

**40 Engelhard Dr., Aurora, at Industrial Pkwy. S. • Mon - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 905.751-0533 • barronshome.com**



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, 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 Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*

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.

WEDNESDAY, 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.

\*\*\*\*

Frosty Feast at the Aurora Seniors' Centre includes chili, salad, rolls and dessert from noon to 1.30 p.m. Tickets at \$6 for members and \$7 for guests.

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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Aurora Minor Baseball Association is accepting online registration at www.auroraminorball.ca. In person registration will take place today at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up for Baseball for youth ages 5-21. Those who register early will be able to take advantage of free indoor winter baseball clinics. For further information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting will be held at Aurora Orthodontics, 372 Hollandview Trail, Suite 100.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Budget Bistro at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is a drop-in lunch program for \$4.50. It includes homemade soup, sandwich, dessert coffee or tea. Program continues Wednesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 25.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The Evergreen Choir of Aurora will be one of three choirs performing at the Bayview Hills Community Centre, 114 Spadina Road in Richmond Hill at 3 p.m. today. They'll be joined by the Mellow Tones of Markham and the McConaghy Choir of Richmond Hill. Admission is \$15 and children are free.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Aurora Film Circuit presents the documentary "Man on Wire", plus a bonus short film "Kolam". Tickets are \$10, available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45 and film at 7 p.m., and proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

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.

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.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Aurora Mardi Gras gala event slated for DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South. For more information call Sandra Humfries at 905-727-1433 or email Sandra at shumfries@sympatico.ca.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the Town of Aurora presents "Weathering the future: climate change is real, so what should we do?" Environment Canada's Heather Auld and Windfall Centre director Brent Kopperson speak on what is happening to the climate, how to slow down change and how to prepare for expected effects. Federal MP, Lois Brown, and Ontario's Chief Conservation Officer, Peter Love, present various government initiatives. Free. Takes place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 1.30 to 4 p.m. Register at Info Aurora 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

WEDNESDAY, 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 27

The Opera Group of the Aurora Seniors Association presents La Traviata on the big screen at the Aurora Seniors' Centre at 6.30 p.m. Cost for members is \$1.50 and non-members \$2.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 7  
Slippermen perform at Theatre Aurora at 8 p.m. Tickets now on sale by calling 905-727-3669 or by e-mail to taboffice@bellnet.ca. \$30 each.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Aurora Community Day at Gateway Café & Lanes, 210 Edward Street. Big Brothers Big Sisters bowling tournament. Call 905-895-0289 for more information. To register for one of the Bowl For Kids Sake events or to become a sponsor, call the same number or visit www.bbbsy.ca.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Sally's Tea Party, for children aged three to seven takes place at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing until 2.45 p.m. Free tickets are available in advance at the library.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Aurora Public Library presents "Up, Up and Away" for children aged seven and up, from 2 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. when the Mad Scientist of Toronto introduces them to the principles of air pressure. Cost: Free tickets are available in advance at the library.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

The Aurora Public Library presents, for children up to six years of age, new and traditional action songs with children's musician, Debbie Carroll. Event begins at 10.30 a.m. and tickets are free and available in advance at the library.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The Aurora Public Library presents "Wildlife Safari" for childre, aged seven and up. Jungle Cat World will captivate the audience with an array of reptiles, birds, mammals and insects. Event begins at 10 a.m. and free tickets are available in advance.

WEDNESDAY, 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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MP1432 (08/2008)

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Please call for upcoming seminar information







Ontario Minister of Economic Development Michael Bryant, foreground, is introduced during his appearance in Aurora Friday morning. In the background at the podium is President of the Axiom Group Perry Rizzo. Company is investing in a new product and the province is helping out.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Provincial fund assists Aurora manufacturer

Ontario's Minister of Economic Development was in Aurora Friday morning with plenty of good news.

Michael Bryant told an audience of employees at Axiom on Mary Street, that the province would help the auto parts maker by investing in a technology that should create more than 100 new jobs.

Ontario will add about \$2.43 million to the \$16 million already committed by Axiom, a group that supplies parts to Chrysler, Ford, General Motors and Aurora's Magna.

The Axiom group plans to develop and produce a new high output exhaust for the auto industry.

The new product is manufactured using plastic injection moulding, resulting in a lighter product that also improves air velocity and reduces noise.

"The Ontario government is helping auto parts manufacturers invest in new technology which in turn leads to new jobs," Bryant said. "The government's economic strategy is to support companies that are investing in innovative technology so Ontarians can have the jobs they want and the prosperity they deserve."

Support for the investment comes from Ontario's "Next

Generation of Jobs program designed to create Fund", a \$1.15 billion and protect jobs for business incentive pro- Ontario families.



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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

### Poor Ronnie stands in for Poor Richard

It has been my belief that Dick Illingworth (Poor Richard) has forgotten more than I'll ever know, so trying to replace him in this space is almost impossible.

But, since he's back in the hospital, it would be silly to leave the space blank.

When I came to Aurora in 1969, Dick was mayor (for the first time).

I was a struggling reporter for the Aurora Banner (it was owned by the Toronto Star then, but that was one of the best kept secrets on earth.)

When the mayor called me by my first name "hey, Ron, can I see you for a moment?" it was so much better than what I was used to: "hey, you with the pencil".

I fell in love with Aurora then, and, despite its growth, still love it. I named my daughter after the town.

At any rate, Dick became my "stand-in father", and I have admired the man ever since.

When he was mayor the first time, he was 52 years old. I was 25.

Now Dick is 92, will be 93 in June, and I'll get my first pension cheque a couple of months before that...maybe.

At any rate, he's resting comfortably at Southlake Regional Health Centre, and I hope it's only a matter of time before Poor Richard (with his questionable poetry) returns to this spot.

So, here's what's going on in my life.

Saturday night, I attended, for the first time, the Robbie Burns dinner at the Aurora Legion.

It was the 15th annual dinner, the place was packed, and they, as they always do, piped in the haggis.

This is what Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, says about haggis:

"Haggis is a traditional Scottish dish. There are many recipes, most of which have in common the following ingredients: sheep's 'pluck' (heart, liver and lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach for approximately three hours.

"Haggis somewhat resembles stuffed intestines (pig intestines otherwise known as chitterlings or the kokoretsi of traditional Balkan cuisine), sausages and savoury puddings of which it is among the largest types.

"Haggis is traditionally served with "neeps and tatties" (Scots: swede, yellow turnip or rutabaga and potatoes, boiled and mashed separately)."

Someone said Saturday if you like liver, you'll love haggis.

I hate liver, but guess what? I liked haggis.

Even asked for seconds.

The Legion event was such that I am sorry I have missed it for the past 14 years.

But it was Robbie Burns' 250th birthday (Dick may make it that long), so that made the evening an event.

Ken White was master of ceremonies, and founder of the event, Bob Dunsmore, offered an ode to the haggis and following dinner sung "The Star of Robbie Burns".

However, the highlight of the evening, and they got a standing ovation for their performance, was the 24-member White Heather Pipes and Drums group.

Three of their members are, it's hard to believe, more than 80 years old.

They did a rendition of "Amazing Grace" that left tears in the eyes of more than one listener.

Since our car was parked in the lot used by the Aurora Recreation Centre (I said it was crowded), we left before the draws were held, so I still don't know if I can retire or not.



Bob Dunsmore offers an ode to the haggis



Back in the early 80s, this business was flourishing at the northeast corner of Yonge and Centre Streets. Today, neither the building nor the business exists. Tell us who ran this business after noon this Friday and the first person to get it right will win a lunch for two at the Aurora Legion. Last week, by the way, the apartment building in the photograph was located on the east side of Yonge Street, and it was torn down to make a parking lot for Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. The winner of the non-alcoholic dinner for two at Jonathan's was Lee Keddie.

#### Letters to the Editor

## Federal MP says thank you to those who attended meeting

To the editor,

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the many residents in Newmarket and Aurora who contributed their thoughts and ideas during my recent Pre-Budget consultations.

The range of ideas received was most impressive, and everyone's suggestions have been forwarded to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, for consideration in advance of his January 27th federal budget.

The opinions may have

been diverse, but a noticeable common thread was a concern and respect for the communities we live in.

During this time of global economic uncertainty it is important that everyone works together to find solutions to our local and national economic challenges.

Both Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris and Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen advocated well for the needs of their respective Towns.

By attending my Pre-Budget consultation meeting on January 8th they, along with myself, received a first-

hand look at our resident's thoughtful suggestions and desire to help.

With the number of engaged residents, community groups and politicians as was evident during these public consultations, I am confident that collectively we will arrive at the best possible solutions for our communities as we go forward during these uncertain times.

My doors are always open should you have any

further suggestions or concerns you would like to discuss.

My Constituency Office is located at 16600 Bayview Avenue, Suite 206 in Newmarket, one set of lights south of Mulock on the west side.

You can also reach me at 905-953-7515 or at BrownLo@parl.gc.ca.

Lois Brown, MP  
Newmarket-Aurora

#### THE AURORAN

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#### Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

#### Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

## She recalls work done at industrial site

To the editor,

I was reading The Auroran last week and the article "Aurora Industrial Park gets boost when Engelhard Industries arrives" caught my attention and I immediately sent a copy of it to my father (who is currently out of town).

My father (Ken Lilley) is the owner of Modern Railings & Metalcraft Ltd. (MRM), and we were awarded the contract to build the steel stairs and to fabricate and install the miscellaneous metals in the building that is now occupied by Featherlite Industries.

What makes the story more interesting is that MRM just completed the

last of the construction on our new building which is now located on the site where the silos for Engelhard Industries stood until recently.

We had the property severed and the silos torn down to build our new facility.

I can remember my father saying "who would want a plant way up here in the middle of nowhere", and now 30 years later this is exactly where we are!

It's funny how sometimes life seems to come full circle.

Joan Lilley  
Modern Railings & Metalcraft Ltd.  
114 Engelhard Drive  
Aurora



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

A number of weeks ago I decided to write a column about the Aurora Public Library.

I can fondly recall my mother pulling my two brothers and me in our red wagon to the library and I also remember how proud I was to have my own library card and be able to check out books about hockey.

As part of my research, I spoke to Reccia Mandelcorn, who is the Manager, Customer and Circulation Services, for the Aurora Public Library.

After a most pleasant conversation, Ms. Mandelcorn, said she would send me the data I was looking for. She did much better than that.

What you see below is far better than any column I could have written on the subject. I have slightly edited her letter to fit the column length constraints:

"Hello Stephen,  
Your experience of rediscovering the wonderful opportunities provided by Ontario Public Libraries, is a phenomenon I have observed through my own career and experiences in working at Aurora Public Library over the past 27 years.

What a joy it has been for me to see parents, who had once themselves been wide-eyed children in Library Storytimes, bringing their own children in for the same experience they remember with joy, with nostalgia, and with the acknowledgement that this was the very beginning of their own love of learning, of literature, of culture, and of what was "out there beyond their immediate horizons."

Libraries are about families, about generations and shared histories, about experiences, about imagination, about the world and about appreciating other cultures. Libraries are the equalizers of the economic and digital divides, between the "haves" and the "have-nots."

You asked me if people are still reading books or if tech-

nology has taken over the printed word. Well, Stephen, people are reading as never before. At Aurora Public Library, not only are people reading, but the quality of literature and the demand for materials is greater than I've seen in my entire career.

Certainly, the introduction to children of fantasy books like the Harry Potter series has brought an increased sophistication and commitment to reading by children. This past summer, children participating in our TD Summer Reading Program read an amazing total of 1,908 books, and teens submitted 70 written reviews of books they enjoyed from our Young Adult Department.

Technology had given libraries a new identity and a primary place and responsibility for the dissemination of information through electronic databases, through the availability of public workstations and Internet and wireless services, though courses on effective electronic use and navigation.

Libraries are, in fact, one of the greatest technological equalizers. From people who cannot afford the technology in their own homes to the wonderful eighty-year-old gentleman whose son just bought him a computer and needed to know "how to go about using it" they come to the public library.

Libraries are about creating new opportunities. At Aurora Public Library we provide adaptive technologies with software that bridges the digital divide for people with visual, physical, and learning disabilities.

Libraries are more than books; more than audiovisual materials; more than magazines and newspapers; more than technology.

Aurora Public Library is the hub or the heartbeat of our community. The Library is the place to go when you want information, stimulation, culture, relaxation, or even escape.

It is where you go when you want music and storytime

programs for children to stimulate lifelong readers. It is where you go to join adult book clubs and writing groups. It is where you go to hear speakers, to learn new skills, and, for newcomers, to learn and converse in English.

Yes, Aurora Public Library is about books, but now it is so much more!

Aurora Public Library use is up statistically across the board. In 2008 Circulation increased 5.3 per cent and Electronic Usage increased 60.2 per cent.

More than 5,335 children and 1,774 adults participated in library program. Busy? You bet!

And all indications are that library use will only increase as we face the current economic uncertainty. In tough times trends indicate that people flock to their public library for recreational material, educational support and job-hunting assistance.

A public resource such as the free public library becomes much more in demand by all residents. For example, this past July, when gas prices soared and people were staying closer to home, Aurora Public Library's circulation increased by 16 per cent over the previous summer. Our community was telling us that they looked to and needed the library as a primary resource for their recreational needs.

I hope that your son will grow to love his experiences at Aurora Public Library and will become a life-long reader. This is one of the greatest gifts a parent can bestow and dedicated library professionals can offer.

Regards,  
Reccia Mandelcorn"

Stephen can be contacted at:  
[stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

It's inevitable. You finish shoveling the driveway after a heavy snowfall, step inside, shed your layers, and put your feet up, only to hear the snowplow come by.

It doesn't matter whether the snow has just started, or whether it's been on the ground for over a day, the drivers seem to know when you've been out there.

In any case, this had just happened to me again, so I shrugged back into my coat and boots, and went outside to deal with the neatly placed windrow at the end of my driveway.

At least while I shoveled I had time to ponder one of the age-old mysteries of precipitation; why is it that "road snow" is so much heavier than "driveway snow"?

I was finishing up, when I saw my neighbour head out and start attacking the pile at the end of his driveway. He's getting on, and was taking it easy, so I headed over to give him a hand.

As we were digging away I asked him why at only \$70, he hadn't signed up for the town's new windrow program. He straightened up - slowly - and leaned on his shovel.

"I already applied," he said, "in December."

"What's the problem? Were you not eligible?"

"I don't know. I sent in my application. Then a week or

so later they got back to me to say that I needed a copy of my birth certificate, and my senior's card, and a driver's license or passport.

"All that documentation for a trial \$70 program that only a couple of dozen people have signed up for? Are they worried that untold numbers of 64-year-olds are going to sneak in?"

"I don't know," he said again. "Anyway, I had my senior's card, but it took me a few days to find my birth certificate. But then I was stuck, because you know with these cataracts I don't have a driver's license anymore, so I had to get a passport.

"Fortunately, you don't need much more ID for a passport than you need for the windrow program, so it only took a couple of days to get that together.

"I was able to get all the paperwork done here at the post office in town, but that was another \$87 for the passport, plus \$20 to proof the documents. Then they had to send it all away to Ottawa or somewhere for processing.

"And that's why," he sighed, waving his arms at the piles of snow around him, "I still have to deal with all this white stuff."

"Wow. And winter's now half over. Did the Customs people at least tell you when you should get your pass-

## Windrows of change

port?" I asked.

"Two weeks," he said. "Right around now, in fact."

"Well, I think today's mail has come. We're almost done here. Why don't you check, and I'll finish up?"

He needed little urging, and wandered off to check his mailbox. I was just tossing the last of the snow on the pile when he came back with a big smile on his face.

"It's here!" he exclaimed, waving an envelope triumphantly.

Thanking me for my help, he disappeared inside to gather up the remaining materials needed to enter the town's snow removal program. I was glad that with a bit of persistence, and \$177, he was closer to his goal of a windrow-free winter.

Or at least, what was left of it.

All that shoveling had been tiring, and as I looked back at the driveway, I sincerely hoped we'd seen the last of the big flurries this winter.

But then, maybe just for my neighbour's satisfaction after all of his expense and effort, another snowfall or two wouldn't hurt.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:  
[machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)



Letters to the Editor

# Councillor still has windrow questions

To the editor,

Last week, I shared information about the town's windrow clearing service for seniors and the disabled.

Council gave direction to staff prior to Christmas to start the service.

The level of interest was unknown at the time. The decision called for full cost recovery. Fees quoted by a contractor were adopted in the resolution.

No updates have been provided to council since.

I learned the service was not being provided by outside contract. Public Works were undertaking the task. At the first meeting of the year, I asked for an update.

Though not chairing the meeting, Mayor Phyllis Morris stated since the item was not on the agenda, it could not be discussed.

Nor could it be raised in the new business section of the agenda. A notice of motion was necessary, she said, and a resolution approved for staff to provide the information.

I posted a Blog about the

issue (copied as letter to the editor).

Days later, I received an e-mail copy of Council's resolution from Councillor Evelina MacEachern. She had presented the relevant motion verbally following considerable debate, when it seemed a consensus of council had been reached. It was seconded by Councillor Bob McRoberts, put to a vote by Mayor Morris, and approved by council sight unseen.

Councillor MacEachern regularly presents multifaceted resolutions without notice, not featured on the agenda and not circulated to council.

At the start of this term, I noted the practice was out of order and without merit. It was inappropriate for council to vote on resolutions they had not had a chance to read.

My concern was not shared by staff or colleagues. I continue to regard the practice as disorderly and fraught with potential difficulties. But without support from staff or council,

there is little point in continuing to make the point.

On Tuesday, at council, during the new business section of the agenda, Councillor MacEachern produced the resolution.

She referred to my letter to the editor and directed the resolution be placed on the overhead slide projector. The issue was not on the agenda. No motion was made to permit its introduction. Yet in contrast to her previous position, Mayor Morris moved the matter along.

The mayor read the resolution. It was implied staff had simply followed council's direction.

Why then, when I raised the question, did Councillor MacEachern not refer to the resolution? Why was the mayor determined no explanation would be provided?

The first clause of the resolution states: 'That the Town of Aurora provide the snow windrow clearing program at full cost recovery for \$70 per household.'

One figure was given for full cost recovery; the con-

tractors' quote. No figures were provided for the town's work force to perform the service.

Therefore, to fully recover costs as specified in the resolution, the work had to be done by outside contract. That was council's intent.

That's not what happened.

Initially five people registered for the program. The contractor was adamant. He would not fire up his equipment for those numbers. The job was not financially viable.

According to the Works Director, that was when, and the reason why, the decision was made to do it with town manpower. Not because of council's direction.

Registration did not close. The numbers have since risen to 38.

The Town continues to provide the service. Once started, it's hard to see how it can be stopped. On one day, the run took from 4.30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Overtime hours are involved. Some figures are available.

Our outside workers are unionized. Figures are as follows: Operator plus 1 ton truck & plow-\$58.24.

Overtime rate, operator plus 1 ton truck and plow-\$72.29.

It takes little effort to calculate the service is not being provided "at full cost recovery" as specified in Councillor MacEachern's resolution and council's authorization.

My questions still stand: Who made the decision? Was the management team involved? Was additional manpower hired to provide the new service? Has Administration Procedure No. 50 governing procurement policies, so much in the news lately, been followed? What is the cost of the service? No budget was provided in 2008 for the program. Who authorized the extra expenditure? By what authority? Will we be retaining a lawyer to "investigate" how it happened?

Answers to questions asked by an elected representative are no more and no less than the community is entitled to expect.

Waiting until spring is not an option. We understand the snow removal budget for 2008 is in deficit. We hear

talk of the need for restraint. What other decisions have been made behind the scenes by persons unknown to contribute to the financial disconnect?

When answers to valid questions are not provided through the normal process, extraordinary methods must

be employed to draw the public's attention to the fact.

It is their business we are about. Not some private fiefdom of whatever person happens to occupy the mayor's chair.

Evelyn Buck  
Aurora

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# Aqua Fitness members get little priority, she says

To the editor,

Re: Aqua Fitness in Aurora (Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, January 20 edition.)

Thank you, Ruth Tindall, for expressing the frustration felt frequently by many of us who participate in Aqua Fitness.

You mentioned the particular incident of moving the class to the other side of the pool, inconveniencing the Aqua fitness class which is often attended by many seniors, for a family swim in which about four people participated.

I have been attending Aqua Fitness Classes in Aurora for about 10 years now, and have frequently noticed the low level of priority Aquafit appears to have at the administration level of both pool complexes.

Even though this class can easily draw up to 30 or more participants, it certainly appears children, families, and lane swims will always take

priority over the (mostly) senior women who regularly attend because they truly need and enjoy this activity.

For instance:

The pool is often shared with children's or babies' learn to swim class - music must then be lowered, and our fitness area restricted.

The lane swim is supposed to end five minutes prior to the beginning of Aquafit - this rarely happens - lane swimmers are often allowed to continue until all the lane bouys are out - which is almost always AFTER the slated beginning of the Aquafit class, making us late beginning, which either cuts the class short, or causes it to run overtime. Lane Swim should end on time - five minutes before Aqua fit begins.

The Life Guards at the Leisure complex are only on duty until the exact minute the Aquafit class ends, which means the Hot Tub is off limits after our workout.

And these vigilant young life guards have no

hesitation in informing us they are no longer guarding and booting us out of the Hot Tub.

How hard could it be to extend their time by 15 minutes so we can use the Tub for the purpose it was intended?

There are many other examples of this kind of low priority and lack of respect for those attending Aquafitness classes.

Ruth Tindall is exactly right when she recommends the administration of these facilities begin to recognize that this important and active segment of their membership (which is growing all the time) needs to be consulted, considered and respected.

These classes should be given the same priority as every other activity offered at the pools.

Janet Matthews  
Aurora

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**Peter Virtanen**  
CLU, Agent, Aurora



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Letter to the Editor

# He fears board wants old school “replaced”

To the editor,

I have lived in the Wells Street Public School neighbourhood for 21 years.

All of my five children graduated from this school.

I watched my wife and her neighbourhood friends rally together in numerous Wells Street School parent committees and immerse themselves in extensive volunteer work within the school.

I now find myself deeply concerned for the future of our neighbourhood.

I am hearing for the second time in the space of one year that our public school board is exploring options to remove a public institution from our town core.

I can't help but worry when I hear the word “replace” used in the opening sentence of a public board meeting.

In public meetings one and two of four many concerned people raised a lot of sensible, strong, points towards preserving Wells Street Public School on its current town park site, continuing to serve the neighbourhood it has historically served for more than 100 years.

In the Q&A session afterwards, our many neighbourhood testimonials were strengthened even more by show of complete support by our mayor.

It seems evident to me that in the school board's presentations their analysis of the situation

seems to be overwhelmed by projected statistics and Canada census data.

My concern is that this “statistic driven” approach, when applied to the Wells Street situation, leads them too quickly into recommending building “new and bigger” instead of “working with” existing institutions like Wells Street Public School and our neighbourhood public high school, Dr. G.W. Williams.

Hand in hand with this “newer and bigger” notion is a further recommendation to relocate outside of the old part of town.

As planners, how can the school board ignore more than 40 years of writings and studies regarding the preservation and rejuvenation of downtown cores?

I have been led to understand that the data and analysis collected and prepared by the board must be “in place” as a sort of “formal groundwork” to base future recommendations on.

After four public meetings the board will then present their recommendations to the trustees.

There are 12 York Region trustees of which one represents the Aurora-King area.

Our trustee is fully involved in this matter and is listening to us.

It is imperative that we communicate our views and concerns to the school board ASAP.

In both public meetings one and two the board repeatedly

referred to the Wells Street Public School as a “unique situation”.

The audience replied that it should then merit a “unique solution”.

It is here that I would like to question the “appropriateness” or the “fit” of the “template” that our school board uses in its analysis and therefore their recommendations to the trustees for final decision making.

This leads me to suggest an angle which I think that we should all consider for the Wells Street Public School situation which is as follows: history shows that sometimes the most economical solution is not the most “appropriate” solution.

I understand from the board that meeting three will begin to explore possible solutions and my fingers are crossed in the hopes that the original school can be reinstated through the marvels of modern building technology and a “creative” approach to school planning.

I, and many others, firmly believe in the investment to rejuvenate the Wells Street Public School building as a functioning school in its Town Park setting, servicing our neighbourhood as its only school like it always has for more than 100 years.

Aurora, please come out and show your support at the next two meetings!

**Dennis Davenport**  
Aurora



## PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF AURORA  
2009 BUDGET OPEN HOUSE

**In January 2009, Aurora Council and staff will begin deliberations on the 2009 Capital and Operating Budget.**

In an effort to provide open and transparent government, Council is hosting a Budget Open House to provide the residents, businesses and organizations of Aurora, the opportunity to bring forward their comments and suggestions.

**This meeting will be held on:**  
**Monday, February 2, 2009**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive**  
**7:00 pm**

If you wish to delegate and address Council, please call 905-726-4771 or visit the **Town's website at [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca), click on Town Hall then Agendas & Minutes and click on the link to Submit a Delegation.**

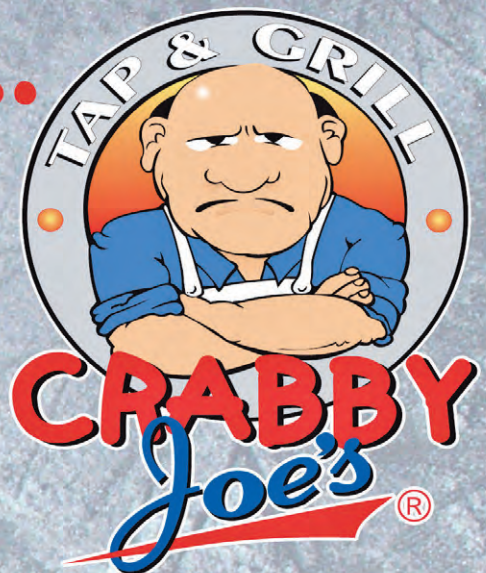
Each presentation will be limited to five minutes in an effort to allow as much input as possible.

Feedback on the proposed budget can also be submitted through the Town's website from the homepage. The 2009 proposed budget will be posted on the Town's website after January 23, 2009 for the public.

Aurora Council looks forward to hearing your contributions!

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Letters to the Editor

Letter “economic naivety”

To the editor,

Nigel Kean’s letter, January 13 in The Auroran, urging that Aurora Council emulate private companies which are downsizing to also share jobs to reduce unemployment, is perhaps economic naivety.

First, he should note that the town is growing rapidly, requiring new and improved services to cope with environmental, infrastructure and educational challenges.

Just how is one to “share” the work of skilled workers and staff who provide these services and be viable or economical is not explained.

While work in the private sector has regrettably suffered job losses, some Town work has increased.

Snowplowing, for example, is a prime example of work which requires skill, judgment and a tolerance for odd working hours.

I agree that expanding the subway to reach Aurora and other points north is not only a great idea - it is inevitable.

But such a massive and complex engineering project will take years of urban and social planning, plus political debates at the provincial level - all areas unsuitable to quick economic fixes.

Tom Davey  
Auror

Idea might save people some money

To the editor,

As a follow up to the letter in The Auroran by L. Shiply, perhaps it is time to go to public tender for Mayor Morris’ Aurora information page.

To my knowledge this has never happened.

Calling public tenders would allow all Aurora papers, perhaps even The Auroran, to apply and the taxpayers of Aurora would know the true cost.

We could save money.

Norm Weller  
Aurora

What do I do with the slats?

To the editor,

I’m looking for ideas. We bought new window shades (2 inches wide vinyl slat venetians), where you shorten to length by removing slats.

What a shame to send the extra slats to landfill.

Anyone have an idea how they could be used?

Bill Hack  
Aurora

Dog bylaw has had colourful history

In December, 1968, Aurora Council had to put a leash on its dog control bylaw.

Council was considering passing a bylaw prohibiting people from taking their dogs for a walk without a leash until they were advised by staff members that the Dog Licensing and Poultry Protection act was silent on leashes.

The Act did not mention the use of leashes but required a dog owner to keep his or her animal under control. Staff members suggested that if council was concerned about dogs running at large it could prosecute under the provincial law, leaving it to the owner to prove his or her dog was under control.

At that time the issue of leashes was causing considerable controversy with many residents wanting a dog control bylaw while other residents and some council members argued that many unleashed dogs caused no trouble because they were obedient and under control.

Five years later, council gave two readings to a dog control bylaw providing stiffer fines and controls, but Councillor Bill Trent argued the bylaw did not go far enough. He wanted the town to impose a fine on the owner of an indiscreet animal.

At that time dog owners were required to pay a \$4 licence fee for each pet and the proposed bylaw increased the fee to \$5 for the first dog with higher fees for each additional dog in hopes of discouraging ownership of too many dogs in one household.

The bylaw also included a \$10 fee for any dog owner who had a dog seized by the animal control officer for running at large.

In 1974 Councillor Peter Miller complained about dogs, or rather the mess left by dogs on the playing fields located in town parks.

In 1977 council was the scene of a lively discussion of dogs and parks. Councillor Miller gave notice of motion to introduce a bylaw to fine dog owners who allow their pets to foul sports fields.

He said he had seen people let their dogs off the leash and stand by and watch them "do

nature's job". As a result of Miller's notice of motion and citizen complaints, council decided to take action.

Miller suggested dog licence fees be increased to include the cost of issuing a pail and shovel so owners could retrieve their dog's droppings. He called it a "super dooper pooper scooper".

Littering parks was not the only area where council was at odds with dog owners. It recommended fines be set between \$10 and \$50 for people ticketed for allowing dogs to run at large.

By July, 1978, council decided to tighten its regulations concerning the conduct of dogs with a stronger bylaw. The amended bylaw required dog owners to keep their pet on a leash when off their property and prohibited dog fouling sidewalks and other public areas.

While all councillors supported the tougher regulations, some questioned how the bylaw was to be enforced.

Some dog owners were quick to oppose the stricter regulations claiming they were unnecessary and would drive dog lovers to move or get rid of their pets.

It was suggested that instead of the new controls, a dog curfew should be imposed from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

By December, 1978, council withdrew the regulation imposing the mandatory leashing of dogs when off the owners' property. Councillors were advised such a regulation would not likely stand up in court.

Staffers pointed out that according to the Dog Licensing and Poultry Protection Act a dog found running at large could only be classified as such if it was spotted off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person.

Whether the dog was on a leash or not made didn't make any difference according to the legislation.

In spite of Aurora's attempts to control the fouling by dogs of sidewalks and parks, citizens' complaints continued to be received.

In June, 1983, Councillor Len Ostick suggested the poop and scoop bylaw be rescinded, as it hadn't been enforced in the five years since its adoption. He

pointed out that during that period no one had been charged for a bylaw infraction, claiming the bylaw was "completely and utterly useless".

However on a 6-3 vote council voted to retain the bylaw and encouraged citizens to report any dog owner who failed to clean up after his or her pet, enabling the town to take action.

Citizen complaints continued to be received and in 1983, council decided to take a "get tough" policy on dog owners who failed to "stoop and scoop".

Requests were received to make some parks, especially the parklands surrounding the former George Street open-air swimming pool, "dog-free". Mothers complained about their children running around the park in their bare feet after swimming and demanded that action be taken.

Most councillors agreed the situation was out of control and that designating some parks dog free as requested may be the answer.

Ostick disagreed claiming the town had one bylaw they couldn't enforce and were now considering another one that couldn't be enforced. He argued that such a bylaw discriminated against citizens who were following the original bylaw and it should be enforced.

Council finally agreed to investigate methods of stricter enforcement and the possibility of hiring someone to enforce the bylaw, if it could be legally done.

In 1987 violators of the

bylaw received a visual reminder of the consequences of their dog's actions as the Parks Department installed 47 warning signs at 21 parks and town road allowances.

The signs warned dog owners of the 1978 bylaw requiring them to clean up after their defecating dogs.

In 1997, as a first step in encouraging dog lovers to observe the bylaw, the parks department provided boxes to house garbage containers to be used solely by dog owners for their pets' waste.

The containers were covered and included doggie bags plus signs informing the public of their use with a request seeking the cooperation of pet owners.

While many dog owners cooperated and used the boxes, the major problem was caused by pet owners letting their dogs run at large contrary to the town's bylaw.

In September, 1997, council adopted a bylaw requiring every person who owned or

harboured a dog, other than seeing-eye dogs, shall forthwith clean up and to dispose of any excrement left by the dog on any property, public or private.

That was then and now is now. It is quite common to see dog owners walking their pets on a leash and carrying a little plastic bag in order to stoop and scoop, resulting in a reduction of complaints to the town.

However there are still complaints about dog owners letting their pets off the leash in public parks. As a result the town's bylaw enforcement officers have been cracking down on offenders

By February, 2003, 10 offenders, including one repeat offender, had been hit with a \$105 fine by bylaw enforcement officers waiting in unmarked vehicles in areas frequented by dog owners.

Today residents are relatively used to the town's poop and scoop bylaw although there are still a few offenders and there's a leash-free park on Industrial Parkway North.

**Teresa**  
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## All About Aurora

By Mayor Phyllis Morris

### New column deals with Aurora events

Welcome to a new column that's going to be "All About Aurora"

As mayor, I'm always happy to think about;walk about and talk about "Aurora".

Which is why I'm pleased to have been offered a guest column to "write about" Aurora .

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2009 and to thank Editor Ron Wallace for this opportunity to communicate directly with "The Auroran" readers.

Best selling author, Dr.Richard Florida said:"the single most important decision you'll ever make" (aside from your choice of career and who you choose to spend your life with) is "the community you choose to live in".

For residents who were fortunate enough to have been born in the Aurora community, there are going to be "community" based reasons that likely play a role in their being happy to continue to call Aurora home.

For those who were smart enough to discover Aurora and move here, future columns may crystalize some of the reasons that attracted us to move and put down roots in our chosen "community".

There's no shortage of things to write about Aurora - community events, celebrations and success stories.

And no shortage of special thank-you's to share about the thousands of tireless and hard-working Aurora volunteers who enrich the lives of many thousands more.

Some columns may profile those who generously contribute to the community.

But, in an effort to help communicate Town Hall processes and how the public participation and Council interaction works, some other columns will focus on giving readers insight into the facts and background to Council's decision-making processes, that lead up to some key Town decisions.

Residents will be given some updates on when and how to participate and get involved.

For instance, council will soon be discussing the Town's Master Recreation Plan, and a pricing policy.

These valuable steering documents, once adopted by council, will set the stage for the Town in planning how and when to accommodate and fund the various recreational needs and wants of an active community.

The Town has been consulting and receiving valuable input from the community "Sports Council" and the Town's own citizen-appointed Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

The draft documents are available from the Town for public review and comment.

This past year a new initiative was introduced proclaiming 2008 as the Year of Arts, Heritage and Culture.

Aurora had a tremendously successful 2008, culminating with the Town winning the prestigious Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership last September.

An annual proclamation of a different theme will now be declared in subsequent years depending on the issues or focus of the day.

Aurora did very well in Economic Development in 2008, by welcoming expansions, many new businesses and tremendous financial investments in the more established areas of older Aurora.

Similar to other communities in 2009, we know we're not immune to the economic challenges facing everyone else.

2009 is going to be a special year for Aurora as we proclaim it the "Year of Business and Innovation".

In the next column, I'll be outlining the Town's Economic business proclamation as council and the Economic Development Advisory Committee prepares to celebrate and promote local business throughout 2009.

And when this year draws to a close, Aurora will welcome the Olympic torch relay visit on Friday , December 18th on its way to Vancouver.

The Olympic Torch will be carried by torch bearers on Yonge street - through our downtown.

If you wish to apply to become a 2010 Olympic Torchbearer, please visit, [www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay](http://www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay).

As a mayor I'm fortunate to hear and see many wonderful, positive things all about Aurora.

I look forward to sharing much of it with you in 2009.

I urge everyone to get more involved.

After all, it's all about our community, and it will be "all about Aurora".

if you have something wonderful you'd like to share about Aurora please call me at 905-726-4741 or send an email to [pmorris@e-aurora.ca](mailto:pmorris@e-aurora.ca).

**ED.NOTE:**The mayor's column will appear in The Auroran on a monthly basis.



Players for the Aurora Tigers and the Villanova Knights swarm around looking for the puck in Friday's Provincial Junior Ahockey game at the Aurora Community Centre. After firing 60 shots at the Villanova goalie, Aurora emerged as 4-1 winners. Aurora won a second game at home Sunday afternoon, defeating the Seguin Bruins 6-2. Complete story on the two games is on Page 10.

Auroran photo by Steve Mitchell

## Cost of ball field escalates

From page1  
2008 capital budget.

The property to be purchased was to be used primarily for baseball facilities.

Council agreed there was shortage of diamonds but they already had sufficient land to address the issue.

At the time, Councillor Evelina MacEachern was quoted as saying, "We have the land.We don't need \$2 million to put a diamond on it."

Mr.Downey's report asked that \$40,000 be approved to hire a consultant "and that it would require up to three (3) months" to complete a site plan for "the construction of a senior baseball facility...currently estimated at \$600,000."

Council determined that the most suitable location for a senior field would be beside the new rec centre on Wellington Street, formerly called the Burnett lands.

Due to the property's size, it has always been maintained that it would accommodate future sports facilities.

It was in this regard that council recommended the consultant provide drawings of the entire property encompassing future facilities rather than just the baseball field.

Nearly a year after Mr.

Downey's April report, council was presented with a report asking that nearly \$1.7 million be allocated for the construction of the baseball diamond.

In addition to construction costs, yearly maintenance was estimated at \$30,000 with annual revenue estimated at only \$6,400.

Included in the report was a design of the baseball field and a soccer field.

Not included in the report were conceptual drawings or comments on any other anticipated future facilities to be located on the property.

In fact, the drawing showed only immediate area of the two fields, a point that council was quick to ask about.

Several councillors asked how the cost could have risen so dramatically.

Mr.Downey stated that one reason was due to construction costs and that while previous projects such as this had been done in-house, Leisure Services did not have sufficient staff available.He further stated that soil preparation for a soccer field was included in the project.

Also contributing to the cost was the Aurora Minor Ball Association's request for step down players benches, covered players benches,

sand based turf grassed outfield and infield and a visiting team batting cage.

Membership for the association currently stands at 175.

The report was referred

back to staff with recommendations that future use of the entire property be considered and seeking an explanation as to how the cost of the new diamond was determined.

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# THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of January 27, 2009

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Several players representing the Atom division of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association converged on the Aurora Food Pantry Saturday afternoon bearing donations. Bins placed prior to Christmas at the Aurora Community Centre and the Aurora Recreation Centre and during the Aurora Optimists' annual Showcase tournament for house league players resulted in 57 boxes of food being delivered to the pantry.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Minor Atom A Tigers eliminated by Bulldogs

The news was anything but good last week for the Minor Atom A Tigers from Aurora.

Tigers dropped three straight as they began their first round of the OMHA Playoffs against the Bradford Bulldogs.

The Tigers had taken two of three games during the season and narrowly lost the third by only one goal.

With that statistic in mind, the Tiger coaching staff was confident that this match up would be a difficult but potentially winnable playoff series.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way.

With the first game being played in Bradford, the Tigers started early with a goal by Colin McGoldrick but that was all the team could muster as they went down to defeat 5-1.

The second tilt between these two rivals gave Aurora a home-ice advantage, but even in those confines, Bradford came out a winner.

With the series being a best of five, the Tigers realized they needed a victory.

The game began with both teams feeling each other out and neither taking control of the game. However the Bulldogs seemed to get their bearings earlier than the Tigers and midway into the second period they were ahead by three goals.

With the game slipping away, the Tigers mounted a charge when Joel Woodcock put a pass from McGoldrick into the Bulldog net.

Late into the third period the Bulldogs get another goal but the Tigers answered that one.

Alexander Simardone put the puck back to the point where Robby Graham got a shot on net that found an open spot bringing the score the back to within two.

However, as the game neared its end, the Bulldogs scored again to finish the game 5-2.

That put all the pressure back on Aurora, down two games, facing elimination and having to play the third game in the series back in Bradford.

The game began with the Tigers showing more jump than in the previous two matchups and the play saw both teams getting opportunities to score but Tyler Thomas, in the Tigers net, was solid for his team and kept the Bulldogs off the scoreboard.

As the game played on, it appeared the first goal may be the only goal as goaltending, at both ends of the rink, was strong.

The Tigers were a man short when the Bulldogs scored their first goal and the Tigers again found themselves in a hole.

The period ended with Aurora down one but there were still 15 minutes remaining to tie the game.

In the final frame, the Tigers pulled out all the stops with a relentless attack.

Scoring opportunities by Eric McGhie, Jacob Cann, Jordan Torres and Alexander Simardone fail to help Aurora knot the contest.

Please see page 11

## Tigers acquire four more points

A pair of home victories allowed the Aurora Tigers to gain a little ground in the hotly contested OJHL's Phillips Division last weekend.

Following two home game victories against two relatively "easy" teams, the Tabbies sit in third place, just two points behind second place Huntsville and six points behind first place Couchiching, both who lost games Sunday.

Aurora has a game in hand on both squads as the regular season winds down in early February.

On Friday night the visiting Villanova Knights gave Aurora all they could handle for two periods before the home squad pulled away in the third for a 4-1 victory.

Sunday afternoon, they defeated the Seguin Bruins 6-2.

Friday, Villanova opened the scoring in the first period as a Brett Chandler shot beat Aurora goaltender Brendan Sullivan.

The Tigers looked less than ready for the Knights when the game started as they were outthrustled to the puck.

Despite being horrifically outshot in the contest, the Knights managed to hold their slim lead until 4.22 of the second period.

David Morley, an Aurora sparkplug all season, tied the game with assists going to captain Dominic Monardo and defenceman Todd Hellyer.

Following Morley's marker, linemate Monardo provided the rest of the scoring for the evening in the form of a natural hat-trick.

The first two came on powerplays while the final tally came at 13.47 of the third period on a feed from Nick Vangog.

Aurora outshot Villanova 60 to 20.

If not for the heroic efforts of Knights' goaltender Gatlin Burt, the game would have been a rout.

It was déjà vu Sunday afternoon at the Community Centre, as the visiting Bruins kept the game close for 40 minutes, before the Tigers once again pulled away with a strong third period.

For the second straight game David Morley got the Tigers going, this time with a brilliant shorthanded goal.

Morley picked up the puck in his own zone and simply outskated three opponents, sliding the puck

behind Bruin netminder Chance Lieb at 2.42 of the first.

Aurora forward Jeff Vanderlugt, back from an upper body injury that kept him out of the lineup for almost two months, scored to put the Tigers up by two.

Just 61 seconds later, Seguin got on the board as Michael Spearing flew down the right side and beat Aurora's David Blair.

With no scoring in the second period, Aurora wasted no time in the third as Michael Sardella converted a David Morley pass at the 15 second mark to put Aurora up 3-1.

Jeff Vanderlugt, showing no rust whatsoever, scored his second of the game at 9.44.

Later in the period as the Tigers were pressing to pad their lead on the powerplay, Seguin's Brett Mueller scored a shorthanded

Please see page 11



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# Monday night men's hockey

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Highland Chev-Cad	11	5	1	68	43	23
Tom & Jerry's	9	5	3	69	54	21
Baldwin's	9	7	1	73	61	19
FPL Aggregates	8	6	3	60	60	19
Priestly Demolition	8	7	2	59	55	18
Masterclean Contracting	7	9	1	68	75	15
Law Insurance Brokers	5	10	2	46	64	12
Rec Cycle N' Sports	4	12	1	41	70	9

WEEKLY SCORES

Highlands Chev  
Rec Sports

4  
2

Masterclean  
FPL Aggregates

6  
4

Priestly Demolition  
Law Insurance

3  
1

Tom and Jerry's  
Baldwin's

5  
4

PLAYER STANDINGS				
NAME		G	A	Pts
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	18	19	37
Rob Blakely	Masterclean	16	11	27
Jody Matthews	Highland's	11	16	27
Todd Richardson	FPL	19	8	27
John Archibald	Highland's	15	8	23
Brad McMillan	Baldwin's	13	10	23
Mark Swirla	Priestly	12	11	23
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	12	10	22
Jason Muise	Priestly	14	7	21
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	9	12	21
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	12	7	19
Pat O'Mahony	Priestly	7	12	19
Darren Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	6	13	19
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	3	15	18
Ron Thiessen	Tom & Jerry's	7	10	17
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	5	12	17
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	2	15	17
Dave Caverley	FPL	9	7	16
Scott Crabbe	Highland's	6	10	16
Chris Neale	Highland's	9	6	15
Mike O'Conner	Baldwin's	9	6	15
Steve Robertson	Baldwin's	8	7	15
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	7	8	15
Mike Caicco	Baldwin's	3	12	15
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	3	12	15
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	7	7	14
Mark Sedore	Priestly	5	9	14
Ken Rumble	Highland's	4	10	14
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	7	6	13
Dwayne Smith	Law Insurance	6	7	13
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	5	8	13
Gerald Briand	Baldwin's	4	9	13
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	2	11	13
Peter Briand	Baldwins	6	6	12
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	8	3	11
Brandon Chappell	Highland's	7	4	11
John Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	6	5	11
John Anderson	Rec Sports	5	6	11
Ken Fisher	Law Insurance	4	7	11
Steven MacDonald	Highland's	3	8	11
Ron Van Noort	FPL	6	4	10
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	3	7	10
Doug McGrath	Baldwin's	2	8	10
Pat Davies	Priestly	7	2	9
Derek Preston	FPL	6	3	9
Paul Gibson	Baldwins	4	5	9
Jason Holbert	Tom & Jerry's	4	5	9
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	4	5	9
Scott Pogue	Law Insurance	3	6	9
Jerome Flanigan	Baldwins	2	7	9
Brian Mackenzie	Rec Sports	1	8	9

# Tigers win a pair at home

From page 10  
breakaway goal at 15.33 to make it 4-2.

But that's as close as the Bruins would get as Aurora's Lucas VanNatter scored only 11 seconds later following a terrible Seguin give-away.

Forward Kyle McLaughlin added another at 18.10 to make it a 6-2 final for Aurora.

David Blair made 21 saves for his 17th victory of the season.

Results of Tuesday's game against the tough Orangeville Crushers were too late for press time, and Aurora will play another tough game Friday night in Huntsville.

Aurora's next home game is a rare Wednesday night matchup February 4 at 6.30 p.m. against the Villanova Knights at the Community Centre.

The game is a make-up due to a snowstorm cancellation in December.

Aurora's final home game is slated for February 8 when they meet league-

leading Couchiching.

## AURORA 4 VILLANOVA 1

### First period

V - Brett Chandler (Alberga, Sitzler) 7.52

### Second Period

A - David Morley (Monardo, Hellyer) 4.22

A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Evans) PP 17.10

### Third Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Evans) 4.04

A - Dominic Monardo (Vangog) 13.47

## AURORA 6 SEGUIN 2

### First Period

A - David Morley (Sardella) SH 2.42

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Paige, Trainor) 9.37

S - Michael Spearing (Morley) 0.15  
(Lee, Yeatman) 10.36

### Second Period

No scoring

### Third Period

A - Michael Sardella (Mooney, Milne) 18.10

## PHILLIPS DIVISION JUNIOR HOCKEY STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	OTW	SOW	OTL	SOL	L	PTS
Couchiching	44	33	0	1	2	5	3	75
Huntsville	44	27	1	6	3	0	7	71
<b>Aurora</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>69</b>
North York	45	25	2	0	0	7	11	61
Orangeville	43	23	2	4	0	0	14	58
Collingwood	45	16	2	2	3	1	21	44
Dixie	45	11	2	2	0	1	29	31
Seguin	44	12	1	0	0	2	29	28
Upper Canada	43	6	1	1	1	0	34	17
Villanova	42	5	0	0	1	2	34	13

# Novice Panther girls clinch Division title

The Aurora Panthers Novice A Girls clinched the LLFHL Novice A division title with a 1-0 win over the Clarington Flames last weekend giving the team a 16-0-3 record in league play.

The Panthers currently have 35 points, nine ahead of their closest rivals.

Their most recent victory was on Saturday against the Burlington Barracudas.

Lauren Ianni scored two and Natalie Thompson recorded her 13th shutout of the season in a 2-0 win.

The girls have played hard all season earning themselves home ice advantage in the playoffs.

Forwards are led by Neve Webster, Vanessa Carriere, Cassidy Phillips, Florence Awde, Emma Bellerby, Natalie Pantaleo, Rebekah Feld and Lauren Daniels.

On defense are by Nicole Stoly, Emily Gianias, Meaghan Phillips and Grace

Gallien who have done a great job protecting goalie Natalie Thompson.

Along with Thompson's 13 shutouts, she has also recorded a 1.18 goals against average.

Head coach, Jim Thompson is proud of what the girls have accomplished so far this season.

"The girls have been simply amazing thus far this season," he said. "A coach's dream to be associated with, and they have consistently proven they are capable of competing at the highest level. Our success has been due to an equal mix of fun and hard work in practice, as well as the ongoing encouragement being given by the parents."

The Panthers have also won one tournament and been tournament finalists twice.

Their overall record is 28-3-3 and they will start LLFHL playoffs in February.



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# Minor Atom A's defeated

From page 10

Mark Carpenter made several key saves and Rhys Perry and Christopher Pettit cleared the puck when needed.

Stuart Gable and Alex Wyndham-West continued to win key faceoffs and Lucas Dane worked hard to eliminate scoring opportunities by the Bulldogs.

However, it wasn't enough as the Bulldogs went up another marker.

With three minutes remaining, the Bulldogs found the net one last time and the game and series was over.

The Tigers now move on to the York Simcoe series with an opportunity to win that trophy.

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9:15am Eucharist in the church with choir  
11:00am Eucharist in the church with choir









SLIPPERMEN

## "Slippermen" coming to Theatre Aurora

What are the "Slippermen"?

Slippermen is a five-man Genesis tribute band, and they're bringing their "Slippermen - A Genesis Tribute to the 70's" show to Theatre Aurora, March 6 and 7.

Aurora resident Andrew Kipfer and a couple of friends are big fans of the band, so they put together some of their own money to produce the concerts.

Kipfer, and the other producers, want to give something back to the community, so \$1 for every ticket sold will be donated to "the Yellow Brick House Capital Campaign", a local charity.

He has also arranged partnerships with local businesses in this venture, TK's Restaurant & Bar, as well as Theatre Aurora.

The partners will provide prizes for a Slippermen/Genesis trivia contest.

"I am hoping to arrange another partnership in the next few days, one in the music business" Kipfer said.

TK's in Aurora will be headquarters for both pre-show and post-show food and drink, both nights.

"Slippermen are an excellent band, and they really love Genesis music. The singer even sounds like Phil Collins" Kipfer said. "One of the highlights will be that the band will bring their "two-drum kit" show to Theatre Aurora. That means two drummers pounding away at the same time, quite spectacular. Often the stages they perform on are too small for two drum kits, but not this time."

You can get more information about the band and the contest, on the band's website [www.slippermen.ca](http://www.slippermen.ca).

Tickets are available by calling the Theatre Aurora box office at 905-727-3669 or emailing the theatre at [taboxoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:taboxoffice@bellnet.ca).

For further information, you can email [Slippermen\\_aurora@hotmail.com](mailto:Slippermen_aurora@hotmail.com).

## Committee sends report back before deciding on pricing

Last week Aurora's Leisure Services Advisory Committee attempted to sort through the recommendations of a consultant in preparation of the town's new Master Recreation Plan in conjunction with a new pricing policy for all indoor and outdoor facilities.

Last year a community survey was conducted to determine residents' interest and satisfaction with the town's parks and recreation.

Residents overwhelmingly put walking as the most frequent activity that they participate in and placed passive parks, trails and pathways as a priority for future investment.

Arenas, playgrounds and soccer fields were at the

bottom of the list.

It is now up to the committee to make recommendations to council on future development and user fees.

According to the consultant's report it cost the town \$10.2 million to provide recreation facilities, programs and services, but less than half is covered by user fees.

In fact, for many programs the town ranked lowest compared with other neighbouring municipalities for cost.

Due to the questions that were asked and other items on the agenda, it was recommended the pricing policy and Master Rec Plan come back to the committee next month with additional information and comments.

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## Council sends Smart Commute request to budget deliberations

A \$20,000 request for funding has been added to the Town of Aurora's budget deliberations.

At last Tuesday's council meeting, Debra Scott, President of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce and representative of Smart Commute Central York, made the request on behalf of this program.

Smart Commute Central York covers Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, and is one of 10 such programs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas.

It has the goal of motivating people to change their commuting behaviour.

This could be by shopping locally, carpooling, bicycling, using public transportation, telecommuting, using compressed work weeks, or even consciously combining errands into one trip to shop more efficiently.

The result, noted Ms Scott, benefits communities, businesses, individuals and the environment.

In her presentation to

council, she said town reports from both the Public Works Department and Economic Development Advisory Committee had recommended funding the program.

With Aurora's existing commitments to protect the environment through recycling and energy conservation programs, promoting greener transportation was an obvious next step.

An added benefit she identified would be that if the town provided the \$20,000, Metrolinx would match it for a total of \$40,000.

In response to a question from Councillor John Gallo, Ms Scott advised that the funding would be used for outreach, engaging the community, resource materials and marketing.

When the program was started a few years ago, initial funding had come from the municipal, regional and federal governments.

At the time, the municipal funding was provided by the Town of Newmarket.

Newmarket is now scaling back its contribution, so Smart Commute was approaching all three municipal participants for funding.

Ms Scott advised that both East Gwillimbury and Newmarket had identified funding for the Smart Commute program in their draft budgets.

When asked if the program had corporate sponsors, Ms Scott said that they had spent the past couple of years getting established, but were now starting to look into this. However, this may be difficult at this time given the current economic climate, she said.

Council was anxious to know exactly how many Aurorans participated in the program, and what Aurora would receive for the town's contribution.

Statistics compiled by Smart Commute are for all three communities, she said, so it is hard to separate out the figures for Aurora.

Ms Scott did note that sponsoring this program

would demonstrate environmental leadership, and should lead to a reduction in traffic congestion.

Councillor Stephen Granger cautioned that the town had a difficult budget ahead of it, and noted there were many projects on which Aurora could spend \$20,000.

Council moved that this funding request will be brought forward to, and considered during, the upcoming 2009 budget deliberations.

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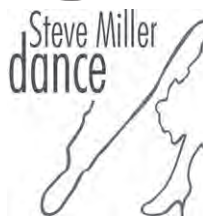
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\$14 before January 26 - reg. price \$16

4,500 sq/ft hardwood floor, strict tempo music, desserts & coffee @ 10:30 p.m.  
 Dress code in effect - Reserved seating available

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Mon., January 5th 2008  
 for 8 weeks.

Cost only \$85.00

**Level 1: 8 p.m. Cha Cha & Waltz**  
**Level 2: 9 p.m. Rumba & Tango**

Classes take place at the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora  
 105 Industrial Parkway North  
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*Please call or email for more information or to register for upcoming events*



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## Senior Scape

### Success breeds success at ASA

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Are seniors too old to be described as rare extravagant spirits or to maintain richness of mind or, are seniors too old to speak the lively and pleasing language of common interests and good friends?

I asked myself these questions recently while debating in my mind the quality of activities, leadership and the camaraderie that is so evident among my fellow members in the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA).

The ASA is well populated with rare extravagant spirits and they make excellent friends and they talk about all kinds of interests.

The emphatic answer is that they are nowhere near too old, and this view is confirmed by the richness of mind and audacity, with which members of talent navigate barriers and obstacles and trump impediments in their special events, while driven by determination to prosper in their chosen fields, and who aspire to daring new successes by setting splendid future goals.

Success breeds success which invariably unleashes forces which create the new and splendid order of can do and will do, which provides much of the structure and energy that the ASA thrives upon.

Moderation in planning ASA events is reasonable and normal but, pursuing the goal relentlessly in achieving a sometimes difficult purpose requires great effort.

Projects are sometimes unattainable or unreachable no matter the effort expended.

The continuing successes achieved to date allows the triumphant journey of seniors to continue on its merry way, maximizing what works well.

To improve communications among the many activities and the Board of Directors (BoD), and to further common interests, the Operations and Activities Committee (O&A) has met for the second time and has decided by a majority vote that representatives from all of the ASA activity groups will comprise the O&A committee, rather than the election of a smaller core of members.

Subsequently Jvette Gillies [Jvette is pronounced Utah] was acclaimed as chairperson and Carol Hedenberg agreed to assist her, and these two fine ladies are expected to get done what needs to be done.

The purpose of the O&A committee is to encourage leading members, divided from others by day and time of activity, to

coalesce into a coherent committee and employ this base as a method to assemble and communicate concerns, requirements, proposals and a diversity of information to the BoD.

The working relationship will require a review of how the committee intends to function, and outline the committee's role in information gathering and in reporting to the BoD.

One important study will be the ongoing review and allocation of limited space and time in the centre.

Any review will be influenced by naturally changing interests of members and the waxing and waning popularity of pursuits, to which the ASA has experienced change already.

Another significant concern is early identification of compelling requirements for equipment, supplies and any other necessities that may arise. Early reports of equipment requirements by the respective activities facilitate the work of the O&A and the BoD.

Subsequent meetings of the O&A committee will determine the practical functionality of its composition and time will make clear the value of communication of common interests.

The so called baby boomers can be expected to retire and make their presence felt in the near term and the ASA expects a dynamic infusion of new blood as this process commences.

I affirm that the ASA has changed already the dynamics of how seniors in Aurora spend their time productively.

Congratulations to Wesley Fink, Peter Gump, Brian Warburton, Michael Fink, Nick Dedie, John Rieder, Bob Brooks and Mike Denny who have completed one to three games each in the chess clubs Round Robin chess tournament.

Bill Pressmar arrived too late to be included in this tournament but, a strong desire clearly exists to play tournament chess and the next tourney will be underway in several weeks.

You need to be a member of the ASA, 2009, and your talent level or the fact that you have not played for several decades is of no concern, since those words are true of us all to some degree. Come in and win a few games and lose a few games, but give your brain a workout.

If a demand exists, we may look at obtaining chess ratings for our players, male and female.

Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. is the starting time.



**Aurora Rotarian George Gonsolves and his wife Rosalyn stand in front of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Temple Complex in Toronto during a tour of the facility last Monday night. A busload of Rotarians and their spouses visited the hand-carved temple, located in the city's west end.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

### Aurora Seniors Bridge results

**Monday, January 5** - N/S: Kay Hack and Audrey Robertson; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White; Dorothy Young and Irene Kubica. E/W: Peter Winders and Priscilla Hull; Rose White and Gloria Smith; Greta Ogden and Edward Smereka.

**Monday, January 12** - N/S: Greta Ogden and Ed Smereka; Peter Schneiders and Betty Saley; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young. E/W: Audrey Robertson and Kay Hack; Isobel Garrett and Mary Oglanby; Judy Salmon and Lucille Sequeira.

## York police chief is named BBBS honorary chairman

For more than 30 years, residents of York Region have been taking to the bowling lanes in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBS).

Bowl For Kids Sake is a fun-filled event that takes place at seven locations across the region during February and March.

The funds raised support the agency in its work to match caring adults with boys and girls who will benefit from a positive adult role model.

This year, Big Brothers Big Sisters has York Region Police Chief, Armand La Barge, as its Honorary Chairperson.

"At-risk" children, throughout the Region, benefit from quality mentoring programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

These boys and girls, with some extra attention, can strive to achieve their full potential and can grow into adults who will contribute positively to society.

Aurora Community Day is Saturday, March 7th at Gateway Café & Lanes, 210 Edward Street.

To register for one of the Bowl For Kids Sake events or to become a sponsor, call 905-895-0289 or visit [www.bbbsy.ca](http://www.bbbsy.ca) for more information.




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winner of the Las Vegas Comedy Festival.  
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# Ask Dr.Susan



Susan Walker, ND  
Naturopathic Doctor and Integrative Medical  
Director of U Weight Loss® Clinic

**Question:**  
Dr. Susan,  
What's the deal with detox programs? I've heard so much about them and have friends that have done cleanses and lost weight but I've also heard that they're a waste of time and not necessary. Can you shed some light on this topic?

**Answer:**  
Detox programs have gained popularity in the past few years, especially because a lot of celebrities have used them to slim down with great success. While we know that calorie imbalance, lifestyle and genetics all contribute to obesity, new research is emerging showing that toxins disrupt key mechanisms involved in the regulation of weight and that you could be overweight because you aren't detoxifying properly.

We live in a toxic environment; this is quite clear. Since 1976 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been monitoring human exposure to environmental chemicals through their National Human Adipose Tissue Survey. This study has been evaluating the levels of various toxins in fat tissue for the presence of toxic compounds. Specimens are collected from autopsied cadavers and elective surgeries from all regions of the United States. Five of what are known to be the most toxic chemicals were found in 100% of all samples. These toxic chemicals are from industrial pollution and damage the heart, liver, lungs and nervous system. Nine more chemicals were found in 91-98% of samples. The effects of toxins are documented in a number of diseases ranging from asthma, allergies, autoimmunity, cancers and obesity. So it's not a question of if we are exposed to toxic chemicals, but a matter of how much exposure and how they affect health.

Toxic chemicals are usually stored in the body in fat tissue, organs and bone and can have detrimental effects on almost every system in the body. In terms of weight control, they affect thyroid hormones leading to a lower metabolic rate. They can affect appetite and satiety by interfering with various control mechanisms in the body. Toxins can affect the body's use of insulin, contributing to type 2 Diabetes. These pervasive compounds also affect enzymes involved in fat-burning, leading to slower metabolism and more weight gain. Lastly, they affect the liver's control of fat and carbohydrate metabolism, all contributing weight gain and difficulty losing it when on a typical diet!

Because of toxin exposure and the negative effects they have on the body, detoxification is central to long-term health and effective weight loss. While the body has developed a sophisticated system of clearing toxins from the body, disease and overall health has been shown to affect the how well the process occurs. The detoxification system relies on the right balance of protein, fats, fiber, vitamins, minerals and plant compounds to be effective. All of these factors play a role in helping the body eliminate toxins.

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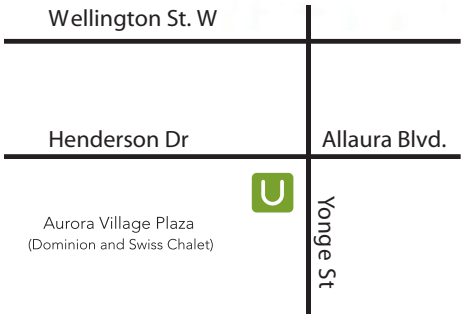
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