively exciting.

Acquiring the use of the newly built property on the parking lot across from the Aurora Town Hall, was a momentous occasion for seniors in Aurora, and social life among seniors has prospered ever since, and is expected to continue to grow and prosper.

In addition, the Aurora Community Arboretum continues to develop the Holland River Valley Parkway into a fine

Arboretum.

The Town supports the Arboretum, which serves as a wonderful backdrop to the Seniors' Centre.

The Arboretum gains by attracting interested members of the ASA, who volunteer important expertise in addition to the manual work of organizing, planting and cultivating this paradise of trees in the middle of Aurora.

What is good for trees and shrubs, and the wetlands including streams and ponds and the dense stand of Scotch pine, standing close to the Town Hall, provides wonderful habitat for wildlife, while allowing members of the Seniors' Centre and all who choose to visit the Arboretum, wonderful nature walks, in the middle of Aurora no less.

The Arboretum encompasses 100 acres of parkland stretching from St John's Sideroad on the north and across John West Way over to Wellington Street East on the south.

The development of the Arboretum is wonderful for Aurora and for the Seniors' Centre, whose members know the area well.

The members of the walking club benefit marvelously, simply in cooperating with nature by walking the trails and enjoying peace among the trees.

With a walk completed, members of the Seniors' Centre return to the Centre and plunge into activities of choice.

The spirit of good living as an elder means carrying some of the enthusiasm and energy of childhood into the later years, which means never losing strength of mind and appetite to live life to its fullest.

The walking club includes members of long standing, which speaks volumes to the benefits of sharing healthy walks with nature and good friends.

Show up at the Seniors' Centre on Wednesday mornings before 9.30 a.m. and you will be welcomed and accepted immediately as a walker.

Weather conditions guide most winter walks, which often take place on the trail through Sheppard's Bush, which is pragmatic, and the Arboretum trails will be usable in just a few weeks.

Aurora defers Parkland Trail Acquisition report

Councillors voted recently to defer the Town's Parkland Trail Acquisition Strategy to March 1 to "better digest" the report, a report which calls on council to examine and give direction on a number of potential land parcels available for purchase to address the Town's 100 hectare shortfall of recreational land.

While the actual parcels of land identified can only be shared with councillors in closed session, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation Services, was on hand at last week's General Committee meeting to present his report.

Mr. Downey's report calls on the Town to assess its official plan and consult with various departments to look at land linkage areas and to work with the Oak Ridges Trail Association and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to secure the Oak Ridges Trail through Aurora. Securing an east-west trail system was an important matter to consider, Mr. Downey said at Tuesday's meeting.

"We wanted to make sure that key trail connec-

tions were identified," said Mr. Downey, explaining the background of the consultant's report. "We were fairly successful in achieving our north-south trails, but one of the challenges we have as a Town is to create a very strong east-west connection in our trails system.

"We wanted them to identify in particular where those east-west trails were going to be located. That was also part of the terms of reference for the study," he said, noting that in looking for trail linkages, it is the desire of Town staff to look to community partners in developing the east - west trail.

The report also calls on the Town and council to consider opportunities that come up to redevelop existing parklands so they are better utilized in meeting the outstanding 106 hectares of recreational use land identified in the recent Master Parks and Recreation Plan approved by the previous council, reallocate surplus lands to accommodate recreational usage, and implement what was described as a "landowner

contact program" to pounce on a potential land opportunity when it presents itself.

"One of the things we aren't presently doing and one of the things the consultant is recommending is that we start looking at those key areas that we would at least like to have some discussion on and develop a program of how we approach those particular landowners," Mr. Downey said.

"Whether we do that as a staff-person or whether we do that as a third party consultant is certainly up for discussion. Presently we haven't got a program where if we find a parcel of land that we find of interest to us, how we might approach that particular landowner, and pursue possible acquisition or some other method of providing that for recreational purposes.

"We have found in the past that opportunities [were] missed because we haven't been able to react quickly enough with regards to the possible acquisition or even discussion with regards to the possible acquisition of those particular properties."

Mr. Downey's report anticipates the Town spending between \$500,000 and \$1 million for each hectare of land purchased, but does not recommend considering

parcels of less than four hectares.

"The existing service level for community parkland is 0.7ha/1,000 as identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan," Mr. Downey noted in his report. "The Town's Official Plan recommends a service level of 2.5ha/1,000 and that service level was approved by council in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the recent review of the Official Plan.

"Using this service level, our projected deficit of 2013 will be 106.13 ha.

"This creates a potential monetary commitment in excess of \$100,000,000 to purchase lands to meet the approved service level. Staff will be presenting options to council to reduce this potential commitment and present a reduced service level that is more aligned to facility needs."

Options available to the town for acquiring this land include a fee-simple purchase (the easiest method, Mr. Downey said, with a willing seller and buyer), the option to purchase, which gives the Town the ability to enter into negotiations, purchasing the right of first refusal, a straight exchange, a lease-back arrangement, a gratuitous dedication, parkland dedication through the development process, and even expropriation.

Radio, TV pioneer is guest speaker

Don Lawrie, a pioneer of radio and television, will be the guest speaker at the next Probus Club meeting, set for March 9.

Don will talk about the early days of radio and television and will discuss many of the changes that have occurred over the years.

He started out as a staff announcer at CJKL in Kirkland Lake and moved up to become president of Katenac Holdings Ltd., which operated 12 radio and television stations in Ontario.

During his career, Don was president of the Central Canada Broadcasters Association and vice-president of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

He was named Broadcaster of the Year in 1983 and was inducted into the Broadcast Hall of Fame in 2007.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North.

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

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Crowds assure Arctic Adventure success



The annual Arctic Adventure drew thousands of people to the Town Park last Monday.

This year for the first time, Wells Street was closed to vehicular traffic, so there were activities and vendors on Wells Street as well as in the Town Park.

Events included professional ice carving, a balloonist, outdoor winter games, live entertainment, snow shoeing, mini-snow tubing, and an igloo demonstration.

There was not enough snow so the Siberian husky dog sled rides were cancelled.

Photos from top, with the cold weather the ice rink was perfect for skating and the crowds took full advantage of this for the entire day. Games such as a hockey shoot out, fish pond, etc. filled Wells Street. Bud from Snow Valley in Barrie enjoyed himself at this event greeting the crowds and inviting them to try snow tubing. Below is Katelyn Forgione, who braved the cold to play a round of miniature golf.

Auroran photos by David Falconer





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