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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE Week of January 2, 2014

John West remembered as a “straight shooter”

Former mayor dies at 81

By Brock Weir

John West is being remembered this week as a straight shooter; a man who didn’t mince words or suffer fools gladly. They were the tools that helped him win multiple terms as Mayor of Aurora, as well as Councillor; in his decades of public service.

The former mayor died Saturday at Park Place Manor after a long period of ill health, just over a week shy of his 82nd birthday.

Flags were lowered in Aurora Monday for the three-term mayor who served between 1986 and 1994, bookended by three further terms of Council.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe paid tribute to Mr. West as “larger than life”, having first met when Mr. West served as a public school board trustee.

“He was a pretty straight shooter,” says Mayor Dawe. “There was no need to try and figure out where John was coming from, of what he felt about a particular situation. He just laid it on the line. Love him or hate him, you didn’t have to figure out what he was thinking.

“He did his homework and he got things done.”

This is a view shared by George Timpson, who served three terms as Aurora’s mayor between 1975 and 1982. Mr. West was first elected to Council during this time and the two worked very closely together.

“When I look at his political life, I think he always had the interests of the people at heart and he did his best to represent all the people,” Mr. Timpson tells The Auroran. “John was forward-thinking. I found him to be an honest guy and a straight-shooter. You always knew where John stood on an issue. He would be diplomatic, but he would be firm and had a sense of humour too. He knew what he

Continued on page 3



Mayor John West
1932 – 2013



Sentenced to death in Iran when not yet out of her teens and avoiding her fate through a series of circumstances, Aurora’s Marina Nemat details her harrowing story in her memoir *Prisoner of Tehran*.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

One person can change the world, says Aurora author and survivor

By Brock Weir

Marina Nemat grew up in Iran not entirely different from her teenage counterparts in Canada. She enjoyed wearing a bikini on the beach, listening to the Bee Gees, and getting lost in the worlds of the dashing heroes and heroines books had to offer.

Contrary to a popular notion, it was not like growing up on “Little House of the Prairie”, she contends, but all hell broke loose during the Revolution which capped the 1970s.

The effects of the new government weren’t immediate, but became drastically and terrifyingly apparent soon enough.

“I was a teen and reading Jane Austen and Ernest Hemingway and suddenly this new system came in that had promised us freedom and democracy but, of course, never delivered,” says Ms. Nemat, an Aurora resident. “Trust me, if you had grown up in a bikini, listening to the Bee Gees and someone tells you wearing bikinis and disco dancing was illegal, you’re not going to like it.”

She was not alone in not liking the imposed changes, but she quickly became a vocal minority of youth to stand up and challenge the oppression. During a crackdown in the early 1980s, this passion and candour ultimately landed her with a death sentence.

“Everything was about social injustice, everything was about politics, everything was about

the new government and what was going on,” she says of writing for her school newspaper. A lot of the articles were about the new dress code where we had to wear the hijab and we absolutely hated it. [We went to] anti-government groups and rallies because it was cool to do and you got an adrenaline rush.

“All of this was very good material to write about and that is how it started. I didn’t take my writing seriously at all.”

Others, however, took the writing of this 15 year old girl very seriously. They were kids. They didn’t have guns. Most just stood on the streets yelling their opposition, but gradually the Revolutionary Guards became more and more violent against those speaking out.

Her own arrest eventually followed at the age of 16 and for the next two years, she was imprisoned, sentenced to death. Behind bars, she was raped, forced to participate in mock executions, and watched friends being hauled off to the firing squads never to be seen again.

“It is so easy to sit in a warm, comfortable room and ask how you cope,” she says of her time in prison. “Imagine for a moment if you didn’t know how to swim. Somebody would just come and grab you and throw you in a very big swimming pool. Are you going to sit there and think about coping? About your life after the swimming pool? No, you’re just going to keep kicking and stay afloat if you don’t know how to swim. With some difficulty, you might

Continued on page 12

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, January 6	7 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee – Not Required
Tuesday, January 7	10:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, January 7	7 p.m.	Special General Committee – Joint Operations Centre*
Wednesday, January 8	7 p.m.	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 9	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 9	7:30 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment – Rescheduled to January 16
Saturday, January 11	9 a.m.	Special General Committee – Budget*

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca/calendar

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream

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The next municipal election in The Town of Aurora will be held on **Monday, October 27, 2014**. Nominations are now open and forms can be found online at www.aurora.ca/vote2014

Residents are encouraged to educate themselves on the election process and the candidates running for office. Have your voice heard on election day and vote!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Aurora Public Library Drop-Box

Now it's even easier to return borrowed materials from the Aurora Public Library! For your convenience, there is a new drop-box available at the Aurora GO Train Station, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Notice of Public Meeting – Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park

Join us on **Wednesday, January 15** at 7 p.m. in the Holland Room at Aurora Town Hall for a public meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park, formally Civic Square Park. The purpose of this meeting is to receive input about accessible and inclusive play equipment. Discussions will include park uses and its redevelopment.

If you would like to provide input but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Jim Tree, Parks Manager, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3222 or jtree@aurora.ca or Gary Greidanus, Landscape Architect, at ext. 3227 or ggreidanus@aurora.ca

2014 Budget

The Town of Aurora continues its 2014 Budget review sessions. Residents are invited and encouraged to have their voices heard by attending and speaking at an upcoming session:

Saturday, January 11 at 9 a.m.

Meetings will continue throughout January and February 2014.

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers, located at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

Public input will be received at the beginning of each meeting. Those who wish to speak are encouraged to register with the Clerk's office in advance by emailing csecretariat@aurora.ca. Those who do not register will be allowed to make a presentation if time permits.

Budget information will be posted to the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/2014budget and updated throughout the process. For more information about the 2014 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer at ourtownbudget@aurora.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Skylight Gallery Artists of the Month

In January, the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of Zoe Perrin-Callens and Thelma Sellars (Tas).

In 2002, Zoe decided to turn her talents into art. Her artwork captures free spirited, untamed energy through her choices of bold colours. Her focus is on mixed media and acrylics and her work showcases a variety of subjects, including animals, landscapes and portraits.

Thelma believes that art is a process of engagement between herself, the artist and the subject. Thelma has participated in juried art shows sponsored by the Georgina Art Centre, SOYRA and Art Aurora. Her most recent accomplishment was winning first prize for her sculpture at the juried show at the Georgina Art Centre in fall, 2013.

Join these artists on **Friday, January 10** at 7 p.m. for a reception showcasing their work.

Regular viewing hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Blood Donor Clinic

When: **Friday, January 3** 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Aurora Town Hall, front lobby

To book an appointment, please visit www.blood.ca or call 1-888-2-DONATE.

Winterfest Camp

Take a break from the cold weather and join us for fun activities such as skating and crafts.

When: Now until **Friday, January 3**
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (extended care available)

Who: Children ages four to 11

For more information or to register, please call 905-726-4770.



Aurora Public Library – Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 2 – Children ages five to 10 are invited to drop-in for an afternoon of Lego building fun from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7 – Children ages six to eight are invited to register for a fun and exciting program, *Disguise Yourself*, from 6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Create a clever disguise and fool your family and friends! Learn about famous hoaxes that actually worked and some that did not. The program will finish-up with a fun photo shoot to capture your alter ego in action! This program is free. To reserve your spot please call 905-727-9494 ext. 280.

Thursday, January 9 – Adults are welcome to drop-in to the *Spin-a-Yarn* event from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your new or current project and enjoy conversation with others in the Living Room area. Knitters and crocheters of all abilities are welcome.

Aurora Municipal Basketball League

Starting in January 2014, the Aurora Municipal Basketball League (AMBL), in partnership with C-Rec and The Town of Aurora, will offer a league for all skill levels, ages seven to 17. Players will practice one night per week and play a game against another team every Saturday. Emphasis will be placed on learning basic basketball skills, teamwork and having fun in an encouraging environment.

The AMBL is always looking for coaches or assistant coaches. For more information please contact Jason at 289-879-2732.

For more information on the league, please contact Franco DeMarco, Community Programmer, at 905-726-4770 ext. 3121 or fdemarco@aurora.ca

Help us Shape Aurora's Culture

The Town of Aurora joins leading municipalities across Ontario in developing its first Cultural Master Plan. The Plan will establish a cultural vision for the Town as well as identify strategies and actions to support cultural and broader economic development goals.

Input from the community on directions and priorities is critical to the success of the Cultural Master Plan. We invite all residents to complete a **short survey** that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please visit www.auroraculture.ca for more information and to access the confidential survey.

Holiday Public Skates

Join us for free Holiday Public Skates at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex until **Friday, January 3**.

Please see page 53 of the Winter Program Guide or visit www.aurora.ca for skate times. Sponsorship has been generously provided by Tim Hortons.



Dinner and a Movie

Dinner and a Movie will return on **Saturday, January 18**. Please call 905-727-3123 or visit www.aurora.ca in January for the 2014 schedule and further information.



Christmas Tree Collection

Residents are advised that Christmas tree collection is on **Monday, January 13 ONLY**. Please remove all decorations, tree stands and plastic tree bags. Please note that collection crews will not dig out or climb snow banks to retrieve a tree. For more information, please call Amanda Newman, Co-ordinator of Waste/Recycling at 905-727-3123 ext. 3447 or email anewman@aurora.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Camp Positions

The Town of Aurora is searching for enthusiastic, dedicated and creative individuals to work in our exciting Camp Programs throughout the summer. As a Day Camp Director, Camp Assistant Director or Camp Counsellor, you will gain valuable knowledge, experience and leadership skills while having fun!

Previous experience working with children is a mandatory qualification. Prior day camp experience, working with special needs individuals and aquatics qualifications including NLS, WSI and LSI are a definite asset.

Wage ranges (per hour):

Camp Director: \$12.53 to \$14.23
Camp Assistant Director: \$11.56 to \$13.14
Camp Counsellor: \$10.78 to \$12.25

We invite you to forward your resume, specifying your position(s) of interest, to Human Resources, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1 or email to hr@aurora.ca by **Friday, January 31**.

REMINDERS

Winter Parking Restrictions in effect between 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

It's that time of year again, snow and ice are here. Please make it safe for everyone and ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street. It is also important to not park over sidewalks or onto the roadway. This is a hazard for residents and it severely hinders the ability of our infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to efficiently plow our roads and sidewalks.

For more information on this by-law, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

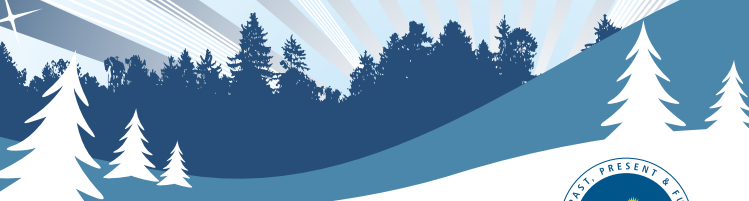
Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning

Residents are advised that the municipal street tree block pruning is underway and will continue through December. For a complete list of streets, please visit the front page of the Town's website at www.aurora.ca



If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3223.

Aurora's Borealis



Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!

Come to Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until **Monday, February 17, 2014** and enjoy skating under the lights on a giant outdoor ice rink. **WEATHER-PERMITTING**

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca

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In this 1978 photo, then-mayor George Timpson, second left, laughs with newly minted councillors John West, Betty Pederson and Tim Jones at the start of their term together. West and Jones went on to also wear the chain of office. Submitted photo.

West’s life to be celebrated Monday

From page 1

wanted to accomplish and I think that is why he was never defeated from office.”

John West and George Timpson had a unique relationship in that West served as Deputy Mayor under Timpson and, after several terms, the roles were reversed after Mr. West challenged and eventually defeated Dick Illingworth as Mayor after a contentious relationship.

Stepping back and looking at John West’s legacy, Mr. Timpson sees it both in his efforts to preserve Church Street School, and on the Aurora street which now bears his name.

“I remember some people at the time wondering why he wanted to build the Town office way out there a mile from the centre of town, thinking the centre of town was Yonge and Wellington, but look at Aurora today,” says Mr. Timpson of John West Way. “That’s now the centre of Town. I think that was a fundamental thing that really brought Aurora together, although at the time people didn’t know [the potential of the area].”

For former mayor Tim Jones, Mr. West’s work helped Aurora cross the “invisible line” east of Bayview Avenue.

“John was passionate about the Town, but he was like a bull in a china shop in his style” says Mr. Jones, who counts Mr. West as one of his personal mentors. “Everything he did he thought as for the betterment of the Town and you can’t fault the guy for that. He took flack [for building Town Hall where it is] but you look back and I think that was the right

move.

“A legacy of that is breaking through the invisible line. There was this invisible line where no development occurred east of Bayview and I think through John that was the start of the breakthrough. He was really the guy who brought State Farm to Aurora under his watch. Negotiations with Magna started under his watch. To me, those are legacies anyone would be proud of. The legacy of bringing State Farm here is the start of growth in the final frontier of Aurora.”

When the two served as Councillors after being elected together in 1978, they occasionally disagreed and butted heads, but Mr. Jones felt he had been taken under wing. Certainly in the years of Mr. West’s mayoralty, he felt Mr. West was almost “grooming” him to take over, which he did – succeeding as mayor for four consecutive terms.

“When John had something he wanted to do, he took the bull by the horns and went forward,” concludes Mr. Jones, noting they both had the benefit of largely the same staff team to bring things forward and get things done, a key to both of their successes. “He really did care about people. I think he had his own way of showing it, but he was passionate about Aurora. Politics is either in your blood, or it isn’t.”

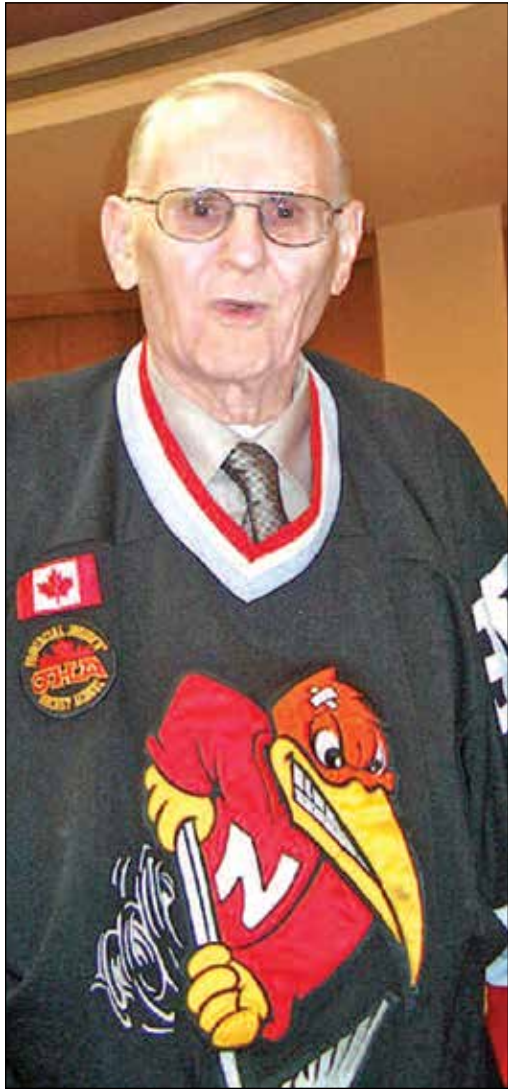
“He had a passion for the Town, and he had a passion for people; albeit, it was with a rough personality, but if you understood that, you understood that he wanted to do good things.”

Some of the good things he did went unnoticed, and this was by design, according to Councillor Evelyn Buck, who served as Aurora’s mayor for two years before Mr. Timpson was elected. She says Mr. West was progressive in his thinking and politics, but he was a private individual. Although he was close to the children of his partner, Fran, he did not have children of his own and viewed “everybody as his family,” she says.

“Anybody who got in trouble, he was there to help them. For example, one person whose job disappeared, John helped set them up in a small t-shirt printing business that kept him going and provided for his family a long time after that. He didn’t do it to make himself popular or anything, he was just a very good-hearted person.”

Popularity wasn’t necessarily his end-game in the political arena either, she adds.

“He was, in a word, irascible,” she says. “He had a short fuse and didn’t suffer fools easily. He had kind of a twisted sense of humour and always saw a side of things nobody else would see. He didn’t like to be seen as having high-minded notions. He was a very plain man and he liked to be thought of as a plain man, but he was a lot more sophisticated than he cared to show.”



In his last year on Council in 2005, West wore the Newmarket Hurricanes Jersey after Aurora Council lost a friendly wager with their counterparts to the north. Auroran photo by Ron Wallace.

Briefly

NOMINATIONS OPEN THIS WEEK

Nominations open January 2 for the 2014 Municipal Election. Thursday is the first day for candidates for Mayor, Council, and the local school boards to put their name forward for the October 27 poll. Perspective candidates must be 18 years of age or over, a Canadian citizen, either a resident, landowner or tenant in Aurora, or the spouse of the same. Nomination forms are available online at the 2014 Aurora Votes website – www.aurora.ca/aurora/vote2014. There, you can also keep track of important dates, stay up to date on registered candidates, and other useful information. The Auroran’s coverage of Election 2014 continues this week on Page 16 and will continue throughout the season.

CULTURAL CENTRE RECEIVES TRILLIUM GRANT

The Aurora Cultural Centre has been awarded a \$172,000 grant over three years from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The second such grant they have received since their inception, the Cultural Centre plans to use the money to finance revenue and fundraising efforts, including the hiring of a Fund Development Officer. “We have a collaborative grant right now which is entering its third and last year in 2014 [but] this will be primarily for the hiring of a fund development officer,” said Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Cultural Centre. “We’re get getting ready to get into that hiring phase.” The Centre plans to have someone in the role as Fund Development Officer by February 1. Applications can be made online at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

TEEN ROCKERS SEEK SUPPORT

Bolton rock band Motion Device is looking to bring rock and roll back into the music scene with their first album, and they’ve turned to their fans to help them do it. But this is no ordinary rock band, they’re family. Literally. Lead singer Sara is just 11, drummer David, 14, is her brother and six-string bass and keyboard player, Andrea, 16, is her older sister. Also part of the band is their cousin Josh, 19, on guitar. Old family friend Alex rounds out the group. Their lyrics that explore what they think are important issues in the world. They must raise at least \$8,750 by Monday, January 6 to collect the funds from Kickstarter. To support or sample their work, visit www.kickstarter.com and search Motion Device Debut EP. – Emily Wood



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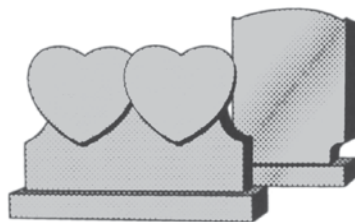
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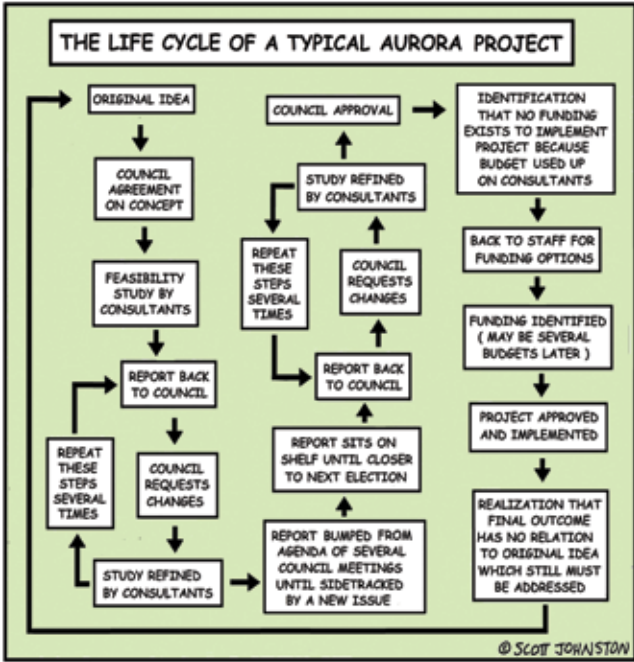
AURORAN POLL

Should Aurora adopt a ward system for Council in time for the 2018 term?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS December 31, 2013	A	B	C
	43%	56%	1%



In the first of our selection from the past year of *Macchell's Corners*, Scott Johnston looks at the cyclical nature of some of Aurora's decisions. (L) This February cartoon takes this cycle quite literally while (R) the issue of whether Aurora should retain the position of Integrity Commissioner was settled once and for all. For now.

Thank You for Your Trust and Confidence

A few weeks ago, I was the guest of the 20th Aurora Guides. They were an impressive group of girls who were well prepared to ask their MPP some tough questions about what he does and why he does it.

I think I did ok, because in the end I was rewarded with two boxes of Girl Guide Cookies. It doesn't get any better.

That meeting was the inspiration for this column. I realized that probably very few people really know what their MPP does. They may read the occasional newspaper article or see the CP24 clips and for the political junkies, there is the Parliamentary Channel featuring Question Period and Committee Hearings. But...

What goes on behind the scenes at Queen's Park and in the Constituency Office?

Queen's Park: When the legislature is in session, I'm at Queen's Park from Monday through Thursday. While the daily Question Period and weekly Caucus and Committee meetings are fixed in my schedule, the numerous other responsibilities including those related to my role as our Party's lead on the Ornge file and as the Infrastructure Critic, are less predictable and often involve last minute requests to respond to media and stakeholder inquiries.

"Never a dull moment" is how I describe it when asked how things are at Queen's Park. How does one manage to stay on top of multiple files and issues? You learn to 'compartmentalize' and you need a nimble, competent and organized support staff to provide the mounds of research necessary to manage the complex number of emerging issues.

I credit my Executive Assistant, Stephen Dasko and Legislative Assistant, Ryan Nutter with helping me to keep pace with the intense demands and schedule of the legislature.

The Constituency Office: Where we make a difference in people's lives

While Queen's Park is where the high profile activities of Question Period



FRANKLY SPEAKING

MPP Newmarket-Aurora
Frank Klees

and legislative debate take place, the constituency office is where people turn –often as a last resort – to get help with practical issues in their daily lives.

While my Fridays are reserved for meetings with constituents, and while I am often credited with resolving constituent issues, most of the advocacy and intervention work is done by my three dedicated constituency staff.

I want to recognize and pay tribute to Suzanne Bolton, Jacqueline Flowers and Neave Greig for their tireless dedication to making a difference in the lives of so many in our community.

More than 5,000 requests for help were responded to by our office over the past twelve months and while we may not have been able to resolve every case, here are examples of some of those cases:

A lung transplant candidate appealed for help following the closure of the Respiratory Rehab Program at Southlake. Being forced to travel to Toronto General for the critical rehab services would surely result in his condition deteriorating and he may not survive the stress.

We appealed to Gary Ryan, Southlake's Chief Operating Officer and within days we received confirmation that the Respiratory Rehab Program would be continued for this and four other York Region lung transplant patients.

A constituent with severe asthmatic conditions had been advised by Mobility Plus that she would no longer qualify for the transportation services she had been receiving for the past 13 years. Numerous appeals had been denied and

it was physically impossible for her to even get to her doctor's appointments.

We requested an updated letter from the Respirologist, and appealed to Rick Leary the General Manager of York Region Transit to reconsider their decision. The essential transit service was re-instated.

A female high school student who had been subject to bullying, found herself in a desperate situation. She felt she was not getting the support that she needed from her school and her mother was concerned that the lines of communication with the school had been cut off. Things had deteriorated to the point where the police were involved.

I contacted the school board supervisor and proposed that I facilitate a meeting with him, the principal, the student and the parent. That meeting took place and a go-forward plan was agreed to that gave the student and her mother renewed hope.

A rogue developer was doing work on a parcel of land on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Aurora without the proper permits. There was concern that illegal fill was being brought on to the land and that area wells were under threat of contamination. Town of Aurora staff had attempted to stop the activity, but the landowner ignored the stop work orders of the Town and Region. The Ministry of Environment had refused to get involved.

I personally spoke with the Minister of Environment and asked him to intervene. He agreed, and within 24 hours, the ministry advised the Town of Aurora that they would undertake the necessary soil testing given the threat of contamination.

These are only a few examples of the nature of the issues and the scope of our involvement in the community. I and my staff consider it a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility to serve. Thank you for your trust and confidence.

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Year in Review 2013 – Part 1

Jan 3 – The Auroran introduces a new horoscope column, which correctly predicts that The Auroran will start publishing horoscopes in 2013.

Jan 8 – Council members can no longer claim alcohol on their expenses, but residents can continue to consume alcohol to numb the effect of following Council activities.

Jan 15 – Residents of west Aurora protest when the winning flag design for the Town's sesquicentennial celebrations includes a cell tower.

Jan 21 – The Jazz Fest's threat to take its event to Newmarket means that Aurora will have to make due with only 67 public music festivals, events and concerts in 2013, instead of 68.

Jan 22 – In an effort to encourage voting, it's proposed that a question be placed on next year's municipal ballot asking residents whether they wish to reduce the size of Council from 8 to 6 councillors.

Feb 3 – Although a bonfire is not planned as one of the events at the first Sesquicentennial party, the same result is achieved when all 150 candles on the Town's birthday cake are lit.

Feb 10 – Ironically, their value increases after the Federal government declares the penny worthless and starts removing them from circulation, thereby creating scarcity for coin collectors.

Feb 16 - The Chamber of Commerce does not win any awards by deferring the annual business achievement recognitions until 2014.

Feb 27 – The Town promises that the latest in a long line of public consultations on the future of Library Square will be the



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

very last one before a decision is made – or at least, the last one before a decision is made on having another series of consultations.

Mar 1 – Town unity is put to the test as new Federal electoral boundaries split Aurora north and south of Wellington.

Mar 18 – A report commissioned to report on the Town's low level of reserve funds can't be completed due to a lack of funding.

Apr 2 – The continuation of winter conditions forces the groundhog who predicted an early spring two months earlier to go into hiding through the Witness Protection Program.

Apr 14 - The Town agrees to chemically treat ash trees in town against the Emerald Ash Borer, when a report suggests that would be more effective than equipping residents with flyswatters.

May 7 – The Town publishes a public apology to the three bloggers over the defamation lawsuit, but fails to apologize to all other Aurora residents over the latest

tax increase.

May 11 – Following a growing trend for the Town to rename municipal sites on John West Way, which started with the address of Town Hall going back and forth from Municipal Way, Civic Square Park is renamed Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park.

May 17 - A report that says the Town's natural green areas bring in \$7.4M in revenue a year is hailed by Council, who then go on to approve final plans for the 3,000 new homes going into the undeveloped 2C lands north of Wellington between Bayview and Leslie.

May 28 – The growth in nausea cases at Southlake Hospital is connected to negative reactions to the increasing parking fees charged at that location.

Jun 2 – A 200 year old Burr Oak is celebrated as not only the oldest tree in Aurora, but also as one of the few trees in town that wasn't illegally cut down that summer.

Jun 17 – The Town remains at the little kids' table as York again denies Aurora's request for a second representative on regional council.

Jun 24 – Ron Wallace appropriately makes headlines as Aurora's Citizen of the Year.

Jun 28 – While Toronto's restaurants, cultural institutions and retail establishments celebrate the return of week-end GO train service to the city, Aurora's financially-strapped businesses are less enthusiastic.

Next time – part 2.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: machellscorners@gmail.com

Letters to the editor

Questioning abuse of parking spaces

(Re: Abuse of Handicapped Parking Spaces is "rampant", December 11)

And I quote, "Handicapped parking is a basic common sense thing. It is yes or no; black or white. Either you need the space or you do not".

Question #1: Why would someone "need" a handicapped parking space to merely pick up an able-bodied passenger?

Question #2: Which is worse, using a handicapped space without a valid permit, or having a valid permit, and using a space without a "need"?

Rampant abuse? Indeed!

Stewart Ivoll
Aurora

Courtesy isn't dead in Aurora

I think that you should give some kudos to the drivers of Aurora.

I live on Wellington Street East and have watched them at the lights at Industrial Parkway and Wellington Street during the ice storm and power outage. Everyone has obeyed the law, making it a four-way stop.

As you know, Wellington is a busy street, and even though there have been a few who barreled through the intersections, 99.9 per cent have stopped.

It seems the courtesy is not dead after all.

Barbara Schouten
Aurora



This artistic photo of a backyard bird-feeder in the middle of the ice storm was submitted by Bill Hack.

Empty Bowls

From page 4

Riding Golf Course, Lifestyle Catering, Longo's, Pickle Barrel, Shiraz Grill & Café.

Silent Auction Donors: Dave Griffith, Ann Mortimer, Dorio's Italian Bakery, Graystones Restaurant, The Manor, Carrying Place, Francine Palmer, St. Andrew's Golf Course, Herbert Pryke, Jonathan's Fine Foods, Aqua Grill, Sara Stevens & Pam Baker, KIBO.

Bakeries: Fred's Bred, Nino D'Aversa These generous donors, restaurants, caterers and bakeries were instrumental in the success of our event...Thank you !

Sheena Griffith
Chair

2013 Empty Bowls Event by Pine Tree Potters' Guild

In-house innovation will help Aurora keep cool on outdoor rinks

By Brock Weir

It is certainly not a problem that has had to be tackled over the last few weeks compared to this time last year, but uncertainty over the day-to-day conditions of Aurora’s outdoor ice rinks could be a thing of the past, thanks to a “made-in-Aurora” solution.

With Council’s approval of the 2014 Municipal Capital Budget just before Christmas, Councillors approved a new way to keep the Town ahead of the curve when it comes to ice, with in-house innovation.

“With a trend towards more mild winters experienced over the past several years, staff have found it increasingly more difficult to construct and maintain our very popular natural outdoor ice rink surfaces,” said Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation, in a \$54,000 pitch for a new ice making system developed by Parks Manager Jim Tree.

“Under our current outdoor rink construction standards there are three requirements that must be available in order to commence and maintain our outdoor rink construction standards: hard winter frost must have penetrated the ground surface a minimum of two inches in depth, a compacted snow-covered base to a depth of four inches, and consistent nighttime temperatures of at least -10 to -15 Celsius for five to six days in a row.

“Assuming all of these requirements are achieved, it is possible to prepare an initial skating surface within a seven day period.”

It’s a situation repeated year in and year out, but that could soon become a distant memory if Mr. Tree’s plan bears some chilly fruit in the next winter season. His work began in 2012 to research ways of developing a “relatively simple” ice making system. The result is an intricate system of grids of individual cells holding water on top of the ground, connecting to create a uniform ice surface. Think a series of larger-than-life ice cube trays.

“It is believed that this product shows significant potential in terms of water conservation and labour in that once the grid is laid out and filled with water, it can be left to freeze regardless of weather or site conditions and has no reliance on either ground frost or snow base in order to function.”

The pilot project will be carried out, following Council approval in December, and Councillors banked on this as the way forward in years to come.

“I think the \$54,000, if it works, is a good deal considering how much money we actually – I am trying to avoid using vulgar terms – spend on man hours in the winter spraying and creating ice surfaces and nothing is more popular in the wintertime,” said Councillor Evelyn Buck. “People come from Newmarket to skate on our parks because they enjoy it so much and [the time and man hours] has always been a problem in creating the ice surfaces we have in January and February which almost immediately thaw.

“It’s almost heartbreaking to create ice in Aurora. In this part of Ontario, it is something you are constantly arguing with yourself on whether you should be doing it and yet you know how much people enjoy it – and it is people of all ages who enjoy it. If this works, it is an investment that will be well worth the money. It will solve the problem for at least another 50 years and it is a problem we have had for 50 years.”

While the item was approved, some Councillors, however, were a little bit more cautious in their enthusiasm.

Councillor John Gallo, for instance, said it was an “interesting” idea and a good step forward in the name of “innovation”, but questioned whether “innovation” was the role of a municipality.

“In my view, it is the role of the private sector to be innovating and coming up with these kinds of things,” he said. “I am in favour of ice rinks and I think that is a great thing, but I am not a big fan of spending \$54,000 on a pilot project that may or may not work.”

Others, although supportive of the pilot project, wanted to make sure that credit went where credit was due.

“It is developed by an employee who works at the Town of Aurora and, if it works, it sounds like it is going to be very popular,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner, questioning if it was an innovation which could be patented.

Similar concerns were voiced by Councillor Chris Ballard.

“This is a fair chunk of change for something which may or may not work, and I have some hesitation about that,” he said. “The other issue I have is more of a cautionary tale and I hope it has been thought through with regards to intellectual property rights. I would really hate to see a mess between the Town and a very valued employee. I want to make sure the Town understands what it is getting and the employee understands what they are getting so there is no miscommunication and no hurt feelings.

“As this thing becomes successful

and takes off across North America...I am looking for some assurances that the discussion has been had...and I have a feeling this is going to be successful.”

From Mr. Downey’s perspective all of those details had already been checked off and it was a matter of Mr. Tree and the Parks Department looking ahead to a successful pilot project.

“We developed a prototype that seems to work and we think it is going to work,” said Mr. Downey. “However, moulds need to be made in order to produce this prototype. We are recommending we spend money to develop the aluminium mold to manufacture enough of these to try out on a pilot project...on one of our four rinks.

“If it works, then we would come back to Council and request additional funds in order to produce a steel mould which we would then be able to mass produce and use in all of our rinks.”



It was touch and go until the very last minute last February when the gentlemen above knew they would be able to lace up and take to the ice at Town Park for the Mayor’s Sesquicentennial Levee. An innovation by Parks Manager Jim Tree, a pilot project for which was approved by Council in December, aims to make outdoor rinks a sure thing next year.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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While trees and limbs were felled en masse in the pre-Christmas ice storm, these hardy species at Sheppard's Bush fared far better than some of their neighbourhood counterparts. (Inset) Branches came crashing down near the Aurora Seniors' Centre which was soon opened up as a warming station for those without power. Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir

Reebok comes down for L.A. Fitness, but questions remain on Aurora retail

By Brock Weir

Construction workers over December made fast work of the former Reebok warehouse on Bayview Avenue.

After sitting idle and empty off and on for the past decade, little more than rubble remains of the building as the property makes way for a new L.A. Fitness, along with new office and retail space next year. At December's Public Planning meeting, Councillors were pleased that something productive was to be done with the languishing property, but there was some disagreement on what this use should be.

Now that the building has been largely demolished, developers plan to turn the nearly seven hectare site into four commercial buildings. The anchor of the development will be a large-scale L.A. Fitness gym of nearly 46,000 square feet, along with a 4,000 square foot bank, two 13,500 square foot commercial buildings and a parking lot to connect them all.

Although there are still some further details to sort finalize, such as driveway access from Bayview Avenue which would have to be cleared from the Regional Level, some Councillors were not happy that so much of the site would be dedicated to retail use.

"We have been pretty fastidious about employment lands and not allowing them to be changed to any other use and here we have a proposal to change six acres to commercial," said Councillor Evelyn Buck.

Part of the problem, she said, was a perceived lack of business being done in other retail centres throughout Aurora. This includes SmartCentres at Wellington Street and Highway 404 which has experienced turnover in their retail outlets, particularly the closure of their Rona store.

"There is not yet enough commercial traffic going in there and that is a problem for us," she continued. "I realise the building has been vacant for a long time and if there isn't a market for what was before then we have to contemplate a different use."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner was also on the same page, having earlier this term questioned whether Aurora had too many retail spaces compared to professional office spaces.

"To have a single tenant building as a fitness centre, it is a business but it does not employ many people," she said. "I am really hoping we can bring in [better] paying full-time jobs that pay benefits. Retail brings with it part-time, low-paying seasonal jobs and...the Region doesn't look at retail really as the kind

of employment it wants to bring into employment lands.

"We need the kinds of jobs where people don't have to commute, don't have to go far afield. We want them to live and work in Aurora and I think we have all heard that at election time. We have enough retail jobs, [but] we do not have enough full time jobs with benefits and I do not think this development that is over 76,000 square feet of retail is what this community needs."

Ultimately, only Councillors Buck and Gaertner were the two holdouts in voting against the plan. Speaking in its favour, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said he would like to see "prestige office space" in this location, but that is not always possible; and in 10 years nobody has come forward to turn the property into just that.

"We have someone who has come forward and is willing to make the investment to put in millions of dollars in construction and no one else has stepped up to say they want to make that an office building," said Mayor Dawe. "It does make sense to me as a commercial place. I have been against commercial in other places I think it doesn't make sense. I think it does make sense here."

A similar viewpoint was shared by Councillor Chris Ballard who said the creeping in of residential neighbourhoods into this area has changed the face of what makes sense in this area of employment lands.

"This faces Bayview and it is a very valuable property from a retail perspective and from a visibility perspective," he said. "Professional buildings may be a good thing, but I don't see many of them fronting Bayview. It is about time for that old building to go and something new to be put there."

Following Councillor Gaertner's comments, Councillor Michael Thompson said he "felt the need to defend retail." They are not just owned by companies, but also individuals and small business owners who live in the community, he said.

"They are individuals who employ people in this community, individuals who sponsor and give back to the community and I know a number of people who live in those 2B lands and live north of there who work in those retail shops that line Bayview," he said. "It suits Bayview. Bayview is a commercial street. I know some people like to pick on retail and say they are not great jobs but...we know the growth and we know there is a demand for retail. Retail will continue to thrive and prosper and we will continue to see retail applications in front of us."

Aurora melts back to normal following pre-Christmas ice storm

By Brock Weir

Aurora had a bit of a relief on Saturday and Sunday as warmer weather conspired to undo some of the damage left from the previous weekend's ice storm.

Trees were felled and damage across Aurora mounted up on December 20 and 21 as freezing rain encrusted most of the town in thick ice.

By the following Sunday, over 3,000 Aurora households remained without power and the Town opened up the Aurora Seniors' Centre as a warming station to those without heat. Before the warming station was closed at noon on Tuesday, dozens of Aurorans used the opportunity to ride out the effects of the storm until power was restored.

"We had ample warning on the storm and it gives people time to prepare," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe on how the Town got ready for the blast.

At this point, he said, there is not yet an estimate on the cost of the cleanup, but there are a "huge" amount of trees down.

"Driving around you can see there are all sorts of issues," he said. "Some streets are much worse than others. It seems to be a lot of the ash trees, which had probably been weakened by the emerald ash borer."

Power outages also affected traffic, knocking out the bulk of Aurora's traffic lights even in areas that had otherwise avoided an outage.

By Christmas Eve, PowerStream had restored much of the power to areas affected by outages, with Kennedy Street from Bathurst to Murray Drive, along with portions of Murray Drive and Old Bloomington Road from Yonge to Bayview being among the last to get up and running again.

Cleanups, however, continue.

"Town crews are currently working to clear debris from sidewalks to ensure the safety of residents," said Michael Kemp, Manager of Corporate Communications for

the Town of Aurora in a statement last week. "In order to assist with these efforts, residents are asked not to place fallen debris onto the boulevard next to the curb. The Town of Aurora is considering options for collection of residential debris and will be communicating this to the public at a later date.

"Residents are also advised to stay off trails as the priority remains for clearing debris from sidewalks and boulevards. As always, please exercise caution when walking on sidewalks as crews continue their efforts to remove thick layers of ice."

Throughout the ordeal residents banded together, sharing resources like firewood and, if they were in a pocket of electricity, welcomed people through their doors. One such person who received a helping hand was Tyler Barker, a resident who needs a large electric wheelchair to get around.


He found a particular lifeline in the Central York Fire Services (CYFS) after a technical glitch indicated his street was back up and running when they were actually in the dark.


With the battery draining on both his wheelchair and the lift to get him in and out, the CYFS sent over a generator to give them a boost. For Mr. Barker, however, the situation highlighted a gap.

"We were off for 48 hours," he said. "For somebody like myself, or someone who is on a ventilator, or elderly and didn't have a generator, there could be a better way. PowerStream guys were on the frontlines and gave up their Christmas holidays, but maybe next time there could be a different way of identifying people who are really in need like these people on ventilators, the elderly, or people with newborns.

"Maybe they can be identified through a registry, or the Town of Aurora could have a hotline."

Region-wide, an estimated 70,800 customers were left without power after the ice storm. Pockets of outages remained in other areas of York Region at the start of the week.





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FREE Week of January 2, 2014

Tigers are ready for action after holiday break

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers have returned from the Christmas break refreshed and ready for action.

With 20 wins under their belt, the Tigers have played well enough through the first three quarters of the season to put them ahead by 11 points in the north division standings.

"I think the break did a lot of the players good," said head coach James Richmond. "They got to go home and this was the first day [Sunday] that they had to be back, so guys that lived far out of town, it was a good break for them."

"Originally I thought there should be a few more practices, but they've worked hard in the first part of the season, so I thought a week away was good and a lot of the guys looked re-energized out there today."

With less than 20 games left to play in the season, the Tigers are a confident group that has molded together well as the season has wore on.

In 35 games played, the Tigers have the second-lowest goals against total with 84, behind Cobourg's 80.

Despite missing some key players for stretches in the season, they have also managed to score 140 goals, which also has them near the top in that category.

When asked what aspect of the team has been underrated, captain Rob Angiolella pointed to the back end.

"I think our goalies have both been playing really well," he said. "I think they've been ranked number two and three in the league and we have the least goals against, so obviously our goalies and our defencemen as well."

Before the break, the Tigers squared off with their Yonge Street rivals for a home and home series.

The first game in Newmarket wasn't so great for the Tigers, as they were handed a 5 - 2 loss. But the next night at home, the Tigers responded by pounding the Hurricanes 7 - 2.

Dylan Sikura scored his 12th of the season to lead off the scoring, while McCloy scored two to give him back the team lead in goals. Kory Kennedy added a goal and an assist to keep him atop the Tigers

point list with 43 in 35 games.

"Newmarket is going to always be a good opponent for whoever they play against," said Richmond. "They're well coached and it's whether or not they all show up to play and that's the same for us. We didn't show up to play the first night in their barn and we got a good jump on them the next night because we were embarrassed about the night before and it was a good showing for us."

Overall, Richmond said he is pleased with the play of his team thus far. He pointed to the strong play of Sikura, Eric Williams and Kevin Entmaa as a rallying point for the rest of the team.

For the stretch drive to the playoffs, Richmond said his team just needs to stay the course.

"I think bringing the consistent work ethic every night, because there's never going to be an easy night," he said. "Everybody wants to take down the guy that's in first and we're in first and everybody wants to cheer for the underdog, but we've got the leadership group, we've got the young guys and goaltending going. We've just got to stay focused."

Defenceman Adam Power, who skated last week for the first time since going down with an injury, should be back this week and said the Tigers are primed for the challenge.

"I think we're feeling pretty good," he said. "You can't ever feel too cocky about it, but the guys on the team are hungry and they don't like losing, which is good. I have a good feeling about playoffs this year."

However, he pointed out that there's always room for improvement.

"No team is ever perfect and there are always little things you can work on. If you think you're perfect, you're never going to get anywhere, so there are things we need to improve on, but I think we'll be ok."

The Tigers will head back on the road for three games against Wellington, Toronto and Pickering before returning home on Jan. 11 for a matchup with Pickering.

For more information, visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.



Tigers forward Curtis Warren looks to dish the puck off to one of his teammates during play on the weekend.
Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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AMHA League Results

Dec. 8th - Dec. 15th
2013

House League

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 2
Noah Savage 1G 1A, Ryan Ko 1G, Anthony Pugliese 1A,
107 Timbits - Minnesota Dark Green: 10
Tyler Vasilevski 2G 2A, Griffin Carriere 4G, Michael Romeo 1G, Sam Whittle 1G, Eric Mueller 1G 1A, Grayson Butler 1G, Jacob Kirchmair 2A, Tyler Brown 1A, Michael Chudakov 1A, Liam MacMillan 1A,

103 Timbits - New York White: 3
Kyle Cordingley 1G, Adam Soliman 1G 1A, Marcus DaSilva 1G, Reid Vincent 2A, Lucas Mochizuki 1A, Kaelin Napean 1A,
106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 4
Owen Cauley 1G, Hayden Thorne 2G, Andrew Mariani 1G, Jonathan Sandras 1A, Christian Aitas 1A, Easton Bailey 1A,

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 8
Nolan Whittaker 2G 4A, Andrew Vaughan 2G, Isaac Pearl 3G 3A, Tobias DeVries 1G 4A, Gabriel Pecci 1A, Cohen Bugeja 1A, Angelo Ventrella 2A, Alessandro Rabito 1A,
105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 5
Cade Irvine 1G, Owen Marsella 1G 1A, Cameron Rose 3G 2A, Nicholas McDonald 1A, Tiki Reid 2A, Ryan Day 2A, Shawn Rame 2A, Owen Marsella 1A,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 8
Lucas Rossi 1G, Lucas Ellerby 1A, Elijah Forde 1G, Daniel Patterson 2A, Nick Fryer 1G, Noah Kirkey 4A, Justin Gao 4G, Shawn Belman 1G 4A,
104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 3
Nolan Whittaker 1G, Massimo Pecci 1G, Mateo Graham 1A, Angelo Ventrella 1G, Isaac Pearl 1A,

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 3
Matteo Quercia 1G, Anthony Pugliese 2G, Kosta Sotirakos 1A,
106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 8
Hayden Thorne 2G 1A, Andrew Mariani 1G 1A, Benjamin Licata 2G 2A, Jonathan Sandras 2G, Thomas Koteff 1G, Eric McWhinnie 1A, Easton Bailey 1A, Brennan Mangat 1A, Leo Lagasse 1A, Owen Cauley 1A, Brock Lobreau 1A, Christian Aitas 1A,

402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 3
Dylan Thompson 2G, Ryan Cariou 1G,
406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 8
Omar Ozturk 1G, Colm MacEachern 2G, Hussien Wahab 1G, David Iacovetta 2G 1A, Luca Pugliese 1G 3A, Jake Colman 1G, Quinn Holtby 2A, Jesse Thomas 1A,

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 0
404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue: 7
Cayden Visser 3G, Liam Parris 1G 2A, Jacob Roach 2G, Brian Constandes 1G, Matthew Ross 1A, Remy Pietrangelo 2A, Matthew Collins SO,

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 6
Brandon Devellis 1G, Matteo Rossi 4G, Thomas Vettese 1G, Dylan Klein 2A, Dylan Thompson 1A,
405 McDonald's - Chicago Black: 1
Andrew Flores 1G,

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 2
Stefano Iervasi 1G, Noah Bobrow 1G, Nicholas Zambri 1A, Michael Valenti 1A,
409 McDonald's - Pittsburgh Pow-

der Blue: 8
Aidan Quinn 4G 2A, Luca Decristofaro 1G, Anthony Carbone 2G, Benjamin Cowan 1G 2A,

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 2
Mark Moscone 1G, Cameron Mills 1G,
401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 5
Jordan Sieber 1G, Nathan Cobb 2G, Parker Jalbert 2G, Simon Handal 2A,

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 2
Griffin Charnely 1G, Christopher McGee 1G, Carson Purcell 1A, Giancarlo DeAppollonia 1A, Andrew Pignatelli 1A,
604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2
Anthony Miranda 1A, Liam Vivian 1G, Kyle Trumper 1G,

607 Caruso & Company: 1
Justin Foster 1G, Dylan Shaban 1A,
609 Thom Partners Sports Marketing: 4
Andrew Zuliani 1A, Brendan Sanford 1G, Stetson Colicchio 1G, Nathan Clark 1G, Ryan McCartney 1G, Ben Akkermans 1A,

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 3
Samuel Morin 1G 1A, Evan Robertson 1G, Giuliano Iervasi 1G, Nathan Mohabeer 1A, Garrett Kohler SO,
606 Mastermind Toys: 0

603 McAlpine Ford: 3
Aiden O'Toole 1G, Jack Viney 1A, Liam Graham 2A, Andrew Turrieff 1G, Andrew Schaus 1A, Will Sherman 1G,
604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 3
Kyle Trumper 1G 1A, Jake Kandaharian 1A, Anthony Miranda 2G,

811: 3
Ryan Motozdian 1G, Liam Vanderploeg 1G, Callum Gorrell 1G, Scott Rumble 1A, Jeff Crowe 1A, Josh Schmitt 1A,
801 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 4
Alexandre Meunier-Geoffroy 1G, Will Morin 1G, Jack Dion 2G, Matthew Bolger 1A,

811: 3
Liam Vanderploeg 1G, Callum Gorell 2G, Beckham Giorgio 1A, Vaughan Hewgill 1A,
808 Inaria: 2
Brad Shennan 1G, Troy Lane 1G, David Tonelli 1A,

811: 4
Callum Gorell 3G 1A, Adam Medeiros 1G 1A,
809 Manhattan Trophies: 2
Jason Cox 1G, Carson Venneri 1G, Matthew Glionna 1A, Adam Powell 1A, Andrew Hoogers 1A,

808 Inaria: 1
806 Benson Kearley IFG: 5

805 York Region Auto: 5
Josh Fallavollita 2G 1A, Matthew Vassos 1G, Andrew End 2G, Christian Ferguson 1A,
807 Sundance Signs: 1
Cameron Lang 1G, Nathan Sherrard 1A, Stephen McNeil 1A,

807 Sundance Signs: 2
Liam De Sousa 1G, Cameron Lang 1G, Matthew Nitsopoulos 1A,
802 Dr. Weaver's Drillers: 3
Louie Simonin 1G 1A, Chris Sands 1G, Nick Reid 1G, Matthew Rotman 1A, Sean Mackrell 1A,

902 Mayfair Systems: 4
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 3

901 Pizzaville Aurora: 6
Michael Dowling 2G 3A, Andrew Klinowski 2G 2A, Paul Mason 1G, Conner Tripp 1G, Blake Holtby 1A,
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2
Will Stroud 1G, Justin Laird 1G, Liam Joiner 1A, Alex Goncalves 1A,

1002 ATS Healthcare: 0
1001: 5

1006 Jonathan's: 6
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 4

1001 : 2
1007: 2

1002 ATS Healthcare: 3
1005 ADC Aluminium: 7

1005 ADC Aluminium: 0
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 3

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 4
1002 ATS Healthcare: 2

1007: 3
1006 Jonathan's: 2

1001 : 2
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 3

Rep League

Novice A - Markham: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Yiannis Skanderis 1G,

Novice A - Nobleking: 9
Aurora Tigers: 2
Jack Bulmer 1G, Tyler Hewitt 1G,

Novice A - Newmarket: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3
Jack Bulmer 1G 1A, Tyler Hewitt 1G, Mikey Sandras 1G,

Novice A - Richmond Hill: 5
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 7
Georgina: 0
Malcolm Parkinson 3G, Ryan Blakley 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G, Kevin Wasserman 1G 1A, Nolan Chiarelli 1G 2A, Vince Russo 1A, Yi Wang 1A, Parker Jalbert 1G 1A, Josh Mcleod 2A, Alex Nechadim SO,
Minor Atom AE - Stouffville Clippers: 5
Aurora Tigers: 2
Josh Mcleod 1G, Vince Russo 1A, Nolan Chiarelli 1G, Ryan Blakley 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1A,

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Newmarket Redmen: 0
Josh Mcleod 1G 1A, Ethan Powell 2A, Sam Belman 2A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G 1A, Nolan Chiarelli 1G, Matthew Keizer 1G, Julian Martin SO,

Minor Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 1
TNT: 0
Marco Djordjevic 1G, Andrew Parsons 1A, Emmett Ross 1A, Aidan Edmunds SO,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Barrie: 1
Alex Morra 1G, Ryan Fowler 1G, Ryan Weeks 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1G 1A, Riley Pearl 1A, Maxwell McConkey 2A, Jordan Dimatulac 1A, Lucas De Palma 1A,

Atom RS - Uxbridge: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
Andrew Flores 1G, Aidan Quinn 1A, Matteo Rossi 1A,

Atom A - Richmond Hill: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
Max Reeves 1G, Charlie Huxley 1A, Chris Koulouras 1A,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 2

Markham Waxers: 0
Lucas De Palma 1G, Ryan Fowler 1G, Ryan Dunbar 1A, Rory Callaghan 1A, Ben Charette SO,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket Redman: 1
George Rappos Jr. 1G 2A, Tyler Cox 2G, Riley Pearl 2A, Ryan Weeks 1A,

Atom RS - Aurora Tigers: 15
Port Perry: 1
Cayden Visser 2G, Andrew Flores 3G, Parker Jalbert 1G 2A, Ben Cordingley 2G 1A, Aidan Quinn 1G, Luca DeCristofaro 1G, David Iacovetta 1G, Jack Boyd 2G 1A, Nathan Cobb 1G 1A, Daniel Han 1G, Colm MacEachern 1A, Anthony Carbone 2A, Matteo Rossi 1A, Jacob Madore 1A,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 17
Napenee Stars: 0
Ryan Fowler 2G 3A, Riley Pearl 3G 1A, Lucas De Palma 2G 1A, Ryan Weeks 3G, Maxwell McConkey 2G 4A, Nicholas Petinarelis 1G 4A, Jordan Dimatulac 1G 3A, George Rappos Jr. 1G 1A, Kurtis Gipp 1G 2A, Alex Morra 1G 1A, Hunor Kristof 4A, Ryan Dunbar 3A, Rory Callaghan 2A, Tyler Cox 2A, Luka Rodrigues 1A, Ben Charette SO,

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Orillia: 0
Gavin Loria 2G, Charlie Huxley 1A, Ben Legallais 1A, Jack Sutherland 1A, Ayden Whilby 1A, Jack McFarland SO,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie Colts: 0
Ryan Fowler 1G, Tyler Cox 1G, Riley Pearl 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A, Gianluca Pannozzo SO,

Atom AA - TNT: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
Owen Hollett 1G, Jake McMillan 1A, Anton Sopov 1A,

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 6
Newmarket: 4
Ayden Whilby 2G, Gavin Loria 1G 2A, Michael More 1A, Jonah Spataro 1G 1A, Dylan Andersen 1G, Michael Crowe 1A, Todd Cook 1A, Ethan Solilo 1G 1A,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 6
New Hamburg Huskies: 0
Riley Pearl 1G 1A, Ryan Weeks 2G 1A, George Rappos Jr. 1G 1A, Maxwell McConkey 2G, Lucas De Palma 1A, Alex Morra 1A, Jordan Dimatulac 1A, Ben Charette SO,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 2
Clarington Toros: 1
Lucas De Palma 1G, Riley Pearl 1G,

Minor Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie Colts: 1
Ethan Ritchie 1G, Mitchell Weatherall 1G 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1G, Logan Kidder 1A,

Minor Peewee AE - Stouffville Clippers: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2
Mitchell Weatherall 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 1G, Geoffrey Wilson 1A, Carson Klein 1A,

Peewee A - Innisfill Winterhawks: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2
Andrew Park 1G 1A, Michael Orlandi 1G 1A,

Peewee AE -

Aurora Tigers: 5
Uxbridge Stars: 1
Rony Wahab 1G 1A, Carson Williams 1G, Luke Catania 1G 1A, Jack Patterson 1A, Cory Read 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1G, Owen Romano 1A,

Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 2
Kingston Canadians: 0
Rony Wahab 1G, Carson Williams 1A, Jason Gage 1A, Luke Catania 1G, Jack Patterson 1A, Carson Honiball SO,

Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 2
Caledon Hawks: 1
Cory Read 1G, Jack Patterson 1A, Luke Catania 1A, Noah Dempsey 1G,

Minor Bantam AE - Stouffville: 2
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Bantam A - Markham: 4
Aurora Tigers: 2
Nicholas Rountes 1G, Fin Reeves 1G 1A, Peter Chimienti 1A,

Minor Bantam AE - Oshawa:4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Nobleking: 4
Jamie Stewart 1G 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Sammy Leader 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Nicholas Rountes 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Kyle Morning 1A,

Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 6
Stouffville: 2

Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 5
Stouffville Clippers: 3
Greg Hoogers 1G, Jordan Torres 1G, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Tony Greco 1G,

Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 4
TNT: 1
Tony Greco 2G, Jordan Torres 2G,

Bantam AA - Georgina: 5
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Midget AA - Newmarket Redmen: 4
Aurora Tigers: 1
Jack Pecora 1G, Zack Phillips 1A, Cameron Zinner 1A,

Minor Midget AA - Stouffville: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Connor Downs 1G, Christian Arcuri 1A,

Minor Midget A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Orillia: 2
Jack Bryant 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 1G, Evan Cherubini 1A, Shaun Broad 1A, Adam Caicco 1A,

Minor Midget AA - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 2
Cameron Zinner 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1G 1A, Zack Phillips 2A, Michael Shum 1A,

Midget AE - TNT : 4
Aurora Tigers: 2

Midget AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Ajax 2: 3

Midget AE - Aurora Tigers: 7
TNT: 3



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AMHA Results -

Dec. 15 - Dec. 22, 2013
House League

103 Timbits - New York White: 3
Adam Soliman 1G, Matthew Cogswell 1G, Aiden Miller 1G, Kyle Cordigley 1A, Marcus DaSilva 1A, Reid Vincent 1A,
105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 2
Aidan Archibald 1G, Cameron Rose 1G, Charlie Jurchuk 1A, Owen Marsella 1A,

202 Caravan Kids - Nashville Yellow: 3
Christian Rabito 2G, Carter Haddock 1G, **204 Caravan Kids - Edmonton Blue: 1**
Andrew Mettel 1G,

205 Caravan Kids - Chicago Black: 3
Alex Weir 3G,
201 Caravan Kids - Montreal Red: 9
Aidan McCartney 1G, Tristan Aben 4G, Jacob Anselmo 1G, Ryan Hammill 1G, Thomas Moir 1G, Adam Campagna 1G,

605 Omar's Shoes: 2
Jack Gauthier 1G, John Dol 1G, Cristian Franze 1A, Christian Fermo 2PM, ,
602 Laurion Law Office: 1
Colby Harrison 1G, Daniel Babcock 1A,

603 McAlpine Ford: 3
Aiden O'Toole 1G, Jack Viney 1A, Liam Graham 2A, Andrew Turriff 1G, Andrew Schaus 1A, Will Sherman 1G,
604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 3
Kyle Trumper 1G 1A, Anthony Miranda 2G,

608 Inaria: 8
610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 6

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 5
602 Laurion Law Office: 2

805 York Region Auto: 0
808 Inaria: 5
Troy Lane 1G 1A, Keaton Thompson 1G 1A, Brad Shennan 2A, David Tonelli 1G, Nic Sever 1G, Andrew Negri 1A, Dylan Cowell 1G, Stephen Silverio 1A,

806 Benson Kearley IFG: 4
811: 0

905 VEGFRESH: 4
Anthony Orlandi 1G, Joey Stipeć 1G, Patrick Bourrie 1G, Mathew MacDonald 1G 1A, Joey Leger 1A, Troy Foster 1A,
908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 3
Mathew Iezza 1G, Domenic Fiorini 1G, Michael Montesanti 1G, Stewart Reid 2A, Jiyan Yilmaser 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A,

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 7
902 Mayfair Systems: 3

Rep League

Novice AA - TNT: 4
Aurora Tigers: 2
Mc Namara, Owen 1G, Dimoulas, Thomas 1G, Lane, Ethan 1A,

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 1
Lane, Ethan 1G, Cobbold, Charlie 1A, Dimoulas, Thomas 1G 1A,

Novice A - Orillia: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Adam DiGiacchino 1G, Zaid Soloman 1A,

Novice A - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 3
Georgina: 1
Mc Namara, Owen 1G, Yorke, Daniel 1G, Kristof, Norbert 1G, Blades, Josh 1A, Pridham, Tyler 1A, Barber, Charlie 1A,

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 9
Richmond Hill Stars: 0
Kevin Wasserman 1G 1A, Malcolm Parkinson 2G 1A, Sam Belman 2G, Josh Mcleod 1G 2A, Ethan Powell 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 2G, Yi Wang 1A, Ryan Blakley 2A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1A, Alex Nechadim SO,

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
TNT: 0
Ryan Blakley 1G, Malcolm Parkinson 1A, Ethan Powell 1G, Matthew Keizer 1G, Kevin Wasserman 1G, Sam Spong 1A, Julian Martin SO

Minor Atom AA - Newmarket: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 6

Innisfil: 1
Jonah Spataro 1G, Dylan Andersen 1G 2A, Michael Crowe 1G 1A, Max Reeves 1G 1A, Charlie Huxley 2A, Ayden Whilby 2G, Jack Sutherland 1A, Michael More 1A,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Barrie: 1
Owen Hollett 1G 1A, Ethan Belisle 1G, Tommy Hollett 1A, Ryan Catania 1A,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 7
Georgina: 0
Ryan Catania 3G 1A, Owen Hollett 2G, Owen Papulkas 1G 2A, Myles Graham 1G 2A, Tommy Hollett 1A, Anton Sopov 1A, Liam Taylor 1A, Anthony Russo SO,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 5
Richmond Hill Stars: 1
Owen Hollett 2G, Owen Papulkas 1G, Tommy Hollett 1G 1A, Jacob Hoffrogge 1G 1A, Anton Sopov 1A, Myles Graham 1A, Ryan Catania 1A, Calum Ormond 1A, Luca Capraro 1A, Ethan Belisle 1A,

Minor Pee wee A - Kanata Blazers: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 2
TBD: 1

Minor Pee wee A - TBD: 1
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 1
East Gwillimbury: 1

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Innisfil: 1

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Markham Waxers: 0
Logan Kidder 1G 1A, Ethan Ritchie 1G, James Sproul 1G, Geoffrey Wilson 1G, Justin Just 1A, Carson Klein 1A, Carson Tidd 1A, Mitchell Weatherall 1A, Nicolas Alvarez SO,

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 8
Georgina Blaze: 3
Geoffrey Wilson 3G 1A, Ian Hilgendorff 2G 1A, Ethan Ritchie 1G 2A, Carson Klein 1G 1A, Logan Kidder 2A, Sam MacLeod 2A, Mitchell Weatherall 2A, Carson Tidd 1G, Andrew Scott 1A,

Pee wee AE - Oakville Rangers: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Luke Catania 1G,

Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Richmond Hill: 2
Michael Orlandi 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1G, Anthony DiPietro 1A,

Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
TNT: 1
Jack Patterson 2G, Luke Catania 1A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A, Rony Wahab 1G, Cory Read 1A,

Minor Bantam A - Richmond Hill: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Lucas Surace 1A,

Minor Bantam AE - Georgina: 4
Aurora Tigers: 2
Ty Boisseau 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Max Lombard 1A,

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Whitby: 0
Colin Windle 2G 1A, Anthony Capraro 1G 2A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Matthew Parkin 1A,

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Georgina: 2
Cameron Zinner 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Zack Phillips 1A

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 3
TNT: 0
Christian Arcuri 1G 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Zack Phillips 1G, Michael Shum 1A, Deven Deguara 1A, Connor Downs 1A,

Midget AE - Aurora Tigers: 7
Richmond Hill Stars: 3

Midget AE - Schomberg: 7
Aurora Tigers: 3

Junior Tigers take on coaches and show off skills in holiday tourney



A group of Aurora Tigers players cheer on their coach in the AMHA coaches vs junior A Tigers game at the ACC last weekend. The coaches vs Tigers game was one of the marquee events at the annual AMHA Showcase Tournament.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Minor Hockey Association and Optimist Club of Aurora held its annual House League Showcase Tournament for players of all ages over the holidays with plenty



AMHA tyke players from a bunch of different teams await the start of the relay race finals at the ACC last weekend. The always exciting relay races was one of the main events at the AMHA's annual Showcase Tournament.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

of game action and activities last week. There were 4-on-4 games, hardest shot competitions and the always entertaining relay race.

On Sunday night, coaches from the AMHA had the chance to square off against the Junior A Tigers in the marquee event.

A loud crowd cheered on as the Tigers' went up against some of Aurora's best coaches.

"The main event tonight is the coaches, who work so hard every night with the young kids spending time coaching and teaching them, where they play a game against the Junior A Tigers," said AMHA tournament director Sam Speranini.

"It's a little bit of fun for all of them – for the kids watching their coaches,

who teach them every day and the kids enjoying it and getting a prize or reward for the games. This is getting everybody together to enjoy the weekend. We've got a pretty decent crowd tonight and we're excited about that."

Relay races took place throughout the weekend, with the finals wrapping up on Sunday night during intermission, and the skills competition took place all day on Friday.

The young Tigers players also got some time on the ice with the Junior A squad during the weekend.

Mike Valenti, head coach for the atom 408 team, played in the game on Sunday night and said he was enjoying the event.

"Every year they have this showcase tournament to showcase kids that are in house league and the Junior A guys donate a bit of their time to play in this game, so we can show them a thing or two along the way and it's a great food drive," he said.

"The community comes together and everybody brings in some food and the Optimist Club is involved in this with the Aurora Minor Hockey Association."

Facing off against one of the best Junior A squads in the Tigers is no small feat, but the coaches definitely made a game of it as their players and families cheered from the stands.

"It's the best seat in the house. It's like 3D television out there," he joked. "They're flying around and it's fun... They're toying with us for sure, but it's fun."

Valenti also said it's something the players look forward to every year.

"The kids really love it. They've got the relay race going on tonight and the finals, they've got the hardest shot competition for the bantams and the whole 4-on-4 house league tournament over the Christmas break is a different format – there's no whistles and it's just kind of go and chase the puck. The kids love it."

For more information on the tournament or the AMHA, visit www.auroraminorhockey.net




Tiger Liam Neuman gets hassled by his coach James Richmond in the coaches vs junior A Tigers game at the ACC last weekend. The coaches vs Tigers game was one of the marquee events of the annual AMHA Showcase Tournament.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Esau’s descendants home

5. Fragrant tropical tree resin

10. Selection list

14. A rectangular groove

15. Plant of a clone

16. Three-banded Armadillo

17. Surrounded by

18. Muse of lyric poetry

19. Give a job to

20. Ceremonial staff bearer

22. By way of

23. Bangladesh capital (old sp.)

24. Taxicab registration

27. Consumed

30. Indian legume dish

31. Tire nut

32. Woman (Fr. abbr.)

35. Spider’s trap

37. Have already done

38. Picasso’s Dora

39. Sousaphones

40. Campaign contributor org.
41. __ and Venzetti

42. Oil cartel

43. Angry

44. Chauvinists

45. Bloodshot

46. Swiss river

47. 1/100 of a yen

48. East northeast

49. Adorns

52. Egyptian statesman Anwar

55. Expel

56. Expressed pleasure

60. Assist

61. Jewish folklore legend

63. An unidentified aircraft

64. Singer Nat “King”

65. A level surface

66. Israeli politician Abba

67. Actor Kristofferson

68. Paddled

69. Locomoted

CLUES DOWN

1. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

2. Fallow deer genus

3. Of an ode

4. Phone line connector

5. Before

6. Insect stage

7. Electronic communication

8. Relating to metal

9. Japanese Minister Hirobumi

10. Naval historian Alfred Thayer

11. A long narrative poem

12. Drug officer (US slang)

13. Carbamide

21. Park in Northern Spain

23. Canine

25. Hit lightly

26. Indiana Univ. Degree

27. Play performer

28. Hairpiece

29. Pulled away

32. Papier-__
33. Georgia city

34. Irregularly notched

36. Ladies’ 1st Army branch

37. Begetter

38. Raincoat

40. Conic curve

41. __ Claus

43. Family Hominidae member

44. Personnel

46. Actor Carney

47. At peace

49. Joyce Carol __, US author

50. Of cheekbone

51. A one-edged cavalry sword

52. Potato pouch

53. Town in Ghana

54. Small store

57. Rover

58. Oh, God!

59. Force unit

61. Central mail bureau

62. __ student, learns healing

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

L	O	E	B		S	A	B	L	E	S							
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E						
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R	O	T	C						R	A	D						
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						T	A	P	I	N	G			A	S	K	S

Woman found outlet through her words

From page 1

actually make it to the edge.

“There were hundreds of thousands of us all in the same boat. 90 per cent of us were all under the age of 20, but it was rare that somebody would lose it. In the prison, we lived under horrific conditions and people were being executed. There were massacres every night and you would hear them. But, in the morning you would wake up, get into the bathroom line, wash your face, brush your teeth and it just became your day and you had to get through it. You didn’t have any other option. We just wanted to go home.”

For Ms. Nemet, it was all about dealing with each moment as it came. You dealt with it because you had to. They knew at the end of the day that no one was safe, but they kept hope alive of returning home.

“If you have a death sentence, you were always a little bit more worried whenever they called your name, but then hope comes,” she says. “When you’re a teen, the out-there concept you could die is very foreign and almost surreal. At the end of the day, we just don’t know what is going to happen.”

Ms. Nemat details the story of what happened next, her survival at the hands of a guard who fell in love with her and threatened to harm those she loved if she refused him, her “forced conversion to Islam” before her marriage and his eventual fate in her bestselling memoirs “Prisoner of Tehran” and “After Tehran.”

She will share her story at the Aurora Public Library in a number of initiatives throughout 2014. She is at the centre of the Aurora Public Library’s efforts in harnessing “the creative energy and potential in Aurora.” A very personal initiative of Reccia Mandelcorn of the APL, they will launch the One Book Campaign to get everyone in Aurora to delve into “Prisoner of Tehran”, creating a large-scale, community-wide “platform for discussion and interaction”, celebrating not only the book, but “human rights and the multidimensional experiences of our citizens.”

“For us, it is more than a literacy initiative; it is community engagement at its finest,” says Ms. Mandelcorn.

Throughout the community read, as well as writing workshops lead by Ms. Nemat in June, a Twitter Q&A, and a special seminar for Culture Days 2014 on September 27, Ms. Nemat will share her experience both on her life in prison, but how, through her forced first marriage, she came out of one prison directly into “a bigger one.”

Ms. Nemat lives with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, an affliction of those

who have survived extreme trauma, a disorder that is not, as one often assumes, limited to people who have served in the military.

“When I came out of prison, no psychologist would dare sit down and speak to me because if they did they could go to prison. You were basically left to your own devices. Your family doesn’t want to talk about it because they are afraid. We have a saying in Farsi that walls have mice and mice have ears. [It] shoves the elephant under the rug pretending nothing is wrong and this is usually what survivors do. They keep going because life is out there and there are other challenges.”

Setting pen to paper in sharing her story helped deal with the symptoms of what many call the “silent killer.”

By the time she began sharing her story on paper, Ms. Nemat was now a resident of Canada, having fled from Iran with her now husband first to Spain, where they were supported by the church, and then to Hungary before she joined her brother and his family in Woodbridge.

From there, she and her husband bought an apartment in Richmond Hill before planting more permanent roots with their son in Aurora. They arrived in Aurora in 1993 during the Santa Claus Parade and the community atmosphere they experienced lining Yonge Street convinced them they were home.

Whether she is bringing her story to the Aurora Public Library or through the vaunted halls of libraries throughout Europe and around the world, she is grateful for the opportunity to strike a chord in the lives of audiences. When people come to hear her speak, they often have “easier, more pleasant things to do”, she says, but in that time, she aims to have an impact – sometimes an advantage over the written word which can create a distance between the author and the reader, she adds.

“When I actually go up in front of an audience and tell my story in a personal way, people realise how similar our lives are before all hell breaks loose,” she says. “There is a moment where you can read it in the eyes of the audience where they begin to connect.

“[In the world of Facebook and Twitter] there is something about a personal presence. I can say, ‘I was there. This happened to me and it hurt. And it’s still hurting. I am a witness. I am here because it is my job, but it is more than my job. It is who I am to tell you what happened because it is still happening. It is not a thing of the past, and I believe there are things we can do to make the world a better place. I strongly believe that one person can definitely change the world.”

Capricorn

(December 22 – January 19)

It is your time Capricorn, so embrace change! The cosmos are behind you now, so resolve, communicate, initiate and empower. Be a unique person and get out there. Be versatile and you will accomplish great things.

Aquarius

(January 20 – February 18)

You will be full speed ahead as the New Year arrives. The focus is on innovation, ideas and collaboration. Connection is your keyword for January, so make a move now. It is a time of serious achievement.

Pisces

(February 19 – March 20)

A new start in your career calls for discipline and action this month. Get moving Pisces this is no time to bliss out! However, remember to allow moments for peace and quiet too, no matter what is calling for your time and energy.

Aries

(March 21 – April 19)

Relationships continue to be a focus going into 2014. Balancing give-and-take is a priority, so cater to and compromise with others. Allow your open heart and generosity to pour forth onto others, even if they are annoying you!

Taurus

(April 20 – May 20)

Celebrate 2014 with a review of the past year. See all situations with both your mind and heart, and allow a greater understanding to

Gemini

(May 21 – June 20)

You will know where you stand by the end of January, Gemini. Feeling faster on your feet and ready to create a new world, you will open your heart to meet life with enthusiasm and verve. Focus on building vitality and revving your engine.

Cancer

(June 21 – July 21)

January is a month of new starts and fresh energy. Grow into that which is closest to your heart, and allow creativity to shine. Your entire being will be infectious, and you will desire to reach new heights in 2014. *Zest* is your keyword.

Leo

(July 22 – August 22)

Take a bit of time for quiet contemplation during the first month of winter. Tune into the realms beyond the ordinary. Enhance your intuitive capabilities and communicate with the



NORTHERN LIGHTS

Jodie Cara Lindley

January 2014 Horoscopes

Universe. Playtime will return at January’s end.

Virgo

(August 23 – September 22)

Your serious mood in January can get some hard work done. But remember to create harmony with others, and practice empathy, even if their behavior seems perplexing to you. By the end the month, you will reach a wider audience.

Libra

(September 23 – October 22)

You are continuing to review serious matters in the New Year, but by February, situations will move forward again. Try not to indulge in too much fantasy and dreaming. Much more can be accomplished by acknowledging the truth.

Scorpio

(October 23 – November 21)

Are you currently building the life you want Scorpio? January heralds construction time. Create a solid foundation built on balance and equality. Be willing to share the load if it gets to be too much. Be the change you want to see.

Sagittarius

(November 22 – December 21)

Use your instincts and intuition this month to create a solid life plan. Then, apply your vision to the real world. Walk your talk by aligning your inner journey to match the outer reality. Bring your dreams down to reality, Sag.

For more information about Jodie and astrology, visit www.EarthSkyJourneys.org.

THE AURORAN

Arts & Culture

“Great Artists” are Aurora-bound for fourth season

By Brock Weir

Over her career as a classical musician and musical director, Aurora’s Bonnie Silver has come up with a winning recipe for crafting the perfect musical interlude. A strong opening is important. Developing a tailored program to draw your audience in is another. Without a good performer who can bind everything together, however, all bets are off.

These were the principles kept in mind when Ms. Silver began laying the groundwork for the 2014 Great Artists piano series at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Entering its fourth season, the series is the brainchild of Ms. Silver and her husband, Norbert Kraft, both Grammy-winning classical musicians and music producers.

The Krafts put the initial series of concerts together not only to share their love of classical music with others, but also to directly connect these classical musicians with local audiences. Plus, they had a hunch that this was a perfect fit for Aurora.

“Our first year was sold out and it certainly showed me Aurora has an appetite for live, classical music,” says Ms. Silver. “As a music producer, I am sitting under headphones a lot and one can ask, in a high tech world, why they shouldn’t just download music or watch these performers on YouTube. I think the truth is nothing gives you the same experience as a live performance.

“Knowing what I know about digital media and the profession, as advanced as it is, it is still only a sampling of the sound and it is not the real sound that you get from being in the same room as the performer.”

The fourth season kicks off Friday, February 28 with a joint performance from acclaimed violinist Moshe Hammer accompanied by Angela Park on the piano. Mr. Hammer, who studied under Jascha Heifetz, is one of the benchmarks of Canadian classical music. Ms. Park’s performance will be a return engagement in the series after previously performing with the Seller Piano Trio.

The February 28 concert, as is the case with all other concerts in the series, will be held in Brevik Hall. It’s an intimate venue for approximately 120 ticketholders and in this environment, they will indeed be able to experience the full flavour of

the sound.

“Moshe Hammer has a particularly special gift of being able to communicate with an audience and reach out and draw listeners into his world of beautiful sound,” says Ms. Silver. “He has a huge emotional range and all on a little violin. Being up close to that is very, very special.”

Additional concerts in the series include the piano duo of Fung-Chiu, who have wowed audiences with their “four hands” performances on the piano on Friday, April 11, and the series concludes on Friday, May 30 with pianist Jane Coop.

Each musician offers a different style and different interpretations of classical favourites and more contemporary standards, but all performances are drawn together around the same piano.

Ms. Silver works with each artist to finalize their individual programs to suit the audiences she has become familiar with over the past three seasons, along with a few surprises to keep interest up.

“The first piece of the program has to be an instant grabber,” she says. “I also like the last piece before an intermission to leave people on a high. [My husband and I] did hundreds and hundreds of concerts but still the moment just before the artist walks on stage, sits down and plays the first few notes, my hands are clammy and I am as nervous as if it were me!

“It is almost a heightened state, but I quickly settle down and it just becomes pure pleasure, as I think it is for most of the audience. No matter how much schooling and how much practice artists have, they need places to play. They need people to listen to them. People who love classical music, and maybe even those who don’t know they love it yet, need an opportunity to see these performers play live and preferably close to where they live. That is why it is so great we have a venue in Aurora.”

Tickets for the 2014 Great Artist Piano Series are now on sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Individual tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors and students. Subscriptions to the three concert series are available for \$80 for adults (\$70 for seniors and students). If purchased before January 31, subscription holders will receive a free CD from the Naxos classical music label. For more information, contact the Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.



Grade 12 students at Aurora High School will be in the studio hard at work putting the finishing touches on their artwork which will grace the galleries of the Aurora Cultural Centre starting on Tuesday. The Aurora High School GRADS Show features the work of graduating visual arts students in a variety of media. Students will be on hand to display and explain their work at a special reception at the Centre next Thursday, January 9 from 7 – 9 p.m. Above: Bailey, McLaren, Brooke and Victoria. Auroran photos by David Falconer



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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

The Aurora Public Library will host a LEGO Challenge. Kids ages 5 – 10 are invited to join the Library for an afternoon of Lego building fun! Who can build the highest tower? What’s the coolest thing you can build in 10 minutes? Try these and other fun challenges, plus have some free building time! 2 – 4 p.m. No registration required.

Eating Disorders of York Region’s Riverwalk Wellness Centres presents a session of Gentle Stretch and Relax Yoga for four Thursdays beginning this evening in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library. \$65 for four weeks. A peer support group is also offered after the class from 7 – 8.30 p.m. For more information, visit www.edoyr.com to register, or call 905-886-6632.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Calling kids ages 6 – 8! The Aurora Public Library invites you to create a clever disguise and fool your family and friends! Learn about some famous hoaxes that actually worked – and some that didn’t. We will finish up with a fun photo shoot to capture your new alter-ego in action! 6.45 – 7.30 p.m.

Eating Disorders of York Region’s Riverwalk Wellness Centres will host a group for teens beginning today for the next six Tuesdays. Healthy Coping Skills will run from 5.30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at 901 Rutherford Road, Vaughan. (Near Bathurst and Rutherford). \$120 for six sessions. For more information, visit www.edoyr.com to register, or call 905-886-6632.

JANUARY 7 – 16,

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Aurora High School GRADS Show. A vibrant annual exhibition showcasing the work of the Grade 12 visual arts students; reception January 9 from 7 – 9 p.m. Free gallery admission: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

The Aurora Public Library hosts a new drop-in knitting and crocheting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all abilities are welcome. Bring your new/current project and enjoy conversation with others in the living room area. 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. No registration required.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Start the New Year off on the right note. The Aurora Community Band welcomes new members to enjoy the concert band experience. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. If you are a brass, woodwind or percussion player with some concert band experience, you can attend two complimentary rehearsals

before the membership fee applies. Contact auroracommunityband@gmail.com for further information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Winter arts classes and one-day workshops begin today at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. New offerings, including Stained Glass, Songwriting, Creative Writing, Acrylic and Watercolour techniques – over 25 classes for all interests! Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. Full program information available online at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

JANUARY 22 & 29

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents two Society of York Region Artists Gallery Talks; 1 – 3 p.m. on each Wednesday. Join us to learn about the artists creative processes. Free gallery admission: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents John Sheard with “The Great Reunion Concert” with legendary guitarist (and bon vivant) Wendell Ferguson. Joined by Dennis Pendrith on the bass. A memorable evening of music virtuosity, musings, and plenty of laughter. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert. Doors open 7.30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m., with general admission seating and a cash bar. Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. To purchase drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Start the New Year off on the right note – the Aurora Community Band welcomes new members to enjoy the concert band experience. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street.) If you are a brass, woodwind, or percussion player with some concert band experience, you can attend two complimentary rehearsals before the membership fee applies. For more information, contact the Aurora Community Band at auroracommunityband@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, is proud to present Valentine’s Day with The Judy Marshak Quartet. Transport yourself back to Manhattan, circa the 1950s, with the best in cabaret jazz repertoire from the award-winning actress/singer/songwriter, accompanied by piano, drums and upright bass. An affectionate tribute to some of the coolest popular music ever written. Doors open 7:30 pm; concert at 8 pm. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert, with general admission seating and a cash bar. To purchase, drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.



The Great Artist Piano series is the brainchild of Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft, pictured above with their Grammy as one of the “Human Books” during Culture Days 2013. Artists in the upcoming series include Moshe Hammer, Angela Park, and Jane Coop. Auroran photo by David Falconer

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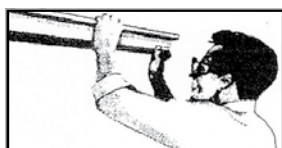
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ELECTION 2014

Thompson has tried to get back to basics as Councillor

By Brock Weir

With the 2014 election little more than 10 months away, Councillor Michael Thompson says there is still much work to be done.

The first-time Councillor, who placed second in the polls behind John Abel, says he and the incumbent Council have tried to get back to basics in moving the Town’s business forward.

Stability, he says, will likely be seen as the hallmark of this term, as well as accentuating the positive.

“The comment I have heard most often from people is they appreciate the fact they weren’t reading about us in a negative light on a repetitive basis,” he says. “To them, this Council has been more functional and we have stuck to getting the Town’s business done. It hasn’t been the case week-in and week-out, but more so this term than last.”

In the three-plus years he has been at the Council table, Thompson says it is “certainly more” than he thought it would be, but it is rewarding to serve.

“It has been very fulfilling and very rewarding and I feel grateful I was given the opportunity to represent everybody in the Town of Aurora,”

he says. “It has been a phenomenal experience for me.”

It is a phenomenal experience he says he would like to experience once again, but he is not yet ready to formally throw his hat back in the political ring. Although he says being a Councillor is technically considered a part-time job, he personally doesn’t consider that to be the case.

“It is an honour to serve and I continually want to do more, give more and bring more value to the community. The challenge, of course, is time, but I am very fortunate to have the support of my family and workplace, so I can fulfil my duties as Councillor.

“While I would like to continue serving as a Councillor past 2014, I will take the next few months to confirm the support of my family and workplace, as well as speak with residents to ensure that I can continue providing the representation they need and deserve.”

In the meantime, the next few months will also be dedicated to the tasks at hand. Over the past three years, Councillor Thompson says he believes this Council has many achievements under its belt, including the establishment of the Town’s Strategic

Plan, the renovation and expansion of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the new agreement between with the Aurora Cultural Centre, the acquisition of the Aurora Collection and the first steps to re-establish a museum, solar and other green initiatives, financial groundwork, collaboration with other York Region municipalities, and “disassociating the Town from the SLAPP suit and addressing the issues it has caused.”

“There is still lots to do,” he says. “I certainly want to see us complete some of our projects or at least move them significantly more forward than we have at the table like the Community Improvement Plan, the Museum, Library Square, and I would like to see the Leisure Complex completed before the term is done.

“I’d like us to move forward with the eco park and to continue to work with Seneca College or some other post-secondary institution with regards to the FabLab and anything else that might be out there. The Region is very much interested in bringing post-secondary education to the area and I would love Aurora to be a part of that in any way, shape, or form.”

Looking back, the municipal world might have been a slight culture shock to what he has been accustomed to in the private sector, such as the length of time it takes to make a decision, and the inner-workings of government.

“I don’t know if I will ever be too comfortable [with the politics] but I guess that is natural for the course,” he says. “Some of the politics that have gone on and some of the grandstanding [has been challenging], but I guess that can be expected. It is a bit of the nature of the role and I certainly came into the role hoping we could all work together towards the common goal, which is the Town’s good and unfortunately that has not always been the case. Sometimes issues and agendas have taken precedence, and that has been unfortunate, but sometimes that will happen.

“[The most rewarding aspect of the job] is when an individual resident just thanks you for the effort. They recognize some of the things you have done and they appreciate the effort and the fact you are essentially bringing their thoughts and concerns to light in representing them and, at the end of the day, that is all you try to do.”

You have to be in the right place at the right time of your life: Gallo

By Brock Weir

As Councillor John Gallo enters the final months of his second term on Council, he looks back on a term very different from his first.

Although this is his second term as a Councillor, it is his first full term in the role, having been appointed midway through the last Council. Having been elected in 2010, he came in at the ground floor this term comfortable in both his knowledge and position, and that has been an asset, he says.

“I find that I do well when that comfort level is there, that I am confident in what I am saying and what I am doing that I can contribute so much more,” he says. “I find I am almost there.”

That being said, however, with election season officially kicking off Thursday, he is weighing his options on the future. He says he has put a lot of thought into “different things” and is “excited” about things outside of politics, but has not made a decision one way or another.

Over the last several months, speculation has percolated from time to time the Councillor might be considering a run for Aurora’s top job. He says he is “flattered” by mayoral speculation, but will not rule it out.

“In that position, you have to be in the right place at the right time in your life, and I don’t know whether I am there or not,” he says. “I think I am going to have to think long and hard on what position I want to be in

for the next four years. I want to be [in the Council chamber] until the point I am not enjoying myself anymore and I don’t think I can contribute. I’m not there yet, I am still enjoying myself, and hopefully I am contributing in one capacity or another.”

Factoring into his decision will be his family. It is a big commitment, he says, adding he does not take his “presence” at Council lightly. Finding balance between his professional life and family is key before he likely makes his decision early in the year.

While he says he is still enjoying himself on Council, he has mixed feelings on the current term.

“I think we started off well, but I think at some point personalities started getting in the way of our town business,” he says. “Generally speaking, I found people turned off depending on who was speaking, not necessarily what they were saying, and I found that very frustrating.

“It’s pretty clear with some people around the Council table, unfortunately, when you say something they attack you personally rather than what you actually contributed to the discussion.”

Among the highlights of the Council term from his perspective is the establishment of Aurora’s Strategic Plan, moving forward with the Joint Operations Centre on Industrial Parkway North, as well as public engagement at the committee level. When asked if he had any goals he wanted to achieve off the bat when returned to Council with a mandate,

he said he does not find it particularly valuable to set specific goals.

“I didn’t go into the term saying I wanted to build a youth centre or implement something; it is always very focused on what is in front of me and making it the best it can be. I think the way Council sits, it is very tough for any one person to move a particular project forward,” he says.

Looking back on the term, however, one particular item he says he would like to hang his hat on is the new agreement between the Town and the Aurora Cultural Centre, something that “came out of a negative.”

“It remains intact and I put a lot of effort in to fight for that place,” he says. “I think it probably didn’t require the effort we put into it to get it where we are now, but it was something that I needed to be done that I didn’t really want to do and I didn’t think was really necessary, but I felt I had to contribute to making sure that place remained what it was.”

With little over 10 months left of the 2010-2014 Council term, Councillor Gallo says staying the course on the Cultural Centre remains on his to-do list here on out. Seeing through Aurora’s Cultural Master Plan is a top priority, along with bringing in a green procurement policy for giving greater weight to purchasing “green” at Town Hall, keeping his eye on the potential for a six acre park on Mavrinac Boulevard, and securing a place for himself on the board of the Aurora Cultural Centre.

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