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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of March 16, 2010



Crowds were immense Sunday at the Aurora Public Library as Pat Jarosz, right, looked for potential models and actors. A girl who has experience in dance, singing and modelling, Robyn LeLacheur, left, was looking to advance her career in those fields. Ms Jarosz selected the library as her venue for her search and quickly the room filled with eager model and actor hopefuls.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

GO routes will survive if Klees gets his way

If MPP Frank Klees gets his way, GO Transit will find a way to keep two planned cancelled runs going.

Mr. Klees, the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora told the Legislature Thursday he was calling on Metrolinx and GO Transit "as well as YRT/Viva to rethink this decision, to stop in their tracks and to ensure that these two very important lines of transit are continued".

The two lines in question affect Aurora riders and people attending York University.

The two routes affected are the 62 Newmarket B GO Bus service between Newmarket and York Mills,

and the 64 Newmarket York U GO Bus to York University.

Mr. Klees was host of a public meeting last week that drew more than 300 people, and forced him to move from an overcrowded room in the Aurora Town Hall to the Skylight Gallery on the top floor.

"And it was still crowded," he said.

As a result of the meeting, Mr Klees provided that those in attendance had factual information concerning the potential cancellation of the two GO bus services.

"The information about the cancellation of those routes began to trickle out to riders of those two services

over a period of time, and it was very soon that that trickle became a torrent of e-mails and calls to my office," he told the Legislature Thursday. "The reason for that is that as my constituents, those who use that bus route, that Yonge Street line, on a daily basis to either make their way to work or to York University, for many institutes and faculty, began to do the calculation as to what the impact of the cancellation of those two bus routes means to them. The calculation is that for most of those riders it means an increase of some \$85 and more per month. On a daily basis, it translates

Please see page 13

Ward system would be implemented in 2014

Aurora inched closer to considering the implementation of a ward system on the October 25 ballot Tuesday as council approved the public consultation framework.

The move to include a ballot question on whether Aurorans would like to see council determined by a ward system was put forward by Councillor Stephen Granger earlier this year.

The question sparked debate in the council chambers with the fine details on the question being debated and hammered out at the table.

The public consultation framework as laid before councillors in a report by Town Clerk John Leach includes a public open house Wednesday, March 31, followed by

a "statutory town hall meeting" Tuesday, April 6.

Finally, a special general committee meeting is slated for Tuesday, April 20.

March 31's open house replaces a previously scheduled public planning meeting.

In addition to the town hall meeting, citizens will also be able to submit their comments, concerns, support, and criticisms to the Town online.

"It is proposed that staff would make a presentation and that [a] discussion paper be provided for information," said Mr. Leach in his report. "The discussion paper would be posted on the Town's

Please see page 13

Briefly

Popular Auroran dies

Life-long popular Aurora resident Joan Shaw died on the weekend after a long battle with cancer. The wife of Harry Shaw, Joan served on numerous committees and organized and led programs for young people.

She was on the board of the Aurora Food Pantry and served as a volunteer when the Pantry was open.

A life member of Theatre Aurora, Joan is survived by four children and eight grandchildren. Funeral details may be found in this week's classified section on Page 14.

Try this drink

Ever had a "Punch In The Dark" mocktail?

You get your chance Saturday, March 27, when the Aurora Cultural Centre presents "Earth Hour Unplugged".

The evening gets underway at 7.30 p.m. and continues until 10.30 p.m.

Included in the entertainment for the evening are the Aurora High School jazz band and a musical set by Aurora's Gregg Lawless.

Also on the agenda is storytelling in the dark with actress Tanja Jacos and a living drum circle with Robin Armstrong.

Activities take place in the recently-restored Church Street School and all you'll need is a flashlight.

Tickets - purchase them in advance by calling 905-713-1818 - are \$15 for an adult; \$40 for a family up to five people and \$10 for a youth.

The price includes the mocktail, but there will also be a cash bar available.

Closed to move

The Aurora Food Pantry is on the move.

As a result, it will be closed Thursday evening, March 25, while volunteers put the finishing touches on its new location in the former Aurora Cable Internet building at 350 Industrial Parkway South.

After several years of serving people from the basement of Aurora's old post office on Yonge Street, the Pantry will open in larger quarters on the main floor of the ACI building.

The Pantry expects to be open for business at its new location Saturday, March 27.

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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 barbershop 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.

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

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 keepsing@rogers.com

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

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390

Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

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

The Lions Club annual pancake breakfast takes place at Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-6079. Sat. and Sun. March 27 and 28th as well as on Good Friday, April 2 and Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4. Further information 905-727-6079

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with community agencies, presents five monthly parenting workshops until May. This month's workshop deals with disobedience and is for parents/caregivers of children ages 2-12 years. It's free. 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

The Aurora Historical Society presents Heritage in Aurora, a symposium bringing together the various organizations in Aurora with a commitment to culture and heritage. Speakers Include Jennifer Steen, Curator/Manager for the AHS and Hillary House; Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre and member of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee; Mai Al Nabhan, manager of Heritage Planning and Urban Design for the Town of Aurora; and Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Customer and Circulation Services of the Aurora Public Library. Meeting takes place at the Aurora

Cultural Centre on Church Street beginning at 7.30 p.m. For more information, go to www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25
Learn about printmaking and the Pop Art style of the 1950's with programmer Erin Wynn at the Aurora Public Library. This program is for children ages nine to 14, costs \$6. and happens between 7 and 8 p.m.

The Aurora Food Pantry will be closed this evening due to moving.

MARCH 25-28
Daffodils are among the first flowers to emerge from the recently defrosted ground. The arrival of spring marks the beginning of the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days campaign. Bunches of daffodils will be available for \$7 each or \$12 for two. Volunteers will be selling daffodils at a variety of locations around Aurora including the LCBO, grocery stores and hardware stores across town. For more information call the Canadian Cancer Society Holland River Unit 905-830-0447.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
Monte Carlo Night at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Lounge entertainment by Joe Simpson. Refreshments and prizes. Members \$26 and non- members \$29.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
The Aurora Cultural Centre presents "Earth Hour Unplugged" beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 10.30 p.m. Plans are to be entertained by the Aurora High School Jazz Band; storytelling in the dark with actress Tanja Jacos; a Living Drum circle with Robin Armstrong; and a musical set by Gregg Lawless. The event takes place in the newly-restored Church Street School and all you need is a flashlight. Tickets are \$15 for an adult; \$40 for a family up to 5; and \$10 for youth. Price includes light refreshments. There will be a cash bar. Purchase tickets in advance by calling 905-713-1818.

The Aurora Food Pantry opens at its new locaton, 350 Industrial Parkway South, at 9 a.m. It will be open until 3 p.m.

MARCH 27 AND 28
Aurora Lions Club annual pancake breakfast takes place at Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street in Aurora presents the 90-male voice Tri-City Gospel Chorus at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Pancake Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m Vandorf Community Centre - 14663 Woodbine Avenue. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children. For further information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337.

MONDAY, MARCH 29
The Aurora Community Arboretum is having its annual "Meet and Greet" meeting in the Holland Room at the Aurora Town Hall beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend and hear what progress has been made in the arboretum and what the plans are for 2010. A brief Annual General Meeting forms part of the evening. New members may sign up at the meeting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
Aurora Public Library says the search is on for The Next Great Canadian Writer. A group will meet the last Tuesday of each month to write chapter by chapter, month by month, the first draft of a novel, a book of poems, or a memoir. A prize will be awarded to the winner of The Next Great Canadian Writer challenge. The Next Great Canadian Writer challenge is mentored by Aurora author Marrie Maguire. Program is available for writers between the ages of 12 and 17. The meeting will occur in the Marjorie Andrews Room from 7 to 8 p.m.

APRIL 2-4
Aurora Lions Club annual pancake breakfast takes place at Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Good Friday, April 2, Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4. For further information call 905-727-6079.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
A Buddhist Seminar, called "A Life Philosophy for the Happiness of Humanity" will be held in the Newmarket Public Library multi-purpose room, 438 Park Avenue, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 8.15 p.m. Admission is free for the event which is presented by Soka Gakkai International Association of Canada. For further information, call Donna Daly in Aurora at 905-726-8074.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10
The Upper Canada Chordsmen, with members from Aurora and Newmarket, present a "Sentimental Journey", a musical journey from the 1900's to the present, featuring the musical flavor of each decade. Show will be held twice at the Newmarket Theatre; a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7.30 p.m. evening performance. For tickets phone 905-953-5122.

Yoga class at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street from 1.45 to 3.15 p.m. for all levels. Bring a mat if possible. \$10 min. donation to support Amnesty International's human rights work. For information, call 905-476-6535.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
A Buddhist Seminar, called "A Life Philosophy for the Happiness of Humanity" will be held in the Newmarket Public Library multi-purpose room, 438 Park Avenue, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 8.15 p.m. Admission is free for the event which is presented by Soka Gakkai International Association of Canada. For further information, call Donna Daly in Aurora at 905-726-8074.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20
"Shop Like the Planet's Watching!" The Aurora Public Library presents a free, instructive presentation with The York Region Environmental Alliance and York Region. Presentation begins at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

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For York Region recycling depot hours of operation, please visit www.york.ca/waste or call toll free 1-877-464-9675.





Volunteer John Sargeant unloads shelving from the back of truck as the Aurora Food Pantry readies itself in its new location, 350 Industrial Parkway South. On the weekend, volunteers moved food from a church at Wellington and Victoria, once used as a storage facility for the current pantry in its crowded Yonge Street basement location. Pantry will not function Thursday, March 25 and hopes to open in its new location Saturday, March 27.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

OMB to hear Catholic presentation over fees

The Town of Aurora is heading towards a hearing with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) over an ongoing dispute with the York Catholic District School Board over lands used in the construction of Aurora's St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School.

"During the course of the development process, the Appellant [York Catholic District School Board] was informed by the Town that a payment in the amount of \$413,553.95 for cash-in-lieu of parkland was required before a building permit could be obtained," according to an OMB decision dated October 8, 2009. "While it is the Appellant's position that this amount is too high, the aforementioned fee was paid, under protest, such that the development of the site would not be delayed."

The decision scheduled five days starting March 22 to hear

the Catholic School Board's appeal.

The date is still on track, and the hearing will be held at the Town Hall, according to Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper.

While Council went into closed session on March 9 to discuss matters regarding this case, only Councillor Evelyn Buck voted against the bylaw pertaining to the closed session matters.

"[The York Region Catholic District School Board] came and said they didn't think the town should be taking money from them, they were already paying and I supported that argument," said Councillor Buck in explaining her opposition to the Catholic District School Board having to pay cash-in-lieu.

"It is the same pocket. They have to take it out of the pockets of the taxpayers to put it in the town treasury," she continued. "They're not a profit making

organization. They're not commercial. They're an agency that taxes the same people that we tax, so these people are being taxed twice.

"I did a bit of digging and Richmond Hill doesn't charge cash-in-lieu of schools. They have a bylaw which states the exemptions of the cash-in-lieu

charge... and people that are not in the profit sector don't pay cash-in-lieu of parks, so I supported that and I never agreed with charging them cash-in-lieu, and I am still of the same mind."

"We're looking to resolve [this issue] as quickly as possible in the best interest of the taxpayers," said Mayor Phyllis Morris.



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Salvation Army pays tribute to Town's Christmas efforts

The Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle drive was a success, according to Brian Bishop of Salvation Army Northridge, who personally thanked Town staff for their support last week.

"This past Christmas, the Town of Aurora actually surpassed the previous year in terms of the amount of dollars and resources that were given to us during the Christmas season," said Mr. Bishop. "I believe it was somewhere in the area of \$32,000 and, as you can see, the

resources are used to be able to support those in our communities [and] be able to provide assistance when required. It is certainly our pleasure to be able to be a part of the Aurora community."

The Salvation Army Kettle program and the Town of Aurora have a long-standing relationship of more than 20 years, said Mr. Bishop.

In his 20-year experience with the organization, he said he has yet to find "any other municipality that actually supports us to the degree the Town

of Aurora has".

"The treasury department actually counts the cash that comes in," he said. "[We were told that] the staff of the Treasury department actually did this over their lunch hour and sacrificed their lunches to be able to do that, and \$32,000 is a lot of money to count!"

In her reply to Mr. Bishop, Mayor Phyllis Morris paid tribute to former Aurora Mayor John West, who laid the groundwork for this ongoing relationship.

"I know it was always something that was near and dear to his heart and since that time progressive councils have come on and we have always supported this," said Mayor Morris. "It was our pleasure and honour as well."

"Councillor McRoberts stepped up to the plate as the liaison for that and we thank him for his participation. This year Neighbourhood Network

also stepped in and helped with the volunteerism, and I know the Treasury staff did go above and beyond."

While Mayor Morris accepted a token of appreciation from Mr. Bishop, levity broke out in the chamber as councillors joked about their personal participation in the kettle program.

"I just wanted to point out to Mr. Bishop the real reason we really got as high as \$32,000 was that Councillor McRoberts, Councillor Granger, and Councillor Gallo, and Mayor Morris actually sang Christmas carols in front of the liquor store on Bayview Avenue, and, boy, did that bring in money," said Councillor Al Wilson.

"We should add that someone actually put a \$100 bill in [the kettle] and I think we thought it was to stop us from singing!" added Mayor Morris as she returned to her seat.

Aurora woman leads Bell presence at mayor's address

Aurora's Colette Nemni, Senior Vice President and Head of Human Resources for Bell Canada, introduced Mayor Tony Van Bynen at the annual Newmarket mayor's luncheon recently.

The event was held at the Glenway Golf and Country Club.

The mayor outlined his plans for the town for 2010 in front of more than 100 local business and political

leaders.

Ms Nemni, once a lawyer for the York Region District School Board, not only connected with the mayor at his table, she also made sure everyone there was aware of the role Bell played in enabling more than three billion people worldwide to enjoy the recent Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Room too small, 300 commuters move upstairs

It's hard to believe but Frank Klees made a mistake last week.

He organized a meeting Tuesday night to see if he could straighten out the confusion caused when GO Transit announced they would cut two runs.

Nothing wrong with that, but the location of the meeting was a huge mistake.

He booked the Holland Room at the Aurora Town Hall thinking there would be enough room for everyone.

Wrong.

Eventually, the 300 people who showed up for the meeting were moved upstairs to the Skylight Lounge on the third floor, and "it was packed", Frank told me the next day.

When I got there at 7 p.m. - the sign in the front lobby said Frank had the room beginning at 7.30 p.m. - people were already lined up to get in.

I bravely pushed my way past the first group, then stood in front of the room for several minutes before realizing the line wasn't going anywhere.

The room was full.

And so was the parking lot.

Aurora Council should have been taking notes on how to attract people to their meetings.

Granted I was late getting there, but that, too, can be blamed on GO.

Seems a train from Toronto had just arrived which caused all sorts of traffic headaches as the people who don't know yet that the GO parking garage is open, flew out of their parking spots in an effort to get home.

That tied up traffic at Berczy and Metcalfe and Berczy and Wellington.

A pox on all the drivers who want to turn left from Berczy onto Wellington, but then again, I guess that means you're not allowed to live in the west side of town and be a commuter.

Given the number of cars on Wellington, perhaps it's time for traffic lights at that intersection.

Bus drivers, too, are supposed to stop at all level crossings, and that doesn't do much for traffic flow.

Getting to the Town Hall was a fun event...and, of course, by the time I arrived, the place, and the parking lot, were packed.

The meeting was organized by Klees in response to concerns that the changes will increase the cost and travel time for commuters.

The two routes affected are the 62 Newmarket B GO Bus service between Newmarket and York Mills, and the 64 Newmarket York U GO Bus to York University.

Klees said most of the people at the meeting were from Aurora and Newmarket.

"I'm hopeful that this meeting will clarify the proposed changes and reassure commuters that any changes to transit services will neither increase costs nor add to the commute time," he said. "If that is not the case, I expect that both GO Transit and YRT will revisit their plans."

Representatives from GO Transit and YRT attended the meeting, but it won't be the last one for the MPP.

He has already invited the head of Metrolinx Rob Pritchard, to meet with representatives from GO, YRT and himself to continue discussions.

At least one commuter was not impressed with the possibility of losing the bus route.

Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakis, who uses the system to get to her full-time job at York University, told me Wednesday that the plan was "unbelievable".

What now takes her 42 minutes to get to the university, will take her more than an hour if the changes come into effect.

"We have to take Routes 98 or 99 to Bernard, then transfer to another bus to get to York," she said.

"But the people who will really feel it are the ones who live in King. There is no way they can get to York."

She said the move, which is scheduled to take place April 25, will drive most commuters "back to their cars".

Alison paid tribute to Frank for organizing the meeting and said she has received several e-mails from people who were there who thought he did a good job of running the meeting.



These two photographs were taken from the out-of-print book called "Aurora - Its Early Beginnings" copywrited in 1963 by James Johnston, then editor and publisher of the Aurora Banner. The top photo shows the first Aurora Council in 1863. Aurora was a village then, and became a town in 1888. Members included, left to right, Councillors Robert Boyd, George Stevenson, Reeve Charles Doan, clerk Charles Yorke, and Councillors Seth Ashton and James Holliday. Below is a shot of Yonge Street, taken in 1916 when the clock tower was "new". That building, then Aurora's post office, was built in 1914. Also in the photo is Banbury's Livery on the west side of the street, the Metropolitan railway tracks, that ran up the centre of the yet-to-be-paved street, and Dr. Stevenson's house on the east side, presently occupied by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Dr. Stevenson's daughter Betty currently lives in Oak Ridges and was at one time the Minister of Education for the province of Ontario.

Letter to the Editor

Reader bitten by phony email

To the editor,

I responded to this email (below) - all the links looked real!

I have spent all day cancelling cards and speaking with banks and credit people (Equifax) because this was a fraudulent e-mail and identity theft.

These criminals are really good!

My bank called as there was a suspicious wire transfer to Italy (???) Thank goodness they were on the ball.

So, dear friends, please learn from my experience and know that banks do not send e-mails. Please warn all your friends and family.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

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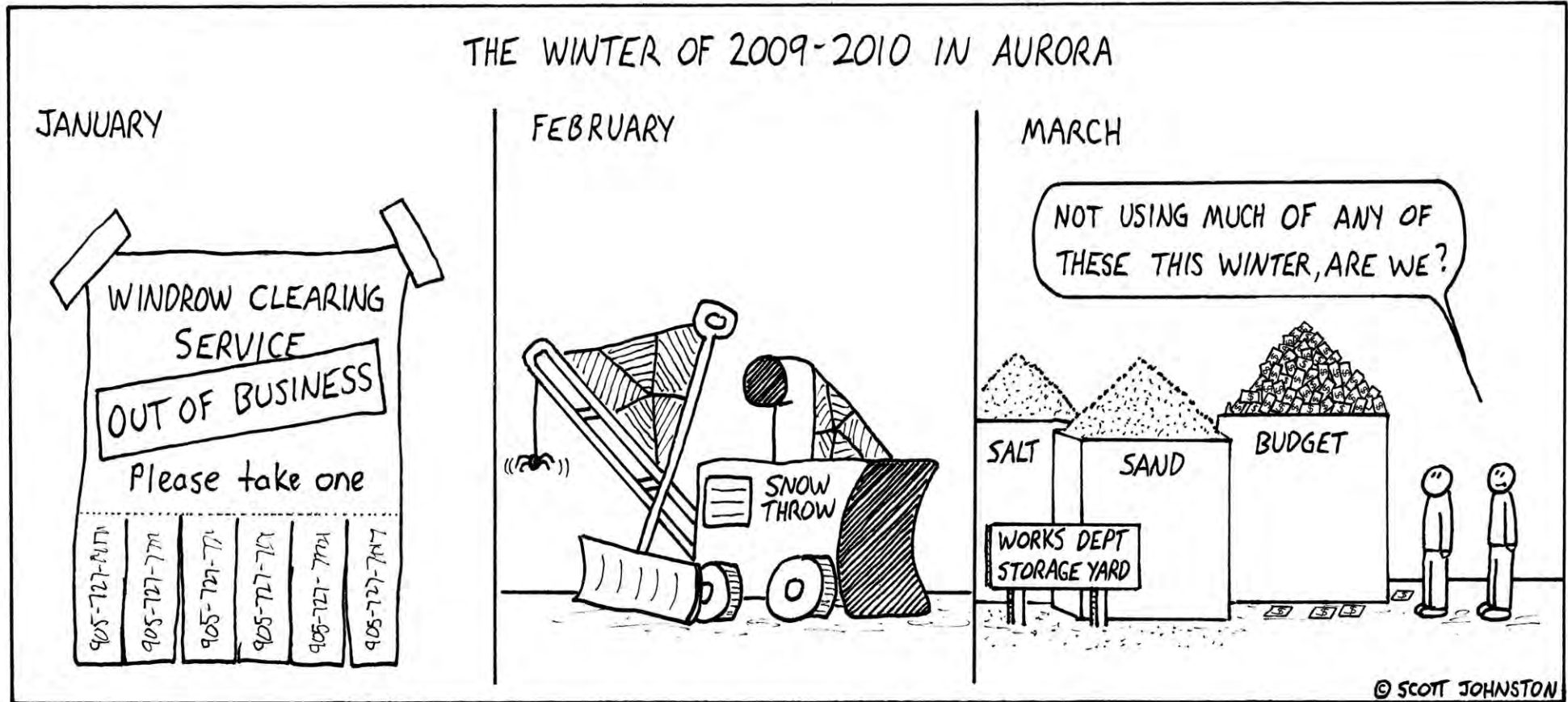
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Caring Crutches

In November of 2008, I wrote a column about this fantastic program called “Samaritan’s Purse”.

I had come home from my weekly hockey game (minus four) and saw my wife and son filling a shoe-box with various small toys, pencil crayons, a small ball and a pair of boys’ socks.

I asked them what they were up to.

My son proudly exclaimed that they were making a gift box to send to a boy in another part of the world.

My wife then told me that one of her friends at the gym had become part of a volunteer group, called Samaritan’s Purse International Relief, which operates Operation Christmas Child.

I then looked at the brochure that had been given to Julie.

The title on the inside of the brochure says, “A simple gift opens doors”.

The pamphlet goes on to state “a shoebox gift opens the door for Samaritan’s Purse to demonstrate Jesus’ love by offering communities emergency relief, safe drinking water, education, health care, and more.”

There is another worthwhile program that I would like to tell you about.

It is called Caring Crutches.

Caring Crutches was started at the beginning of February by Lindsay D’Andrade who is a physio therapist in York Region and Val Jenner.

They wanted to help the amputees in Haiti by collecting crutches.

There motto is “Helping Haiti move forward, one step at a time”.

As Valerie told me, “we first started with our personal e-mails and Lindsay with her contacts of physio therapists working in hospitals and rehab centres in and around the GTA.

“The response to date has been overwhelming. Through private donations as well as North York General Hospital and St. Johns’ Rehab we have close to 200 pairs of crutches, over 40 canes and numerous walkers, wheelchairs, braces and splints.

“We will be picking up at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on Wednesday and Sunnybrook Hospital on Thursday of this week.

We have drop off bins at two Tuxedo Royale out-

lets. One at their head office in Markham and another at their Elgin Mills store.

“The Tuscany Event Centre in Aurora has a drop off bin as well as the CBC in Toronto at Front and John St.

“With the approval of the Town of Aurora, we will have all our bins in place at the three recreational facilities in Aurora as well as the Aurora Library by Friday. Our goal is to get as much exposure as we can over the March break.”

The York Catholic District School Board has put Caring Crutches flyers in their 93 schools as well.

With regards to shipping, they have partnered with CBM Canada (3844 Stouffville Rd).

Their director Ed Epp, who has recently returned from Haiti, has agreed to handle the shipping for everything that is collected.

If you have any crutches that you would like to donate, you can contact Valerie at 905-898-3946 or on her cell phone at 647-227-5796.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Back in time

"I fear that there have been some disturbing developments in Aurora."

The Chairman turned his gaze towards each of his colleagues seated around the large boardroom table.

They in turn looked back with surprise.

This was the sort of statement that was seldom issued at a meeting of the Ontario Heritage Trust.

"Disturbing? What do you mean?" asked the lady on his left.

"The town's commitment to preserving its history has been called into question."

Murmurs of surprise echoed around the room.

"But we just awarded them the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership," said a man in a grey suit seated further down the table.

He continued; "I live in Aurora, and I remember when heritage seemed to take a backseat all over town. No one cared when the Fleury Chimney just west of Yonge Street was torn down. And at the same time, older houses were demolished to expand the parking lot for the new library."

"Not long afterwards, the historic Hartman House, at Bayview and Wellington, was offered for sale for \$1. No one came up with the asking price, so it was bulldozed, too."

"The town didn't even offer to spend a dollar?" asked the lady across from him. "They may not have been big on heritage at that time, but they sure showed remarkable fiscal

restraint!"

"And didn't they once have some sort of horse show?" asked a woman seated farther down the table.

"Yes, for more than 80 years the Aurora Agricultural Fair and Horse Show had been a popular annual event. But it was gone with hardly a whimper. Why, they didn't even save the BMO lollipop clock, which was a fixture at Yonge and Wellington for years."

"But look at the work they have done recently," argued a colleague wearing a bowtie.

"They created the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District, and saved the Church Street School, transforming it into the Aurora Cultural Centre. These are the sorts of heritage endeavours that resulted in them receiving the Award for Community Leadership."

"True, true," agreed the Chairman. "But since then there have been disturbing changes in their attitude."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, last Fall Aurora actively participated in the demolition of a 70-year-old heritage structure."

"Which one?"

"The old railway bridge at the south end of town. It wasn't even widened to two tracks, or to permit more lanes on Yonge Street. It was just replaced with a new one. They didn't even put up an historical plaque."

"That's certainly not preserving history," said the man in

the grey suit.

"And most recently, the future of the Petch House looks bleak."

"The Petch House? But that's more than 165 years old. And isn't that thought to be the oldest surviving home in York Region?"

"Yes, but there doesn't seem to be any interest in keeping it. In fact, it looks like it'll be torn down soon."

"Perhaps they're concerned about the cost?"

"I agree; cost always enters into these things, but between the railway bridge, and Petch House, there seems to be an unnerving trend. And as the town continues to develop the 2C lands, and make upgrades to the properties along Yonge Street, who knows what other historical structures may be in jeopardy."

"For now, these examples aren't enough to warrant taking any action," continued the Chair. "But we will have to keep a close eye on the Town of Aurora. If things continue this way, we may need to step in and do something drastic."

"You mean like enforcing more stringent historical standards on them?"

"No, even worse; we'll take back their Heritage Award, and give it to Newmarket."

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

Letters to the Editor

Man uses photos to describe downtown

EDITOR'S NOTE: Aurora's Wayne Hemington is a man of few words, preferring to get his message across by using photography. He sent the following pictures to us in the form of a letter last week. We reprint some of them here and follow them with a relevant story that happened at last week's council meeting



Owner expresses frustration

The Council Chamber was a scene of impromptu number crunching last Tuesday as Mike Evans, owner of Aurora's True Value Hardware, came forward during Open Forum to voice his frustration with the direction of Downtown Aurora.

"Last Sunday Wayne Hemington came into the store and asked, 'What's killing downtown Aurora?'" said Mr. Evans to Mayor Phyllis Morris and councillors. "Aurora's Downtown is heritage to some and an eyesore to others."

In his informal presentation to the assembled group, Mr. Evans showed a number of photos of Aurora's downtown core to illustrate his view of the decline of the downtown core, including the storefront of the former Happy Hearing Centre, the former site of Lifestyle Pools, and additional vacant storefronts south of Yonge and Wellington.

"My store will now be facing three-quarter vacant store fronts," he

said. "As you can see we have a huge amount of vacant space downtown. I understand that downtown Newmarket has no vacancies and that our MP has given them over \$2 million for revitalization in downtown Newmarket. How much did you get for Aurora?"

While Mr. Evans said he felt like Aurora was getting the "short end of the stick", Mayor Morris said she disagreed with his assessment.

"I think you know we take helping the downtown very seriously and, in fact, it was this council that made sure they did a Revitalization Secondary Plan in the Downtown before we commenced the 2-C study of the east side of town," she said. "It was important that we did that. There are days when you were the only one [at public meetings], but we have had days when 70 - 80 people showed up. We're doing everything we can and I hope your comments tonight recognize that last year was one of the toughest

economies that this country faced for a long time." Mayor Morris said she had explained to Mr. Evans that these concerns were being addressed through the Yonge - Wellington Steering Committee. She added she has "probably spoken to each and every" business Mr. Evans had mentioned.

Following Mr. Evans' time at the podium, the mayor, councillors, and treasurer engaged in some number crunching near the end of the meeting. The mayor highlighted \$750,000 received in Federal grants for the Church Street School Cultural Centre, as well as assistance in replacing the CN Bridge overpass.

She also enumerated additional projects that received federal dollars, including a \$4,700 contribution to the Aurora Seniors' Centre,

\$108,000 towards trail networks, \$83,000 for playground reconstruction, and \$1.58 million for wastewater infrastructure.

"In total, over \$5.4 million came to Aurora," said Mayor Morris. "Now we have to remember that other towns may have been at different levels in getting things. In all, I don't think \$5.4 million was short-changing us. I think we have done really well and we have been very grateful for those dollars to come back to this community."

"We are working hard for our downtown," she continued. "We have never negated our duty in that. We have had public open houses. We have spent money on consulting and it is in fact one of the largest and longest public consultations this town has seen and we are so committed to that Downtown revitalization."

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Letters to the Editor

My money being spent while council ignores consultants, Aurora reader says

To the editor,

Many Aurorans read the trouble with the current mayor and council ("administration"). It takes effort and energy to get involved so for now read, be informed, but vote at election time. Examples are plenty over

the past four years of wasted tax dollars and lack of results. A big one is the Integrity report that was prepared for the Town of Aurora by a reputable outside consultant at a cost of more than \$50,000 of our tax dollars. Why does Aurora need an Integrity Commissioner? Really

how wasteful and egocentric! I think the report must have said "Get over it already, lose the ego and get on with the job you were elected to do". But, sadly, the report was ignored. So another \$50,000 of our tax dollars, our money, was spent to hire yes, say it

out loud, another Integrity Commissioner. Just because there are personality clashes? Grow up. I don't care that they don't like each other. Do your job. Stop spending my money on this battle. But this is what has consumed them instead of the job they were elected to do for

the past four years. Another example is the Recreation Plan prepared for and presented by an outside consultant at a cost of more than \$50,000. It has been ignored for more than a year and for some unknown reason it has been redrafted by Council. Are they experts? Then why hire and pay the consultant our tax dollars? It is dumb that hours were spent altering a report created by a professional who is an authority on the subject and that should be considered a solid foundation for a Recreation Master Plan. Instead of citizen and professional expert advice determining the future of the needs of the town it is just one or two people who apparently have convinced themselves they are experts in everything. Our tax dollar pays for reports that are telling this mayor and council what are best ideas. Why are they ignoring this valuable input? Downtown Aurora is full of vacant spaces. Everyone can see it. They have had four years to show an interest in the concerns of citizens and business owners. What has happened to prevent attention to this

during their term? Could it be as ridiculous as the "rebel councillor" has probably voiced interest or concern in the downtown issue therefore, as usual, we know the process, do the opposite regardless of outcome or cost. This administration should have hurdled over obstacles and proceeded to move forward in a democratic and transparent manner but unfortunately we all see and read about this administration. They can say some work got done but honestly, can you say to your employer "I got some stuff done, but didn't get a whole lot done during the past four years and I spent a lot of your money but there were people on my team who didn't get along with me". It apparently works because that is what our administration is telling us. I have no personal association and I have never even met one of them. But we need to fix this. The educated and progressive citizens of Aurora must vote at election time. Good luck Aurora. Aurora deserves better, you and I deserve better.

MPP asks municipalities for help with transit issue

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees was distributed this week to all York Region Mayors and Councils.

Dear Mayor,

GO Transit has announced that it plans to cancel two GO Bus routes serving York Region, effective next month. The two routes affected are the 62-Newmarket B GO Bus that provides services along Yonge Street from Newmarket to York Mills, and the GO Route 64, providing service through York Region to York University. At a public meeting on March 9, attended by more than 300 York Region residents, representatives from GO Transit and YRT/VIVA confirmed that the proposed cancellation would result in increased costs of as much as \$85 per month, and increased travel times of as much as one to two hours per

day, depending on the alternative VIVA service that would be available. In addition, there are numerous unintended consequences that would result if the cancellations are allowed to proceed. Those consequences range from safety implications for young people who rely on these routes to get them to school, and scheduling issues for students and faculty at York University, to working parents who will be unable to manage already difficult daycare schedules. I have expressed my concern on behalf of my constituents to Mr. Robert Prichard, the CEO of Metrolinx and to York Region Chair, Bill Fisch and am asking for your support to ensure that both of these GO bus services are continued. It is clear that YRT/VIVA is not in a position to assume responsibility for the services GO Transit is planning to cancel.

YRT/VIVA is a regional service and is not equipped to provide what has been an inter-regional express transit service. They neither have the equipment, nor the scheduling capacity to accept this download of service responsibility. It is unacceptable that at a time when governments at all levels are investing billions in public transit with a view to encouraging transit use, that we allow this proposed cancellation to take place. Not only will the increased costs and travel times discourage transit use, this contradicts and is in conflict with the very goals and objectives of the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan which is intended to guide transportation decision-making and planning at all levels. Those objectives are clearly stated to provide: "improved transportation experience and travel time reliability, faster, more frequent and less crowd-

ed transit, improved connections on service within the GTHA ." I trust that you will agree with me that the proposed cancellations are not only inconsistent with the Metrolinx mandate, they run counter to our concerted efforts to encourage York Region residents to choose public transit as a more convenient and affordable way to travel. I am therefore asking you and your Council to register with Metrolinx and GO Transit your opposition to the planned cancellation of these essential GO Bus services.

Frank Klees, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

We need to consider OPA conclusions, reader says

To the editor,

I sent a letter to Ben Chin of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) in response to recent news coverage related to a rally at Queen's Park at which a small delegation from King Township joined approximately 2,000 concerned residents of Oakville who are facing an unwanted power plant being imposed on them. While it may be fair to suggest that the OPA has made some mistakes in its procurement processes, it should not be solely blamed for the outcome we now face. It is also critical to note that the power plants proposed in King and Oakville are two different technologies that are designed to operate for different periods of time and which have far different impacts from an emissions perspective. The technical, financial and environmental reasons for supporting the OPA's conclusions should not be dismissed without due consideration. Aurora residents should

be aware that as a direct result of Mayor Phyllis Morris' handling of this issue, Markham and possibly even Aurora, are now at a significantly greater risk of seeing unwanted transmission facilities installed through our communities, after years of effort and tens of millions of dollars having been spent in an attempt to address the concerns first raised in 2002. If the proposed peaker plant in King is not built as a result of political pressure or the outcome of the now pending 10-day OMB hearing, then the OPA's fall-back position (namely a transmission solution) is clearly spelled out in the 2005 OPA Working Group Recommendations that Aurora Council is on record as officially supporting. Aurora Council has actively worked against a solution that it had previously endorsed and which was designed in large part to address the many concerns that were so loudly and effectively expressed in 2004 and 2005 by STOP, the Aurora – Markham Hydro Task Force and various municipalities.

Markham spent more than \$700,000 in our collective defense in order to encourage the provincial government to live by its obligations under the Environmental Assessment Act which required it to explore all possible alternatives, only to have Phyllis Morris subvert both the Task Force's and the OPA's efforts at the end of the day. Phyllis's lack of understanding and appreciation for some of the most basic facts related to these matters has been nothing short of astounding given that she won the last election in no small part as a result of her association with this very issue. I remain convinced that Aurora Council clearly squandered its opportunity to be constructively engaged in the OPA's procurement process and to shape the way in which power supply issues are dealt with provincially. A great many people may now end up paying the price.

Richard Johnson
Aurora


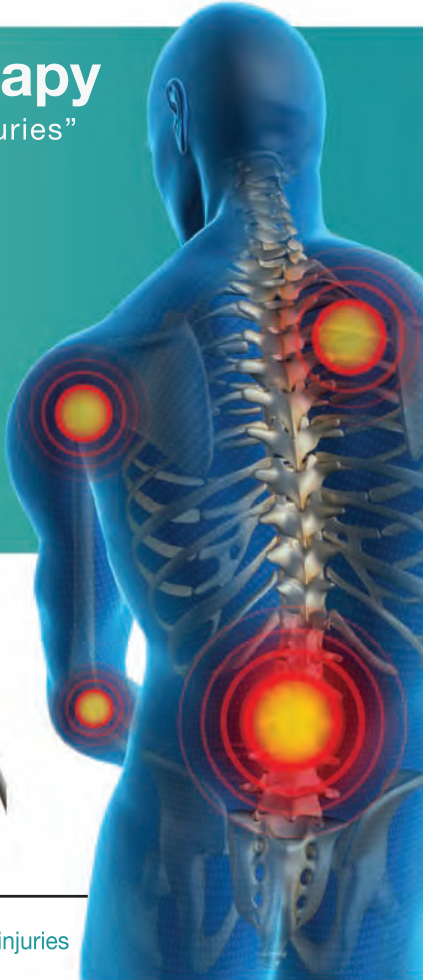
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Letters to the Editor

Downtown has blight, she says

To the editor,

Michael Evans is a consistent follower of downtown business affairs. He made a presentation to council last Tuesday about continued exodus of business from the downtown core. Michael operates a hardware store. When he came to town, we had one hardware store and a small population. Wilson's Hardware Store had survived the advent of Canadian Tire and morphed into Home Hardware. Michael's store has survived against the odds. He

continues to participate in discussions which impact on his and other business. In the past six years, we have had no less than three full scale proposals for a particularly blighted site in a terribly visible location immediately north of Wellington and Yonge, our main intersection. Centre is the town's oldest street. Older than Wellington. Older than the current alignment of Yonge. The plans were for the north corner, east of Yonge. Most of the site has been vacant and strewn with rubbish for quarter of a century. A relatively modern sin-

gle storey building on the corner is abandoned and crumbling. It seems the property changes hands with each unsuccessful attempt to develop. As land becomes scarcer, value keeps rising. Repeated public planning meetings have been held, after months of work by the town's planners and architects. The tedium of listening to the details is exhausting. I can't imagine how it feels for town staff to be working diligently on plans, knowing they are going nowhere.

Neighbouring residents attend meetings faithfully and provide input. The ever increasing blight undoubtedly offends them most. They are anxious to see renewal. The last plan met with their approval. All for naught. It was referred to the Heritage Citizen Advisory Committee who commented the height bylaw calls for five storeys; the building's height should be reduced. The height was five storeys at Yonge and stepped back and up from the front and side to accommodate extra suites and sufficient parking.

see the downtown become ever more blighted, dragging everything down around it, in order for non-elected, non-accountable residents to dictate the height of a building should somehow be made to conform to a streetscape 150 years old. We provide tax rebates for empty stores in our downtown, while spending hundreds of thousands on consultants to yammer interminably at workshops attended by the same few, about airy-fairy impractical ideas that place not a stone upon a stone in renewal of the beloved historic core.

studying the downtown and that was evidence of strong commitment to commercial well-being, the mayor claims. Michael did not speak of the three refusals for apartment development on the blighted site at the corner of Centre and Yonge, though he attended all the meetings and urged approval. The mayor didn't claim the shift of the Farmers' Market from downtown to town park with convenience of a free band shell for entertainment, hydro and washrooms, has continued to bring business into the downtown core, as initially argued. Just as well. Since that obviously has not happened. This conversation will not change during the rest of the term.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Resident would restore cottage

To the editor,

The Petch cottage is located on Leslie just south of the new industrial park. It can be seen on Google satellite photos on the driveway going to the model

airplane club. On at least two occasions I have contacted town staff members offering to restore the Petch cottage on my lot on Willow Farm land and St. John's Sideroad. Unfortunately the Official

Plan does not allow for another residence on my lot even though it is 2.5 acres and would accommodate it beautifully. Jeff Allan
Aurora

More than one log home here, reader claims

To the editor,

The log home pictured in the photo in The Auroran is on the corner of Kennedy Street West and Highland Court. However, there are at least two more log homes in Aurora: - 13990 Bayview Ave. and 14425 Bayview Ave. now known as 80 Carisbrooke Circle.

You see, you get to know the town very well by biking. Keep up the good work. I love it!

Jeroen Louwers
Aurora

EDITOR'S NOTE: Obviously, the editor needs to get out more. More than one person

identified the Bayview Avenue location as a site of a log house in Aurora, and while the answer above selects the house at the corner of Kennedy and Highland Court as the answer, it is wrong. The winner was Aurora's Rita Elsass, who correctly indentified the photo as being on Banbury Court.

Clarification

Aurora Councillor John Gallo has asked The Auroran to clarify what was meant by the "success" in last week's story about the meeting between the Ministry of Education's facilitator and those petitioning for the re-opening of Wells Street Public School. This is an excerpt from the Councillor's original statement to The Auroran: "Both meetings went as well as could have been expected," he wrote. "The rational (sic) for petitioning the ministry for a facilitator to conduct an administrative review was to keep the Wells St. issue alive. I think the group was successful in doing just that."

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How to Define Vitamin D Deficiency
By Joseph Levy - joe@smarttan.com
The dermatology industry's top lobbying groups continue to tell people to avoid sunlight completely because they believe diet and vitamin D supplements are all you need to avoid vitamin D deficiency. The problem is they're using a Dark Ages definition of vitamin D deficiency. And, they're forgetting that sun exposure is the body's natural and intended way to make vitamin D. Current vitamin D recommendations - 200 international units a day for most of us and 600 units for those over 70 - should be tossed away. The fact is "currently there is no standard definition of optimal vitamin D status." Those were the words of Dr. Bess Dawson-Hughes, Dr. Robert P. Heaney, Dr. Michael F. Holick, Dr. Paul Lips, Dr. Pierre J. Meunier and Dr. Reinhold Vieth in their recent paper, "Estimates of Optimal Vitamin D Status." The fact is, today's D recommendations are based on the content of one tablespoon of cod liver oil - the early 1920's remedy for preventing the bone disease, rickets. So for the rest of the 20th century vitamin D health was defined this way. It wasn't until 1998 when vitamin D scientists made the next leap, quantifying for the first time that vitamin D plays a role in so much more than just bone health. It plays a role in regulating cell growth - including preventing or retarding the growth of cancer cells - throughout the body. But how much vitamin D do you need to fulfill these functions? Throw the old definitions away - the answer surely does not lie in the totally random levels defined by a tablespoon of cod liver oil. Researchers are starting to close in on that answer. But they'll also tell you that they don't know for certain. Some say 1,000 international units a day will do the trick - others have said 2,000 - 5,000 units should be the new standard. It will continue to be debated. In the wake of all this debate is the fact that a single tanning session in a tanning unit with some UVB (and almost all tanning units, like the sun, do emit UVA and UVB) will manufacture 10,000 - 15,000 units of vitamin D the natural way. And, the good part about making vitamin D this way - as opposed to getting it in diet - is that your body knows what to do with any extra - you cannot overdose on vitamin D made from the sun. Humans were intended to live outdoors - yet we spend more time indoors today than at any point in human history. Since sunlight is the body's natural way to produce vitamin D, don't you think vitamin D levels might be optimized by making it this way - the natural way?
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Val Jenner, left, and Bea D'Andrade, along with Bea's daughter Lindsay, have been collecting crutches, canes and walkers for the people of Haiti injured in January's devastating earthquake. In the last two weeks, they have collected more than 150 pairs of crutches alone. Drop off bins are located throughout Aurora. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Aurora women collect crutches

Aurora residents can now donate new or unneeded crutches and canes to help Haitians injured by January's devastating earthquake, thanks to the initiative of two local residents, Lindsay D'Andrade and Val Jenner.

Ms D'Andrade, a physiotherapist, and Ms Jenner introduced their new initiative, Caring Crutches, late last month.

"We are on a mission to collect as many new and used crutches and canes as we can from the community of Aurora and surrounding communities," Ms. D'Andrade told a council meeting last week.

"We're here to request your cooperation and institute a collection of crutches and canes at each of the three recreation centres in Aurora. We believe these centres are our best targets as there are many active individuals that frequent the centres who may have used a walking aid in the past and are now just sitting in garages and basements. There are a lot of people who need them."

Caring Crutches, which bears the motto "Helping Haiti move forward one step at a time", has set up collection bins at the Aurora Community Centre, Aurora Leisure Complex, and Aurora Recreation Centres for donated mobility aids.

With a goal of collecting 500 items, Caring Crutches will send the donated implements to Haitians through a shipment facilitated in conjunction with the Canadian Christian Blind Mission.

"We believe [this] is a great chance for Aurora to challenge surrounding communities to match our collection, as well as a great chance for Aurora to come together and help Haiti,"

said Ms D'Andrade. In Haiti, much of the population travels to places such as school and work by foot. Without the use of walking aids for the new amputees, getting around is going to be extremely difficult, not to mention painful and exhausting in some cases."

Caring Crutches can be reached at caringcrutches@live.com for further information.

Nursing Home fire biggest impression on CYFS chief

By JACK LAURION
Special to The Auroran

I had the recent pleasure of meeting Ian Laing, our new Fire Chief for Central York Fire Services, last week.

Before joining Central York in January, Chief Laing had a 34-year career with Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services where he held many positions progressing from firefighter to acting deputy chief.

It comes across loud and clear that Chief Laing's number one concern is safety - both for the community and for his firefighters.

In fact, for 25 years he has taught a Response Safety Program to firefighters instructing on safety procedures for driving emergency vehicles.

When asked about the experience that made the biggest impression on him during his career, without hesitation he said the 1980 Extencicare Nursing Home fire in Mississauga.

Twenty-one people were killed when a fire spread rapidly through the top floor of a three-story building where most of the chronically ill patients were housed.

He said the loss of lives would have been preventable had a sprinkler system been in place.

Not surprisingly, Chief Laing is a passionate proponent of sprinkler systems and smoke alarms.

One of Chief Laing's proudest accomplishments was

being assigned the first female firefighter hired by Mississauga Fire.

While the female recruit was small in size and there were the inevitable challenges to the organization that came with adapting to something new, Chief Laing said she was recently promoted to become the first female captain of the Mississauga Fire Department.

Central York was formed in 2002 by consolidating the Aurora and Newmarket Fire Departments.

It's unique in that the two towns consolidated their fire departments without the towns amalgamating. Central York operates under the direction of a six-member Joint Council Committee (JCC) made up of three members from each of the Town Councils of Aurora and Newmarket.

The current budget for Central York is \$16,000,000 with 93 per cent for wages.

The combined savings shared by Aurora and Newmarket this year as a result of the consolidation is estimated to be more than \$3,100,000.

Central York costs are shared by Aurora and Newmarket based on three factors: population, number of emergency responses and tax base (assessed property values).

This basically breaks down to a 40/60 sharing with Aurora's share being less due to its smaller population.

Central York has 119 staff with four stations - two in Aurora and two in Newmarket.

There are five crews on duty at all times over four shifts with 25 firefighters per shift.

Each crew consists of four firefighters and one platoon chief. Central York serves a combined population of 133,000 and responds to 4,700 calls for assistance per year.

Chief Laing says his objective is to build on the work of retired Fire Chief John Molyneux and Deputy Chief Ken Bone.

For example, the department plans to supplement its fire fighting capabilities with another crew by 2011.

This will be an important added resource to contribute to Central York's goal of responding to a fire within 10

minutes of the emergency call.

That means three fire trucks should arrive at the scene with four firefighters in each truck within ten minutes of the call. Trucks should be on the road within two minutes of the call and the travel time should be no more than four minutes.

Uniformed service runs in Chief Laing's family.

His wife, Deborah, is a communications officer with Mississauga Fire and his son Kyle is an advanced care paramedic with Halton EMS.

When asked if he would recommend a career as a firefighter to young people today, Chief Laing said "in a heartbeat."



IAN LAING

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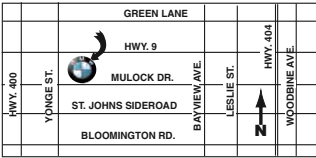
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House League

105 St. Louis Blue Timbits 14 - Daniel Gaeta 5G 2A, Mathew Muxlow 1G 1A, Jackson Galbraith 3G 1A, Amselmo Marcone 1A, Curtis Manley 3G 2A, Jack McCann 2G 1A, Keevin O'Brien 3A, Ethan Medeiros 2A. **402 Boston Gold Timbits 1** - Alexander Ko 1G.

105 St. Louis Blue Timbits 6 - Daniel Gaeta 2G, Valerie McColl 1A, Amselmo Marcone 1A, Jackson Galbraith 1G, Jake Iwai 1G, Curtis Manley 1A, Carson Klein 2G 1A, Keevin O'Brien 1A. **104 Los Angeles Purple Timbits 3** - Avery Lee 1G, Aaron Murphy-Sealy 1G, Daniel Walker 1G.

107 Pittsburgh Powder Blue Timbits 6. 105 St. Louis Blue Timbits 5 - Daniel Gaeta 1G 1A, Carson Klein 2G, Jack McCann 1G 1A, Curtis Manley 1A, Mathew Muxlow 1G 1A, Sam MacLeod 1A.

103 Toronto White Timbits 7 - Colby Jackson 2A, Riley Klugerman 3G 3A, Christian Romas 1A, James Sproul 1G 2A, Evan Ramasra 1A, Brennan Powell 1G, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Anton Sopov 2. **102 Boston Gold Timbits 3** - Caden McHenry 1A, Ian Hilgendorff 1G, Ryan Vassos 1A, Stefano Iervasi 1G, Alexander Ko 1A, Ethan Edwards 1A, Carson Maybury 1G.

101 Florida Red Timbits 8. 104 Los Angeles Purple Timbits 1.

106 Pittsburgh Black Timbits 9 - Harrison Bennett 3G, Liam Mahoney 1G 2A, Logan Kidder 3G, Owen Papulkas 1G 1A, Zachary Grant 1G, Brandin Harris 1A, Adriano Albanese 1A, Matthew Cowl 1A. **108 Philly Orange Timbits 2** - Andrew Laguardia 1G, Johnathan Avgousti 1G, Nolan Michelberger 1A, Alex Jones 1A, Ivan Joseph 1A.

204 Toronto White Caravan Kids 3 - Robert Kniss 1G, Giuliano Iervasi 2G, Carson Williams 1A, Eric Flicker 1A. **202 St. Louis Blue Caravan Kids 2** - Austin Martin 1G 1A, Sebastian Negulescu 1G, Gian Luca Racanelli 1A.

201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 3 - Dylan Prescott 2G, Cameron Lang 1G 1A, Ethan Moulds 2A, Todd Fischer 1A, Colby Harrison 1A. **205 Florida Red Caravan Kids 1** - Garrett Kohler 1G, Anthony Miranda 1A, Liam Collins 1A.

204 Toronto White Caravan Kids 3 - Carson Williams 1G 1A, Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G 1A, Giuliano Iervasi 1G 1A, Eric Flicker 2A. **201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 1** - Cameron Lang 1G, Dylan Prescott 1A, Zachary Diaz 1A.

403 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 4 - Jack Dion 3G, Stephen McNeil 1G. **405 St. Louis Blue Laurion Law Office 1** - Bryce Davison 1G, Sam Speranini 1A.

403 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 2 - Michael Lakkotrypis 1G, Devon Mundy 1G, Stephen McNeil 1A. **401 Florida Red Chouinard Bros. 2** - Sean Anderton 1G, Christian Loria 1G, Ethan Jeries 1A.

407 Pittsburgh Powder Blue HS Financial 5 - Jacob Leblanc 2G, James Kypreos 1G, Cameron Dyer 1G 1A, James Samson 1G 1A, Keegan Fisher 1A, Matt LeClair. **410 Los Angeles Grey McAlpine Ford 3** - Evan Lambert 1G, Alexander Mueller 1G, Shayne Colin 1G, Justin Carcone 1A, Nicholas Badali 1A, Joshua Fallavollita 1A.

404 Los Angeles Purple Mastermind Toys 4 - Matthew Vassos 1G 1A, Matthew Glionna 2G, Jackson Clements 1A, Vince Rotondi 1G, Owen Bourrie 1A. **402 Boston Gold Omar's Shoes 2** - Christian Ridd 1G, Brandon Hui 1A, Adam Wochenmarkt 1G, Evan Bryan 1A.

807 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 5. 801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 3.

807 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 4. 803 Toronto



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, March 14



White AHPA 0.

802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 4. 808 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 1.

811 Colorado Burgandy 1. 812 Dallas Kelly Green 1.

806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 5. 804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 3.

805 St. Louis Blue Orr & Associates 2. 801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 0.

810 Los Angeles Grey 4. 813 St Louis White 2.

805 St. Louis Blue Orr & Associates 2. 803 Toronto White AHPA 0.

812 Dallas Kelly Green 6. 809 San Jose Teal 1.

802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 3. 806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 1.

813 St Louis White 4, 808 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 2.

810 Los Angeles Grey 1. 811 Colorado Burgandy 1.

801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 0. 804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 0.

906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 3. 904 Los Angeles Purple 2.

903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 5 - Ryan St-Germain 3G, Ryan Rival 1G, Brian Tree 1G. **905 St. Louis Blue 5** - Vince Duggan 2G, Russell Lukachko 1G, William Tang 1G, Nicholas Theodoropolous 1G.

904 Los Angeles Purple 3 - Nick Reinholdt 1G, Evan Foxwell 1A, Jeremy Warner 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G, Jeremy Warner 1G, Jeffrey Warner 1A. **901 Florida Red Aurora Chrysler 1** - Jordan Caruso 1G, Chris Fafalios 1A, Andrew Seguin 1A.

906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 6. 902 Boston Gold CW Coops 2.

905 St. Louis Blue 6 - Austin Fenyes 3G, Vince Duggan 1G 2A, Nicholas Theodoropolous 1G 1A, Zachary Seto 1G, Chris Karagiannis 3A, Ward Benn 1A, Russell Lukachko 1A. **906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 2** - Gabreil Bauset 1G, Zachary Cook 1G, Connor Flynn 1A.

903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 3 - Andrew Martin 2G, Ryan St-Germain 2A, Matt Maceachern 1A, JP Hudon 1A. **901 Florida Red Aurora Chrysler 2** - Cameron Albert 1G, Marty Wood 1A, Alex Cackirovski 1G, Josh Ashfield 1A.

902 Boston Gold CW Coops 4. 904 Los Angeles Purple 1.

905 St. Louis Blue 10 - Vince Duggan 3G, Austin Fenyes 2G, Nicholas Theodoropolous 2G, Stephen Cantarutti 1G 1A, Brendan Kirasack 1G 1A, John Dinicolontonio 1G 1A, Drew Marshall 1A, Michaela Rodrigues 1A, Ward Benn 1A, Chris Karagiannis 1A, Carter Hammett 1A. **904 Los Angeles Purple 1** - Michael David 1G.

1010 Los Angeles Grey 2 - Ben Mulholland 1G, Jake Boyle 1G, Eric Abel 1A, Tyler Friars 1A. **1006 Pittsburgh Black 2** - Dillon Cappell 1G, Benjamin Pringle 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1A, Dillon Cappell 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1A.

1011 Colorado Burgandy Graystones Restaurant 5 - Ryan Antoniel 2G 2A, Dylan Cross 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1G 1A, Josh Bentolila 1G, Greg Lacroix 1A, Chris Blumreisinger 1A. **1003 Toronto White CAA 2** - Ian Weston 1G, Spencer Palmer 1G, Jarret Meron 1A.

1010 Los Angeles Grey 4 - Jake Boyle 3G,

Matthew Bishop 1G 2A, Nick Zebrowski 1A. **1004 Los Angeles Purple 4** - Daniel Howie 2G 1A, Zachary Andrews 1G, Brendan Strachan 1G 1A.

1008 Philly Orange Aurora Home Hardware 5. 1006 Pittsburgh Black 3.

1007 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 5 - Madison Weber 3G, Tyler Clements 2G, Charlie Still 1A, Ryan Taylor 1A, Aaron Lempinen 2A. **1001 Florida Red 4** - Brandon Connolly 1G, Tyler Lamantia 1G, James Harkin 1A, Scott Quagliarini 2G 1A.

1005 St. Louis Blue Sentia 4 - Caleb Gould 1G, Craig Bennett 3G, Colin Munn 1A, Robert Denault 2A. **1009 San Jose Teal 2** - Razvan Vela 1G, Paul Keilty 1G, Liam McGoldrick 1A.

1008 Philly Orange Aurora Home Hardware 5 - Taran McGowan 2G, Sheldon Rivard 1G 2A, Tanner Brewer 2G, Christian Davies 1A, Braydon Dunn 1A, James Chappell 1A, Kyle Ozols 1A. **1004 Los Angeles Purple 2** - Brendan Strachan 1G, Daniel Howie 1G 1A, Ryan Kennedy 1A.

1009 San Jose Teal 3 - Dylan Skelton 1G, Paul Keilty 2G 1A, Daniel Fusco 1A, Chris Tillsley 1A, Ryan Jones 1A, Robert Anderson 1A. **1003 Toronto White CAA 3** - Spencer Palmer 1G, Stephen Newby 1G, Jordan Fantin 1G, Jaret Meron 1A, Evan Campbell 1A, Ian Weston 1A, Kevin McCrudden 1A, Chris Dynes 1A, Matthew Miller 1A.

1005 St. Louis Blue Sentia 5 - Caleb Gould 2G, Evan Casselden 1G, Craig Bennett 1G 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Michael Orschel 2A, Colin Munn 1A, Drew Coley 1A, David Naccarato 1A. **1007 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 4** - Charlie Still 2G 1A, Cameron Annear 2G, Viktor Grabovskyy 1A, Kenton Gamble 2A, Logan Weber 1A.

1006 Pittsburgh Black 7 - Adam Gitto 3G, Benjamin Pringle 1G, Robert Horton 1G 1A, Adam Mulvenna 1G, Dillon Cappell 2A, Jordan Adams 1A, Jesse Cappell 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1G 2A. **1001 Florida Red 4** - Adam Clark 1G 1A, Michael Bernier 2G, James Harkin 1G 2A, Brandon Connolly 1A.

1013 St. Louis White 5 - Nick Di Nallo 1G, Jay Finch 3G, Kamran Karamchi 1G, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Stephen Di Nallo 3A, Spencer George 1A, Kyle Marren 1A, Johnathan Siery 1A, Anthony Marsillo 1A. **1010 Los Angeles Grey 2** - Nick Zebrowski 1G, Matthew Bishop 1G, Ben Mulholland 1A, Jake Boyle 1A, Eric Abel 1A, Jamie Casey 1A.

1001 Florida Red 4 - Kyle McCreedy 1G, Brandon Connolly 1G, Michael Wood 1G, Aaron Nusbaum 1G 1A, James Harkin 1A, Scott Quagliarini 2A, Sean Takahashi 1A. **1005 St. Louis Blue Sentia 3** - Louis Lamanna 2G 1A, Caleb Gould 1G 1A, Robert Denault 1A, Marcel Lamanna 1A.

1004 Los Angeles Purple 6 - Daniel Howie 3G 1A, Cameron Meikle 1G, Clayton Arnold 1G, Brendan Strachan 1G 3A, Carter Schaefer 2A, Ryan Kennedy 1A. **1006 Pittsburgh Black 2** - Dillon Cappell 2G.

Rep League

Georgina 7. Tyke Select A 3 - Evan Vierling 1G, Ethan Cameron 2A, Samuel Morin 1G, Josh Torres 1A, Dylon DaCosta 1G.

TNT 5. Tyke Select A 4 - Bryson Posa 1G, Jake Adams 1G 1A, Ethan Cameron 1G, Samuel Morin 1G, Anton Thompson 1A, Bryson Posa 1A, Geoff Wilson 1A, Josh Torres 1A.

TNT 2. Tyke Select A 1 - Anton Thompson 1G.

Novice AE Tigers 1 - Justin Harbaruk 1G, Hunter Wong, shutout. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 0.**

Novice AE Tigers 2 - Justin Harbaruk 2G. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 1.**

East Gwillimbury Eagles 2. Novice AE Tigers 1 -

Justin Harbaruk 1G.

Newmarket 2. Minor Atom AA Tigers 0.

Newmarket 5. Minor Atom AA Tigers 2.

Newmarket 3. Minor Atom AA Tigers 2.

Richmond Hill 3. Minor Atom AE Tigers 1 - Carson Yeomans 1G.

Minor Atom AE Tigers 2 - Justin Evans 1G, Carson Yeomans 1G. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Richmond Hill 4. Minor Atom AE Tigers 2 - Scott Rumble 1G, Fraser Ciocca 1A, Justin Evans 1A, Jaedon Jackson 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1A, Jason Langdon 1A.

Stouffville Clippers 5. Atom A Tigers 0.

Barrie 1. Atom AE Tigers 0.

Marklham 5. Minor Peewee A Tigers 3 - Mathew Tyndall 1G, Cameron Zinner 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1G, Matthew Liscio 2A, Evan Cherubini 1A.

Markham 2. Minor Peewee A Tigers 0.

Minor Peewee A Tigers 1 - Mathew Tyndall 1G, Louie Kirkos, shutout, Evan Cherubini 1A, Brian Suominen 1A. Markham 0.

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 4 - Tyler Williams 3G 1A, Jeffrey McKay 1G 1A, Connor Downs 2A, Zach Fletcher 1A, Charles Bennett 1A. **Stouffville Clippers 3.**

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 3 - Michael DaCosta 1G, Tyler Williams 1G, Connor Downs 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Michael Jollimore 1A, Cole Chapman, shutout. **Stouffville Clippers 0.**

Georgina 2. Minor Peewee AE Tigers 1 - Christian Arcuri 1G, Connor Downs 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A.

Georgina 2. Minor Peewee AE Tigers 1 - Tyler Williams 1G.

Minor Peewee AE Tigers 2 - Matthew MacDonald 1G, Christian Arcuri 1G, Connor Downs 1A, Tyler Williams 1A, Michael DaCosta 1A, Jeffrey McKay 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Barrie Colts 2. Peewee AE Tigers 1.

Barrie Colts 4. Peewee AE Tigers 1.

Peewee AE Tigers 2. Barrie Colts 2.

Peewee AE Tigers 4. Barrie Colts 2.

Barrie Colts 4. Minor Bantam AA Tigers 3 - Sean Foxwell 1G 1A, Spencer Green 1G, John MacDonald 1G, Quentin Campbell 2A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A, Nick Scott 1A.

Minor Bantam AA Tigers 9 - Quentin Campbell 2G 1A, Spencer Green 2G 1A, John MacDonald 2G 1A, Konner McMillan 2G, Erik Balkovec 1G, Brett Thiessen 3A, Tait Snedden 3A, Lucas Pozzebon 2A, Nick Scott 2A. **Barrie Colts 4.**

TNT 4. Bantam AA Tigers 2.

Bantam AA Tigers 4. TNT 1.

Bantam A Tigers 4 - Andrew McDonald 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G 1A, Eric Damecour 1G, Quincy Ing 1G 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Braden Casselden 1A. **Uxbridge Stars 3.**

Minor Midget AA Tigers 5. Markham 1.

Minor Midget AA Tigers 5, Markham 2.

Minor Midget AA Tigers 5, Richmond Hill 3.

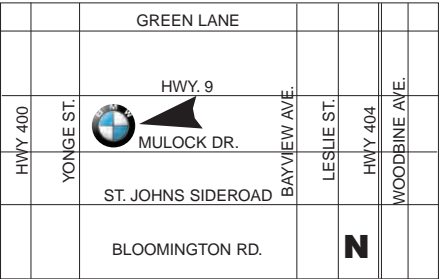
Richmond Hill 3. Minor Midget AA Tigers 2.



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Bantam A Tigers defend OMHA title

The Aurora Tigers Bantam A hockey team has successfully reached the final round of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) playoffs against Welland.

They will look to defend the OMHA crown that the core of this team won last year.

This is an achievement that is rare in the minor hockey scene, including Aurora.

The Tigers had a successful regular season finishing first overall in their league with a 25-2-3 record.

Along the way the team also reached the finals of three tournaments and were winners of the Cleveland Rock and Roll Cup AA tourney.

The first round of the OMHA playoffs was against a determined Markham team.

The first two games were close with the potential for either side to gain the advantage.

An overtime win in Game 2 for the Tigers appeared to be the turning point leading Aurora to a 3-0 series win.

Next up was Stouffville, a team that had given the Tigers trouble all season.

This series was typical playoff hockey with lots of close checking and hard fought battles.

With a single goal being the difference in each of the first two games, the Tigers held on for another 3-0 series sweep.

The OMHA quarter-finals would have Aurora face its long time nemesis and neighbour Newmarket. The Tigers had not seen the Redmen since early in the regular season.

Newmarket showed that they were ready for the challenge with a resounding victory in the opening game.

However, Aurora quickly returned the favour in game two to even the series.

The intensity between these evenly matched teams continued to increase

with Aurora winning the third game in overtime and game four ending in a scoreless draw.

Newmarket jumped ahead early in the final game but could not hold the lead.

The Tigers held on for a hard fought 3-2 victory with the player injury count now on the rise.

The road to the OMHA crown would certainly not get easier.

Uxbridge Stars would be the semi-final opponent, possessing their own impressive statistics.

The Stars competed as an AA team in previous years, finishing first in their league this year with a 21-1-3 record.

What seemed to be more daunting for the Tigers was knowing Uxbridge had won the Aurora 2010 Rep Bantam Tournament in the AA division.

The role of an underdog was a position unfamiliar to the Tigers.

The semi-final series started with each team having their chances to take the first win.

Uxbridge prevailed with an overtime win in Aurora to grab the early momentum.

Undaunted, the Tigers rose to the challenge and battled back to win the second game.

This was the Stars first loss since last November and the team seemed shocked.

But their disbelief would not last long, easily handling the Tigers in the next match.

Game four would prove to be pivotal - a must win for Aurora.

The Tigers elevated their game forcing the play and keeping the Stars free flowing style in check.

A goal scored by Aurora while two of its players sat in the penalty box sealed the game.

The Stars struggled to remain composed which rolled over into the final game.

The Tigers capped the semi-final round with a 4-3 victory.

The OMHA finals will begin this week in Aurora against the Welland Tigers.

Welland has an impressive 25-0-2 regular season record and will be a true test.

The battle for the OMHA title should be exciting.

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Town challenged again to participate in the run

The gauntlet has been thrown down to Aurora Council to once again don their sweats and running shoes to raise money for Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Neighbourhood Network's Steve Hinder was on hand at last Tuesday's council meeting to issue the challenge for the A & B Courier Run for Southlake - previously known as the Hartwell Challenge - on April 25.

"This year we would like to issue a challenge to Newmarket and Aurora Council and staff to see who can raise the most money for Southlake," he

said. "Will it be Newmarket or will it be Aurora?"

"Last year Aurora won the challenge, but can Aurora maintain top spot? Can Aurora maintain supremacy this year?"

In his presentation to council, Mr. Hinder paid tribute to the legacy of the former Hartwell Challenge.

"Residents of Aurora would know this as the 'Hartwell Challenge'; a new name, but the same successful community event that Bob envisioned has been expanded," he said.

"Many of you knew

Bob Hartwell, a former member of this council, an avid runner and generous community supporter.

"Those of you who knew Bob would know how thrilled he would be that the event inspired by his passion for running and his love of this community lives on."

The Run for Southlake will include all the events that the former Hartwell Challenge was known for, including the half-marathon, the 5-K Run or Walk, and the Kids' Mini-Mile, said Mr. Hinder.

This year, however, will now include a 10-K run or walk as well.

Proceeds from the A &

B Courier Run for Southlake will go directly to the hospital, supporting their urgent priorities which, Mr. Hinder noted, include equipping the Regional Cardiac Care Program, the paediatric and surgical programs, and the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre.

"We're fortunate to have such a world-class facility as Southlake in our community," he said. "Please consider this your personal invitation to attend, participate, and support your hospital, while honouring the ongoing legacy of community support by our good friend Bob Hartwell."

Monday night hockey playoffs

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

	GAME 1		GAME 2		GAME 3		PTS
	GF	GA	GF	GA	GF	GA	
Law Insurance	5	1					2
Rec Sports	3	1					2
Highland's	1	3					0
Baldwin's	1	5					0

(Top two teams after three-game round robin play for championship Monday, March 29)

CONSOLATION ROUND

FPL Aggregates	5	0	2
Priestly Demolition	4	1	2
Tom & Jerry's	1	4	0
Masterclean	0	5	0

WEEKLY RESULTS

Rec Sports	3	FPL Aggregates	5
Highland Chev	1	Masterclean	0
Priestly Demolition	4	Law Insurance	5
Tom & Jerry's	1	Baldwin's	1



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Four Aurorans compete in biathlon challenges

Aurora army cadets Catherine Moogk, Charlotte Nettie, Vanessa Papania and Andrei Uretti, together with Newmarket air cadet Emily Thompson, are among the 18 regional biathlon champions who will represent Central Region (Ontario) in the 2010 National Cadet Biathlon Championship this week. The four members of 2799 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps and Thompson, a member of 94 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, left Saturday for CFB Valcartier, Que. for the weeklong meet, competing against cadet teams from across Canada.

The cadets will compete individually in cross-country skiing races up to eight kilometres long.

Three times during each race, the participants enter the rifle range for five rounds of prone rifle marksmanship.

Later in the week, male and female three-member teams compete in 16-kilometre relay races including two bouts of five-to-eight rounds prone marksmanship for each member.

Biathlon couples the sport

of cross-country skiing with the mental and physical discipline required for small-bore rifle marksmanship.

Marksmanship and biathlon are two of the more popular activities for sea, army, and air cadets. Participating in the sport goes a long way in enhancing personal development and providing physical challenges in the fresh air.

Cadets experience a great sense of achievement and personal satisfaction as their skills improve. Canadian biathlon Olympians Nikki Keddie and Martine Albert were all introduced to the sport as cadets and are still active as instructors/coaches within the cadet biathlon program.

The Canadian cadet program is Canada's premier national youth organization for boys and girls aged 12-18, sponsored by the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces in partnership with the civilian Navy, Army Cadet and Air Cadet Leagues of Canada.

There is no cost to join and uniforms are provided.



Aurora's Catherine Moogk looks for a gold medal in the Team Relay event of the Central Region Cadet Biathlon held in Sault Ste. Marie recently. She is a member of the Aurora 2799 Royal Canadian Army Corps, which has quite a legacy of accomplishment in fielding successful biathlon teams, especially the females who have been to National Biathlon before. Catherine and Vanessa Papania seem to be the current rising stars. Predicessors include Shannon Carlton (who is now 2nd Lt. Shannon Carlton and coaching), Karina Montagnese and Brenda Dickenson who have all represented 2799 Corps and medalled both regionally and nationally. Dickenson, Papania and Moogk were the gold-medal female team relay winners in the National Championship last year.



MP talks about Budget 2010

By Lois Brown
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Budget 2010 is about jobs and growth.

It is about phase two of Canada's Economic Plan, an historic two-year response to the global economic recession initiative that was timely, targeted and temporary.

And it is about laying the groundwork for our return to balanced budgets once our economic stability is secured.

Budget 2010 is an extension of the prudent management and vision our government has consistently demonstrated.

Back in 2006 we laid out a strategic, long-term economic plan called Advantage Canada to chart our country's future.

It was a road map that acknowledged our transition economy was evolving to new jobs requiring new skills and way of thinking.

It mapped out and answered the questions where do we need to go and how will we get there.

We set out to strengthen our nation, and show a modern, ambitious and dynamic Canada to the world - to create jobs, to help entrepreneurs start businesses, and to provide the wealth Canada needs to invest in health care and strong communities.

In 2006 we identified five advantages for Canada and developed a road map to translate these into opportunities:

- Our Tax Advantage - to reduce taxes for all Canadians and establish the lowest tax rate on new business investment in the G7,
- Our Fiscal Advantage - to continue to eliminate our debt to

create a strong foundation on which to build sustainable prosperity.

- Our Entrepreneurial Advantage - by reducing regulation and red tape and building a more competitive business environment,

- Our Knowledge Advantage- by creating the best-educated, most-skilled and most flexible workforce in the world,

- Our Infrastructure Advantage - to create modern, world-class infrastructure to ensure the seamless flow of people, goods and services across our roads and bridges, through our ports and gateways, and through public transit.

As we continue to work at developing these advantages through Canada's Economic Action Plan, these strategic investments have paid off with new jobs, partnerships and

products.

Our local communities have been the beneficiaries.

We know that small and medium sized businesses employ half of Canada's workforce and are leading the way out of the recession.

Budget 2010's Commercialization Innovation Program for small and medium sized companies will support this sector by helping these companies develop and market new technology, thereby creating new markets and employment.

This is just one of the many specific, strategic actions that our government is taking to help businesses today, create the jobs of the future.

Should you want more information on Budget 2010 please contact my office at 905-953-7515.

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Author's attitude serves him well

By MALCOLM WATTS
Special to The Auroran

An infectious smile, razor intelligence, and a positive attitude has served Aurora's Dys Burger well throughout his long life.

Burger's childhood began in the tropical paradise of Indonesia and included the internment of himself, and the rest of his Dutch colonial family, by the invading Japanese army during WW II when he was a teenager.

He states that he survived, as did many others, by maintaining the belief that the war would end in defeat for the Japanese and they would survive.

Burger planned for that future day of freedom, and his future career.

He attributes his positive spirit and outlook to his parents and the fortune of good health throughout his life.

Awaiting surgery this spring to replace a troublesome hip, his spirits remain undiminished.

In fact, he has just published a memoir, "Towards New Ground", detailing his early life in Indonesia, and experiences in captivity.

A retired forestry professional, Burger came to Canada with his first wife and attended university. The couple raised their family in the area.

He nursed his first wife at home for several years before her death following a devastating stroke.

It was during this period, he began writing his memoir, initially with only his children in mind.

A member of the Aurora Writers Group, he was encouraged by the group to make his story available to a wider audience.



DYS BURGER

"Towards New Ground" is a compelling read that includes background on the Pacific war including maps.

It describes how he survived, indeed thrived, and he introduces some interesting fellow captives he grew to know and respect.

The cover of the book features a sketch of young Burger that was completed by a fellow internee.

He kept a forbidden diary that was discovered by the Japanese hidden in the waistband of his underwear.

This account, and many others, provide a fascinating and informative read.

The book documents the cultural and language gulf, and xenophobia, that separated the occupying army from any positive contact with the indigenous and colonial population of Indonesia.

He lives today in Aurora with his second wife, Joy (a retired special education teacher and avid cook).

He enjoys reading, playing piano, painting landscapes, and visiting their cottage.

"Towards New Ground" is available at R & R Books for \$15.

The author is donating most of the proceeds to the Aurora Food Pantry.

GO Transit

From page 1

into additional time of travel of an hour, up to two hours in some cases."

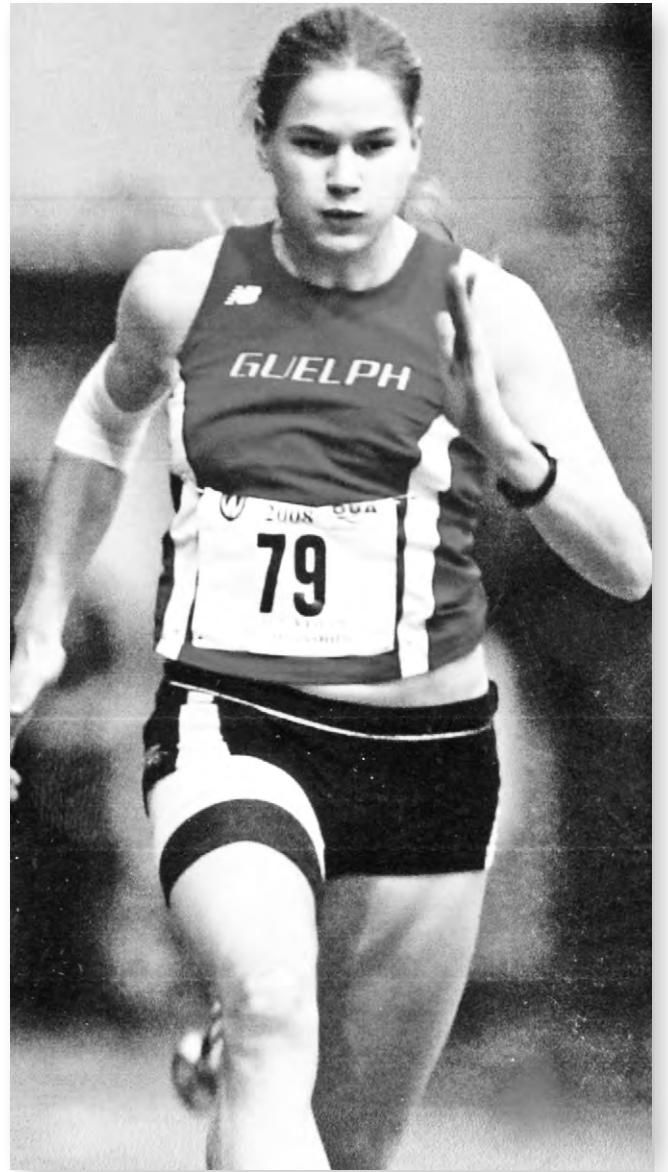
He said the information that riders had provided was accurate.

"Unfortunately, it was confirmed by both GO representatives as well as the YRT that the calculation of the additional cost of some \$85 plus and the additional travel time of an hour to two hours for many of these constituents was, in fact, accurate," he said. "At the end of the evening, it became apparent to me that we were taking a step back as opposed to taking a step forward to making public transit in York Region more attractive and encouraging more people to use public transit. I have a serious concern that in this particular case and this particular decision on the part of GO Transit, it is wrong and it is unacceptable."

However, Minister of Transportation Kathleen Wynne accused Mr. Klees of supporting any duplication in service when he was the minister several years ago.

"What I did, as Minister of Transportation, was I encouraged any action possible amongst regions and the province to avoid duplication," he answered. "And what was intended was that, in fact, services would be adopted by regional transit services that would be equivalent to and provide the same level of service and efficiency at the same cost. What is happening here is not what I intended as minister. It is not what this minister should endorse. It is wrong."

Following Tuesday's meeting, the MPP asked that a meeting be arranged at the earliest possible date that would include the CEO of Metrolinx, the Chair of York Region, and representatives of GO and YRT/VIVA.



SARAH PEIRCE

Aurora runner Sarah Peirce is the second fastest in Canada following her successful run last weekend at the 2010 Canadian Interuniversity Sport Indoor Track and Field Championships held at the University of Windsor. Sarah missed winning the event by a tenth of a second. She is the daughter of David and Joanne Peirce of Aurora.

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Meetings arranged to discuss Ward system

From page 1

website and provision made for the public to submit comments."

According to Mr. Leach's report, each of the three meetings has its own specific purpose.

While the March 31 open house is an informational meeting for the public, the April 6 Town Hall meeting is the venue for councillors and staff to "receive input from the public".

Public input received will be gathered and considered at the April 30 special general committee meeting.

"At that time, should it be determined that a question is to be placed on the ballot, Council could consider passing a bylaw April 27, 2010," Mr. Leach's report continued. "The deadline to pass [the] bylaw is April 28, 2010."

A draft of the discussion paper in question was included with Mr. Leach's report.

It outlines the legislative technicalities of a ward system, compares the systems in other municipalities, and looks at the advantages and disadvantages of both a ward system and Aurora's current "at large" system.

Advantages for the "at

large" system as outlined include a councillor's accountability to the "entire electorate" and the ease of replacing councillors in the event of a resignation or death.

Disadvantages included in the document range from greater campaign expenses for candidates - which might "deter potential candidates from running" - to the lack of "designated voices for the neighbourhood."

Conversely, the report determines ward elections

have the advantage of having representation of "significant communities of interest" and "provide more cost-efficient government" by reducing some administrative work.

On the other hand, there is a concern that a ward system would result in the "greater likelihood of acclamations" and the susceptibility of ward boundaries being subject to frequent re-drawings with demographic shifts.

Mr. Leach's report stressed that if council passes the bylaw allowing for the

question to be included - and the majority votes in favour of implementing the ward system - the affects will not be immediate.

"It is important to note that the October 25, 2010 Municipal Election for the Town of Aurora Council will be at large as in the past," Mr. Leach said. "If a ward system is to be implemented the earliest election with wards would be in 2014."

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DEATH NOTICE

SHAW, JOAN FRANCES

(nee Robertson) (formerly Ahrens) -- after a courageous battle with cancer, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her husband and children on Saturday, March 13, 2010 in her 72nd year at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Joan, cherished wife of Harry Shaw. Devoted mother of Nancy Pugliese (Rich); Jeff Ahrens (Angela); Margaret Smyth (Jim); Terry Shaw (Diane). Adoring and proud grandmother of Alex, Michael, Jason, Matthew, Jordan, Keenan, Arkady, and Harlan. Fondly remembered by her brothers and sister and their families : Rick Robertson, Mary Cane and John Robertson. Predeceased by her parents Hazel and Frank Robertson, husband Howard Ahrens, brother Robyn Robertson, sister Georgina Robertson, and step son Bruce Shaw. Joan's loving memory will live on forever in the hearts of the Robertson, Ahrens and Shaw families and her many, many close friends. Joan will be remembered for her major contributions to the life and work of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and to the community of Aurora. The family wishes to thank all those who have reached out to us over the last few months and offered love and support.

Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South (northeast corner of Industrial Pkwy S and Yonge) Aurora 905-727-5421 from 2-4 and 6-8 pm Thursday March 18, 2010. Funeral Service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (32 Mosley Street) on Friday afternoon March 19, 2010 at 1:00 pm. Interment King City Cemetery. In memory of Joan, donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would be appreciated by the family.

TIPTON, PAUL (TIPPER)

Passed away suddenly at Sunnybrook Hospital on March 10, 2010. Loving husband to Sheila, and father of Clinton and Elliott. Son of the late Harold (1975) & Lillias. Brother of the late Bruce (1972) and his wife Lynn, Nancy, and Craig. Son in Law of Donna Lawson, and brother in law of Mary & Bob Oliver, and Heather & Bill Clegg.

In keeping with Paul's wishes a celebration will take place at The Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Pkwy. N., Aurora, on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers donations to The Military Family's Fund, the Trillium Gift of Life Network, or the charity of your choice that is close to your heart would be appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

DIAMOND, DR. A. W. (Bill)



In loving memory of a dear husband, devoted father, and grandfather who passed away March 17, 2008.

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Members of the Aurora Seniors' budget bistro team are, left to right, Bill Higgins, Joan Levert, Don Stevenson, Terry Robertson, Mary Higgins and Joan Stevenson. At the centre on Wednesdays, from noon to 1 p.m., the weekly budget bistro is held. It costs \$4. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*



By BRIAN WARBURTON

ASA prepares for street festival

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA), through many volunteers provides an imposing variety of activities to attract seniors to take part .

Activities which prove to be the most enjoyable are often the activities which, while challenging, can be pursued with gusto and steadily improving competence.

In addition to activities provided by volunteers are activities offered by the Town to seniors which often required a professional program leader with appropriate training.

The spring programs are here now and are worth investigating promptly.

Looking ahead a little to the Yonge Street Festival, the ASA will participate with two booths, similar to last year.

The Festival will be held on Sunday, June 6th, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and volunteers are required to staff the booths, in shifts of about two hours each.

Usually the ASA has a member present, offering to play anybody at chess.

If you want to participate with the ASA as a volunteer or with merchandise you wish to sell, contact Karie Papillon at the ASA for information.

Perhaps you will require a booth of your own, or maybe would like to share space with the ASA.

The street festival, and each one is highlighted, remarkably and unforgettably year after year, by thousands of fascinated pedestrians passing by the booths from start to finish, and from personal experience, so many booths are lined up on each side of Yonge Street that it is impossible for any person of normal faculties to absorb all that is on display.

For those who enjoy country fair sales, the Aurora Street Festival is without

peer; it is the crème de la crème of country fairs or street festivals and has a well earned international reputation.

Charles Sequeira reports that the recent ASA Zephyr concert raised \$1500, which will be donated to relief in Haiti through the Red Cross and on behalf of the ASA.

In addition to money raised so far, Alma Durkin has donated a hand crafted Afghan quilt, which will be raffled off and again, the proceeds will be bound for Haitian relief.

Also, unused crutches and canes are being collected at the ASA, and will be donated to Haitian amputees.

Nomination forms for the ASA annual general meeting are available at the front desk until April 16th with voting conducted from May 3rd until May 21st.

The recent vote for a liquor license was defeated by a margin of 60 for and 65 against, which is remarkably close.

The closeness of the vote emphasizes the importance of voters casting their vote.

At the conclusion of terms of office the board of directors requires the authority of the membership to elect a new board, and the greater the turnout, the greater the authority of the board in dealing with ASA business.

Nearer to home the pennies collected in the Seniors' Centre amounted to \$446 and this sum will be donated to Southlake Foundation Cancer Research.

I have a figure of 1520 volunteer hours donated at the ASA, and can guarantee that the number should be far higher.

Volunteers often neglect to record all of their time donated, particularly when administrative work is performed at home.

A machine to perform embroidery has been pur-

chased and awaits installation.

A new piano is in process of being chosen and will be purchased, and the new piano requires a capable pianist.

Please contact Enid Maize for information.

The weather appears to be breaking free from winter's grip, warm weather activities beckon and the Canada Day Parade is among the good weather, major activities currently at the planning stage.

The ASA has the support once more of Diamond Landscaping and has entered a float; a committee of eight enthusiasts has been formed to plan and probably to ride in the float and to do all the little things that amount to a successful entry by the ASA.

This year, an Olympic theme will be employed and rather than one large feature, a number of smaller features will be utilized to get the seniors message of patriotic fervour across to the many thousands of Canadians who will line Yonge Street.

Bridge results

Monday, March 1: N/S - Mary Oglanby and Bernie O'Brien; Anne White and Barbara Wittmer; Lucille Sequeira and Dave Legallais. E/W - Judy Salmon and Kay Hack; Barbara and Dennis Champ; Don Newman and Murray Sinclair.

Monday, March 8: N/S - Mary Oglanby and Bernie O'Brien; Lucille Sequeira and Kay Hack; Dennis McFadden and Frank Lablans. E/W - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Rose White and Gloria Smith.

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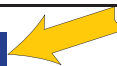


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