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THE AURORAN

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Week of January 13, 2009



JOHN GUTTERIDGE

Gutteridge will retire on April 15

Aurora's Chief Financial Officer, John Gutteridge, is retiring.

Mr. Gutteridge, who has been with the town since September, 2005, advised the mayor last week that he would be retiring effective April 15.

By providing three months notice of his retirement, Gutteridge has allowed the town the opportunity to look for a replacement while he assists council through the upcoming 2009 budget.

His three-month notice has also avoided what could have been a financial mess for taxpayers. During the 2005 budget deliberations the town's new CFO abruptly left, leaving the Deputy Treasurer and an Interim CAO to assist council through a budget process that included financing for the largest capital projects in a generation - the new Seniors' Centre and the new recreation complex.

Even their experience couldn't help avoid a 7.9 per cent tax increase for the year.

Prior to coming to Aurora, Mr. Gutteridge had worked for the Town of Cobourg and Kawartha Lakes and spends recreation time as a hockey referee.

While he may be retiring, he has offered his services to the town on an as needed basis.

Movement forms after Aurora advice ignored

In Leaside a small grassroots movement has been established that aims to force governments into making polluters and small factories that use or dispose of hazardous materials disclose how they affect the environment and human health.

And it all goes back to the death of a worker in an Aurora plant in 1983.

Unlike people in parts of the United States and in other industrialized countries, Toronto residents received little information about the issue and a local group called "The Community's Right to Know" want this changed.

The issue has surfaced at Queen's Park from time to time and in May, 2007, a legislative committee studied a right to know Private Member's Bill prepared by NDP's Peter Tabuns, but

little interest was shown in the Bill by the Liberals.

The main source of public information is Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory, but it is limited in the information provided.

Much of that would not have been necessary if the governments had taken action on recommendations of a coroner's inquest jury that investigated the death of an industrial worker in a flash chemical fire in Aurora.

In March, 1983, Darryl Erb died from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by an accidental flash fire of volatile and inflammable materials at his place of work at 12 Industrial Parkway South in Aurora.

A Coroner's Inquest was held to investigate the accident and to

Please see page 13

The good, the bad and the ugly in 2008

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The year 2008 was not a particularly good year for Aurora Council and it might be described as the good, the bad and the ugly. Here are some of the activities during the first six months.

It was a good year as the town and its citizens received several awards including the prestigious Prince of Wales Award for Heritage Conservation and the many successful community events, the bad due to the long, unproductive meetings resulting in deferrals and lack of action and the ugly due to interpersonal relations and raucous meetings.

The year got off to a bad start with the announcement by the Aurora Agricultural Society, sponsors of the Aurora Horse Show that the Society was being disbanded after 86 years due to lack of volunteers and funding.

Aurora was seeking volunteers to

fulfill new provincial legislation which requires municipalities to perform additional tests at private residential taps to check for lead in the drinking water.

It proclaimed 2008 as the Year of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Aurora to honour its rich cultural fabric and fostering appreciation and education about the arts, culture and history of the town.

The Anti-Train Whistle campaign was renewed in Aurora as a resident wanted to know why Aurora had not taken action to adopt a bylaw similar to other local municipalities to eliminate train whistling in residential areas. The original request was submitted in 2004.

Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee adopted ways and means to retain full service gas stations in Aurora for seniors and the disabled.

Council decided to investigate why some of the planning applications for vacant Yonge Street proper-



In spite of the cold weather New Year's Eve, Aurora's annual First Night drew record crowds. Most elected to visit indoor programs, including Tyler Crook, who had a 22-year-old cockatoo visit him during a show presented by Zoo Tek. Zoo Tek reps brought all kinds of creatures to Aurora's Recreational Centre, including turtles and snakes.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

ties had not been developed as approved plus the untidy condition of the properties, including Yonge and Tyler, Yonge and Centre, Yonge and Irwin and the vacant lot across from the Library.

A presentation was made to council regarding Sport Aurora to promote participation in sport and recreation for all citizens, to work together for the common good of sport and ensuring a safe, friendly and fun environment for all in sport, plus the development of a Sports Hall of Fame.

Council also received a presentation regarding a Community Wildlife Park, the first of its kind in Ontario and a model for other municipalities, which was endorsed.

Although council had started on the annual budget the previous September with a target date of December, later changed to January, it was finally adopted in April.

Council had problems in award-

ing a contract for the concessions at the various town community centres with three firms responding to the Request For Proposals. Council members and Aurora minor hockey officials objected to the staff report and sent it back. Staff issued a new RFP and recommended the same vendor which was adopted by council after criticism of staff over the process.

Following an in camera session, council approved February 18 as Family Day, a new holiday proclaimed by the province with staff receiving a paid holiday and the closure of the town hall.

Council was advised the town was facing a financial crisis as over the past few years capital projects had been deferred in order to keep the tax rate down and as a result an estimated \$102 million was required over the next four years with only \$60 million in reserve funds. On a 5-4 vote general committee agreed to

Please see page 12



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

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.

The Adult Bereavement Support Group offers a chance to learn how to cope with the loss of a loved one. Fred Bullen has given the use of the Aurora Lions Club and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will provide administrative cost so that this service is given free to the community. Contact mariesgriefjourney@yahoo.com to reserve a seat or get further information.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. and motorists must get their cars off the streets so that the Public Works Department can clear snow and ice from the roadway.

VOICE is a creative writing collective for teens between the ages of 13 and 18. At the meetings, held at the Aurora Public Library, teens learn various creative writing techniques, give and receive constructive feedback on their writing and meet other like-minded young writers. Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month, September through May, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is not required.

"Louder" is a semi-annual young adult magazine created through the creative effort of teens and produced by the Aurora Public Library's Young Adult Services Department. Submissions of writing, poetry, art, graphic art and photography are accepted. E-mail submissions to yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca or drop it off to the Children and Young Adult Information Desk to the attention of Monika Machacek.

Step into the world of watercolour with artist and teacher Alana Biasi. Both the beginner and advanced painter classes are held throughout the year, from January 22 to February 12, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$30 per registrant for students, Grades 5-11. Visit www.library.aurora.on.ca, or phone the Library at 905-727-9493 for further information.

On Tuesdays, until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@look.ca.

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

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 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 every Friday morning at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

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

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 Maize.

Tots (age nine months to four years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

Meet at Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised go to local charities.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at York Professional Care & Education, 15203 Yonge St., Aurora from 7.30 to 8.45 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Demystifying databases at Aurora Public Library. This is a hands-on workshop to learn how use the Library's electronic research resources effectively; each month will focus on a different subject. Limited to four participants per session. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, 905-727-9493. Free. Session begins at 10.30 a.m. until 11.15 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Monthly meeting of the Aurora Writers Group at Aurora Town Hall. Note: meetings have been moved to the fourth Monday for 2009. New members welcome. Writing exercises, speakers, discussion and more. For more information, call Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Proper Pruning: When, Where & How" Speaker: Mark Vanderwouw. 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Guests welcome. \$2 at the door

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day at the library. Aurora Public Library in partnership with the York Region District School Board and Ontario Early Years, York Region, presents 'What is Early Literacy?', a free workshop for parents/caregivers of children 0-6 years. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, 905-727-9493, option 4.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Ski Day is at Osler Bluff Ski Club in Collingwood. If you are interested in participating, call the Chamber Office at 905-727-7262.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Sponsor-a-Student Luncheon will feature speaker Gold Medal Olympian, Adam van Koeverden. Sponsorship is \$30 per student and is a great introduction for local students to Aurora's business community.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents Dessert Competition and Social presented by its Society Members. Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North 8 p.m. Guests welcome. \$2 at the door.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Annual music night at Wesley United Church begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each; available by phone or email. Call Paul or Sandra at 905-853-6873 or email letyourspiritssoar@wesleyunitedchurch.net.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Lighting the Way", bright selection for the shade garden. Speaker is Paul Zammit. At the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North 8 p.m. \$2 at the door.



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Focus on

Staying Safe on Winter Roads



Stay safe on the roads this winter. Let common sense prevail.

First and foremost, prepare your car for driving in bad winter conditions.

Clear off your windshield, mirrors, headlights and rear lights. Top up your windshield washer fluid and clean the ice off your wiper blades. We've all been in the position where we are rushing out the door and don't want to stop to take these vital safety precautions. Take the time.

Now you are ready for the road and the most important safety measure comes into play. We have all heard it before but it is worth repeating. **DRIVE ACCORDING TO ROAD CONDITIONS.** In winter weather this usually means slow down, slow down, and slow down!

Allow extra room for stopping your vehicle. Test your brakes on slippery roads to see how long it will take you to stop.

Allow yourself extra time to drive to your destination so you are not anxious behind the wheel.

Be courteous to other motorists, most are good drivers just like you.

However, when you witness reckless, dangerous driving or a suspected impaired driver, don't be afraid to report it. Pull over and dial 911. Report what you have

seen, even if you cannot get the license plate number of the vehicle. The police are encouraging us to make these calls. Do not worry that the incident may not be serious enough to report. Make the call and let the police decide.

The Ontario Provincial Police wish to remind us that it is now the law to change lanes, if you can safely do so, when approaching an emergency vehicle stopped at the side of the road with its red lights flashing.

We have all heard of tragic cases where police officers and other emergency personnel stopped at the side of the road have been struck and injured or killed by motorists not paying attention.

Move over, if it is safe to do so, and help protect our police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers who are doing their job to keep us safe on the roads.

Winter road conditions require that we give our complete and undivided attention when driving.

The York Regional police remind us in their "Operation Stay Focused" initiative to pay attention to the road and stay focused during all seasons.

- Avoid using cell phones while driving
- Avoid using electronic hand held devices
- Avoid reading maps or newspapers

- Personal grooming should be done at home, never while driving
- Drink your coffee and eat when you arrive safely at your destination
- Limit the number of passengers to the number of seatbelts

- Educate children on proper behaviour while in the car to avoid conflict.

It can be a serious, even fatal, mistake if we become distracted while driving.

Driving on icy or snow covered roads requires that we pay even more attention when behind the wheel. It is important to keep two hands on the steering wheel and two eyes on the road.

Following these safety practices and using your own common sense will help to keep us all safe on the roads this winter.

Happy New Year. Stay alert and stay safe.

Oh yes, and did I mention slow down?

Written by
Marianne Mandryk
Co-Chair
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Summer Doors Open planning is underway

Planning for next summer's Doors Open is already underway.

Slated for Saturday, August 15, Doors Open Aurora 2009 already has 13 sites signed up and two walking tours.

"Six of our sites so far are brand new for Doors Open Aurora," said organizer Michael Seaman. "We also have a web page set up at www.town.aurora.on.ca/aurora/index.aspx?CategoryID=187&lang=en-CA.

As with every Doors Open festival, volunteers are the backbone of the event.

Organizers have started the call for volunteers already which will be posted on the website.

With Aurora being the current winner of the Prince of Wales

Prize, organizers are anticipating much interest in 2009 in Aurora's history and heritage.

"One of Aurora's most famous residents is also a focal point on this year's tour as we explore - "Lester B. Pearson's Aurora" - sites on the tour," he said. "To date the tour includes his boyhood home, the Methodist Parsonage, his school (now the Church Street School Heritage Centre) and The Aurora Readiness Centre - a cold war relic and symbol of international tensions emerging out of the Cuban Missile Crisis that Pearson encountered as Leader of the Opposition and later as Prime Minister in 1962/63.

Other new sites for this year's

tour include the Trumpeter Swan Garden at Harry Lumsden's home on Hillview Drive; the Benjamin Stephenson House, currently the home of Pace Credit Union on Yonge Street; and the Andrew Morrison House on Wellington Street.

Returning to the list this year are Hillary House, the Charles Henry Sheppard House, Caruso and Company store, Vic's Shoe Repair, the Aurora Farmers' Market, the Grimshaw House, and the Smith House.

There will also be a walking tour of Northeast Old Aurora led by Aurora historian Dr. W. John McIntyre, which will leave from Aurora Farmers' Market, and a walking tour of Southeast Old Aurora, led by David Heard, which will also begin at the Farmers' Market.

If you have a special love of Aurora and its history and architecture, or if you just enjoy interacting with interesting people, join the group by volunteering.

If you're interested call 905-727-3123, ext. 4351, or e-mail mseaman@e-aurora.ca.

Doors Open Aurora is an excellent opportunity for high school students to earn part of their community service volunteer hours on a day of learning about the people and places of Aurora.

Auto aid package good news: Brown

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown says the financial aid package for the Canadian auto industry announced in December by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is welcome news for Newmarket and Aurora.

Highlighting the three-point plan is \$4 billion in loans payable to General Motors of Canada Limited and Chrysler Canada Inc. by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, extended through Export Development Canada (EDC).

The loans are expected to provide additional time for the auto manufacturers to reduce structural costs and ensure a viable auto industry in Canada.

"This made-in-Canada, three-point auto aid package is welcome news for Newmarket and Aurora," said Ms Brown. "We have taken a holistic approach, and these measures will assist suppliers and consumers including the numerous automotive retail and supply industries located here. I am especially pleased that Prime Minister Harper and our government incorporated the advice forwarded from the local auto dealership round table meeting I recently conducted. All three recommendations resulting from that meeting were addressed in this auto aid package with the inclusion of support to auto suppliers, consumers and by extension retailers, in addition to assistance for large auto manufacturers."

Ms Brown had received three key suggestions from her recent auto dealership round table; stimulate consumer spending, assist in extending credit for automotive purchases, and support Canada's large automotive

manufacturers.

MP Brown is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committees for Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and is the Vice-President of the Conservative Party Auto Caucus.



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2. Hormonal Balance
3. Increase Metabolism

Detox and Cleanse is Phase 1 of The U Weight Loss Program and is necessary to prepare the body for the next phases of the program. Most persons will have some build up in their intestines and colon and cleansing the body of excess waste will have some immediate benefits such as rapid weight loss and increased energy.

Hormonal Balance is a key component to achieving one's healthy weight and overall optimum health. This is achieved by proper nutrition, which means eating the right caloric amounts, combining proteins, carbs, and fats properly, and by eating at optimum times. The U Weight Loss Nutrition Program continues to receive the most accolades from clients as the choices of 1000s of meals from foods one likes, along with exact grocery lists and the ability to vary and alter meal plans regularly make meal planning easy and delicious.

Increased Metabolism is achieved through proper nutrition as learning how to fuel ones furnace becomes a learned habit at U Weight Loss. Exercise is a big part of U Weight Loss and is extremely important in regard to increasing metabolism. At U Weight Loss we have varied exercise programs based upon ones level. The least amount of exercise for a beginner would start with walking, and would advance as the weight comes off to include some strength training. It is well understood that muscle burns fat, and that besides increasing the speed of weight loss regular exercise has a myriad of benefits including heart health, improved bone density and reduction of osteoporosis risk, improved mood, improved sleep, and increased sex drive. Any weight loss program that does not include exercise cannot be considered a healthy lifestyle based program, and has a higher risk of regression, (putting the weight back on).

At U Weight Loss our clinic teams and clients are supported by our health experts in order to provide the best possible health and weight loss guidance. It is understood that part of successful weight loss includes ongoing emotional support. Clinic teams are continually trained in customer care as we understand that losing weight is a sensitive issue and needs to be handled with care.

To find out more about U Weight Loss you can log onto www.becomeyouagain.com <<http://mail.truestarhealth.com/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.becomeyouagain.com>> or contact us at 905-476-5483. A Free Detox and Cleanse is offered to all persons who come in for a Health Weight Analysis. No obligation.

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MP 1123 (10/2007)

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MP1432 (08/2008)

Jennifer Christensen B.A., CFP, CDFA, TEP
Executive Financial Consultant
jennifer.christensen@investorsgroup.com
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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The whole year a roller coaster ride for council

*Aurora is on a roller coaster,
As up and down council goes;
It hits both high and low spots,
Adding up to taxpayers' woes!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

The year 2008 was a mixed bag for Aurora Council as it had high spots and low spots and although the teeter-totter may have been cracked at times, they were able to hold it together to survive the second year of a four-year term.

Their efforts can only get better in 2009 as they can't get much worse.

Major highlights included receiving the Prince of Wales Award for maintaining outstanding stewardship of its built heritage, the Right to Dry campaign resulting in provincial legislation to approve clotheslines and an award from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the six northern York Region municipalities working together.

But it was a year of conflict, interpersonal relationships, staff/conflict relations resulting in the loss of most department heads through retirement or resignation and the dismissal of the CAO without a public explanation.

It was a year of many in-camera (private) meetings as one was held after almost every general committee and council meetings.

The year may go down in history as the Year of Deferrals as council was unable to make decisions on several issues resulting in the issue being deferred to another meeting and many issues are still outstanding.

The former hydro building is still empty, no decision has been made to the future of the former library or seniors' building, the anti-idling and drive-thru limitations have not yet been decided and the list goes on and on.

It was the first year in recent history that an annual report was not prepared for taxpayers as to the operations, achievements and plans of town departments due to council interference resulting in a personal report from the mayor as to what she perceived as council achievements.

One of the most frustrating actions of council was the rehashing of debates on issues that were fully discussed at a general committee meeting and then lifted for further discussion at a following council meeting.

The normal reason given for lifting the item was to ask a question, make a comment or to clarify. The questions and comments should have been made at the general committee meeting, not council.

If it is necessary to clarify the decision made, it is quite obvious the council member wasn't paying attention at the general committee meeting or wanted the exposure of the TV cameras at the council meeting.

The only time a general committee report should be re-introduced is if there is new information.

On several issues, members forgot they were elected to represent all citizens and voted to support the vocal minority.

At one meeting a single resident appeared before council to complain about PowerStream erecting a hydro pole on Bayview Avenue which blocked his view of the sunset.

Horrors, how could PowerStream do such a thing!

Get a company representative here to explain their actions.

At a subsequent meeting the PowerStream representative appeared to explain the secondary source of supply was being constructed along Bayview Avenue from Richmond Hill at the request of Aurora Council due to the many complaints received about blackouts in sections of old Aurora.

Then there was what must be considered one of the worst council misplays of the year.

A single resident appeared before council to complain about the lights along the walkway leading to the townhouses behind the Canadian Tire store across the store parking lot were no longer lit at night.

Her request was referred to staff to investigate.

A comprehensive staff report was presented to council providing background information with the recommendation that the town take no action with regard to the lighting as it was a private issue between the two parties and the town had no responsibility or authority regarding the lighting.

Regardless, council agreed to accept the responsibility and cost for three lights in a private parking lot as if they were on a municipal roadway and taxpayers are stuck for over \$300 a year in payment for the lighting.

There was much more but not enough's enough.

If the roller coaster continues into 2009, hopefully it will slow down a bit and the teeter-totter won't break.



It once carried the address of 9 Yonge Street North, and this building (top photo) was located at the corner of Centre Street in downtown Aurora. Today, (bottom photo) the building is gone and has been replaced by a one-storey strip plaza, featuring a jewelry store right on the corner. The top photo was once home to the Artist's Colony, and the picture, which shows four businesses living there, was taken in 1981, fewer than 30 years ago.

Letter to the Editor

LED Christmas lights “junk”, installer says

To the editor,

I'm a self employed handyman, and among many jobs I do, one is to put up Christmas lights for my customers.

I replaced one of my good customer's incandescent lights two years ago, with LED lights.

I'm already replacing whole strings of 25 lights because the manufacturers insist on wiring them in series, so that if one diode blows the whole string goes out.

They have also made them so a diode can't be replaced.

Consequently the whole string is garbage!

I have the job of trying to explain to my customers why they have to be replaced already.

I don't understand why

these companies insists on making such JUNK.

They advertise that these lights help the environment because they use less electricity, but, in fact, they are harming it by filling up the landfills with them and using more energy to produce more of them.

I am very pleased to have a good reputation with my clients but manufacturers like this are making it harder and harder for me to keep them.

From now on I'm suggesting to my clients that if they have the old style lights, that they keep them as they can be repaired.

Otherwise go back to burning candles in the windows.

Brad Knox
Aurora

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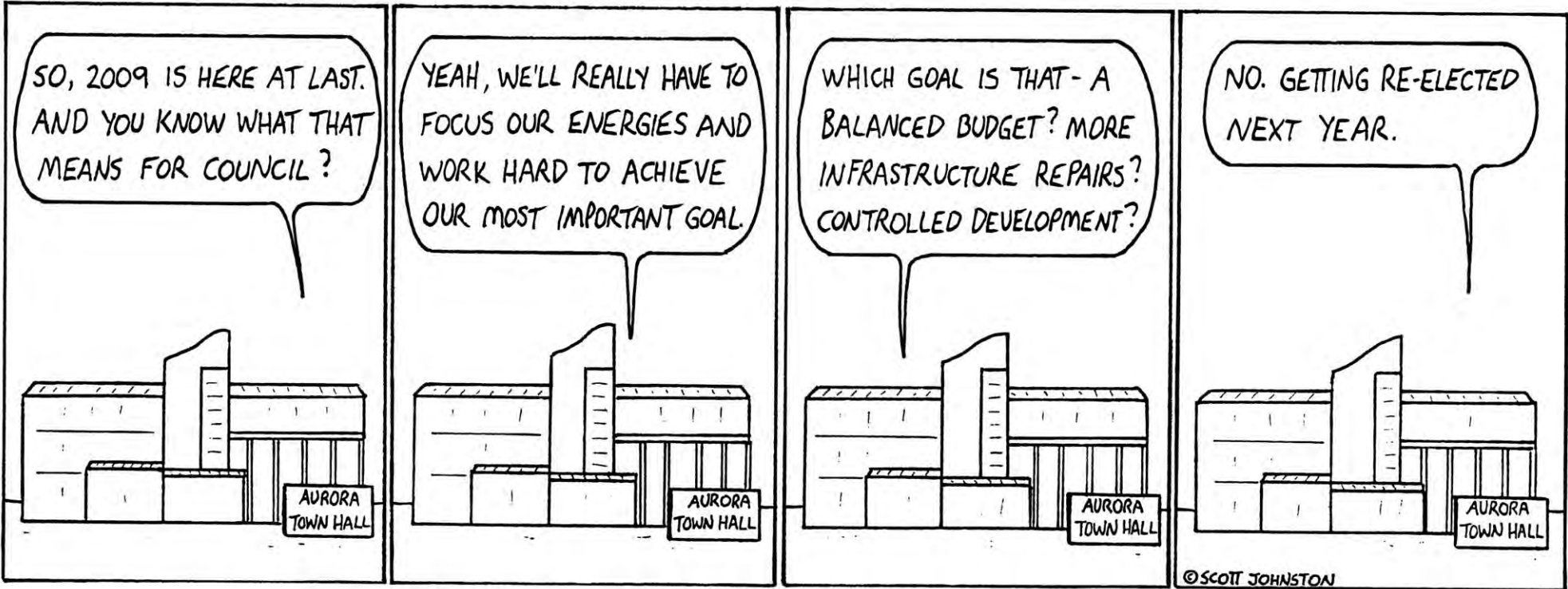
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Pre-Budget meeting

Last Thursday evening I attended the Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting put on by local Conservative Member of Parliament Lois Brown at the Aurora Town Hall.

The attendance of 60 people was a little less than I expected, but not bad for a cold and snowy night.

Ms Brown led off the proceedings with some initial comments and explained the economic measures that the government had introduced over the past two-and-a-half years.

Included among these was a cut in the goods and service tax and the steps taken to strengthen Canada's financial institutions.

She also made mention of the \$33 Billion Building Canada Plan, used for infrastructure development.

Our MP went on to explain that this event was one of a number of initiatives to solicit input and advice to help the government chart its economic course.

She then stated that all the comments and advice from this meeting would be provided to the Minister of Finance. The Federal Budget will be unveiled January 28th.

At this point, Ms Brown called up the first group to make its presentation.

As opposed to the pre-budget consultations on parliament hill that is usually the preserve of large corporations or nationally recognized interest groups, this one was different.

Of the ten deputations, four were from business/organizations and six were from private citizens with their ideas for the economy.

The various groups and private citizens put on interesting, yet very different deputations.

Each person was given seven minutes and then either Ms Brown or other people in the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

First up was Darryl Wolk and a representative of the Town of Markham, who presented on behalf of the National Centre for Medical Device Development.

This umbrella group represents a consortium of private sector and health care organizations that are looking for \$42 million in grant money over a five-year period from the Federal government.

This would match the private sector and provincial government funds to be used in constructing a new medical device research facility in York Region.

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce representative made the point in his presentation that "we need a plan to more than tread water."

He asked about a National Transportation Plan, a reduction in high marginal personal taxes, and lowering of corporate taxes, among other things.

Next came a number of private citizen presentations advocating, among other things, a reform of the Canadian monetary system, and a call for increased spending on renewable energy and tax incentives for home retrofits.

Next up was a gentleman named Larry representing the eight local automotive dealers in the area, representing about 500 jobs. He said economic stimulus was needed "now".

His two concerns were lousy consumer confidence and banks that were not making it easy for his customers to get credit.

Larry called for an immediate sales tax holiday and a reduction of the goods and service tax to zero for at least a 90-day period on all cars made in Ontario, not those cars that are assembled here.

The presentation that stood out for me on the night was from Janet Wilson of Aurora.

Her presentation also happened to be the shortest. She stated her sports accessories company has been located in Aurora for the past 20 years.

They employ twenty-five people in town and have ten sales agents across Canada.

Due to the state of the economy she is looking at potentially laying off a number of employees, but she obviously doesn't want to.

She spoke about a little heard of Federal program that was introduced back in 1977, called the Federal WorkSharing Program. This initiative "topped" up the reduced hours of employees with UI benefits.

Ms. Wilson was hoping a similar program could be resurrected today.

She envisioned her employees would work three days a week, then qualify for UI for the other two days a week.

This program could help her and her employees get through this recession.

Brian Moir of Aurora was last up, making a private citizen deputation. Some of you may recall seeing Brian's excellent columns in this paper on economic development.

He spoke against government handouts and instead advocated Free Trade and Research & Development Zones, similar to the Centres of Excellence in Kitchener, or the Free Enterprise Zones in North Carolina.

Lots of food for thought for our Member of Parliament and the Minister of Finance.

Next week: My Pre-Budget deputation to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Resolution solution

So, what's more traditional this time of year than making New Year's resolutions?

Why, breaking them, of course.

C'mon, fess up. It's only mid-January and already you've lapsed on at least one resolution.

It could be to eat less junk food. Or maybe you vowed to quit smoking. Or perhaps it was to get out and exercise more often.

But you know what happened.

There were so many leftovers from Christmas, and all that chocolate and holiday baking was taking up way too much space. No one else was eating it, and it would have been a shame to throw it all out.

And if you're a smoker, having just one cigarette after lunch doesn't really count, does it? And maybe one before lunch? Oh, and at break time, and...

As for exercising, you are still planning to get to the gym, but it's been really cold out...and you should pick up a new pair of running shoes, first.

And so, although established with the best of intentions, one by one the resolutions fell.

And that's the problem with resolutions; they're really easy to make, but much more challenging to keep.

The reason they're hard to stick with is that most people set

the bar way too high.

For example, if you haven't walked to work once in the past year, what makes you think that a January 1st declaration to do so twice a week in 2009 is going to make a difference?

It sounds so easy as you sit there with your feet up on the couch on New Year's day.

But that's a long walk to your office (and back), along dark, snowy streets.

And the first time you tried it, you were completely exhausted just scaling the windrow at the end of your driveway.

Besides, with gas prices coming down, driving is so much more affordable.

It's so easy to justify putting off those promises. A day here...an exception there...they all add up.

Before you know it, your resolve has, well...dissolved.

Some people claim that the way to get out of this problem is to make a resolution not to make any resolutions. But that takes the fun out of it.

Besides, just trying to think through that sort of contradictory resolution is likely to make your brain hurt, especially so shortly after New Year's eve.

So the only real solution, and a win-win one at that, is to make your resolutions ridiculously achievable.

Now, you don't want to go overboard. Resolving to breathe

on a regular basis is just cheating.

But if you're an armchair athlete, perhaps you could pledge that, even with much persuasion, you will not enter Aurora's Hartwell Run half marathon in 2009 while reciting the town's Code of Conduct.

You're pretty much guaranteed to keep that one. And even if you didn't, well good for you, at least from a health perspective.

The advantage of setting the bar so low, at least on some of your resolutions, is that several months from now, as you look back on the year, you can say, "well, I didn't cut back on my coffee intake, but I did manage to avoid being run over by a Canada Day parade float, and I was able to avoid donating every other paycheque to the town's infrastructure repair fund".

You'll feel like you've really accomplished something.

Since I want to feel good about myself this year too, I think the ridiculously achievable resolution is the way to go.

In fact, I've already made a resolution to try to keep poking fun at our local politicians in 2009.

That's one I'm sure I'll be able to keep.

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



Bouquets &

BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the line dancing group who meet every Tuesday morning under the instruction of Dianne Fisher. Each year for the final class before Christmas, the \$3 fee is waived and the dancers are asked to bring in food for the food bank. Each year the dancers respond overwhelmingly and this year their contributions were combined with those of the Legion members which amounted to one huge donation. The Legion was kind enough to deliver the dancers' items as well.

BOUQUETS to all the nurses at the Southlake Regional Health Centre and while they may not dress in the stiff, white uniform of Florence Nightingale, they have the same passionate care and consideration for their patients as Nightingale.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible at Southlake Regional Health Centre for keeping the corridors and waiting rooms of the second floor so cool. It may be suitable for the MRI, CatScan, and X-Ray equipment but it does nothing for the patients waiting around in the flimsy hospital gowns.

BOUQUETS to the cast members, past and present, of the long-running political satire TV show "Royal Canadian Air Farce" which made its last flight on New Year's Eve after 38 years. They will be missed!

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Ministry of Finance for pressing for a higher beer price minimum rather than the LCBO raising questions about the arm's length relationship between the two bodies and with no explanation as to why the price increase was necessary. Just another tax grab?

BOUQUETS to Newmarket Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown for holding a budget meeting for constituents prior to the federal budget to get their input as to concerns, needs and worries, but will Harper listen?

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his dictatorial ways resulting in business leader Jim Arnett resigning as special auto industry advisor to the Harper government after less than three weeks on the job. It's the Harper way or the highway!

BOUQUETS to the Scott Mission in Toronto for its ongoing work but especially at Christmas as more than 500 empty stomachs were fed. The Mission also gave away Christmas presents of tube socks, toques, gloves and scarves to diners. Over the Christmas season, they gave away 2,700 grocery cards and toys for 2,400 kids.

BRICKBATS to manufacturers of drug and other products used extensively by seniors with the instructions printed so small that it is impossible to read, which could be harmful to the user. Some branch of the federal government should be responsible to ensure the directions are readable.

BOUQUETS to anyone who can produce a real political leader in Canada, a politician capable of inspiring public confidence in hard times, as it is obvious that Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty aren't up to the job and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff doesn't look much better. Please a leader, any leader!

BOUQUETS to Toronto City Police now almost three weeks into their annual RIDE program and laying 10 per cent more drinking and driving charges over last year in spite of all the advance publicity about drinking and driving. Those charged deserve what they get!

BRICKBATS to our federal politicians for bragging about tax cuts. Statistics Canada revealed that Canadian families paid six per cent more on average in personal income taxes last year which remained the single largest expense for families, even ahead of housing. How can you believe Finance Minister Jim Flaherty?

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Letters to the Editor

Crisis is opportunity for change, he says

To the editor,

The current auto industry crisis is an opportunity for change.

Instead of adopting a system that uses more GO Transit and public transportation to get away from our dependency on cars, we will fund the inefficient auto industry with our tax dollars.

Historically, North American auto manufacturers have built cars with "built-in obsolescence", so we have to continuously buy parts for them.

We can no longer keep run-

ning on this endless treadmill, since it has led us to this economic chaos.

Automobiles pollute the environment by burning vast amounts of fossil fuel each year.

We think that we cannot live without our cars.

Media ads elevate the use of cars and the automobile has become a status symbol and a way to boost our materialistic egos.

This ideology of "car mania" leads us to a dead end and this way of thinking will cause even more serious consequences on the economy in the near future,

such the depletion of our natural resources and global warming.

The recent crisis in the auto industry has actually created an opportunity for a dramatic social change in our society.

Governments could create jobs in the infrastructure.

Expand the subway system in the GTA and create more GO and LRT routes to move commuters to work in a manner which addresses the ecosystem.

European nations lead the way and show us examples how to use options in public transportation and by developing different lifestyles.

The service industry could be also be developed by using

tax funds to fight poverty and to deal with the needs in our society.

Social workers, day cares and recreational services for an aging population could be developed.

There is an opportunity to make a real difference to our society and economy.

We should not be bullied into lending the auto industry our tax money.

Public funds may only wind up in the pockets of the corporate elite, who boast six figure incomes. We now need to decide which direction we really want to take into the future.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

It's time the Town started job sharing

To the editor,

With so many private companies downsizing during these tough economic times I was again amazed that the Town of Aurora continues to hire rather than work with the staff that they have.

The most recent ad for an assistant to the chief administrative officer shows that this mayor and some of her councillors do not get the idea that cutbacks have to be made.

Private industry, including businesses in Aurora, is being negatively affected by the slowdown and that means that there will be less taxes coming to the Town and therefore a shortfall in spending power.

Normally this is a sign that there should be cutbacks in Town spending and at times tough decisions have to be made.

Perhaps and most probable should be a move to promote from within rather than hiring outside. Then start looking at positions in the Town Hall that could be condensed and shared.

Just perhaps the new assistant to the councillors could also work with the CAO as was the case for all of the past councils until this mayor went on a spending spree.

There were a few of these new councillors, especially

Al Wilson, who had signs to cut taxes and look for ways to save the Town money.

I do not want to pick just on Al as almost all of the councillors had a similar statement to get elected.

Also it really seems totally ridiculous to see a two page spread in The Banner for Town news whereas there was always just one page.

This is a 100 per cent increase in spending just to allow the mayor another way to advertise.

In Aurora, it used to be the Mayor's blood clinic but now it is Mayor Phyllis Morris blood clinic.

I guess times change and so does self importance.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Letter deserves a nomination

To the editor,

A few praises for the S. Lee letter to the editor (The Auroran, Dec. 23, 2008).

This letter has so much insight, is to the point and so very much the truth while hitting the nail on the head.

S. Lee's Letter to the Editor should be nominated for "Letter to the Editor of the Year".

Raymond Noble
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Chicane argument will end, reader says

To the editor,

RE: Recent letters in The Auroran about traffic calming in the north-east quadrant.

I would like to draw your attention to the following entry from, French Fun,

The Real Spoken Language of Quebec, by Steve Timmins:

Chicane (feminine) definition: Argument, arguing, quarrelling.

J'aime pas la chicane! I don't like arguments!

If you go to a fancy French restaurant don't be

surprised when you order cheval and your waiter brings you horse meat.

Likewise, don't be shocked when you order escargot and get a plate of snails.

Similarly, if you build a chicane in the middle of a road, guess what you are

going to get?

I live on Walton Drive and my comments about traffic calming measures in the area are brief:

1) No noticeable difference when it comes to the traffic in terms of speed and quantity.

2) There have been

many occasions when people honk and get frustrated with one another due to the chicanes.

3) There have also been numerous incidences of the people hitting the chicanes and the reflector signs with their cars, trucks and plows.

4) The chicanes are very ugly.

As far as I know, there is nothing in the works to correct the traffic flow at the Yonge-Wellington intersection. There has also been no thought given to removing the level rail crossing at the GO station, despite the fact that Wellington Street is to Aurora what Major Mackenzie Drive is to Richmond Hill (and in a few years more GO trains will use the tracks throughout the day causing more snarled traffic, but I digress).

Since I have to live with the chicanes I have resolved to take the long-view: eventually this argument will come to an end, hopefully on the side of reason and wisdom.

December of 2005, when I attended the York Regional Police retirees Christmas party.

I was utterly amazed at the growth of not only Aurora, but the entire York Region.

This book was a pleasure to read.

Dave Knowles
Sours West, PEI

Peter Drost
Aurora

He liked the book on Aurora

To the editor,

I have been meaning to send off a note regarding Ms Milner's book. (Aurora 1945-1965 by Elizabeth Milner)

This past summer, Marty and Kathy Koppins paid a visit. (Pat and I keep in touch with Kathy and Marty).

Kathy also gave me a copy of the book, and

quite simply, did it ever bring back fond memories.

In the book's afterword, Elizabeth notes that she was hopeful young people, and new people in Aurora, would open the book, and understand what life was like in post WW II Aurora.

I would also have to say that in some of the sections, it brought back

very fond memories of childhood friends, some who have unfortunately passed away, like Roy MacIntyre.

Presently, I am completing a book "To my granddaughter", and I am happy to say that I can now include several fond memories in this for her to read, as a result of Ms Milner's book.

Several I had honestly

forgotten about, and one of which was John Finley, and the success he has experienced.

In my younger years I had been a friend of John's, and can remember very vividly his desire to become a musician, and from the article, I see he was successful in his endeavour.

As we had gotten older, we lost touch, and perhaps someday we'll cross paths and reminisce of old times.

I have been back home on several occasions, and the most recent was

Fundraiser passed goal

To the editor,

I would like to thank everyone who supported my very successful fundraising effort for the Canadian Cancer Society again this year in memory of my grandpa, Bob Gillies.

With the help of my friends at Highview Public School and House League Minor Bantam players and parents, my neighbours at

the Aurora Village Co-op, and my friends and family, I was able to raise \$1,535.

I was so surprised to surpass my goal by \$280!

A very big thank you to the following Aurora stores: Bulk Barn, Chris' No Frills, Foodland, Metro and Real Canadian Superstore for donating the baking supplies I needed to make all the homemade cookies.

Another big thank you to Chuck Bombardieri and my grandma, Dorothy Gillies, for donating additional supplies; I could never have done it without all your help!

Hopefully we can get closer to making cancer history.

Dylan Lyons
13 years old
Aurora

He found a "gotcha"

To the editor,

Re: Cathy's Corner Dec. 23 The Auroran.

Cathy's 12 Rules of Christmas, in addition to her usual good humour, have one gotcha and one

of great compassion.

Rule 6: The artificial or "real" tree decision should be made with all the facts. Real trees are not stolen from our forests. They are carefully nurtured on local tree farms for those who want to preserve cherished

Christmas traditions.

Rule 10: "Find someone who is ALONE..." The first holiday after a death or separation gives a new painful meaning to the word alone. It should remind us, in this boat-ride through life, we occupy different seats, but it is the same boat – the same destination.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

Crucial you attend this public meeting

An Open Letter to the Wells Street Public School community, businesses and property owners.

Wells Street Public School needs your help!

The second public meeting to determine the fate of the school is quickly approaching; Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

A strong show of community support is critical at this meeting.

If you want to keep Wells Street Public School open, please bring your children, friends and neighbours to this meeting.

Consider the following questions if Wells Street P.S. ceases to operate as a York Region Public School:

- How will your property value be affected?
- How would your local business be affected?
- What will happen to the immediate and surrounding community?
- What will become of this

significant historical building?

- How will the environment be impacted by the continued bussing of the entire Wells Street P.S. student population to another school out of the catchment area?

- Who or what could move into the building?


If you would like to find out the answers to any of these questions, or to ask your own questions, or voice your concerns, it is crucial that you attend the second public meeting at Aurora High School on Wellington Street West January 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Now is the time to pull together as a community!


Beverly Norton
& Blake Aspden
Carol Farrenkopf
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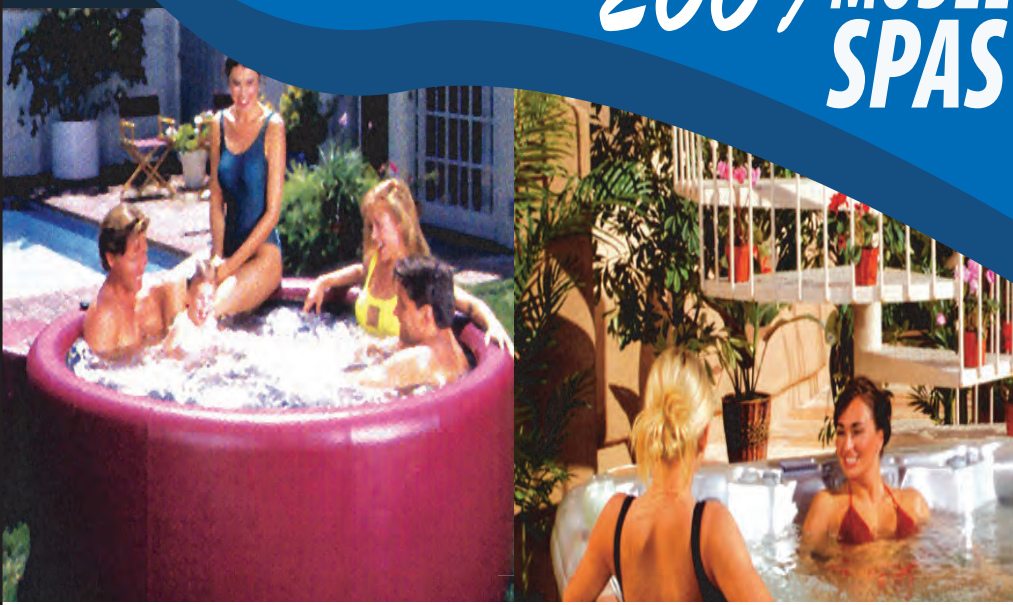
The Cox family would like to thank Frank for doing such an outstanding job once again. We truly appreciate the extra effort that Frank puts into helping his customers get the best deals and service in York Region. Way to go Frank!!

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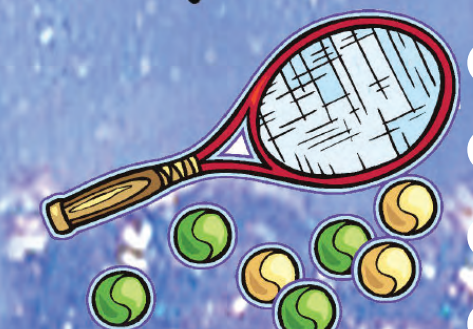
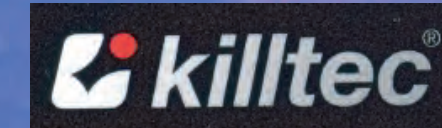


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Time: 12:00 noon
Program Cost: \$20.00 Members – \$25.00 Potential Members
Place: Aurora Chamber Office
14483 Yonge Street, Aurora

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 2009 – LUNCHEON

Showcase: 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: 12:15 p.m.
Program Cost: \$40.00 Members
\$50.00 Potential Members
\$30.00 Students
Speaker: Adam van Koeverden, Olympic Kayaker
Place: DiNardo's – The Mansion
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Erratic schedule gives Aurora five wins

Since before Christmas, the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team has put together five wins and a loss, including three victories over the Collingwood Blues, one which came in Aurora Sunday afternoon.

Aurora seems to have a habit of keeping fans on the edge of their seats by giving up big leads.

Sunday, Aurora held onto a slim lead to win 4-3, but led at the end of the second period 4-1.

Against the Dixie Beehives earlier, Aurora led 5-1, before settling for a 5-4 victory.

But, hey, two points are two points no matter how you get them.

Their one loss came at the hands of the powerful Georgetown Raiders in Aurora Friday night.

Georgetown won that one 4-2.

After opening the new year with 7-4 and 7-1 wins over Collingwood and Villanova, the Aurora Tigers lost some momentum in that game.

Georgetown shut out Aurora the last time the two teams met, and outplayed the Tigers again in Friday's game.

Before the game was 10 minutes old, the Raiders led 2-0.

Aurora finally got on the board on a Dominic Monardo short-handed goal.

Georgetown restored its lead to two goals at 9.19 of the second period, but that did not last long, because 35 seconds later, Lucas Van Natter replied for Aurora.

Although Georgetown made it 4-2, the shots on goal were a respectable 26-24 after two periods.

The third period was scoreless.

With "a few bounces,"

Aurora coach and general manager Craig Evans thought his team could have won the game.

He said the team has "got to meet adversity a little harder".

Due to a scheduling quirk, the Tigers played three games in less than 48 hours - while the team plays just once between now and January 23.

On Saturday, they visited Dixie and although they gave up the first goal, the Tigers rolled off five in a row.

But the Beehives fought back and made a game of it.

Kyle Paige scored twice for the winners.

He arrived recently from Gatineau of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League - the same team coached by ex-Tiger bench boss Jerome Dupont.

"Jerome Dupont knew of him and asked if he wanted to be a player with Gatineau," said Evans. "It didn't work out."

Evans explained that he had "always been in touch with Kyle" and that he was "glad" of the new acquisition.

"He can be a difference maker," the coach said.

Against Collingwood Sunday, Aurora jumped in front on a Mike Bodley goal.

Before the announcer had finished recognizing that goal, Nic Vangog scored Aurora's second of the game.

The Tigers stretched their lead to three late in the second and that goal proved to be the winner.

The Blues responded by netting two goals in the third period to cut Aurora's lead to 4-3.

Collingwood's third goal came late in the game.

An error resulted when the announcer saying Villanova had scored the goal, even

though Villanova was in Ajax at the time.

The goal came with Aurora captain Dominic Monardo in the penalty box.

Monardo took a four-minute penalty with less than a minute to play, along with a game misconduct and a fighting major.

Collingwood called a time out in an effort to tie the game in the final seconds, but came up short.

Evans said he was "not disappointed" with the ending.

"Credit to them for giving us that push," he said. "We improved with our powerplay."

Aurora's next game is an away game next Sunday at Upper Canada.

Collingwood was in town for Tigers' final game of 2008, and Aurora showed some giving spirit as they promptly gave up a powerplay goal before the game was two minutes old.

They also let the Blues score the final goal of the game to give their opponent something to feel good about going into Christmas.

Unfortunately for the Blues the Tigers scored six straight goals in between their two markers - two in each period - to send the Blues home to Collingwood without a Christmas present.

After giving up the first goal, the Tigers brought the game even with Matt Pasztor's blast from the point that found the net past a screened Blues goaltender.

Monardo's tally in the last minute of the first proved to be the momentum the Tigers needed for the second period. On the night, Monardo registered four points.

Monardo came out in the second to get his second and the eventual game winner.

David Morley then com-

bined with Sardella and Monardo for the Tigers fourth midway through the period.

The remainder of the second was penalty laden as the Tigers dealt with six penalties in the remaining 10 minutes of the period.

The Tigers finished 2008 with 55 points, good enough for second place in the Phillips Division, nine points behind the division leading Couchiching Terriers.

Against the Dixie Beehives, Aurora was absolutely flat, but were able to hold on to a slim 5-4 victory after being defeated a night earlier.

Their passes were soft, erratic and ill-advised for the bulk of the night but were very prevalent at the start.

It wasn't a pretty win, but the Tigers took the two points.

Currently, Aurora is in second place in the Phillips division trailing Couchiching by four points. They are tied with Huntsville with 63 points, although both Huntsville and Couchiching have games in hand over the Tigers.

AURORA 6 COLLINGWOOD 2

First Period

C - Patrick Martin (Scott, Deston) PP 1.41
A - Matt Pasztor (Hellyer, Morley) 8.41
A - Dominic Monardo (Hellyer) 19.34

Second Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Sardella, Morley) 3.31
A - David Morley (Sardella, Monardo) 9.03

Third Period

A - Garrett Trainor (Milne, VanNatter) 8.09
A - Michael Sardella (Pasztor, Monardo) PP 9.37
C - Tyler Zeggil (Taylor, Scott) PP 18.36

AURORA 7 COLLINGWOOD 4

First Period

C - Ryan Gieseler (Ciampichini, Zeggil) PP 11.18

A - David Morley (Evans) 11.30
C - Jarrett Fennell (Johnson, Doust) 14.25
A - Dominic Monardo (Hellyer, Morley) PP 16.26

AURORA 7 COLLINGWOOD 4

Second Period

C - Mike Deston (Poitras, Scott) PP 7.10
A - Mike Bodley (Milne, Vangog) 8.45
A - Lucas VanNatter SH 13.17
A - Kyle Paige (Morley, Evans) 15.55
A - David Morley (Evans) 16.25
C - Ryan Johnson (Ciampichini, Zeggil) PP 19.46

Third Period

A - Dominic Monardo 12.33

AURORA 7 VILLANOVA 1

First Period

A - Thomas Evans (Paige, Morley) PP 2.43
A - Phil Bushbacher (Ramieri, Mooney) 12.15
A - Matt Pasztor (Sardella, Monardo) 14.20

Second Period

V - Mark Alessandro (Gagliese, Baptista) 6.59
A - Garrett Trainor (Milne, Vangog) 15.24
A - Mike Bodley (Vangog, Evans) PP 19.32

Third Period

A - Matt Pasztor (Happeney, Paige) 1.08
A - Dominic Monardo (Milne, Evans) 17.29

GEORGETOWN 4 AURORA 2

First Period

G - Andrew Marcoux (Wick, Zych) PP 6.52
G - Aaron Pearce (Dewey, Marcoux) 9.44
A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Evans)

SH 16.57

Second Period

G - Trevor Branning 9.19
A - Lucas VanNatter (Paige, Happeney) 9.54

G - Trevor Branning (Pryde) 13.30

Third Period

No scoring

AURORA 5 DIXIE 4

First Period

D - Nick Crozier (Marcuz) 5.40
A - Mike Bodley (Hellyer, Morley) PP 10.23
A - David Morley (Trainor) 11.11
A - Kyle Paige SH 15.35

Second Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Bodley) PP 2.37
A - Kyle Paige (VanNatter) SH 15.16
D - Justin Monaghan (Marcuz, Case) 15.36
D - Nicholas Popelar (Merman, Hepler) 17.11
D - Eric Windmueller 17.25

Third Period

No scoring

AURORA 4 COLLINGWOOD 3

First Period

A - Mike Bodley (Morley, Monardo) PP 7.39
A - Nick Vangog (Milne, Trainor) 8.03

Second Period

C - Ryan Johnson (Fennell, Taylor) PP 9.13
A - Mike Bodley (Evans, Monardo) PP 9.51
A - David Morley (VanNatter, Paige) 19.45

Third Period

C - Patrick Martin (Gard, Dobinson) PP 3.44
C - Michael Belanger (Fennell) PP 19.47



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Goodyear Bantam Select Jays planning Italian tournament trip

A group of 14 to 16 year old Aurora boys is planning a once-in-a-lifetime trip to an international baseball tournament near Parma, Italy, organized by the Sala Baganza Baseball Club in that country.

The tournament will be played in August, 2009, on fields in the small town of Sala Baganza and the boys and coaches will be housed in campgrounds, with meals cooked and served by a local Italian women's group.

Coach Mike Ariganello is excited for the players. "This is an amazing opportunity to play against teams from all

over the world and to be immersed in a rich culture," he said.

The coach admits fundraising will be a challenge.

"We're estimating \$40,000 to 50,000 to send the players and coaches. Of course, additional family members will pay their own way."

Several fundraising events and activities are in the planning stages, including sponsoring a banner that will be displayed at all home and away games.

As well, the group is organizing calendar sales, Guitar Hero competitions, wine tastings for the

adults, and a darts tournament.

Plus, there is something "brewing" for the World Baseball Classic at Rogers Centre for families in March, 2009.

To learn more about the Aurora Jays, visit www.auroraminorball.ca

and to learn more about the tournament in Italy, go to www.nuke.salabaganz-abc.org.

You may also contact Publicity Directors Christine Woodley (Woodley@aci.on.ca) or MaryLynn Baran (marylynn.baran@sympatico.ca).



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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, January 11, 2009



House League

Peewee

506 Wikoff Color Corp. 5 - James Powell 1G 1A, Harry Smith 1G 2A, Zac Kroll 1G, Tyler George 1G, Carson Elliott 1G 1A, Jordan Stephenson 1A, Isaac Hambrock 1A. **502 Omar Shoes 5** - Mitchell Arnew 1G, Alec Ground 1G, Rob Rusica 1G, Neil Duggan 2A.

504 Pizza Pizza 4 - Max Brown 2G 1A, Harris Riopelle 1G 1A, Landon Kirby 1G, Ben McGowan 1A. **508 Tilemaster 2** - Ryan McGolrick 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1G.

503 Greenpoint Laser 4 - Brayden Beswick 1G, Mitchell Lamantia 1G, Liam Henderson 1G, Braydon Babineau 1G 1A, Corey Young 1A, Luc Gregoris 1A. **505 Laurion Law Office 1** - Russell Johnson 1G.

501 Perfect Moves 3 - Christopher Sanita 1G1A, Brian Langdon 1G, Jake Arcangeli 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1A. Billy Haddock, shutout. **507 Sgt Pepper's Bar & Grill 0.**

508 Tilemaster 4 - Hunter Jones 1G, Nicholas Romano 1G, Ryan McGolrick 1G, Thomas McDonald 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1A, Adam DeRoos 1A, Alex Gouthro 1A, Alex Jonasson 1A. **503 Greenpoint Laser 3** - Luc Martineau 1G, Tyler Abushinov 1G, Matthew Walker 1G, Mitchell Palmer 1A, Corey Young 1A, Liam Henderson 1A.

Sgt. Pepper's Bar & Grill 5 - Keith Jarvis 2G, Morgan Walker 2G, Tyler Futterer 1G, Michael Hosmer 2A, Scott Dunlop 1A, Jason Glionna 1A, Chris Downs 1A. **506 Wikoff Color Corp. 3** - Michael Slack 1G, Andrew Walter 1G, Zac Kroll 1G, Tim Pare 1A.

504 Pizza Pizza 4 - Michael Tanel 1G 1A, Declan Johnston 2G 1A, Max Brown 1G, Landon Kirby 1A, Benjamin Black 1A. **502 Omar Shoes 2** - Alec Ground 1G.

505 Laurion Law Office 3 - Michael Arcuri 1G, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Jamie Wilson 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Brendan McDonald 1A. **501 Perfect Moves 1** - Chris Sanita 1G, Matthew Sanita 1A.

505 Laurion Law Office 8 - Lucas Marek 1G, Russell Johnson 3G 1A, Brendan McDonald 2G, Carson Dupuis 1G, Brady Wilson 1G, Elias Jeries 3A, Scott Taylor 2A, Joey Stel 2A, Owen Nisbet 2A, Nicholas Chethuan 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A, Graham Killby 1A. **506 Wikoff Color Corp. 3** - Harry Smith 1G, Tyler George 2G, Carson Roell 1A, Matthew D'Allesandro 1A, Zac Kroll 1A, Isaac Hambrock 1A, Carson Elliott 2A.

508 Tilemaster 2 - Tyler Hindley 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1G, Alex Jonasson 2A, Owen Woodcock 1A, Jake Anderson 1A. **502 Omar Shoes 2** - Alec Ground 1G 1A, Riley O'Brien 1G, Robert Rusica 1A, Eric McMurray 1A, Terrence Simon Lepore 1A.

507 Sgt. Peppers Bar & Grill 5 - Scott Dunlop 1G, Morgan Walker 1G 2A, Tyler Futterer 1G 1A, Keith Jarvis 1G, Jason Glionna 1G, Chris Downs 2A, Alexander Harrison 1A. **504 Pizza Pizza 4** - Max Brown 2G, Brendan Elliott 1G, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Oliver Jones 1A, Michael Tanel 1A.

503 Greenpoint Laser 2 - Mitchell Palmer 1G, Mitchell LaMantia 1G, Liam Henderson 1A, Luc Martineau 2A. **501 Perfect Moves 2** - Brian Langdon 1G, Matthew Sanita 1G.

501 Perfect Moves 3 - Joel Gouveia 1G, Brian Langdon 1G,

Samantha Sanita 1G, Christopher Sanita 2A, Matthew Sanita 1A. Billy Haddock, shutout. **508 Tilemaster 0.**

506 Wikoff Color Corp. 5 - Michael Slack 2G, Zac Kroll 1G 1A, Justin Chalmers 2G 1A, Matthew D'Allesandro 1A, Carson Roell 2A, Isaac Hambrock 1A, Tyler George 1A. **503 Greenpoint Laser 2** - Braydon Babineau 1G, Brayden Beswick 1G, Mitchell LaMantia 1A.

502 Omars Shoes 5 - Mitchell Arnew 1G 1A, Neil Duggan 1G, Alec Ground 1G, Michael Liscio 1G, Andrew Foresi 1G 1A, Alexander Stewart 1A, Robert Rusica 1A. **507 Sgt Peppers Bar & Grill 3** - Morgan Walker 1G, Alexander Harrison 1G 1A, Tyler Futterer 1G, Chris Downs 1A, Jason Glionna 1A.

505 Laurion Law Office 3 - Brady Wilson 1G, Russell Johnson 1G, Scott Taylor 1G, Brenden McDonald 1A, Jamie Wilson 1A, Nicholas Chethuan 1A. **504 Pizza Pizza 2** - Michael Tanel 1G, Max Brown 1G.

504 Pizza Pizza 5 - Brendan Elliott 2G 1A, Oliver Jones 2G, Max Brown 2G 2A, Joseph Veneziano 1A, Benjamin Black 1A, Landon Kirby 1A, Declan Johnston 1A. Derek Capone, shutout. **503 Greenpoint Laser 0.**

507 Sgt Peppers Bar & Grill 3 - Tyler Futterer 2G, Morgan Walker 1G, Alexander Harrison 1A, Jason Glionna 2A, Kevin Wood 1A. Dakota Stone, shutout. **508 Tilemaster 0.**

506 Wikoff Color Corp. 2 - Andrew Walter 1G, Michael Slack 1G, Harry Smith 1A, Carson Elliott 1A. **501 Perfect Moves 1** - Brian Langdon 1G, Matthew Sanita 1A.

505 Laurion Law Office 4 - Lucas Marek 1G, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Graham Killby 1G 1A, Jamie Wilson, Brendan McDonald 1A, Brady Wilson 1A, Scott Taylor 1A, Carson Dupuis 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A. **502 Omars Shoes 2** - Alec Ground 1G, Riley O'Brien 1G 1A, Michael Liscio 1A, David Gonder 1A, Robert Rusica 1A.

Midget

Graystones Team 909 2 - Adrian Clark 1G, Brendan Forrrest 1G, Chris Burns 1A. **Backyard Pool & Spa Team 910 2** - Stuart Marsh 1G 1A, Dylan Calvert 1G, Connor Sands 1A, Caleb Gould 1A.

Packaging World Team 906 5 - Cody Benson 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G, Jesse Cappell 1G, Michael French 1G 1A, Daniel Korolnek 1A. **Barb Blaser Remax Team 905 4** - Chris Tambos 1G, Greg Buchner 1G, Marco Santella 1G, James Sendel 1G 1A, Mike Morson 2A.

KTI Limited Team 902 4 - Eric Shoesmith 2G, David Iwai 1G, Curtis Hough 1G, Marlon Young 1A, Colin Munn 1A, Mike Shoesmith 1A. **Sentia Solutions Team 901 2** - Simon Esposito 2G, Zack Trimper 2A, Hunter Warden 1A,

AHPA Team 908 5 - Steve Foss 1G, Chris Tillsly 3G 1A, Luca Ghegin 1G 1A, Braun Hause 2A, Blake Roger 1A, Michael Orschel 1A, Paul Duggan 1A, Drew Coley 1A. **Rival Concepts Team 907 1** - Mike Coggin 1G, Deryk Smith 1A, Nick Gundert 1A.

Team 909 Graystones 4 - Sean Ellison 1G 1A, Chris Burns 1G, Travis Hooper 1G, Jake Boyle 2G 1A, Stephen Thompson 1A, Evan Casselden 2A, Cory Blom 1A. **Team 907 Rival Concepts 2** - Chris Tillsley 1G, Chris McGill 1G, Connor Sheridan 1A, Jordan Nolan 1A, Derek Smith 1A, Keegan O'Leary 1A.

Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 7 - Peter Durst 3G 1A, Cameron Day 1G 2A, Jason Durst 3G, Mike MaGee 3A, Kyle Partenen 1A, Dylan Calvert 2A, Aaron MacDonald 2A, Stuart Marsh 1A, Adam Stubbs 1A. **Team 908 AHPA 5** - Derek Sweeting 3G 1A, Luca Ghegin 1G 2A, Steven Foss 1G, Paul Duggan 3A, Connor Murray 1A, Corey Jeffery 1A.

Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 3 - Jamie Russell 2G 1A, Mike Morson 1G 1A, Dane Gregoris 2A, Richard Sendel 1A, Nick Di Nallo 1A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 1** - Zach Roitner 1G, Wil Ginther 1A.

Team 903 Crabby Joes 5 - Brett Dutchyshen 2G 1A, Mattew Raponi 1G 1A, Jordan Adams 1G 1A, Mike Renfer 1G, Sean Kenyon 1A, Jake Thompson 1A, Matt Perdeaux 1A, Ray Mullins 1A, James Adams 1A. **Team 902 KTI Limited 3** - Eric Shoesmith 1G, Curtis Hough 1G, Mike Roberts 1G 1A.

Team 904 Home Hardware 6 - Greg Gianopolous 3G, Michael Moody 1G 1A, J. J. Lam 2G, Chris O'Hara 1A, Bruce Phillips 1A, Anthony Mesillo 4A, Peter Axiotis 1A. **Team 906 Packaging World 4** - Ian Weston 1G, Mathew Semeredy 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G, Cameron Mickle 1A, Daniel Korolnek 1A, Rhys Willimas 1A, Christopher Green 1A.

Rep League

Aurora Tigers Novice A 7- Carson Venneri 2G, Nicholas Rountes 1G 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1G 1A, Michael Fodero 1G, Anthony Magnante 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Michael Thibeault 2A, Lucas Surace 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A. **Barrie Colts Novice A 6.**

Nobleking Novice A Knights 6. Aurora Novice A Tigers 1 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G.

Bradford Bulldogs Novice A 9. Aurora Tigers Novice A 2 - Nicholas Keller 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Michael Thibeault 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1A, Michael Fodero 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1A.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 4 - Keegan Matthew 2G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Colin McGoldrick 1G, Christian Arcuri 2A, Zachary Fletcher 1A, Connor Downs 1A, Connor Gonsalves 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A. **Markham Waxers Atom AE 1.**

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 5 - Jeffrey McKay 2G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Zachary Fletcher 1G, Connor Gonsalves 1G, Charles Bennett 1A, Keegan Matthew 1A, Jeffrey McKay 1A, Jacob Hatton 1A, Cameron Anderson 2A, Spencer White 1A. **Stouffville Clippers Atom AE 1.**

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 8 - Keegan Matthew 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1G 2A, Spencer White 1G 1A, Connor Gonsalves 3G 1A, Cameron Anderson 1G 1A, Keegan Matthew 1A, Alistair Johnston 1A. **Markham Waxers Atom AE 0.**

Peterborough Nationals Midget AE 7. Aurora Tigers Midget AE 4 - Andrew McKay 2G 1A, Stephen Di Nallo 3G, Mike Madigan 1A, James Sendel 1A.

Peterborough Nationals Midget AE 3. Aurora Tigers Midget AE 2 - James Sendel 1G 1A, Andrew McKay 1G, Jake Boyle 1A, Mike Madigan 1A.

Richmond Hill Midget AE 3. Aurora Tigers Midget AE 2 - James Sendel 1G, Shea McGlone 1G, Stephen Di Nallo 1A, Mike Madigan 1A.

2008 was a confusing year for council

From page 1

add two per cent from operating to capital but members flip-flopped at council and referred it to budget discussions.

The funding of the Farmers' Market was also controversial as some members of council objected to the expenditure of \$3,000 for supplies and expenses claiming public funds should not be used to promote private vendors while others argued that the market was a community event and the funds were approved by a 7-2 vote.

The historic bell believed to be from the steam engine Toronto used to haul the first train to Aurora in 1853 is located outside the former library and was deteriorating due to lack of care. GO Transit officials offered to move the bell to near the railway station at GO's expense.

The naming rights for the Wellington Street East recreational complex was another controversial issue following the gift of \$2 million to the capital cost of the project by Frank Stronach resulting in the facility being eventually named the Stronach Aurora Recreational Complex.

Another controversial issue was the relocation of the Farmers' Market from the Temperance Street parking lot to the Town Park which had previously been supported by council but when it came time for a final decision, there was a flip-flop and a deferral until downtown merchants could be canvassed.

Lighting fixtures for pathways in Lambert Willson Park was another controversial issue as it was sent back to staff several times and even though a comprehensive staff report was provided it wasn't what some members wanted and the project was deferred once again for a complete rewrite of the staff report.

A presentation ceremony was held at a council meeting for citizens nominated for the Ontario Heritage Trust Community Recognition Awards to recognize Susan Walmer, Harry Lumsden, William Devins, Michael and Beth Egan, Kirsten Kontor and David Walker with Janice Ferandes receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Individual Achievement and Dr. John McIntyre the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement.

The circulation of e-mails between members of council and staff became an issue and efforts were made to bring them under control and to determine which issues

should be on a public agenda.

Council was having a tough time coming to grips with the complex issue of local power generation for Northern York Region and several debates were held on the issue. Finally, all material was referred to staff to pull together and list the pros and cons of the various items for a report to council.

A number of residents from the area surrounding the Orchard Heights water reservoir appeared before council to complain about vandalism, noise, under-age drinking and drug use at the reservoir which was used as a gathering place for teenagers. York Regional Police agreed to recommend improvements that could be made to the site and for council to hold a public meeting to present the police findings.

Following a town inspection, the Graffiti Abatement Ad Hoc Committee located 362 graffiti sites of which 326 were on public property.

The week of April 27 to May 3 was proclaimed as National Volunteer Week in Aurora to honour and thank the volunteers of Aurora and encourage others to commit to future volunteer service.

Council was advised that the vacant land at Tyler and Yonge Streets had changed ownership and the new owner submitted a revised plan of development but parking was a problem and it was referred to staff for a report.

What was a relatively simple report regarding the establishment of a staff Customer Service Initiative Team developed into a complex issue as some councillors disagreed with the report and gave the perception they did not trust the opinion of their staff. The debate deteriorated into personalities resulting in the whole issue being referred to a private session.

At a previous meeting council agreed to support a group of residents in their opposition to a subdivision proposal including a golf course on Leslie Street and their appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board even though the town's official plan provides for the development of the lands.

With the winter over and the snow disappearing, the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day was held in April with citizens and groups volunteering to participate.

The controversial \$600,000 artificial turf soccer field at Sheppard's Bush created more controversy at council when staff presented an amended agreement with

the Conservation Authority to include the new facility which was eventually adopted on an 8-1 vote.

A shortage of baseball diamonds was causing problems for the Aurora Minor Ball Association.

A general committee meeting degenerated into one of the most heated and personal debates ever held which was caused by an e-mail from Councillor Evelyn Buck contradicting comments made by the mayor at a public meeting based on references Buck had received from a staff member and she refused to withdraw her comments.

After almost seven months and innumerable special committee meetings in setting the 2008 budget it was assumed final passage would be a routine affair, but more than three hours were spent before the \$39 million operating budget was finally adopted, up 5.4 per cent over the previous year.

The town received \$647,113 as a result of the provincial budget for municipal roads and bridge infrastructure, which was entirely unexpected but needed.

The resignation of Councillor Grace March was received with regrets by many Aurora citizens as she was one of the councillors who tried to bring some sense of decorum and reality to council in administering the affairs of

the town.

Council had difficulty in deciding to hold a by-election or appoint and after an hour of procedural wrangling decided to obtain a legal opinion.

Council was advised that the Aurora Bingo Hall on the Industrial Parkway was closing at the end of May resulting in a loss to the town of \$135,000 in 2008 as well as a loss to several local charities, resulting in a tax increase from 5.4 to 5.9 per cent.

The sale of the town owned lands on Leslie Street was the cause of a heated debate and name-calling at council between Councillors Evelyn Buck and Evelina MacEachern. After order was restored the report was received as information.

Every year town departments compile statistics related to their operations and a summary of their accomplishments and initiatives from the previous year which is compiled into an Annual Report. Some councillors expressed concern in the lack of council input resulting in the mayor issuing a Mayor's Report and the annual report was not published.

A lengthy, controversial debate took place at general committee over a proposed Code of Conduct which was brought about as a result of an alleged leak to the media from a private meeting.

After almost three hours of presentations, debate, wrangling over the procedural bylaw, the process, points of order and recorded votes on a 5-3 vote council appointed John Gallo to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Marsh. He finished ninth for a council seat in the previous election.

Following the designation of the Old Aurora Northeast Quadrant as the town's first Heritage Conservation District, council gave consideration to designating the Southeast Quadrant of Old Aurora South and Downtown Aurora as Conservation Heritage Districts.

Council flip-flopped on an anti-whistle policy for trains in residential areas as general committee had endorsed a staff recommendation that council solicit public feedback but council referred the recommendation back to staff for more information.

Council was still having a tough time adopting a position regarding the complex issue of providing power generation for Northern York Region and once again the issue was referred to staff.

The first six months of 2008 were interesting but not very productive and more is yet to come in the remainder of the year.

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Aurora 2008:A Year in Review

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

Jan.1 - As a New Years' Resolution, Aurora Council commits to ridding itself of its reputation of being dysfunctional.

Jan.15 - Following an increase in town license fees for dogs and cats, pet stores see an increase in aardvark adoptions.

Jan.24 - With Aurora Cable's upgrade to High Definition, watching Aurora Council on TV provides a new improved picture, but the same old content.

Feb.2 - The groundhog predicts six weeks before someone quits council.

Feb.9 - New activities in this year's Aurora Arctic Adventure include windrow scaling and supermailbox defreezing.

Feb.16 - In an effort to keep this year's tax increase as low as possible, council considers cutting back on either entering the town in this year's Communities in Bloom competition, or the use of high-priced lawyers. Guess which it chooses?

Feb.19 - Our town is now Mr.Rogers' neighbourhood, as Ted Rogers buys Aurora Cable.

Feb.28 - Everyone (re)loves a parade, as after a one year absence, the Canada Day parade is given the support of council.

Mar.5 - When Aurora reveals it is almost broke, just as the Church Street School is given a government grant of \$775,000, the town looks for a grant to cover the proposed tax increase.

Mar.11 - The solution to solving traffic congestion at the current location of the Farmers'Market is to move it to Town Park, which requires closing off an entire street.

Mar.20 - The town provides 14,000 Easter eggs for its annual hunt, but with snow still on the ground, participants must provide their own shovels.

Mar.29 - Aurora's participation in Earth Hour, a global effort to reduce electricity use for one hour between 8 and 9 p.m., results in both significant energy conservation, and many jokes about the lights being off at Town Hall.

Apr.8 - For those who thought traffic couldn't get any worse at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington, dedicated bus lanes are proposed for Yonge Street.

Apr.14 - The town threatens to remove garbage bins from parks if pet owners don't stop dumping their pet waste in them, but defers a decision to remove picnic tables and benches, if people keep putting their feet on them.

Apr.23 - The town's infrastructure reserve fund gets so low that there's just enough left to pay for a piggy bank to hold future reserve funds.

May 4 - Proposed options for filling the councillor position vacated by Grace Marsh include a by-election, nominating the 9th place candidate, or appointing the first resident who will sign a Code of Conduct.

May 15 - GO Transit announces a new parking garage that will provide the 850 new spaces Aurora currently needs.Unfortunately, by the time the garage opens in 2010, the town is expected to require 1,238 spaces.

May 20 - The discovery of an ancient well on Victoria Street means that at least one home owner in town won't be affected by the summer water ban.

May 27 - Environmentalists and insects rejoice as the pending pesticides bylaw passes another hurdle.

June 2 - The town considers forcing Aurora gas stations to provide full service.If this is successful, they'll look at telling retailers what products they can sell, volunteer groups what services they can provide, and the media what news it can report.

June 10 - Sue Walmer accepts the title of Citizen of the Year, but declines the role of town CAO.

June 24 - The windrow clearing issue is discussed in plenty of time for a decision to be made before winter.

July 1 - Soaring gas prices help explain why a crowd of more than 10,000 people attend the Canada Day Parade, which has never drawn more

than a few hundred residents.

July 5 - When faced with the charge that certain councillors always vote as a "gang of five" on yes/no issues, Council suggests future votes be based on multiple choice.

July 11 - No peaking allowed in Aurora, as the town turns down a proposed peak generating station.

July 15 - The recommendations of the Graffiti Abatement Committee are leaked ahead of time in spray paint on two buildings, a street sign and a super mailbox.

July 23 - If you're not going to do it, then I'm not going to do it, as council says it will approve completion of a portion of the Nokiidaa Trail in town only if Newmarket completes their bit (which it doesn't).

July 28 - Council's decision not to impose a levy to raise funds for Southlake Hospital saves money for all Aurorans, except those who use water, as water and sewer rates are hiked.

Aug.2 - With Town Clerk Bob Panizza the latest in a long list of people who have announced their retirement, the Town of Aurora is down to six remaining staff members.

Aug.16 - Doors are open all over town for Doors Open, except at Wells Street School, which remains closed.

Aug.22 - The decision to not install additional public restrooms in town parks, results in fewer games going into overtime or extra innings.

Aug.26 - Rogers Cable continues to integrate itself into the community by cancelling long-running local TV shows Plugged In, Sports Beat and Our Town.

Sep.2 - Council's vote to start documenting all unanimous decisions is not unanimous.

Sep.8 - While a gateway sign is finally approved for the east side of town, the proposed wording, "Aurora - Admission \$5", has yet to be confirmed.

Sep.12 - Due to extreme dysfunction, the government announces an early election.Unfortunately, it's at the Federal level.

Sep.23 - The cost to provide residents behind Canadian Tire with three street lights comes to \$360 - if you don't count the \$42,346 in staff and council time spent on this issue over the past two years.

Sep.28 - Council proudly advises that its list of outstanding issues is down to 374 items.

Oct.11 - The Apple and Honey festival is chosen as the theme of one of the final Farmers' Markets, over the alternate choice of Brussels Sprout and Vegemite festival.

Oct.14 - The windrow clearing issue is back before council, but it's felt there's still lots of time to sort it out before it snows.

Oct.31 - It's a scary Halloween as a number of kids go out dressed as construction pylons.

Nov.11 - The revelation that the town's CAO may have been fired over unapproved rink repairs neatly deflects questions as to why a new state-of-the-art facility less than a year old already needs several hundred thousand dollars worth of repairs.

Nov.20 - After a number of new complaints about the traffic calming measures in the northeast part of town, someone finally comes to their defence.Unfortunately, it's the "Society of Car Brake and Suspension Repair Mechanics".

Nov.28 - Six snowfalls later, Aurorans are still awaiting a decision on windrows.

Dec.5 - It's not considered a good sign when the town charges residents \$5 each for copies of the proposed Parks Pricing Policy.

Dec.17 - With zero new builds in 2008, Habitat for Humanity maintains its perfect record for constructing new houses in Aurora.

Dec.25 - Much to Longos' disappointment, Santa can't fit a new traffic light for Wellington west of Bayview in his sleigh.

Dec.31 - As a New Years' Resolution, Aurora Council commits to ridding itself of its reputation of being dysfunctional.

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Recommendations ignored

From page 1
make recommendations and Aurora Council was asked to advise the Chief Coroner regarding implementation of the recommendations.

It was recommended that employers and employees be educated on the uses and handling of hazardous materials;all buildings, both commercial and industrial, where dangerous goods are stored and/or used in manufacturing be placarded at all entrances; and that employees wear proper apparel and safety equipment when handling hazardous materials.

Other recommendations dealt with fire fighting, inspections, ventilation, occupancy permits and working conditions.

Aurora Fire Chief at the time, Stuart Wilson, prepared a report for council dealing with the recommendations regarding fire services and pointed out that the recommendation to placard entrances of buildings was supported by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

and Fire Prevention Associations throughout Canada.

He also noted that the Aurora Fire Department had supplied forms to industries that use hazardous chemicals asking the owner to notify the fire department of types and quantities of dangerous materials which may be on the premises.

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Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Kristina Dervaitis, Nurse Pierette, and the wonderful staff on 4.

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