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THE AURORED

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 12 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** **FREE** Week of January 12, 2010

Charity merging idea is still alive

The idea of three local charities sharing a single facility in Aurora lives on.

Negotiations are ongoing among the Aurora Food Pantry, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York and Hospice King-Aurora with Jim Irvine and his family, owners of the former Aurora Cable TV building on Industrial Parkway South, who want the threesome to move into the building.

The Cable building, which became home for Rogers when that firm took over the ACI business, is now empty.

Mr. Irvine told The Auroran in November that he "wanted to give something back to the community" when he and the family offered the structure to the three groups.

BBBS of York and Hospice King-Aurora are anxious to move (the former has run out of space in Newmarket and the latter is using space in Oak Ridges, currently part of the Town of Richmond Hill).

Aurora's Food Pantry, currently located in a basement on

Yonge Street, is conducting a survey to learn where its customers come from, and how they get to the Pantry on Saturday mornings.

Results of that survey are expected to be known by the end of January.

There are 14,400 square feet of space available in the building, but its location on Industrial Parkway is concerning some members of the food pantry.

The ACI building is located near Aurora's new community gardens, which had been located at the corner of Edward Street and Allaura Blvd. before they were forced to find a new home, when the property was listed for sale.

The gardens, located in the Aurora-owned Alliance Park, are made up of individual plots of land tended by local residents.

One of three such locations in York Region, the gardens are the responsibility of the York Region Food Network of which the Aurora Food Pantry is a member.



Ann Mortimer's display of umbrellas will be the first public showing at Aurora's refurbished Cultural Centre, better known as the Church Street School. The exhibit, entitled "The Great Umbrella Caper", will feature 30 handmade ceramic umbrellas made by the internationally recognized artist. The show opens with a reception January 27 and continues through February 20. More on the exhibit may be found on Page 3, and the Mortimer story is on Page 12.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Entertainment guru, Fabulous Flicks will close after 25 years

Aurora entertainment staple, Fabulous Flicks, is closing its doors at the end of this month, after a 25-year run renting films to local residents.

The move comes with the retirement of owners Craig and Sue Sayers.

According to Ms. Sayers, a number of factors influenced their decision to liquidate stock and close their doors once their lease in the Aurora Shopping Centre expires at the end of the month.

"I think the video business is going to change in the next few years," she said. "There are a lot of different ways people can get their movies now. I don't think anything has taken off yet, but...we just decided to get out while the going is good."

"Twenty-five years in Aurora is a good, long run and the town has been a very loyal and wonderful customer base."

Another contributing factor to the changing face of the video rental business is the relative cheapness and availability of DVDs for purchase, she said.

"A lot of things have changed in the nature of the business and places like Rogers and Blockbuster are big enough that they will probably be able to expand their business in other ways," she said. "That is not such an option for a small independent."

Ms Sayers said with a number of different developments in the industry, including the fast growing popularity of Blu-Ray, it is "really hard to stay ahead of the game".

Fabulous Flicks weathered changing formats from BetaMax to VHS, from Laserdisc to Blu-Ray, survived the growth of Blockbuster and Rogers Video, and watched the demise of about eight other independent video stores in town.

Last week, she and their 10 employees began the task of liquidating their stock, halting all rentals and offering their entire video and DVD library for sale to the public.

She said it was a "horrendous week" as long-standing, loyal customers came into the store expressing disappointment over the store closure.

Part 2

2009: the way it was in Aurora

One the town's most contentious issues in Aurora in 2009 kicked off on May 12, when local volunteer Sher St Kitts stood up in Open Forum and advised council she had a formal complaint against Councillor Evelyn Buck.

The allegations included placing unfounded suspicions on the Canada Day parade committee, and creating a poisonous environment.

The matter was put to recently hired Aurora Integrity Commissioner David Nitkin for review.

In early June, Aurora had an unexpected visitor, when a 200-pound black bear was discovered one morning in a backyard in the Wellington Street and Wells Street area. It was safely caught by Ministry of Natural Resources staff, and relocated out of town.

Later that month the town's three swim clubs, the Ducks, Master Ducks and Selkies, were before council battling for limited pool time at the Leisure Complex and Recreation Centre.

Fortunately, after some heated debate, they eventually agreed to work together to resolve this.

Early July saw the sod turned on the Region's new three-storey police building.

Under construction on Leslie Street, south of Wellington, it will house 450 employees when it is completed near the end of 2010.

Members of the Seniors' Centre were before Council in July.

Although the seniors had the ability to obtain and hold a liquor licence for their facility, they wanted the town to do this for them.

Although no one questioned the value of the role that the Seniors'

Centre plays in the community, council eventually denied the request based on concerns about liability issues, and that this might set a precedent, with other town groups asking for similar treatment.

Three months after the issue was raised about Councillor Buck allegedly making disparaging remarks about town staff both verbally and in her blog, Integrity

Please see page 13

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

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

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

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group sings about love, friendship, family, humour and brotherhood and meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Firehall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket .

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

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves home-made soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. weekly.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

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

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

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

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

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

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352 or 905-713-9356.

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

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

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

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

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the

Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

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

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Aurora Public Library invites you to an informal discussion forum, re. today's economy, with Roger Strong. Why the old rules may not apply; How to treat your RRSP and your debt. Mr. Strong has been in risk analysis, finance, investment and macro economics for more than 30 years. 7 p.m in the Magna Room. Free. Admission restricted to those 18 and over. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Service Canada, presents a free seminar on Retirement Pension, Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement. 7 to 8 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church in the Rectory (house east of the parking lot), 79 Victoria Street, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Write cards of support to human rights defenders. New members welcome. For more information call 905-713-6713.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with community agencies, presents five monthly parenting workshops between January and May, 2010. Each month will focus on a different topic geared to different ages. Register for one or all. Free. 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or phone 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

The Women's Centre of York Region holds its annual general meeting and volunteer recognition event this evening at the Church Street School Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, beginning at 5.30 p.m. Nominations for board positions close January 14. For more information or to confirm attendance (RSVP required by January 15) contact Kirsten Eastwood, Executive Director at 905-853-9270, extension 101 or execdir@wcyr.ca.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

White Heather Pipes And Drums and the Aurora Legion present their annual Robbie Burns' Supper at the Aurora Legion beginning with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Price is \$30. Tickets are available at the legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, 905-727-9932. Reservations will be taken for tables of eight or more.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Ontario Early Years, presents 'Beyond Bedtime Stories'. Learn how everyday interactions at meals, in the bath, and playing on the floor can be springboards to literacy success. For parents and/or caregivers of children up to six years old. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Picture Perfect: The Story of Black's Photography. Aurora Public Library hosts this book event. Meet Aurora author Marnie Maguire, and learn about one of Canada's most successful home-grown businesses. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

A PA day workshop, known as "how things were done", will be held at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Woodbine Avenue from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop, designed for children aged eight to 12, will have attendees participating in an assortment of hands-on activities, crafts, heritage cooking and traditional games. Pre-registration is required and participants must bring their own nut-free lunch. Cost is 32 if you're a museum member, \$40 if you're not. Call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337 for further information.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Young Victoria",

which chronicles the early and often turbulent years of a young girl who became queen of England. Barely 18 when she is crowned, she is vivacious, fond of parties, and prone to flirting with the gentlemen of the court. Sara Ferguson, Duchess of York, came up with the idea for the film and fought for more than a decade to have it made. Her co-producers are Academy Award winners Martin Scorsese and Graham King. Movie is shown at the Aurora Cineplex at 7 p.m. Tickets, at \$10, are available at Aurora Public Library or R & R Books on Edward Street.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

It's Family Day at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Woodbine Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2. Call 905-727--8954 or 1-888-290-0337 for further information.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents its Dessert Competition and Social Meeting at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, beginning at 8 p.m. All visitors welcome for \$2.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

The Dr. G W Williams Students' Council will host the second annual Spring Rummage Sale later this year. Stay tuned for details.



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Aurora's new Cultural Centre prepares for opening exhibit

Later this month, the Church Street School Cultural Centre will throw open its doors for its inaugural exhibition featuring Newmarket-area-based artist Ann Mortimer.

The exhibition, running from its opening reception on January 27 through February 20, is, according to the Centre's Executive Director Laura Schembri, the first in a string of events intended to give Aurora residents a taste of things to come.

"We're supporting and showcasing local artists," said Ms Schembri. "We're bringing a world-class artist to the people of Aurora...and providing a multicultural experience. We're not just presenting art; we're providing an experience that is a little bit different from anything that has happened here."

The exhibit, entitled The Great Umbrella Caper, will feature 30 handmade ceramic umbrellas made by internationally recognized artist Ann Mortimer.

The umbrellas are inspired by her travels

through China.

Ms Schembri, who joined the Cultural Centre after Ms Mortimer agreed to participate in the exhibition, said she was "thrilled" at the prospect of working with Ms. Mortimer on their inaugural project.

"I was gifted with Ann," she said. "Ann is a member of (Aurora's) Pine Tree Potters Guild which is located right next door in the Library. We have members who are on both boards so they knew of Ann living locally. She was approached and it is my understanding that she was quite happy to show in her home town area."

Ms Mortimer will be on hand at the exhibition every Saturday afternoon for the entire run of the show.

As this is the Centre's inaugural exhibition, they are pulling out all the stops to get the show off on the right foot.

"(Preparations) have definitely been a team approach," said Ms Schembri. "We've had an installation created to

house and mount the umbrellas, which is being made by a professional fabrication company. We've got Chinese musicians coming to the opening, women playing a lute and zither, and we've partnered with Annalisa (Asian Fusion Cuisine) to provide hors d'oeuvres."

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris will also be on hand to participate in what Ms Schembri described as "a formal Chinese ribbon cutting ceremony".

The exhibit will also be interactive for those wishing to participate.

Visitors will be able to learn about Ms Mortimer's artistic process through multimedia presentations.

On Saturday, January 30, visitors will also be able to try their hand at decorating hand-made paper umbrellas with traditional Chinese artists.

Visitors may reserve their umbrellas in advance by contacting the Centre.

Umbrellas are \$10 each, and money raised from the activity will be used to recoup money spent on hiring the artists.

The Great Umbrella Caper is the first of many things planned at the Cultural Centre this year, Ms Schembri said.

The Aurora Historical Society is mounting a travelling exhibition on prohibition which will open on January 30.

The Centre is also in the midst of planning activities for Family Day next month, as well as becoming involved with the Aurora Film Circuit and the Jazz Festival.

Future events include a Pine Tree Potters show in May, a "bass guitar boot camp" on July 28, and participation in Doors Open Aurora in August.

"Our goal over the next few months is to have (many) different types of offerings for the public so they get a feel for what might happen here," said Ms Schembri. "In the Fall, we will roll out a more traditional slate of cultural and instructional programming that people will actually register for, including lecture series, dances, film, and anything to do with music."



Welcome to Aurora. This is the sign that greets you when northbound drivers exit Highway 404 at Wellington Street (Aurora Road). The sign was installed recently. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*



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Nokiidaa Trail discussion continues at Centre Thursday

The ongoing debate surrounding the Aurora link for the Nokiidaa Trail system and the proposed Hadley Grange Nature Reserve will be brought to the fore again this week as facilitators, stakeholders, and interested residents gather for their second public forum.

The meeting, billed as the second "charrette", will be held Thursday at the Church Street School Cultural Centre from 6.30 pm to 9 pm.

It will comprise of a presentation regarding plans for the trail link, and a panel discussion including Aurora resident David Tomlinson, and representatives from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For some local activists opposed to any development alongside the McKenzie

Wetlands, it is hoped this meeting - a follow-up to the first "charrette" held at the Centre in November - will afford an opportunity to gain insight to some unanswered questions.

"What we've learned from the last meeting is that it is considered a significant wetland and what we're reading is we shouldn't be touching that space and that it is fragile," said Heidi Stoecklin. "I'm just so frustrated because we're giving all this time and energy into this and we don't even know what is going to happen yet."

Ms Stoecklin said she plans to present at the meeting 15 reasons why she believes the project should be scrapped.

"I just hope at the meeting we're going to be heard, accepted and received," she said. "I'm feeling like we're being pushed aside."

Robb Ogilvie, whose Ogilvie, Ogilvie & Company is facilitating the project, said this meeting will be an opportunity to present their "enhancement strategy" for the area.

He said his company has worked out "an environmentally sensitive trail alignment" that Fred Johnson and Mark Setter will be presenting to the panel and assembled audience.

Johnson and Setter, Mr. Ogilvie said, have taken into consideration comments that were received following November's meeting.

"We've told the panel they're not there to say, 'this is great and wonderful,'" said Mr. Ogilvie. "What they're there to do is say, 'here's what I like about what I saw (and) here's what I didn't like about what I saw.'"

Mr. Ogilvie said a roundtable discussion will follow

the panel presentation so everyone in the room can ask questions.

This follows the format adapted at the previous meeting.

During the last discussion, Mr. Ogilvie hoped that following their presentation, the audience would break out into small discussion groups, but that plan was hastily scrapped in favour of an open forum as everyone wanted their opinions to be heard.

"It deals with people's impatience to get at things and ask questions, and I don't want to stop that flow," he said.

The proposed trail will run through the west side of the McKenzie Wetlands on the north side of St. John's Sideroad, to connect with the recently completed Newmarket branch of the Nokiidaa Trail system.

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Look, maw, Yonge and Wellington without traffic lights. That’s the way it was decades ago when Yonge Street was better known as the King’s Highway Number 11, and there’s a sign on a post (right near the truck parked the wrong way on the street) to prove it. Many of the buildings seen in the photograph still exist on Yonge Street, albeit most have been updated. Gone from the scene are the Town Hall on the east side of the street,

at the corner of Mosley, and the water tower, which was once located in front of today’s Park Place Manor. There’s also a new five-storey building that has been erected just south of the old post office, the building with the clock on the top. This photo was found in a pamphlet about Aurora which called the place: A Town of Beauty and the Home of Healthy-Happy Families.



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Don’t like who’s running; here’s where you say it

I expect there will be a huge election in Aurora later this year.

All kinds of controversy has taken place in the last four years, and people, if you can believe blogs, are a tad upset.

For one, I don’t pay much attention to blogs, preferring to ignore them if I can.

Some people, I’ve been told, have not been all that kind to me, which is fine, but because I haven’t been told that in letters to the editor, phone calls or any other mode of communication, I can only assume it’s a very small group of people who participate in the blogs.

And, if they know that much about the way I run this paper, it can only mean they are reading it...which is what I want.

But I digress.

Assuming that hundreds, well maybe 20 or 30 people, will seek election this year, The Auroran will make a page(s) available for comments, should you feel so inclined.

My usual rule applies: You need to sign your letters, I must be able to print those signatures, and whatever you say, won’t put me in jail for libel.

In other words, I may not print your letter, but I’ll tell you why before I make that decision. So I need to know how to contact you. Submissions will NOT be accepted from declared candidates.

There is already one person in the race for mayor (my belief is there are more coming) and I expect there will be a plethora of people who want to run for council.

There are eight spots available and, hear this, you don’t have to vote for eight people if there aren’t enough qualified for the position in your mind.

When I ran for council several years ago, I would vote for myself, thereby collecting a possible eight votes.

If there was someone else who I liked, I would vote for that person, too, which meant each of us had four votes, etc., etc.

So, if you want to praise someone for seeking an elected seat, or if you want to chastise that person for making such a dumb decision, this is where you can do it.

Oh yeah, if you want to buy an ad for yourself or someone else, we’ll take those, too...and put them on those pages...

The ad department said I had to tell you that.

Here’s where I put the brakes on the rumour mill.

I am NOT running for council or mayor this time out.

My wife won’t let me...

Letter to the Editor

Trail opponents ready for meeting

To the editor,

Thank you, William Duthie, for your letter to the editor "Why can't public enjoy wetland, he asks" week of December 22.

Understand, Mr. Duthie, we appointed ourselves as stewards because our government is failing to protect our community's and nation's 'regulated' green spaces and our green spaces in general.

Your position of "want" in your letter seems to be the reasoning taken by supporters of the Nokiidaa Trail.

Your want is as valid as our want yet we have provided "15 reasons for concern" and you address only one argument.

This rebuttal has proven dangerous and detrimental to all which is not human throughout history.

It is inconsiderate, void of compassion, and lacks complete vision and duty to the children, youth and shows no respect for all life.

This perspective shows the choice that mankind has had since the beginning of time.

Doing an action because I want something verses questioning do I need it, has always been humankind's conscience choice.

Want and need are very distinct drives.

Want being characteristically a Western, consumeristic, materialistic quality of greed.

I want that chocolate cake, third cup of coffee, new phone, so I'll buy it and I'll satisfy my desire.

I'm guilty, I do this.

I try to lead a simple life, but at times, I lack discipline, restraint and give into temptation.

North Americans are exuberant, gluttonous, obscene consumers. We take too much when the rest of the world has so little.

We live highly and comfortably in Canada while the majority of humans on this planet go without.

I ask all readers who may agree with William Duthie, what happens when after we've taken all we wanted there is nothing left for what this generation of youth and children need?

Want generates a desire to own, to swallow, to control, a quality that came to the Americas with the colonizers rather than honouring the land, sky and sea by taking only what we need for survival and growth.

All cultures of all Indigenous peoples, throughout the ages have looked to Mother Earth with awe and held her in the highest regard.

They lived by the natural laws of giving and taking, offering gratitude and living respect.

For some reason, the dominating paradigm of rape (against will), conquer and war has controlled our decision making for much too long.

William Duthie, humans can't have/take everything we want just because we can.

Though it is our human right to have this wanting attitude, continually acting upon it without consideration of all life, will not lead

to human survival and species diversity.

For once can we show restraint, suppress our childlike desires and leave this small natural space undisturbed?

When do we say enough already?

For those who have not seen the McKenzie Wetlands, this is a very small, fragile area.

I realize that this is only a boardwalk but the long term repercussions of this project and potential for further development in this area is too threatening.

The Yonge Street route has yet to be fully debated.

Who says we need to expand the highway, anyway?

We wish to simplify life, our conjested roads and encourage real, active "Participation".

Essentially, whatever happens in this space should be decided by the people by vote wherein every citizen is made aware of both sides of this conflict.

The input of every youth, senior, adults of all professions are valid and must be recorded.

Even a child's opinion matters to us for they understand it is wrong to put a trail through a duck's living room and it is wrong to steal land.

We feel Aurora and

Please see page 8

THE AURORAN

“Aurora’s Independent Community Newspaper”

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Some required reforms

The new year is here and we can look forward to the upcoming Super Bowl, the Vancouver Olympics, and a long play-off run for our/my beloved Toronto Maple Leafs.

Okay - maybe not so long a play-off run by the Buds.

Okay, okay then, maybe no play-off run at all for the Leafs.

A man can dream, can't he?

Anyway, there is another fantastic sporting event that will take place later on this year.

It is the municipal election scheduled for Monday, October 25, 2010.

We do have one declared candidate for mayor thus far, in former Councillor Nigel Kean.

But there are a lot of questions out there, regarding this race, to wit:

Will the current mayor seek to retain the chains of office?

Will anyone from the present council run against her?

Will any currently elected politician at another level run against the mayor?

Will anyone "new" from the community run against her?

Questions/idle speculations regarding the current council:

How many of the eight will run again?

Will any of them run for mayor?

Last time out, 20 of our fellow citizens ran for council - how many will seek office this time?

Will former Councillor Grace Marsh run again?

If so, for what office?

Will any mayoralty candidate think about running with a slate of council candidates?

Lots to digest, but I am not going to try to answer any of the above this week; I will save this for some future columns.

An interesting sidebar to all this is the need for some changes to our municipal election laws.

One of our national newspapers published an interesting article last October by Robert MacDermid, a political science professor at York University, and a founding member of VoteToronto.ca.

Among the many reforms that he "deemed essential to make municipal elections open and transparent" are:

-The Minister of Municipal Affairs should change the law to prevent winning candidates carrying forward surpluses that give them a head start over challengers at future elections.

-The Minister should limit the number of contributions someone can make to five. The Professor offered an example where a certain Contractors' Association gave to 95 candidates (72 of them elected) in 10 municipalities in 2006.

-And he (the Minister) needs to close the most egregious of loopholes, allowing companies to pay employees while they work on campaigns without the expense being considered a contribution from the employer.

Along with the above, I also kindly suggest that we need to make another fundamental change at the same time as well - the introduction of term limits.

Napoleon is alleged to have once said that the battlefields are littered with the bodies of irreplaceable soldiers.

He could just have easily been speaking about modern day politics.

Since it seems that many public figures stay well past their "best before" date, we need to help the politicians help themselves.

Mandating term limits is one way to lend assistance.

This is especially important now that Ontario municipal council terms will be four years instead of three.

A councillor should be limiting to serving two terms. Mayors should also be limited to two terms.

If an individual becomes mayor after already having served two four year terms as a councillor, then he or she would have served 16 years by the time they are through.

This should be more than enough time to implement or achieve any legislative agenda that they initially brought to the table.

Public life is fundamentally about the nobility and selflessness of public service.

It should not be about longevity; it should simply be about service.

Taken together, the above measures might help to restore faith in our system and maybe even increase voter turnout.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Heard About Town

By David Heard

Powerhouse of spirit

I sat chatting with a young woman who was not chewing on a wad of gum and I became warmed by her infectious smile.

She is not big in size but she is large in stature in this community.

The more we talked the more I knew her fitness was with mindset also.

She was not a couch potato nor was she internet obsessed, however, she does love competitive ringette and loves to be active.

This activity, over the past five years, has included more than \$6,000 raised for cancer research and she is a powerhouse of spirit for Aurora.

Touched by several losses in her family this now nine-year-old has made her dreams come true by assisting others and it comes straight from the heart and her strong family love and support.

Her reflection on a few questions as to this passion

of hers is a message for all to turn an ear.

What does community mean to you?

"If a person is struggling we all need to stand up for them, One struggles; we all do."

If you could share only one message, what would it be?

"We should never see difference. Everyone is home here and if we see someone alone we need to reach out to them."

She added she practiced this at school and the student who was alone was actually playing hide and seek. I struggled to catch my breath from laughing with her.

After visiting with her and enjoying a shortbread together I was looking forward to her performance as an Oompa Loompa in "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory".

Students from Grades 3 to 8 from Recency Acres

Public School will take over the stage at the Newmarket Theatre February 4 and 5 at 7 p.m.

Alice is appropriately playing the number one Oompa Loompa and will be sharing many more positive messages to those in attendance.

Some messages have already been touched on in the opening of this inaugural column.

She has been doing this all her brief life and she has mastered being a tremendous citizen because she does not rehearse or act.

She performs from the heart.

I will look to her teamwork at a future ringette league game and I know she believes what Wayne Gretzky said, when he said, "you will miss 100 per cent of the shots you don't take."

That message does not have to be about sports and Aurora scored and won a champion with Alice Sandiford.

Letters to the Editor

To the editor,

T'was another dark night at a council meeting,
When all through the chamber was nary a greeting,
One councillor had quit, another hung out to dry,
When getting along should be what they try.
A replacement put in without an election,
Only served to promote a growing infection.

To attend a meeting is a sight to behold,
As seven raving councillors all in a row,
Disagree wildly and toss one in the hold.
With a driver charged up on power steering,
Maybe we need a public hearing,
As passengers worry about where they're heading,
Especially with all the town's bloodletting.

The expert hired for an eye to proceedings,
Was himself dismissed for not interceding,
When he found nothing wrong,
With free speech deemed too strong;
His report didn't cut the headmistress's grade,
So now his severance must be paid.

The election we had was full of promises,
But now we've been turned into doubting Thomases,
The chronic absence of manners and civil discussion,
Had even higher authorities notice the unction.
In lieu of respectful productive debate,
Everyone grew even more irate,
And the media ran with the story like bait.

As time went on there was so much commotion,
Taxpayers felt there was no devotion,
To important issues affecting the town,
As personal grievances looked for were found.
Money squandered on lawyers could be much better spent,
At this rate our assessments will have us all living in tents.

The taxpayers shuddered at the rates they all paid.
As property taxes kept being raised,
There's money for sports and lawyers too,
But in winter the older folk despair what to do,
For no sooner have they paid to clear out their drive,
The snowplow revs up and then swoops by.

Despite a summer full of rain,
We've short of water once again.
The road is flooded, who's to blame,
As construction rules the land,
With water and hydro in peak demand.
Yet permit revenue is reported as down,
So confusion prevails as renovations abound.
MPCA assessments are out of proportion,
Throwing homeowners into all kinds of contortions.

What about energy efficient homes?
They're out of reach no matter how many loans.
And drying laundry outside in the dust or snow
Only ruins the laundry, as everyone knows.

We need adaptable housing as we age,
Yet builders go on to announce their next phase,
Empowered by planners with impaired vision,
Does no one see we are in a collision.
We'll all grow older, does no one care?
The last thing we need is more acres of stairs.

And then there's the labyrinth in the centre of town,
It's called "Traffic Calming" but we can't get around!
It frays all our nerves, it's not calming at all,
Even bicycles grind to a halt and stall.
So much expense to keep us away,
It's more like a mutant video game.

You can't get in and you can't get out,
We're left, at best, shaking heads full of doubt.
Dante's circles of hell have arrived,
It doesn't matter at all how well you drive.
Abandon hope all ye who enter here,
You can be close to home but nowhere near.

MPAC assessments have run amuck
As overcharged victims are just out of luck.
The taxpayers need to mutiny
And council needs a referee
To ensure democracy
And more not less transparency.
Dismissals, deferrals, closed door meetings and spending
Just seem to go on without any ending.

Has council forgotten they work for us all?
Their loan on our patience (to say nothing of money!) should be called.
Too many promises made and broken
Make words cast about only empty tokens.
Has council forgotten we foot the bills,
We pay them so the coffers fill.
So why when tax collection is plenty
Does the town seem to be running on empty?
Since council can't seem to work together,
No progress is made, and things get no better.
Council has come completely undone,
It's past time we demand a complete refund.

No doubt to be continued....

Shelby Shepherd
Aurora

BBBS wishes supporters happy new year

To the editor,

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of York (BBBS) would like to

say Happy New Year and
express our gratitude to the
community for their support
of our agency throughout the

past year.
We welcome 2010 as it
will be our 40th Anniversary
year--thanks to the Aurora

Rotary Club that was our
founding organization in
1970.

There will be many
planned events to help us
celebrate and everyone is
invited.

This year we are going to
help more Kids than ever
before, make more friends
than ever before and raise
more money than ever
before.

How will we do this?

With the continued sup-
port of our Board of
Directors, our terrific team of
staff, our volunteers and, as
always, you the public who
stand behind us in all of our
endeavours.

The children and families
we serve join us to especial-
ly thank the volunteers and
mentors that make such a
difference in their lives.

Children who have been
in our programs experience
real and positive change.

To everyone, our sincere
wishes for a Happy and
Successful 2010!

Moragh Wolfe
Executive Director
Big Brothers
Big Sisters of York

He's disgusted with
Harper's arrogance

An open letter to MP Lois
Brown:

I am thoroughly disgust-
ed and infuriated at the
arrogance shown by
Harper's decision to pro-
rogate parliament.

Are you supporting that
decision?

Why is Harper behaving
like a tin-pot dictator and
cavalierly dismissive of
parliament?

Must I remind you that

yours is a minority govern-
ment and is beholden to
represent all Canadians -
not just a cabal of rogues,
hell-bent on retaining
power.

Must I also remind you
that your election was cer-
tainly not a majority, in this
riding which has changed
hands with each election.

Please explain to me
why you support the deci-
sion to prorogue, at this
time.

Has the work of parlia-
ment been completed?

If you do not support this
action, what are you pre-
pared to do?

Please do not show a
"Harper-like arrogance" by
responding "that your letter
is being taken under
advisement".

I want direct answers
from you--my representa-
tive in parliament.

James Onyschuk
Aurora

Ed. Note: A story
which appeared on Page
3 in last week's Auroran,
made it quite clear how
the Member of Parliament
felt about the decision to
prorogue parliament.

Probus club
says thanks

To the editor, Ron Wallace

On behalf of the Probus
Club of Aurora, I am writing
to you to express our
appreciation of the expo-
sure you have given to our
club in recent weeks in The
Auroran newspaper.

As you may be aware,
we have been active this
last year in an attempt to
increase our membership.

It stands at about 75 at
present but has been as
high as 90 in some past
years.

Our club is for retired
and semi-retired people, so
naturally we do lose a few
every year from age and ill-
ness, but what we have
found, is that many people
in Aurora, who could enjoy

joining us, have never
heard of the Probus Club.

In addition we do have a
rather strange name.

So that is what our man-
agement team is up to.

Raising the profile of our
club.

Thank you again for
helping us in our endeav-
ours.

Bob Staley
Chair, Speakers'
Committee
Probus Club of Aurora

Ed. Note: The name
Probus Club stands for
an abbreviation of
PROfessional and
BUSINESS. There are near-
ly 150 such clubs across
Canada.

MPs should refund
month's pay, he says

To the editor,

Contrary to the view of
Lois Brown, I'd say there is a
big problem "delaying gov-
ernment".

MPs are elected and paid
by the taxpayers to conduct
the business of government
in a legislative assembly.

If Stephen Harper shuts

down parliament for no com-
pelling reason except to
pack the Senate with con-
servative appointments,
then MPs of his party should
refund a month's salary.

This is called a "leave of
absence" in the real world.

John Connolley
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

We'll never give up: reader

From page 4
Newmarket could beautify this space and create a unique division between our towns without disrupting any nature.
The area to the south of the wetlands has the potential to become a really fun park.
That is, if the developers don't get to it first.
We understand there has already been proposals for condominiums in this

area.
We strive for a consensus, a means to solving citizen conflicts.
Consensus is a tool which has been lost in our present form of governance and has been dislocated through centralized Parliament and Legislature.
Achieving and ensuring a consensus is a crucial element to community decision making and citizen governance participation in

his/her local affairs.
For your information, Mr. Duthie, the group NAACSI has dismantled into a collective of individuals acting for the McKenzie Wetlands.
Besides the name is not appropriate presently, as this conflict of desire is no longer just a local issue and has become a Provincial/Regional concern.
So though we are nameless yet we exist on several different fronts. By the way, for interests, I do know an Auroran who does have a beautiful name for this area to be considered and I think the majority will agree. I'll ask him to share his idea for all to consider.
To end, I just wish to say that you ended your letter by calling us a "do gooder's group".
Thank you for declaring this title publicly because we are a 'do gooder group'.
I think all parents would agree "it's good to do good" and in this case it is good to act for those without a voice.
We care, Mr Duthie, about the animals, the plantlife, the future of all the world's children.
We will never stop caring. This is not just about us.
Ogilvie, Ogilvie & Company are holding the second charette on this issue Thursday, January 14, at 6.30 p.m. at the Church Street School Cultural Centre.
If you wish to show support for the animals and the McKenzie Wetlands, join us at 5.30 p.m to rally.
We'll never give up. Ever. Love heals all.
Oh yes, for the information of all. We have just found documents revealing a 'Regional Production Well' (single) in the wetlands area. What does this mean, anyone? We are wondering why Robb Ogilvie and the provincial, local experts and officials have not brought this to public attention yet? We will keep all posted.

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Heidi G. A. Stoecklin
David Philp
Aurora



In the photo are, left to right, Brian Hlus, Manager Intergovernmental Affairs, City of Edmonton; Natalie Bull, Executive Director, Heritage Canada Foundation; Robert Geldart, Heritage Planner, City of Edmonton; Douglas Köchel, Chair, Board of Governors, Heritage Canada Foundation; David Holdsworth, Heritage Planner, City of Edmonton; His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales; Richard Moorehouse, Executive Director, Ontario Heritage Trust; Carolyn Quinn, Director of Communications, Heritage Canada Foundation; Mayor Stephen Mandel, City of Edmonton; and Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris.

Where was the mayor from, he wants to know

To the editor,

Re: The Auroran, Volume 10 Number 7, December 01, page 3, "Prince Signs Plaque".

I read with interest that our mayor attended a reception in Toronto given by the Prince of Wales and the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Your article says she and "the mayor of St. John's, New Brunswick, were invited to the private reception".

There is a St. John's, Newfoundland, and a Saint John, New Brunswick, but no St. John's, New Brunswick.

Who was with Mayor Morris?

Andrew Lloyd
Aurora

Ed. Note: Here's how Mayor Morris responded: "We can confirm that the Mayor of the City of St John's, Newfoundland, was not with me and was

not at the ceremony. Although invited, he was regretfully unable to attend. We can also confirm that the Mayor of St. John, New Brunswick, was also not with me nor in attendance at the event. However, Douglas Köchel, the Chair of the Board of Governors, at the Heritage Canada Foundation is from St. John, New Brunswick, and he was in attendance and was inadvertently identified previously as the mayor."

To the editor,

Councillor Evelyn Buck (letter: Jan 5, concerning Nisbet Drive) ends "from a ringside seat, I will keep you informed".

Oh yes!
If I didn't read and attend Council Meetings, I may not know better.

The Town Council voted on the reconstruction of Nisbet Drive on December 8.

Listening to the proceedings, my first inclination was to be opposed to the proposed location of the sidewalk (the point of contention) on the grounds of cost.

Nevertheless after input from the staff on cost, safety, snow storage, etc., I changed my mind.

Obviously of more significance, seven of the eight councillors present at the meeting were satisfied with the responses to their questions and the motion passed by a (recorded) vote of 7 to 1.

The sole dissenter was Councillor Buck who continued to fight on in her blog and in the January 5 letter.

Judging from other meetings, minutes of meetings and her political blog, this is Councillor Buck's style.

She is not a person to compromise.

The problem is that compromise is necessary to

avoid deadlock on bodies like town councils.

It's also part of a democratic process, whereby the decision of the majority is recognized. Nevertheless, what concerns me most is that a person needs to compromise to be able to change their opinion in the light of new information.

Councillor Buck seems to have an alternative strategy, namely, fight on.

This may keep Councillor Buck occupied, but it's harmful to our Town.

When Councillor Buck says "ringside seat", she seems to forget why she was voted to council.

She asked Aurorans for their votes.

She didn't pay them for a ticket to a circus, although if anybody has put on a show, it's Councillor Buck.

The real problem seems to be that Councillor Buck is averse to compromise.

As with Nisbet Drive, an entrenched uncompromising adversarial Councillor Buck just fights on.

In this light, there's something quite bizarre about Councillor Buck's offer to keep us informed.

It's a bit like the wolf promising to keep the shepherd informed from the fence.

Oh Yes!

Charlie Street
Aurora

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Former Olympian comes home for CHATS

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran staff

When Mara Jones crosses the finish line for CHATS' (Community Home Assistance To Seniors) Run to Whistler fundraiser, the event will be a homecoming of sorts for the Aurora-raised Olympian.

Ms Jones lived with her family in Aurora until she began studying at McGill University at 19.

At McGill, she was first introduced to the sport that would take her to the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

"I have always been sort of athletic, doing mostly cross-country run-

ning, soccer, and things like that, she said. "When I got to McGill I wanted to try something different; varsity sports were sort of repetitive in terms of what I had already done. Rowing had a novice team and I got hooked the second I started rowing."

Ms Jones said she found rowing to be an ideal sport for her because it had a large team and a "good atmosphere".

"It is competitive, but very collegial," she said. "At every level there is always that sense of community and it's the kind of thing you can keep doing as you get older. Maybe that is why there is such a

good feel about it because... it offers something for everyone."

Now living in Toronto and studying orthopaedic surgery at the University of Toronto, Ms Jones is currently doing her residency at Sunnybrook Hospital.

Ms Jones said she first came to learn about CHATS when she received a call from the group asking her to lend her name (and her feet) to the fundraiser.

After learning about the group and the event, Ms Jones said she did not hesitate to become involved.

"I thought it was a really great idea just to keep

people active," she said. "Sometimes people just take exercise as a separate part of their life, and it sounds like (CHATS) is trying to incorporate it into everyday activities so it makes it more accessible."

The CHATS fundraiser, called Run/Walk to Whistler is a two-event endeavour comprising of a 40-kilometre walk and a five-kilometre run. The Walk starts on January 17 and concludes with the run on January 24.

According to CHATS, the combined kilometres accumulated by participants will equal the distance from CHATS' Aurora headquarters to Whistler.

For Ms Jones, exercise is not simply a separate part of her life.

Her time as a rower didn't stop with mere dabbling on McGill's varsity team, but it became an integral part of her life.

"Any time you have a passion for something, it is hard to let it go," she said.

Upon moving to Toronto after finishing up at McGill, she said she was winning enough rowing trophies that she decided to push herself to "the next level".

By 2004, Ms Jones won the 2004 Rowing World Cup in Switzerland and then the 2005 World Championship in Japan.

She also represented

Canada at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Coming in eighth despite being ranked number one going into the race, Ms. Jones said although it was a disappointing experience she has mixed feelings about the event.

"(The Olympic experience) is hard to wrap up in a small sentence," she said "It's different for everyone, but for me it was...you've kind of reached the pinnacle of your sport and you're there competing. What strikes you most when you're there is you realize how great it is to compete for your country."

"I think when you get caught up in day-to-day training you don't really realize how many people are supporting you, even if they don't really know you. People who have never seen you before are all of a sudden cheering you because you're representing your country."

Not one to rest on her laurels, Ms Jones is now adding orthopaedic medicine to her list of accomplishments.

Medicine, she said, has been a longstanding interest of hers and she is particularly drawn to the surgical aspects of the field.

"It's hard to pinpoint why you are drawn to one

specialty over another but I just like doing things with my hands and the surgeries are very innovative and creative," she said.

"Just the idea of trying to return (patients) to function is one of the things that struck me about orthopaedic surgery. People are not always acutely ill but have something that is limiting them (in) their everyday life. You can never replicate human body perfection (but) you are still able to give somebody back their quality of life, which is really cool."

When her residency is complete, Ms Jones said she is looking forward to having a slightly less hectic schedule so she can give more of herself back to her community and perhaps to Canada's future Olympians.

"I haven't been able to do a lot as a representative of sport," she said. "I did a couple of talks after I came back from the Olympics at elementary schools and high schools to talk about my experiences and motivate people to continue in sports no matter their level."

"Sport is really important no matter what level you try to achieve because it helps you develop skills you can take not just with in sport but in work and life."

Chief is guest speaker at Probus Club meeting

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge will address the Aurora Probus Club's monthly meeting at the January 13th gathering.

The meeting will be held at the Legion Hall on Industrial Parkway North, which is set to begin at 10 a.m.

Chief La Barge is expected to speak at 11 a.m.

The public is welcome to attend.

Chief La Barge's policing career has been in York Region, from 1973 when he

started as police cadet, through to his present position.

He will provide an overview of YRP, including organization as well as the major thrusts of police activity.

His list of credentials includes Past President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, graduation from the FBI National Academy in Virginia, the Schulich School of Business Masters Certificate in Municipal Management and his

recent investiture as an Officer of the Order of Merit.

Chief La Barge's presentation includes a 15 to 20-minute question and answer period.

The Probus Club is a group of retired Professional and Business people - with a strong thrust toward fellowship, social activities and monthly speakers.

If you have questions or need further information please call Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.

Neighbourhood Network toy drive success, she says

Neighbourhood Network's 2009 Toy Drive was a huge success, according to administrator Linda Potter.

She estimates Neighbourhood Network received hundreds of toy

donations which, she said, is "far and above the response from 2008".

Most toy donations received by the group were made anonymously, she said, but the Network expressed special thanks

to, among others, the Aurora Seniors' Centre Dance Committee, participants at the recent Neighbourhood Network open house, Hadley Grange resident Gail Van Wolde, and Don and Kathy Constable.

Proceeds from the toy drive were distributed to the Aurora Food Pantry, CHATS, the Aurora Lions Club, the Optimists Club of Aurora, Inn from the Cold, the Women's Centre of York Region, and a number of other groups throughout York Region.

Aurora seniors' duplicate bridge

Monday, Jan. 4: N/S - Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Carol Gordon and Brenda Smith; Lucille Sequeira and Mitzi Brown. E/W - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Ed Werenich and Joe Badali; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman.



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Town Hall Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2010
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Aurora Town Hall
Council Chambers

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All are welcome but presenters will need to pre-register.
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House League

105 St. Louis Blue Timbits 8 - Sam MacLeod 1G 2A, Curtis Manley 2G, Jackson Galbraith 2G 3A, Carson Tidd 1G, Carson Klein 2G 3A, Justin Just 1A. **108 Philly Orange Timbits 6** - Nolan Michelberger 3G, Nathan Mohabeer 1G 2A, Cole Nip 1G 1A, Sammy Alicandri 2A, Johnathan Avgousti 1G, Clayton Hodgson 1A.

106 Pittsburgh Black Timbits 9 - Brett Pearce, shutout, Liam Mahoney 3G, Owen Papulkas 2G, Harrison Bennett 5G, Matthew Cowl 1G, Michael Pantalone 1G 1A, Brandin Harris 1G 1A, Zachary Grant 1A, Dereck Avery 1A. **104 Los Angeles Purple Timbits 0.**

107 Pittsburgh Powder Blue Timbts 10 - Joe Badali 1A, Andrew Scott 1G, Ethan Joiner 2G 1A, Evan Lajoie 1G, Jace Jackson 2G 2A, Justin Hicks 2G 1A, Hunter Edwards 2G, Mitchell Weatherall 1A, Griffin Charnley 1A, Stefan Fazari 1A. **103 Toronto White Timbits 7** - Gianluca Santocono 1A, Colby Jackson 1G 1A, Riley Klugerman 4G 1A, Christian Romas 1A, James Sproul 1G, Evan Ramasra 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Anton Sopov 1A, Graham Woodcock 1G.

101 Florida Red Timbits 8. 102 Boston Gold Timbits 5.

202 St. Louis Blue Caravan Kids 3 - Aaron Preiano 1G, Austin Martin 1G, Andrew Schaus 1G, Nathan Smith 1A, Sean Kiah 1A, Brandon Urman 1A. **205 Florida Red Caravan Kids 3** - Aidan Graham 2G, Garrett Kohler 1G, Brian Turner 1A, Riley Harris 1A, Nicholas Makhlouta 1A, Patrick Buffa 1A.

203 Boston Gold Caravan Kids 4 - John Dol 1G 2A, Jacob Lopez 2G 2A, Christopher Siarkas 1G 1A, Cristian Franze 2A, Michela Venosa 1A. **201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 2** - Alexander Iaboni 1G, Cameron Lang 1G 1A, Cody Fisher 1A.

202 St. Louis Blue Caravan Kids 4 - Austin Martin 1G, Aaron Preiano 2G, Jonathan Gianforcaro 1G, Andrew Schaus 2A, Gian Luca Racanelli 1A. **204 Toronto White Caravan Kids 3** - Ryan Funston Clarke 3G, Tommy Collins 1A, Daniel Babcock 2A.

201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 9 - Alexander Iaboni 3G 4A, Mason Brown 1G, Cameron Lang 5G 1A, Coulton Ives 1A. **205 Florida Red Caravan Kids 2** - Anthony Miranda 2G, Joseph Kuchcicki 1A, Aidan Graham 1A, Garrett Kohler 1A.

203 Boston Gold Caravan Kids 3 - John Dol 2G, Jacob Lopez 1G 1A, Francesco DeBartolo 2A, Christopher Siarkas 1A. **205 Florida Red Caravan Kids 0.**

204 Toronto White Caravan Kids 5 - Giuliano Iervasi 1G, Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G, Eric Flicker 1G, Andrew Breau 1G 1A, Robert Kniss 1G, Daniel Babcock 1A, Mason Barone 1A, Carson Purcell 1A, Ryan Funston Clarke 2A. **201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 2** - Cody Fisher 1G, Matthew Flanagan 1G, Chris Barnett Alexander Iaboni 1A.

401 Florida Red Chouinard Bros. 6 - Reese Crevelle 2G 1A, Ethan Jeries 1A, Sean Anderton 1G, Matthew Lancaster 1G, Dylan McFee 1G, Will Reid 1G. **411 Colorado Burgandy Danny's Boys 2** - Dylan Clark 1G,



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



Results to Sunday, January 10

Brendan Dodd 1A, Andrew Negri 1G, Josh Hookey 1A.

809 San Jose Teal 2 - Matthew Pelkola 1G, Austin Boudreau 1G, Harris Riopelle 1A, Gavin Matheson 1A, Owen Nisbet 1A. **812 Dallas Kelly Green 1** - Matthew Reynolds 1G, Matthew Roach 1A.

805 St. Louis Blue Orr & Associates 2 - Nick Moffatt 1G, Thomas Scougall 1G 1A, Cody Mulhern 1A. **803 Toronto White AHPA 1** - Liam Devlin 1G, Bailey Miller 1A, Christopher End 1A.

806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 6 - Eric Bulloch 3G 1A, Brian Pedron 1G 3A, Brendan Elliot 1G 2A. **802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 3** - Quinn McGowan 3G, Matthew Foschia 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1A, Alex Seto 1A, Scott Cosentino 1A.

808 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 4 - David Roberts 1G 2A, Russell Johnson 1G 2A, Scott Wheeler 1G, Joey Stel 1G. **813 St Louis White 1** - Morgan Walker 1G, Dylan Sutton 1A.

801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 2 - Andrew Boehmer 1G, Andrew Walter 1G, Michael Tanel 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 1A, Ben McGowan 1A. **804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 1** - Mark Pressaco 1G, Alexander De Blasis 1A, Luc Martineau 1A.

811 Colorado Burgandy 1 - Josh Lawlor 1G, Andrew Kaszuba 1A, Tyler Indos 1A. **810 Los Angeles Grey 1** - Collin Laird 1G, Lucas Marek 1A, Ryan MacMillan 1A.

904 Los Angeles Purple 4. 906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 3.

902 Boston Gold CW Coops 3 - Daniel Whitley 3G, Eamon Reilly 1A, Wade MacFarlane 1A, Miles Mundingier 1A. **903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 1** - Ryan Rival 1G.

901 Florida Red Aurora Chyrsler 3. 905 St. Louis Blue 0.

905 St. Louis Blue 1 - Nicholas Theodoropolous 1G, Stephen Canterrutti 1A. **903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 0.**

901 Florida Red Aurora Chyrsler 2. 904 Los Angeles Purple 0.

906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 7. 902 Boston Gold CW Coops 1.

Rep League Games

Clarington Toros 5. Tyke Select A 1 - Samuel Morin 1G, Josh Lombard 1A.

Pickering 5. Tyke Select A 0.

Unionville 2. Tyke Select B 2 - Christopher Marton 1G, Justin Hicks 1A, Jace Jackson 1G, Jonathan Gagnon 1A.

Stouffville 7. Tyke Select B 1 - Jace Jackson 1G, Christopher Marton 1A, Jake Piper 1A.

Newmarket 2. Novice AA Tigers 2 - Evan Pringle 1G, Malcolm Johnston 1G,

Orillia Terriers 7. Novice A Tigers 1 - Jason Gage 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Andrew Park 1A.

Novice AE Tigers 3 - Anthony Iacovetta 2G 1A, Jack Patterson 1G, Owen Romano 1A, Hunter Wong, shutout. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 0.**

Novice AE Tigers 2 - Justin Harbaruk 1G, Evan Robertson 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1A, Kyle Fowler 1A, Warren Hill, shutout. **Innisfil Winterhawks 0.**

Barrie Colts 2. Minor Atom AA Tigers 0.

Minor Atom AE Tigers 12 - Luke O'Keefe 1G, Peter Chimienti 1G 1A, Jason Langdon 2A, Stephen Silverio 2G 1A, Fin Reeves 3G 1A, Carter Wilmsmeyer 2G 1A, Scott Rumble 2G 1A, Nicholas Vamvakartis 1G 2A, Adam DePiero 1A. **Markham 2.**

Barrie Colts 4. Minor Atom AE Tigers 2 - Fin Reeves 1G, Carson Yeomans 1A, Braden Reid 1A, Luke O'Keefe 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A.

TNT 1. Minor Atom AE Tigers 1 - Peter Chimienti 1G.

Atom AA Tigers 2 - Brady Futterer 1G, Brennan Young 1G, Morgan Frost 1A, Kyle Rice 1A. **Markham 1.**

Richmond Hill Stars: 2. Atom AA Tigers 2 - Colin McGoldrick 1G, Kyle Rice 1A, Max Goldman 1A, Morgan Frost 1G, Katerina Dajia 1A.

Barrie Colts 2. Atom AA Tigers 2 - Morgan Frost 1G, Katerina Dajia 1A, Jack Liotta 1G, Brady Futterer 1A, Andrew Sergejewich 1A.

Atom A Tigers 4 - Jordan Torres 2G, Jennifer Steenhorst 1G, Kyle Rice 1G, Alex Wyndham-West 1A, Clayton Allen 1A, Thomas Kostoff 1A, Eric McGhie 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1A, Lucas Dane 1A. **Nobleking 2.**

Atom A Tigers 8 - Eric McGhie 3G, Kyle Rice 2G 1A, Colin McGoldrick 2G 2A, Jordan Torres 1G, Alexander Simardone 1A, Jordan Torres 1A, Reid Carpenter 1A, Jennifer Steenhorst 1A. **Nobleking 2.**

Barrie Colts 4. Atom A Tigers 3 - Alexander Simardone 1G 1A, Reid Carpenter 1G, Colin McGoldrick 1G.

Minor Peewee AA Tigers 2 - Keegan Matthew 1G 1A, Cameron Morrison 1G 1A, Patrick Servideo 1A. **Markham 1.**

Markham 3. Minor Peewee AA Tigers 1 - Jack Pecora 1G, Jared Brown 1A.

Minor Peewee AA Tigers 5 - Keegan Matthew 1G, Patrick Servideo 1G, Cameron Morrison 1G 2A, Alec Magnante 1G, Jack Pecora 1G, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Austin Pringle, shutout, Anthony Orlandi 2A. **Georgina 0.**

TNT 2. Minor Peewee AA Tigers 0.

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 5 - Michael DaCosta 1G 1A, Charles Bennett 1G, Tyler Williams 2G, Michael Jollimore 1G 1A, Adam Caicco 1A, Connor Downs 2A. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 1.**



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Newmarket 4. Minor Peewee AE Tigers 4 - Christian Arcuri 4G, Jeffrey McKay 1A, Michael DaCosta 3A, Nicholas Sansalone 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A.

Peewee AA Tigers 5 - Austin Riswick 1G 1A, Matthew Leroy 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1A, Andrew Klinowski 1G, Adam Newell 2A, Braeden Kublick 1G, Nathan Romanchych 1G, Chris Klinowski 1G, 1A, Ross Benn 2A. **TNT 1.**

Peewee AA Tigers 5 - Nathan Romanchych 1G 1A, Hudson Yeomans 1G, Matthew Leroy 1G, Nicholas Papousek 2A, Jake Appleby 1G, Adam Newell 1G, Chris Klinowski 1A. **Barrie Colts 3.**

Minor Bantam AA Tigers 4 - Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, John MacDonald 1G, Brett Thiessen 1G, Konner McMillan 1G, Shadoe Storm 1A, Liam Coll 1A, Nick Scott 1A, Blake Wallace 1A, Nic Delzotto 1A, Spencer Green 1A. **Markham 1.**

Minor Bantam A Tigers 6 - Paul Neophytou 3G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 1G, James Johnston 2A, Connor Cowl 1A, Zac Cowl 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G. **Quinte 3.**

Newmarket 7. Minor Bantam AE Tigers 5 - Kyle Nice 1G 3A, Scott Kostin 1G, Kyle Strachan 3A, Ben Goldman 2A, Harrison Smith 1A, Nathan Sinclair 3G 1A.

Bantam A Tigers 4 - Hayden Trask 2G, Quincy Ing 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G 1A, Daniel Fiori 1A, Kyle Fedec 1A. **Caledon Hawks 1.**

Toronto Royals 5. Bantam A Tigers 3 - Andrew McDonald 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1G, Matthew Pryse 1A, Jonathan McConnell 1A, Daniel Fiori 1A.

Bantam A Tigers 5 - Ryan Baskin 2G 1A, Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Quincy Ing 1G 2A, Daniel Jones 1A, Braden Casselden 1G. **Southpointe 4.**

Stouffville Clippers 2. Bantam A Tigers 2 - Quincy Ing 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G, Eric Damecour 1A, Kyle Fedec 1A, Hayden Trask 1A.

Richmond Hill Stars 2. Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Zach Ferry 1G, Peter Sandwell 1A.

Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Casey Severini 1G, Chris Cherubini 1A, Andrew Stobbe, shutout. **Richmond Hill Stars 0.**

East Gwillimbury Eagles 9. Minor Midget A Tigers 1 - Marco Ghegin 1G, Ryan Hughes 1A.

East Gwillimbury Eagles 4. Minor Midget A Tigers 2 - Dylan Woyslaw 1G, Mackenzie Wooder 1A, Brett Wilson 1G, Matt Melito 1A.

Nobleking 7. Minor Midget A Tigers 2 - Brendan Beresford 1G, Josh Klinowski 1G.

Bradford 3. Minor Midget A Tigers 1 - Brendan Beresford 1G, Mackenzie Wooder 1A.

Minor Midget A Tigers 3 - Alex Woodward 1G, Brendan Beresford 1G 1A, Marco Ghegin 1G, Graham Loney 1A, Matt Skoulikas 2A. **Barrie Colts 2.**


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Monday night hockey standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Rec Cycle N' Sports	12	1	2	74	41	26
Highland Chev - Cadillac	8	2	5	59	43	21
Baldwin's	7	7	1	54	58	15
Law Insurance Brokers	7	7	1	45	63	15
Tom & Jerry's	5	7	3	56	53	13
Masterclean Contracting	4	9	2	47	59	10
Priestly Demolition	3	7	5	55	61	11
FPL Aggregates	3	9	3	44	47	9

WEEKLY RESULTS

Law Insurance	5	Rec Sports	6
FPL Aggregates	4	Masterclean	2
Baldwin's	6	Highland Chev	6
Priestly Demolition	6	Tom and Jerry's	5
Rob Blakley, Tom & Jerrys	21	11	32
Mark Swirla, Priestly	17	15	32
John Andersen, Rec Sports	13	13	26
Ed Kilroy, Rec Sports	17	5	22
Craig McConnell, Masterclean	13	7	20
Tom Hussey, Masterclean	6	14	20
Doug Adair, Rec Sports	11	8	19
John Archibald, Highland	9	10	19
Paul Gibson, Highland	9	10	19
Ed Jackson, Baldwins	6	13	19
Ken Fisher, Highland	11	7	18
Sam Speranini, Tom & Jerrys	10	8	18
Steve Kavanagh, Baldwins	9	9	18
Mark Lemmon, Rec Sports	9	9	18
Scott Thomas, Tom & Jerrys	3	15	18
Stephen McDonald, Law Insurance	6	10	16
Mike O'Connor, Priestly	6	10	16
Dwayne Smith, Law Insurance	5	11	16
Alain Boudreau, Highland	4	12	16
Peter Briand, Baldwins	6	9	15
Julian Dalcin, Rec Sports	5	10	15
Gerry Mackrell, Rec Sports	4	11	15
John Leader, Law Insurance	10	4	14
Paul Wolanski, Law Insurance	4	10	14
Al Perkins, Priestly	6	7	13
Tom Webster, Tom & Jerrys	5	8	13
Mark Sedore, Priestly	7	5	12
Steve Robertson, Masterclean	6	6	12
Ken Heinrich, Rec Sports	1	11	12
Ron Thiessen, Tom & Jerrys	1	11	12
Gerald Briand, Baldwins	8	3	11
Don Nichols, Law Insurance	7	4	11
Rob Stroud, Masterclean	6	5	11
Brett Vickers, FPL	2	9	11
Bill Collings, Tom & Jerrys	1	10	11
Scott Shepperd, Rec Sports	1	10	11
Ken VanNoort, FPL	6	4	10
Brad Wilson, Tom & Jerrys	5	5	10
Dave Calverley, Law Insurance	4	6	10
Todd Richardson, FPL	4	6	10
Ken Rumble, Highland	3	7	10
Kevin O'Keefe, Rec Sports	5	4	9
Glen Bince, Masterclean	4	5	9
Bob Ince, Rec Sports	3	6	9
Steve McBurnie, Priestly	3	6	9
Phil Podstatzky, Priestly	3	6	9
Dan Smith, Baldwins	3	6	9
Hugh Alcorn, Masterclean	2	7	9
Patrick Davies, Priestly	2	7	9
Steve Riswick, Tom & Jerrys	2	7	9
Craig Gellatly, FPL	7	1	8
Frank Balkovec, Baldwins	5	3	8
Jason Hurlbut, Rec Sports	4	4	8
Jason Muise, Rec Sports	3	5	8
Ron Van Noort, FPL	3	5	8
Deryk Preston, FPL	2	6	8
Brian MacKenzie, Priestly	1	7	8
Brandon Chappel, FPL	7	0	7
Scott Crabbe, Highland	4	3	7
Jerome Flanagan, Highland	3	4	7
Hank Van Bakel, Highland	3	4	7
Marty McDermott, Masterclean	2	5	7
Les Nip, Highland	2	5	7
Dennis Tonello, Baldwins	2	5	7
Bruce Ing, Law Insurance	1	6	7



The first place finishing Atom AE team in the Aurora Minor Hockey Association is shown here. They are, front row, left to right, Matthew MacDonald and Stefan Saccucci; next row, left to right, Jacob Cann, Jack O'Keefe, Jared Duthie, Ryan Lewis, Eric Pears, Joel Woodcock and Kyle Wulle; third row, left to right, Ian Reynolds, Andrew Sutherland, Matthew Nitsopoulos, Ariz Bhimani, Andrew Warner, Aydin Metel, Curtis Romanchych and Stewart Gable. In the top row are, left to right, Assistant Coach Bill Warner; Head Coach Dave Reynolds; Trainer Mike Lewis and Coach Nick Nitsopoulos.

Win over Markham gives AE Atoms 1st place finish

The Atom AE Aurora Tigers finished in first place during their regular season with a 2-1 win over Markham Saturday.

Finishing the seasons with a record of 26-3-1, the Atom AE

team has had a very successful season.

Backed by defence lines of Ariz Bhimani, Aydin Metel, Matthew Nitsopoulos, Ian Reynolds, Curtis Romanchych

and Andrew Warner; goalies Matthew MacDonald and Stefan Saccucci kept goals to just 25 in the 30-game season.

Equally impressive are the forward lines of Jacob Cann, Kyle Wulle, Andrew Sutherland,

Jared Duthie, Eric Pears, Ryan Lewis, Jack O'Keefe, Stewart Gable and Joel Woodcock.

Among them, they scored 164 goals in the regular season, averaging more than five goals per game.

Aurora Tigers split two in showcase

Stefan Dumaresque was in goal Saturday as the Aurora Tigers won their first game of 2010 with a 2-1 victory over the Brampton Capitals in the OJAHL Showcase tournament in Collingwood, but they couldn't do anything the next day against the powerful Oakville Blades in the same tournament,

They lost to the second-place team 6-1 and stayed tied for sixth place in the standings race with Villanova.

Saturday, neither Brampton nor Aurora had their best stuff during their 12:30 game - at least in the first period - as both teams had trouble making plays that worked.

Fortunately for the Tigers, Dumaresque was ready, turning away several chances and goal-mouth scrambles in the first period to keep the Capitals off the board.

Meanwhile, his teammates weren't faring any better as they had trouble solving the Brampton defence to go to the first intermission tied at zero.

It took two minutes in the second period to finalize the game.

Lucas VanNatter finally broke the goose eggs when he buried a rebound off an Alexi Pianosi shot.

Just over a minute later, Greg Cerilli's back pass gave Sloan Stewart enough time in front of the net to score the eventual game winner.

Just over 30 seconds later, Brampton scored its only goal of the game.

The third period saw both teams with good opportunities, but neither side could score.

Sunday night, still in Collingwood, Aurora could not handle the Oakville Blades as the opposition scored early and often in a 6-1 thumping.

Aurora mounted some early pressure from the opening face-off but it didn't take long for the momentum to shift as the Blades scored two goals in the first ten minutes and went to the intermission with a 3-0 lead.

A powerplay goal in the second put the Blades up 4-0.

The Tigers finally found the net on a powerplay early in the third when Matt Chiarantano's point shot eluded the Blades goalie.

The Tigers challenge was short lived as the Blades restored their four goal lead less than a minute later. The Blades had one more before the game was done, sending the Tigers home with another 2010 loss.

The Tigers now return to Collingwood to face the Blues this Friday evening, January 15th, and then head to Huntsville to face the Otters Sunday, January 17th.

Aurora's next home game is Friday, January 22nd at 7.30 p.m. when they host the Georgetown Raiders.



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Some of the Aurora Panthers Atom AA players visited the Leacock Care Centre in Orillia recently. Included are in the middle row, left to right, Jasmine Grant, Lauren Ianni, Alison Martin, Makenna Graham and Calista Liotta; in the bottom row are Ali Iwai and Nicole Shaw. Bottom left is Zach Grant, brother of Jasmine. The team raised \$1,012.92 for the Second Wind Dreams organization. They visited with the three dreamers, left to right in the back row, Pat Neale, Vivien Marret and Jean Prittie for whom their efforts helped to make their dreams come true.

Aurora swimmers shine at meets

The Aurora Selkies Swim Club sent 32 swimmers to the Marilyn Bell Swim Classic Meet at the Etobicoke Olympium recently.

Competition was fierce but Constantine Sasarman managed to pull off a first place in the boys 11 years 100 metres Individual Medley.

Other top place swimmers included Daniel Berezovski, 11, second in the 100 metres Individual medley, third in the 50 metres freestyle and 100 metres backcrawl and Lucas Durante, third in the 15 and over 100 metres breaststroke.

The Selkies next scheduled meet will be January 16 and 17th in Pickering.

Meanwhile, the same weekend, Ducks Swimming sent their youngest swimmers to Markham to participate in the Alex Baumann Invitational.

The team was led by 10-year-old Victoria Bridges with three gold, a silver and a bronze medal and Grace Harris, 9, with a gold.

Other medalists included Marcha Koren, 11, and Kathryn Minkhorst, 13.

The number of medals at this meet does not speak to the outstanding improvement made by all swimmers, said coach Reg Chappel.

"These swimmers moved up from the bottom of the entry list to many fourth, fifth, and sixth positions," he said. "We are looking forward to the New Year when many of these young swimmers begin to win their medals."

Unexpected letter led to umbrella career

By BROCK WEIR
Auroran staff

It was the receipt of an unexpected letter that led Newmarket-based artist Ann Mortimer on a journey that would define a large part of her career, a letter that would take her on an odyssey through an exotic land that she would never get out of her system.

"Quite literally I walked down the hill one day to get the mail," she said, looking to the hill from the top floor window of her Dufferin Street studio, "and there was a letter asking me to come all expenses paid to Beijing to do a conference."

Ms Mortimer said she had no hesitation taking them up on their offer.

But when she got to China's capital, she discovered her speaking engagement had been cancelled. Undeterred, this setback proved to be an opportunity.

"I was darned if I was going to leave without seeing something of China," she said.

Through planning her aborted conference lecture, she met a young man named Jian Sheng Li, and he ended up being her unlikely companion on her three-week trek through the country.

"He spoke no English, and it was quite an adventure," she said. "For three weeks I didn't see another Caucasian person or hear a word of English."

But the two ended up doing an impromptu lecture circuit on their trip.

Ms Mortimer said she found Mr. Li had phoned ahead to several of their destinations and somehow she would find herself in front of an audience showing her slides.

"He would be standing beside me, talking away," she said. "I would say something, then he would say something, so obviously he was interpreting what he saw (on the slide) because he couldn't understand what I was saying."

This experience left Ms Mortimer with a love for China and its rich cultural and artistic heritage.

She has returned to the country seven times over the last two decades, both on a personal level, and as an invited artist to a place called Foshan with 25 other international artists.

It is her love for - and the influence of - China that will bring Ms Mortimer's work to the Church Street School Cultural Centre this month for its inaugural exhibition, "The Great Umbrella

Caper."

The exhibit will feature 30 ceramic umbrellas Ms Mortimer created, inspired by her travels in China, and the experimentation with materials for which she has become renowned.

Ms Mortimer said she first got the inspiration to create the ceramic umbrellas - something which, to her knowledge has not been attempted before, except in miniature - on a visit with other international artists to Sambao, which dubs itself the "blue and white porcelain capital of the world."

There, they visited an umbrella factory she describes as a "big barn", yet "was just an explosion of colour."

"[The umbrellas] had been covered with paper and different artists would paint a pattern on them," she said. "So when the sun was slanting just into this room, it was citrus, lemon, soft tangerine, pink, violet, turquoise... it just absolutely overwhelmed me and visually it was such a delight."

Ms Mortimer said she couldn't get this sight out of her mind.

Despite warnings from other artists, like Mr. Li, saying it simply couldn't be done, Ms Mortimer pressed

ahead with her idea to create highly decorated ceramic umbrellas.

The task, she said, did prove labourious, but after considerable trial and error with fellow artists and assistants in China, and a few false starts, they eventually perfected the process.

When she tackles making new umbrellas, she does so in China, where there are no interruptions.

For her work as an artist, to increase international awareness of Canada's arts scene, Ms Mortimer was awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson in April, 2000, and invested as a Member the following February.

Ms Mortimer cites this as her proudest professional achievement.

It is a long way to come for someone who, as a high school student, focused on music and had no interest in visual art whatsoever, and for someone who has donned many hats ranging from being a nurse to a flight attendant.

Before moving to Newmarket, Ms Mortimer said she played the flute and piccolo, but, with two sons running around, this turned out to be an imprac-

tical hobby.

But still needing something to do, she joined Kingcrafts, where people working with clay caught her eye.

"At that point I never had any drawing experience and for some reason painting didn't attract me at all," she said. "Maybe it has a lot to do with texture. I'm not good at removing material from something. I'm good at adding material but if you give me a block of stone I would have a hard time figuring out how to attack it."

She said she practiced at Kingcrafts for a number of years, but found she wasn't "going anywhere."

"You were there for two hours a day and you hardly got started, then it was time to finish and you were never there at the right time to put a handle on a mug or trim a foot on a bowl," she said. "So I started working with a graduate of the Ontario College of Art."

Ms Mortimer said she would eventually travel to Toronto five days a week to work before moving on to study ceramics at Georgian College.

She also joined the Aurora-based Pine Tree Potters Guild, which would eventually put her in touch with the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

"I was starting to feel quite isolated (and felt I) was missing opportunities to hear other artists speak in particular," she said on joining Pine Tree, which has monthly guest speakers.

Pine Tree board member Cathy Harris recommended Ms Mortimer to the Church Street School Cultural Centre, which jumped on the opportunity to feature her work.

"They're pulling out all the stops," said Ms Mortimer. "Lucky me! I think it should be fun."

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2009 revisited by Auroran

From page 1

Commissioner Nitkin released his report.

It stated that the complaint was "ill-informed, incomplete, and inappropriate" and suggested the way it was brought forward "may be, and may be seen to be, wholly political".

Six days later, following a closed door session of council, the Integrity Commissioner was fired.

Although there was some opposition because the allegations had not been proven, council subsequently approved a statement to be placed on the Town's Notice Board and website until the municipal election in the Fall of 2010 that council had legal advice that, contrary to Mr. Nitkin's report, the complaint was well informed, complete and appropriate.

Whether the issue has any merit, or what the response will be, would have to wait until a new integrity commissioner is hired in 2010.

Later that month the first of a series of anonymous and controversial ads from the Coalition for a Better Aurora appeared in The Auroran.

These questioned how well the current council was managing the town, and sought candidates who could run in the election next year to help defeat the mayor and several specific councillors.

The Coalition continued to stir up controversy a few months later when it suggested that the town had spent more than \$750,000 on legal fees since 2007.

Council was immediately on the defensive, explaining that only a part of that amount was for outside legal advice.

Fortunately, there was more to summer in Aurora than politics, as the town

continued a number of popular events, including the World's Longest Street Festival on Yonge Street, the July 1st celebrations, Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, Doors Open and Ribfest.

In late August, Drive Test employees, who issue drivers' licences for the province, began a province-wide strike. In Aurora, about 20 staff walked out over concerns about job security, seniority and safety.

At the end of the year it was announced that they would return to work in January.

PowerStream began to switch to Time of Use pricing using smart meters.

In this new process, electricity rates would be reduced in off-peak times, including evenings and weekends.

In late September, despite several months of grassroots efforts within the community to keep it open, the York Region District School Board voted 12-2 to close Wells Street School.

An appeal to review this decision was subsequently put forward by concerned citizens to the Minister of the Education.

While things didn't look good for the 117-year-old building, an even older structure in town got at least a temporary reprieve when council deferred a decision on the fate of the 165-year-old Petch House, which could cost more than \$400,000 to repair.

A more well-used piece of history was in the news in mid-October when the 70-year-old railway bridge over Yonge Street south of Henderson Drive was replaced over a weekend.

One of the final gaps in the Nokiidaa trail got a little closer to completion, as the town continued efforts to complete a missing 500

metre segment from St. John's Sideroad north to a section being completed in Newmarket.

However, there was some opposition to the plan from area residents who felt the proposed location of the link between the McKenzie Marsh and Hadley Grange might negatively impact on the marsh and related ecosystem.

In mid-December council announced that the recently completed town budget would result in a tax increase of just 1.8 per cent on the average home.

On December 18 the Olympic Torch run passed through Aurora on its way to Vancouver. Three Aurorans participated in this leg of the run.

In a surprise move, King Township Mayor Margaret Black announced that she was stepping aside as Liberal candidate for Newmarket-Aurora in the next federal election, leaving the door open for a possible run by former Aurora mayor and nominee Tim Jones.

Years after it was initially proposed, and 16 months after it was approved by council, the Aurora gateway sign was finally installed at Wellington Street and Highway 404.

Those are some of the highlights of what happened in Aurora in 2009.

With a number of issues outstanding and an election on the horizon, 2010 should prove to be just as interesting.

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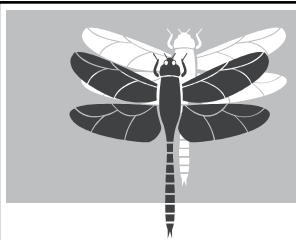
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The Rotary Club of Aurora played Santa Claus before Christmas, handing out cheques to Lorna Rummenie, second from left, from the Aurora Food Pantry, Cora VandeBeek of Trinity Anglican Church's Welcome Table, Susan Doyle of Welcoming Arms, and Pastor Brian Bishop of the Salvation Army. Making the presentation was Rotary President George Gonsolves, left. Each guest explained what their organization does and what major obstacles they are facing in Aurora.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Senior Scape ASA has new programmer

By BRIAN WARBURTON

A warm welcome is extended to Michelle Stermer who will serve as the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) Seniors Programmer.

Michelle was employed in the Recreation and Culture department with the City of Vaughan and has additional experience in Universal Studios in Toronto.

The ASA has been well served in the past by excellent town staff, and Michelle will now find herself among seniors, who as a group, strive to develop new ways to employ time in a high quality manner.

She will fit into this group with a foundation of vigorous and purposeful ideas that she will develop further, while building on the great mass of existing senior events.

An emotionally stimulating opportunity has emerged for the Knotty Knitters of the Aurora Seniors Association and Northern Lights Public School, to collaborate in teaching pupils of Grades 3 and 4 to knit, which is a cottage industry at which the Knotty Knitters excel.

The purpose of the collaboration is to form a union between the school and the ASA, which in turn will reach out to an orphanage in Africa, through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and supply the orphanage with blankets produced by the pupils.

The potential for good works to be produced by Aurora students, and to be delivered to young African children is positive and real, while the realization of the good work by our children will be filled with empathy and with the understanding of the needs of orphaned children in Africa, to the finest degree.

To bring this collaboration to fruition, the ladies of the Knotty Knitters Group must first teach the students to knit, which is a good thing in

itself.

But to do this, supplies of wool and yarn are required by Northern Lights Public School, to allow this fledgling project of Aurora's willing youth and generous matrons of the ASA, to forge a meaningful partnership.

Effectively, supplies of wool will provide the fuel to fire this initiative to completion with all of the necessities of materials and good people, young and elderly, cooperating to generate a made in Aurora, heart warming success.

The Knotty Knitters continue at this time with their own long term project, supplying Southlake Hospital with toques and blankets and also require supplies of wool and yarn to maintain their output.

Northern Lights Public School is located at 40 Bridgenorth Drive in Aurora.

Contacts at the school will be principal Bernadette Smith Price and teacher Jodi Coulton, and they will be thrilled with every bit of help offered.

Rozlin Laber is the contact at the ASA and is always receptive to the help offered by willing hands and supplies of wool, and can be reached at 905-726-2332.

Rozlin and her team have been supporters of Southlake Hospital for a long time, and many a needy newborn has gone home sporting a handsome handmade toque, made in the ASA by the Knotty Knitters.

The computer room is up and running with a group of dedicated volunteer teachers, who offer, Computer Basics, Word Processing, Computer Graphics using MS Publisher, Computers in a Nutshell and Create a PhotoBook.

Assistance to choose a course is available at the

Drop In sessions on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon.

If you have never used a computer or feel inclined to start again at the beginning, take the computer basics and be assured that the vast majority of seniors of all ages who take these courses and persevere, succeed.

The Wednesday afternoon January 13th, general meeting to which everyone is welcome including computer beginners, starting at 1.30 p.m. for approximately one hour, has the Mac User Group led by Herb Koller.

This has switched places with What's New in computers, monitors and computer components, presented by Asus, now on January 20th. So those two dates are a switch from the January Newsletter text.

If the question, who wants to create a Digital Travelogue, was asked at a computer club meeting, a virtual forest of hands would be raised in the affirmative.

The indefatigable Tom Yates will oversee this program.

The Dance Committee has a Friday Night Dance scheduled for January 15th and a Robbie Burns Pot Luck Dinner Dance for January 29th.

For the Pot Luck, bring mashed potatoes, turnip or peas and the Dance Committee will provide the rest of the dinner. Haggis will be piped in.

If you wear tartan clothing to the dance of any description particularly a kilt, you will provide a visual depiction of what proud Scottish people once considered normal attire.

I am sure there will be bagpipes present at the dance and tartan and pipes together may illustrate the powers of music and attire.

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TheAuroran.com Marketplace member, Lenard Lind of L. H. Lind Realty Ltd., right, presents his free draw giveaway, a \$100 gift certificate to Aqua Grill restaurant in Aurora, to winner Tim Jones. L.H. Lind Realty Ltd., is located at 15105 Yonge Street, Suite 100 in Aurora, two blocks south of Wellington on the east side.

Cupid and Psyche

Winner

Cupid and Psyche - FREE DRAW



TheAuroran.com Marketplace member Teresa Cook and Cupid & Psyche, in the St. Andrews Plaza, Aurora, present David Santos, winner of the free giveaway—with the prize of a \$165 cozy, Ralph Lauren cream cape sweater.

ShermanJ Studio

Winner

ShermanJ Studio - FREE DRAW



TheAuroran.com Marketplace member Judy Sherman of ShermanJ Studio, recently presented Steve Taft, above, with his free draw giveaway prize—an original oil painting by fine artist and teacher, Judy Sherman, located on Temperance street in Aurora.

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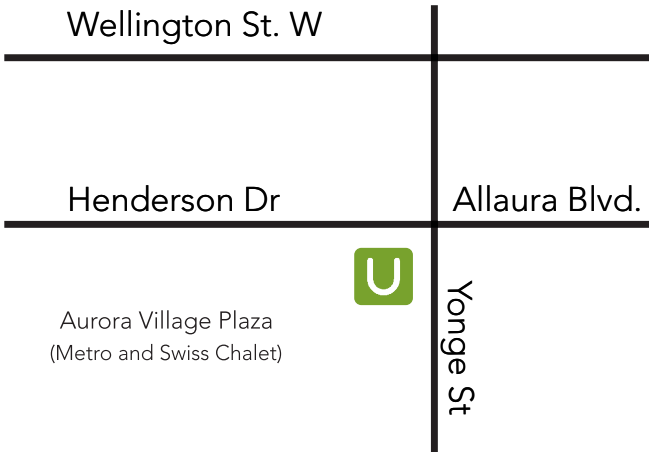
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