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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 9 No. 18      905-727-3300      [auroran.com](http://auroran.com)      FREE      Week of March 3, 2009



Of course, the first thing you do on Shrove Tuesday is eat pancakes as these two will attest. Isabella Ferguson, left, and Georgia Dallervie dug in last week as students from Holy Spirit Separate School on Stone Road in Aurora participated in the second annual event. More than 700 pancakes were served to the students. Organizer Tania DeFreitas said the second event was more successful than the first. Meanwhile, the 3rd Aurora Scouts celebrated their 50th anniversary as they set up an annual pancake feast at the Aurora United Church last Tuesday. Scouts, Venturers, Beavers and Cubs helped in the serving of the pancakes.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Full service station may happen soon

Aurora's newest full service gas station may be one of its oldest gas stations.

Details are being finalized, but according to information received by the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the manager of Canadian Tire has agreed to offer full service at their Aurora gas station at the corner of Edward Street and Yonge Street.

This will be available when an extra attendant is on duty during the hours of propane service.

The issue of providing full service at the pumps has been an ongoing one in Aurora since

the last full service station, the Beaver on Wellington Street East, closed a couple of years ago.

Since then, handicapped citizens, seniors, and others who may have difficulty pumping their own gas, have had to travel outside of Aurora to find this service.

Now a local solution seems to be closer to reality.

Town staff is currently confirming the details with Canadian Tire about to whom and how this service will be provided, and will be making this information available shortly on the town's website.

## Things looking good for Aurora and York

The 2009 Economic Profile is a marketing and investment tool prepared by regional staff to be distributed to senior executives of major corporations in York Region, to domestic and international organizations interested in investing in the region and to partners including municipal Economic Development staff, Chambers of Commerce and federal and provincial investment attraction officials.

The Profile notes York Region's economy is prosperous and growing and as one of the most diverse regions in all Canada, York has earned a reputation as a premier business location in the heart of North America's most dynamic growth complexes.

York Region continues to experience low unemployment rates and strong employment growth, according to the profile.

The diverse base of the region's major employers has created an economy that is buoyant and more resilient to cyclical shifts at the national and global scale, the profile says.

The region is home to a number of high quality golf courses, an array of forests and trails, exceptional gal-

leries and museums and an excellent range of accommodation, shopping, dining and attractions.

It also has high-tech industrial and office parks, thriving urban communities, rolling hills, lush countryside and lakeside communities.

The region is developing and hosting a series of business workshops with detailed and interactive learning forums for business leaders, guest presenters, case studies, and implementation methods in 2009.

"Smart Commute" is a partnership between Metrolinx and the cities and regions of the GTA, which aims to reduce traffic congestion and plans to take action on climate change by encouraging individuals to travel smarter, cleaner and better by considering alternatives.

The region's robust economy has a Gross Domestic Product that is greater than any of the provinces of Atlantic Canada.

Between 2002 and 2007 the region's GDP grew 23 per cent compared with an 11 per cent increase for Ontario.

More than 140 million consumers in Canada and the north-eastern United States are located

within a one day drive of the region.

The region's employment growth has historically been strong with increases averaging 4.8 per cent since 1996 and the unemployment

Please see page 11

## Tigers need win Tuesday

The Aurora Tigers of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League appeared to be on a comeback with two straight wins over the Huntsville Otters in hockey play-offs last week, but a trip to Huntsville Sunday ruined all that.

The Otters came out with a 4-2 win forcing a sixth game - must win for the Tigers - at the Aurora Community Centre Tuesday night.

Results were not available at press time, but will be on The Auroran's website - [www.auroran.com](http://www.auroran.com) - Wednesday morning.

If Aurora wins the game, the seventh and final contest will be played in Huntsville Wednesday night.

To learn how the Tigers made it to a sixth game, see the story on Page 10.

## Chamber picks new leader

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has replaced its executive director...again.

It all started several months ago, when Executive Director Carla Adams informed the chamber she would be seeking a maternity leave for a year.

The chamber hired Karen Addison to fill in for the year.

But then Ms Addison was offered a full-time job elsewhere, so she resigned.

Last week, Chamber president Kathy van Nostrand signed the papers with 63-year-old Michael Keith, an Alliston area resident, who is currently president of the Alliston Chamber of Commerce.

And Karen Addison was selected as an Aurora chamber board member.

"It's a win, win, win situation," said Ms van Nostrand last week.

Mr. Keith operates a travel business, with his wife, Susan, from

their home, and is part of the Travel Professionals International group.

He is also a member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

While he is handling the remainder of the contract (there are eight months left on it), he will be relieved in Alliston by that chamber's 2nd vice-president, who will assume the day-to-day functions of the operation.

Mr. Keith has four sons and five grandchildren.



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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 your 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.

On Thursdays 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

St. Andrew's College annual Cadets in Concert takes place in Ketchum Auditorium on St. Andrew's campus at 15800 Yonge Street beginning at 7.30 p.m. From the prize winning Wind Ensemble and Pipes and Drums Band, to the Drummer Fanfare and greatly anticipated return of the Red Man Group – the audience will be taken on a musical journey they won't soon forget. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling 905-727-3178, ext. 260, or by e-mailing jane.bedard@sac.on.ca. For more information, please visit the website at http://www.sac.on.ca/.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

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 taboxoffice@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.

In person registration for the Aurora Minor Baseball Association takes place today at the Stronach Aurora Recreation 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 AMBA's free indoor winter baseball clinics. For more information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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 AMBA's free indoor winter baseball clinics. For more information, e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

The Aurora Film Circuit presents the film "Outsourced". Tickets are \$10 and 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. Proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Aurora Council meets as general committee at 7

p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Amnesty International meets at 7.30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, on Victoria Street. For more information, call 905-727-8671.

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 children, 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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

If a child is between six and nine years old, he or she can explore the world of Japanese art at the Aurora Public Library. Students will study famous works by Japanese artists and create their own work using watercolours, wax relief and stamps. It happens from 7 to 8 p.m. and the fee is \$6 per child. For further information visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or phone 905-727-9493 or pick up a program flyer at the library.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

"Words and Music" is a concert to benefit the Aurora Writers Group. It will be held at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora beginning at 7.30 p.m. Live music will include selections from Broadway shows, 60's folk music, and light classics. Readings from Aurora Storyalis will be interspersed with the music.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual Longest Street Sale on the Longest Street beginning at 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Aurora Rotary Club golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Shotgun at 10 a.m. \$150 per golfer includes lunch and dinner. Call Ron at 905-727-3300 for details. Participation limited.



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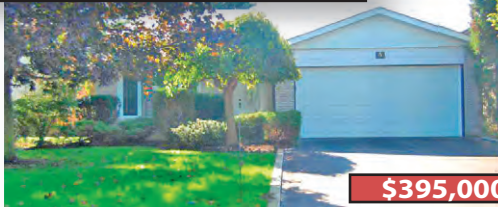
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Back when there was an Aurora police department, one of the better known members was Robert Andrews, better known as "moose". He died last week in Espanola, after serving with the Espanola Police until his retirement in July, 1995. He was 73. The above photograph was taken October 14, 1964, in front of the last station of the former Aurora Police Department when it occupied space on land now used by Park Place Manor on Yonge Street.

## Briefly

### Trivia contest is on

Aurora resident Andrew Kipfer, one of the producers of the Slippermen concerts slated for March 6 and 7 at Theatre Aurora, said this week the promised Slippermen/Genesis trivia contest is open now, and remains so until March 4th.

The contest questions, prizes, entry instructions and rules can be viewed on the Slippermen web-site, [www.slippermen.ca](http://www.slippermen.ca).

Prizes include front row tickets to the March 6 concert, gift certificates from TK's Restaurant & Pub, and tickets to an upcoming Theatre Aurora production.

Concert tickets are still available, by contacting Theatre Aurora, at 905-727-3669, or [taboxoffice@bell.net](mailto:taboxoffice@bell.net).

### Chess Tournament

The 13th annual chess tournament, sponsored by the Aurora Optimists Club, will have the regional championship in town as well this year.

Aurora's tournament took place for students between the Grades of 1 and 12 at the Aurora Legion hall last Thursday.

Top three winners will advance to the Regional Championship, also set this year at the Legion, Saturday, March 28.

Regional winners will be able to attend the Ontario Provincial Chess Challenge 'n Math Association.

### Wanna piano??

If you happen to be looking for an upright, no-name, black piano that is difficult to tune, we may have the answer.

Frank Snape, who owns Aurora's Fine Food market has one that he says is five feet long, four feet high, two feet, three inches wide and is "many years old".

The "very heavy" instrument would be "suitable for a youth club or similar organization", he said.

Call 905-727-7307 if you're interested.

### Golf? Yeah, let's!!

If it's nice and white outside, think about playing a round of golf.

The Aurora Rotary Club is holding a tournament at Westview Golf Club Tuesday, July 14, but there's only room for 18 foursomes.

At \$150 a head, it's probably the most inexpensive tournament you'll find in these parts, and that cost includes lunch, dinner, golf cart and a ton of other things.

If you're interested, call Ron at 905-727-3300 during regular business hours.

But hurry.

# Train whistling near settlement?

It may not go back to the first appearance of a locomotive in Aurora in 1853, but it seems that for much of the time since then, residents have complained about train whistles, especially when they are sounded at night.

The problem stems from the detailed set of instructions approved by Transport Canada that engineers are required to follow with respect to when a whistle is to be activated and the sequence to be used.

The Canadian Rail Operating Rules say trains must sound their whistles one quarter of a mile before any level crossing, regardless of the type of crossing warning system that is in place, and must continue to sound their whistles until the train has fully occupied the crossing.

With crossings in Aurora at Engelhard Drive, Wellington St. East, Centre Street and St. John's Sideroad, that's the potential for a lot of whistling.

A municipality can pass a bylaw to eliminate the whistling, but Transport Canada will not approve this at any public railway crossing until several steps have been completed.

Over the past several years, work has been underway to establish such a bylaw for Aurora and obtain the necessary federal approval.

Public feedback has been sought, liability issues discussed, gates have been installed at each crossing, and a number of studies have been conducted.

At a general committee meeting recently, it was identified that Transport Canada was now requiring Aurora to have updated a report prepared by a consulting firm in 2004, and a subsequent addendum

done in 2006.

Since a few years have passed, the federal agency felt that a review was necessary to ensure the reports accurately represent the current condition of each of the four crossings through town.

The quotation from the consultant to complete this latest study is \$10,200.

Because GO Transit owns the railway tracks, and the tracks cross Wellington Street East and St. John's Sideroad, both of which are Region of York roads, the town had hoped that the cost of this report could be split three ways.

However, the Region declined to take part, leaving Aurora on the hook for two thirds of the cost, or \$6,800.

At the general committee meeting, staff members requested the amount be made available from the Municipal Capital Reserve Fund to update the report.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted that this issue had been around since the previous council, and that the town had yet to see any information as to what will be the final cost to get rid of the train whistles, and who will do it.

Despite some obvious frustration around the table at the length of this process, and the additional cost, there was general agreement that since the study was required by Transport Canada before the town could proceed further, it would have to be completed.

In the end, general committee endorsed the staff recommendation, with the amendment that a chronology of the anti-whistling project be prepared to help explain the history of the process to date to the public.

Council approved this at their meeting last week.

## Bands win gold at music festival

The music department at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School have had a busy, but rewarding week.

The senior jazz band and senior concert band, under the direction of Penny Sedore, both won gold

awards at the Toronto Music Fest.

The awards qualified the bands for the Canadian National finals.

The groups are off to Chicago in April for their next competition.

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## Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

# Council running out of time before the next election

*The municipal term is half over,  
There are two more years to go;  
Still time to get things done,  
Stop fighting and go with the flow!*  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The year 2009 could be a very important one for Aurora Council as it is the last full year of the term when members will have the opportunity to work together as a team and clean up many of the long outstanding issues that have been deferred, deferred and deferred.

As 2010 is a municipal election year the work period is reduced as members work more to get re-elected than handle the business of the town.

It is often referred to as the election silly season.

Every month, staff members prepare a pending list of outstanding issues that have been referred to staff or an advisory committee for a report.

The February pending list is 39 pages and contains approximately 150 items.

The staff report is normally received at council as information with no action taken, so it appears to be a waste of staff's time, energy and tax dollars in preparing the report, month after month.

The issue of the empty hydro building on Industrial Parkway South has long been outstanding with the previous council unable to reach agreement and the current council having the same problem.

Some time ago staffers prepared an excellent report with recommendations as to how the facility could be fully utilized for municipal and community uses while at the same time solving the overcrowded conditions in some parts of the Family Leisure Complex, but no action was taken.

With the growth of the town, staff members reported overcrowded conditions at the Works and Parks Departments on Scanlon Court and a space planner was hired with a report to be submitted last fall. If it was submitted, it wasn't made public and the building is still empty.

Much the same can be said of the former library and senior centre on Victoria Street although the senior centre was rented out on a short term basis bringing in some revenue.

The old library sits empty and deteriorating and if no action is taken soon, the Jack Woods farmhouse could fall into the same category.

A consultant recommended the hydro sale proceeds of about \$35 million be divided with 80 to 90 per cent placed in a reserve for capital asset management and the balance for council projects but a policy has never been approved, yet money is being used as needed.

Money was received from Whitwell Developments for an entrance sign at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East, but council can't agree on what it wants.

Whitwell also provided funds for downtown revitalization but once again no action.

There is also a decision to be made as to whether a ward system is to be placed on the ballot at the next municipal election, and whether Aurora should have a second representative on regional council.

While this is a provincial or regional responsibility, it has to start locally.

The 2009 budget has yet to be passed although it is known the sooner the budget is adopted, staff can call tenders and often obtain better prices.

It also provides for a better cash flow.

The Anti-Whistling Bylaw has been before council for a long time as has the Anti-Idling Bylaw, the Drive-Thru policy, Newspaper Boxes on municipal property, a Garbage Bag Tag system, location of a BMX track and a decision to enter the Communities in Bloom competition.

There are many more issues before council and committees that are outstanding and although in-camera meetings have been held to discuss the pending list and set priorities, there have been few results insofar as the public is aware.

This was a council that was elected on a promise of open and transparent government, but over the term so far, there have been more in-camera meetings than possibly any council in the history of the municipality.

The citizens of Aurora are not being well served by this council and if members want to get re-elected in 2010, they had better start to work as a team and make some decisions.

It will be better than deferral action.



Couple of major fires took place in Aurora (well, more than a couple, actually) over the years, and here's two of them. In the top photo, the Arena Restaurant was gutted in a blaze that happened probably in 1962. The restaurant was located in front of the, what else, arena, on Yonge Street, adjacent to today's Park Place Manor. In the bottom photo, one person lost his life in this downtown blaze, believed to have started in Ray's Cafe on the west side of Yonge Street, just south of Wellington. This fire occurred in 1953. Thanks to Doreen Bolsby, wife of the late Aurora Fire Prevention Officer Fred Bolsby for supplying the photos.

### Letter to the Editor

## "Small Town" feeling lives

To the editor,

This letter is to thank Bob who stopped to help me in the Foodland parking lot.

It was a COLD day; but he stopped anyway.

And to thank the gentleman who mailed the letter I dropped.

And to thank the man who actually backed up his car at No Frills so that I could have a parking spot.

And appreciation to the teenager who gave up his seat on the bus for an older woman.

And here's to all the Aurorans who do small acts of kindness, just because it's the right thing to do. These things keep our "Small Town" feeling alive.

Isn't it great!

Wendy Gaertner  
Aurora

## THE AURORAN

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**Publisher Emeritus**  
Rosemary Schumaker

**Editorial**  
Ron Wallace  
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth  
dick@auroran.com

**Photography**  
David Falconer  
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

**Advertising**  
Bob Ince  
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan  
diane@auroran.com

**Production**  
Cynthia Proctor  
cynthia@auroran.com

**Main Number**  
905-727-3300

**Classifieds**  
905-727-7128  
classifieds@auroran.com

**Facsimile Machine**  
905-727-2620

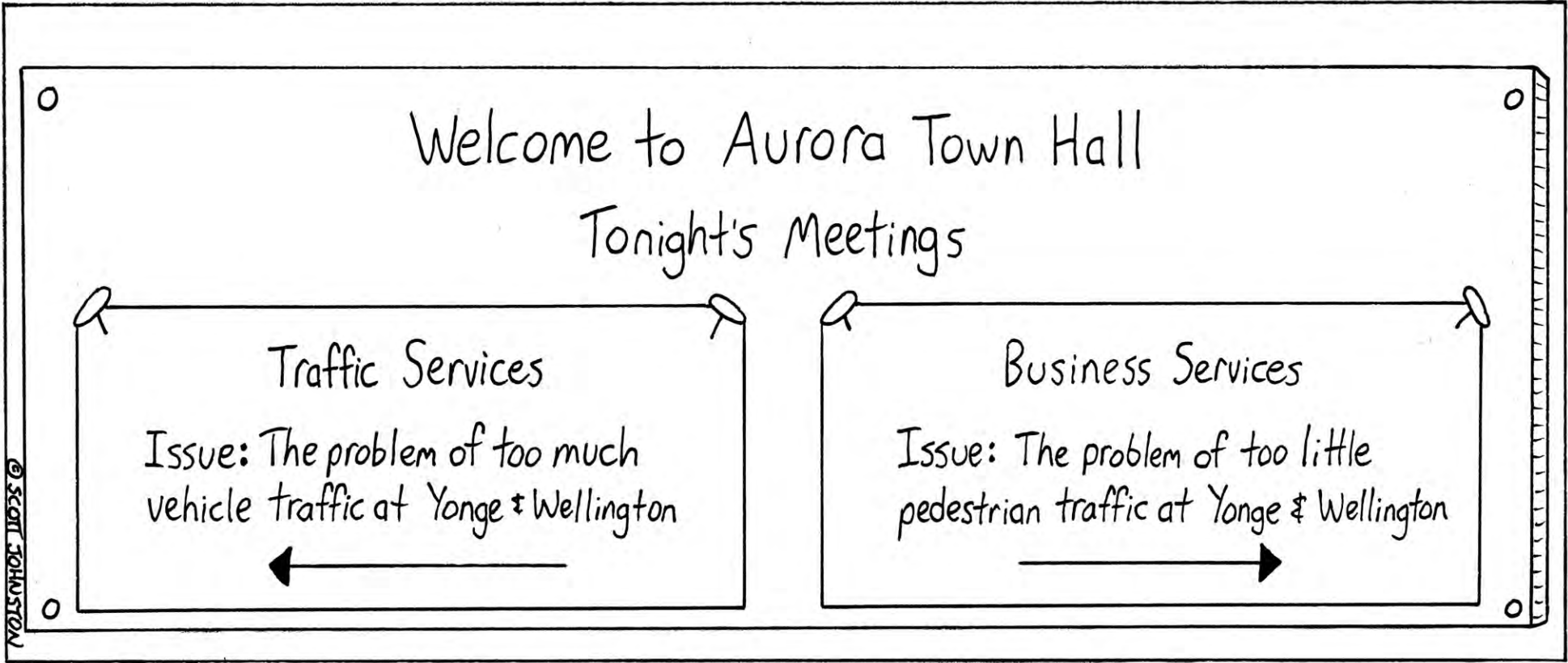
**Editorial Department**  
rwall9999@aol.com

### 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.



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

On voting day during the 2007 provincial election, I was situated at Devins Drive Public School as an election scrutineer.

I subsequently wrote an election notebook column about the six hours that I spent at the school.

The last item in that column had absolutely nothing to do with politics.

I reproduced the cute poem done by a young female student named Kyra about her dog Bailey.

A friend of mine who has a daughter at the school called me and said that my column was pasted on the door to the office, just above the original poem.

I was obviously flattered by this and thought to myself that at least my column is meeting a better fate than that sought by some of my literary critics (and certain family members) who continually suggest a more appropriate employment for this column would be at the bottom of a bird cage or in the wrapping of old fish.

In addition to telling me about the poem, my friend wanted to tell me about the amazing Remembrance Day display at the school.

She had attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the school the day before and one of the veterans present stated to her that the display was the best that he had seen in his 10 years of doing these things.

She went on that each piece of memorabilia in the

displays had a direct connection to a particular student.

She said I should go and see the exhibits as they wouldn't be up much longer.

So I did. And I was not disappointed. I was amazed in fact.

I therefore wrote a follow up column about the Remembrance Day displays.

I wrote at the time that there were lots of things to view; but one small exhibit caught my attention.

Student's Name: Tyler McKechnie

Teacher: Mrs. Taylor

Name of Veteran (Soldier): James Smith (Tyler's great uncle)

Date of Birth: May 6, 1915

Date of Death: 1975

War Served: World War II

Position: Private with British 8th Army in North Africa and then Italy.

It also noted that he was a "Desert Rat". There was also a picture of Mr. Smith.

Tyler's mother, Andrea McKechnie, saw the column, cut it out of the newspaper and passed it on to her mother, Pat Gambell, who, after reading it, gave me a call.

Ms. Gambell said she enjoyed the column and told me she had also provided their grandson Tyler with some of her husband Clifford's war-time memorabilia,

## Clifford Gambell

which had also adorned the walls at Devins P.S.

Pat asked if I would, as a favour to her, read her husband's brief manuscript of his World War II experiences, and see what I thought of it.

I automatically said, "sure".

So, late last fall, I went to see Pat and her husband, Clifford G. Gambell in Barrie. They were so nice and you could just feel the love between the two of them (they have been married for 65 years). I had a most enjoyable couple of hours with the two of them.

Cliff regaled me with his many war stories and Pat told me about the first time they met, while Cliff was stationed in England.

Cliff said his family had asked him to write down these experiences; which he did in a 31-page manuscript.

I did not have the opportunity to read Cliff's work until an extremely cold and snowy Sunday in January. Once I picked up the manuscript, I did not put it down until I was finished.

It was absolutely fascinating reading.

Next week I plan to share some of these experiences with you and also offer a few thoughts on why and how we need to preserve the lessons and experiences of our noble freedom fighters.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

## Cold weather management

I hate winter. The reason I hate winter is because it's cold. I don't manage cold very well.

If it wasn't cold, I would be happy to make snow angels with my friend Shelley.

If it was anything like rolling in the sand on a tropical beach, I would get childishly giddy at the thought.

But it isn't. Snow is cold and I dislike all things cold - I don't even like ice cream.

Two winters ago, Shelley dared me to make a snow angel so I did.

But I couldn't bring myself to lay down in freshly fallen snow and joyfully flail my arms and legs until I have snow up my giggly nose and down my wiggly neck like she does.

Nope. I am too much of a Winter Wonder-Wuss to engage in this kind of winter sport...fully clothed.

I had to do it my way and I had to do it when I was good and ready - which would have been NEVER if she hadn't dared me and made me promise.

But she did and I wanted to impress her with my courage and bravery so she would stop making fun of my inner Wuss every time there is snow on the ground, which is all winter long.

So, one starry night, much to my husband's shock and amazement, I got out of the hot tub and I lay down in the snow...in my bathing suit.

I must have looked like a deranged ghost - steam coming off me like some mysterious ethereal mist...eyes glazed over in stark stupidity...face frozen in fear.

I lay down in the snow as if returning to a grave. Then I screamed.

It was cold. It was VERY cold!

It was so cold that when I jumped back into the hot tub, Damir jumped out. Then I jumped out for the same reason: There were ice cubes floating around in our hot tub.

Needless to say, I now know for sure that "cold immersion" is NOT the cure for "cold aversion".

No more snow angels for me.

From now on, I will stick with my arsenal of anti-quated weapons against the cold: hot water bottles, blankets and oven mitts.

I position the hot water bottles like a bullet-proof vest, then mummify myself in the blankets until I have just enough fine motor movement to slip on the oven mitts.

The only time I take off the oven mitts is to turn the thermostat up.

And lately I've been doing that a lot. Have you noticed? It is COLD outside!

Every morning, I look at the thermometer and it says: "Go back to bed!"

I don't know about you but I am thinking maybe we Aurorans aren't getting our fair share of those toot-sie-warming greenhouse gases we've been promised all these years.

To me, "record low temperatures", "severe storm warning" and "Snowmageddon" sounds more like another Ice Age than Global Warming.

So whenever I see some rosy-cheeked, smiley-faced winter-lover in a colourful scarf that matches their psychedelic snowsuit...beaming with delight and bouncing with joy as the snow falls...squealing totally inappropriate words like "magical" and "crisp" and "fresh" as they flail in the snow...well, I just want to smack them!

I hate winter.

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:  
ccauroa@rogers.com





*Bouquets &* **BRICKBATS**

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to six-year old Kaya McClure, for badgering her father into buying a large red candy heart so that she could bring it to Southlake and give it to her grandpa, Poor Richard, so he would have a new heart and get better.

**BRICKBATS** to the Leisure Services staff for recommending that Aurora parks be fenced for soccer fields in order to reduce degradation off field conditions. With all due respect to the soccer players, parks should be open and free to use by the public when not in use for organized sports.

**BOUQUETS** to Mayor Phyllis Morris for her recent written report on highlights from the recent regional council meeting for Aurora Council and for her column in The Auroran re-establishing a tradition of Mayor's Reports dating back to 1969.

**BRICKBATS** to Toronto City Council for adopting a People, Dogs and Parks Policy that bans dogs on the beaches and signs noting that dogs are prohibited in the sanded areas have been up since November. A Poop and Scoop bylaw should be sufficient.

**BOUQUETS** to Legionnaire Ted Kearns, Community Services Officer for the Aurora Legion, who has helped many Veterans, not all members of the Legion, to obtain pensions and other benefits from Veterans Affairs.

**BRICKBATS** to Prince Harry on making it necessary to attend a school for an equality and diversity course after he was recorded making racist remarks. He's a royal disaster!

**BOUQUETS** to Alison Green of Aurora who was the lucky winner of a beautiful gift bag filled with merchandise courtesy of the merchants at the Aurora Shopping Centre. It was the centre's annual Valentine Draw.

**BRICKBATS** to the motorists using GO Rail who park on the street close to people's driveways presenting safety issues and a great deal of inconvenience for the homeowner. It would be interesting to know how many such infractions the bylaw enforcement officers lay in a month. Possibly a member of council could ask for a report?

**BOUQUETS** to Ken Elmer for his two-part article in The Auroran about Life in Aurora in the Forties, as it brought back a lot of memories of people and places.

**BRICKBATS** to Canada Post for increasing the cost of a first class postage stamp by two cents from 52 to 54 cents, letters to the United States up two cents to 98 cents while letters to all other foreign countries increased by a nickel to \$1.65 with no reason given for the increases.

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Film Circuit for their donation of \$7,500 to the Aurora Public Library from its proceeds especially the screening of The Stone Angel which featured Aurora actress Christine Horne.

**BRICKBATS** to the British firm that manufacturers and sells the WaveBox oven that plugs into the dashboard lighter and promises the ultimate in meals on wheels experience. It's available in the U.S. for \$199 but has not yet received regulatory approval for sale in Canada and it never should as it would add to the number of distracted drivers.

**BOUQUETS** to Butler and Baird Limited for 35 years of service to Aurora and surrounding area residents and are now relocating to larger facilities in the Uxbridge Industrial Park, just north of Stouffville. The firm is a charter member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

**BRICKBATS** to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty for admitting that the recent property reassessment by the Municipal Property Assessment Commission was presenting a hardship for many homeowners and failing to do anything about it.

**BOUQUETS** to York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge for taking on the duties of Honourary Chairman for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Bowl for Kids Sake with Aurora Community Day at Gateway Café and Lanes March 7.

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Letters to the Editor

# Seek answers to budget questions, she advises

To the editor,

The upcoming budget is a boondoggle.

There's a ton of stuff in it I can't justify.

Grants from senior levels of government, reduction in the Region's bite, status quo in education taxes and growth in revenue from new homes, commerce and industry, mean we could be striving for zero tax increase.

There has been no downturn in Aurora's economy.

New neighbours mean increased demands on town services.

Staff increases are needed to maintain existing levels of service. More miles of roads and sidewalks cost more to maintain.

New properties contribute new revenue. Recreation facilities adequately staffed for capacity use increases revenue. It helps reduce arm and a leg deficits.

Money collected from developers, to pay for recreational needs should be used for that purpose. Sitting in the bank earning interest represents to me, misappropriation of funds.

Aurora taxpayers shouldn't have to go to Newmarket to play on their fields, while others enjoy state-of-the-art facilities at tax subsidized rates at home.

It's insane to budget \$100,000 to fix up a rotting, mouldering, old shack that's no use to anybody, has no historical significance and I don't care whose great-great-great-long-dead grandfather struggled to survive in it.

Families today struggle to provide their own shelter.

They should not have to satisfy some historical buff's idea that everything old is worth saving as long as the money doesn't come out of his pocket.

I don't agree we should be giving the Historical Society \$50,000 to pay for curators for an old Victorian house that opens its doors only by appointment from May until September.

We should not be spending \$140,000 to study Yonge at Wellington so that we can tell property-owners how to spend THEIR money on THEIR property.

I think property-owners in old Aurora are doing a fine job of improving their properties.

Four full-time staff sitting in Church Street School during office hours to make like they are running an Arts and Culture Palace so the mayor can cavort as Queen of Culture and Clothes Lines with Councillor MacEachern as Lord High Chancellor, is not my idea of good use of taxpayers' money. Call me a Philistine. See if I care.

The province spends million of dollars to protect the environment.

South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority has responsibility for all lakes, streams and waterways. They costs millions.

York Region has responsibility for the environment. We all contribute to the flow. They have a separate conduit for our tax dollars.

I don't think we should hire another environmental engineer or keep the one we already have who studies "environmental initiatives".

Engineers need support staff with all attendant benefits.

That boondoggle won't cost much less than half a million. Damned if I know what you can expect to get for it.

Budgets for environmental engineers and the Arts and Culture Palace could pay for an army of librarians.

So, check the figures.

Don't fixate on something fed to you by people who know too well what you don't.

Heritage and Environment are the new religion.

I think you're being robbed blind to pay for pretensions having little to do with the service you should expect to receive from your municipality.

If taxes infuriate you, seek answers. Don't be bamboozled.

Don't let yourself be jerked about like a puppet in a Punch and Judy Show.

You deserve better than that.

**Evelyn Buck  
Aurora**

## Believe

To the editor,

There will be change I see the vision  
The choice of love, individual decision.  
I see the hands raised in the air,  
two fingers spread with no despair.

I hear the chants, voices loud and true,  
demanding our future save our youth.  
I touch the hearts of those close to me.  
Are there more people outside who sincerely believe?

Shoulder to shoulder we march no battle to take  
our planet turns grey, our true colours at stake.  
Why fight over difference and a negative past  
Touch as many hearts and the passion will last.

Brother to Brothers, mankind to kind  
Together we thrive, hearts aligned.  
Sister to Sister braced and embraced  
Forward we move hands held interlaced.

Children to Child laughter and laughs  
smiling at growth, gentle breeze but no draft.  
Elders and older, respect and respected  
listened to intently values not neglected.

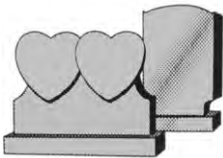
There will be change I see the vision  
The choice of peace a worldly decision.  
I see the hands raised in the air  
Not for violence or guns, those needs aren't there.

**David Heard  
Aurora**

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Letters to the Editor

First ever cook-off a huge Rotary success

To the editor,

The Rotary Club of Aurora was honoured to organize the Chili Cook-off 2009 as part of Arctic Day Adventure February 16th at the Town Park.

As a result of a strong turnout the day was a great success!

For their 'behind the scenes support', we wish to express our gratitude to the good natured volunteers who (as Friends of Rotary) helped with planning, set-up and support during this busy day.

A standing ovation goes out to the following volunteers – Kate Collins (organ-

izing and great attention to detail); Jeff Turcotte ( emcee for the day, supplier of much needed equipment, and all round nice guy); Steph Pimek (courier duties, planning and 'bean counting'); Blair Browne (planning, courier duties, organizing and 'bean counting') and Wes Browne (tro-

phy creation).

As part of the fun, the Rotary Club agreed to supply five taste testers who would be kind enough (aka brave enough) to compare and grade the various chili entries.

A very special thank you goes out to Central York firefighters. We appreciate you

all for being such good sports!

A very, very special thank you must be extended to the excellent entertainers who were on hand to complete this enjoyable day: Luke Nares, Dave Lotimer and Pat Mete – you all ROCK!!!

Taste-testers, volunteers,

judges and musicians pulled the day together; however the restaurants that gladly came on board to show their support and belief in the first Rotary Club of Aurora Chili Cook-off truly deserve all the praise.

Our most heartfelt appreciation goes out to 'Team Bad Temper' from Crabby Joes; Gabriel's Café; Jonathan's; 'Pepper' from Sgt. Peppers Pub & Grill; 'Tina's Hot Tamales' from TK's Restaurant & Pub and Eastside Marios.

What great Town spirit!

Accessibility to college easier than university for low income families,this reader maintains

To the editor,

The relationship between social class and post secondary attendance has stayed structured in Canada.

Children from higher income families are more likely to attend post secondary institutions.

For example, according to Statistics Canada reports, in 2001, the participation

rate to go to a university for students, whose parents' income of \$25,000 or less, is only 19.5 per cent.

The proportion of the students attending a university, whose parents earn \$25,000 to \$50,000 was 23.3 per cent.

The proportions of the children attending a university, whose parents earn \$50,000 to \$75,000 was 25 per cent; while 38.2 per cent

of the students going to university had parents who earned \$75,000 to \$100,000; and nearly half, 45.6 per cent, of the post secondary bound students, from families who earn \$100,000 or more, went to university.

The difference in the students' participation rates, by social class, at a college, is not as large as a gap.

For example, in 2001,

29.4 per cent of the children, whose parents earned less than \$25,000, went to a college; and 36.5 per cent of the children whose parents' annual income was between \$25,000 and \$50,000 went to a college.

Then, 38.1 per cent of the students whose parents made \$50,000 to \$75,000 attended a college; while 31.8 per cent of the students, whose parents earn

more than \$100,000 a year, went to a college.

From this data, it is observed that colleges are more open, or accessible to the students from lower income groups, than universities.

The proportion of students from middle income families is about the same for colleges and universities; but a larger share of students whose parents earn \$100,000 plus, attend a university.

And, as in the past, it was indeed a pleasure working with Special Events Co-ordinator for the Town of Aurora, Shelley Ware.

Her thoughtfulness, hard work, pleasant disposition and hands-on support were very much appreciated!

**Rotary Club of Aurora**

**ED. NOTE: She's too humble to mention it, but the event would not have been a success without the hard work of organizer Wendy Browne.**

Our government has done much for women: Brown

To the editor,

International Women's Day 2009 is March 8 during International Women's Week.

This year's theme of "Strong Leadership. Strong

Women. Strong World: Equality" reflects the government's belief that increasing women's participation and access to leadership roles and opportunities will help women and girls reach their full poten-

tial and help build a more prosperous Canada.

The Conservative party has a long history of supporting women's leadership.

It was our party which elected the first female Prime Minister.

highest percentage of women to cabinet in the history of Canada.

He appointed the first Minister of State solely dedicated to the Status of Women – the Honourable Helena Guergis - who recently launched a program to introduce women ages 12–25 to politics and ultimately encourage them to engage politically.

This is a week we can reflect on the many accomplishments and contributions of women in Newmarket and Aurora.

Author corrects story mistakes

To the editor,

On my story of Aurora in the forties, I had a bit of trouble with my east and west directions, so I thought I had better correct them.

1. Dr. Urquhart's office was on the northwest corner of Mosley and Victoria.

2. The new library was on Victoria Street.

3. The Mechanic's Hall was on the southeast corner of

Mosley and Victoria.

4. Thompson's Funeral Home was on the east side of Victoria Street.

5. The Presbyterian Church was on the northeast corner of Mosley and Victoria.

6. The Trinity Anglican Church was on the east side of Victoria.

Sorry for the errors.

**Ken Elmer  
Aurora**

**Lois Brown  
MP  
Newmarket-Aurora**

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# Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

The feds did it three weeks ago, the U.S. is moving ahead with theirs, Quebec dealt with theirs last month and B.C. started working on it last year.

Taking action on the economy is the latest trend in governance, but Dalton McGuinty clearly didn't get the memo.

Some governments chose an early budget, some an economic stimulus plan and others recalled the Legislature earlier than planned. They took action and moved quickly to protect their citizens from the slumping global economy.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, Dalton McGuinty has been frozen like a deer-in-the-headlights, acting like he senses some sort of impending danger but doing absolutely nothing to get out of the way.

He spent months in denial, standing behind his failed policies in a clear attempt to save face, but squandering precious time other provinces used to take action.

Then, finally, McGuinty made a seemingly miraculous u-turn. He told the media that his Liberal government must "make some fundamental changes".

My colleagues and I in the Progressive Conservative caucus wondered if we should have our hearing checked, but it was true. Mr. McGuinty finally admitted what we have been telling him for years: that his five-point economy plan was a five-point economic failure.

It's been over three weeks since his mea culpa and it turns out McGuinty was all talk and no action.

Since then, he's made speeches, held press conferences and uttered many words, but Dalton McGuinty has said close to nothing. We have no details of his 'plan'.

The one concrete piece of information Ontarians have gleaned from his government is that we can expect the budget in late March – a full month after the date they initially promised.

Where's the sense of urgency he displayed for the media three weeks ago?

Other provinces have announced measures to quell the economic downturn months ago, with Saskatchewan and B.C. introducing stimulus packages in October, 2008.

This isn't about partisanship - governments of every

political stripe have already taken action. Yet Dalton McGuinty and his government have decided to push their budget back another month.

Ontarians aren't fools. We know we're the hardest-hit province, made worse by the Liberal government's failed policies and inaction. Every month the number of jobs lost in our province grows larger, culminating in a staggering 71,000 jobs lost last month alone.

So why is it that Dalton McGuinty and his government continues to dawdle?

I sincerely hope the measures contained in the budget are worth the wait. I hope the McGuinty Liberals will take the advice the PC Party has been offering for years: lower taxes, cut red tape and create a stable and affordable energy supply. That's what it will take to make Ontario an attractive place to invest in and bring business and jobs back to our province.

We need bold policies followed by immediate action to get out of this economic quagmire. After months of inaction, Ontarians deserve nothing less.

That's why I took the ini-

tiative last week to launch a petition calling on the McGuinty government to include a three-month Provincial Sales Tax holiday on cars and trucks.

This is a practical measure that would stimulate car sales immediately and relieve the pressure on our local car dealerships that are backed up with inventory. It's a measure that is directed at the consumer, and would have immediate benefit.

The petition in support of this measure is available for downloading on my website and at my constituency office.

As always, I look forward to your comments and opinions on this or any other issues of importance to you. Please feel free to call me on my direct line at (416) 509-8999 or visit my website at [www.frankklees.com](http://www.frankklees.com).



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# Pumping station work costs will increase

In January, 2004, R.V. Anderson Limited was retained by York Region Council to provide engineering services for a Class Environmental Assessment, detailed design and contract administration of a new Equalization Tank located on the site of the Aurora pumping station on the St. John's Sideroad at the top of Industrial Parkway North.

The project would provide a higher capacity of the pumping station to manage peak flows during wet weather events and would reduce the probability of

spills to the Holland River.

According to a January, 2009, staff report, additional design and contract administration services were provided over the 3.5 year period, which were not included in the original scope for the project.

The project is currently under construction and the Equalization Tank has been commissioned and in operation at the end of 2008 but total completion of the contract including site restoration will not take place until this spring.

The report to the region's

Transportation and Works Committee provided details of the additional services including emergency design work and contract administration, amounting to 55 weeks of contract administration amounting to \$270,200.

Staffers suggested the contract with Anderson be increased from \$731,052 to \$1,001,252 for additional engineering services related to emergency repairs and extended duration of contract administration outside the original scope of the work.

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**PUBLIC MEETING NO. 4**  
**Wells Street PS Student Accommodation Review**

On September 25, 2008, the Board of Trustees for the York Region District School Board approved the formation of an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the area served by Wells Street Public School. The Wells Street Public School ARC will study, report and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on accommodation options related to the school.

As per the Board's Accommodation Review Policy #463 and in keeping with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, a minimum of four (4) public meetings will be held. The Board has scheduled the **fourth** public meeting as noted below.

**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Location:** Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School - Cafeteria  
39 Dunning Avenue  
Aurora, Ontario

**Purpose:** Review draft final report from the Wells Street Public School Accommodation Review Committee and receive public input

Contact: Ross Virgo (905) 727-0022 ext. 2380 [ross.virgo@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:ross.virgo@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

For additional information and details regarding upcoming meeting and activities, visit the York Region District School Board's website at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)





David Tomlinson



Klaus Wehrenberg

# Town honours heritage efforts

Several well-known Aurorans were honoured last week for their heritage efforts in and around the community.

Prior to the start of a regular council meeting, several people became recipients of the 2009 Ontario Heritage Trust Heritage Community Recognition Programs awards.

Top of the list was G. Leslie Oliver, a recent recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

The award, presented by Lieutenant Governor David Onley, recognizes individuals who have made contributions to preserving, protecting and promoting community heritage for 25 years or more.

Dr. Oliver is the founding president of the Aurora Historical Society and as such spearheaded numerous projects, including the opening of the society's first museum at Doan Hall.

Dr. Oliver also served several terms on the Town of Aurora's Heritage Committee.

He, along with others, was presented with a plaque from Mayor Phyllis Morris.

Also receiving honours were David Tomlinson, Klaus Wehrenberg, and former president of the Aurora Historical Society Helen Roberts.

Members of the Northeast

Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District Advisory Sub-Committee were also recognized.

They include Valerie Fleck, Dr. John McIntyre, Councillor Bob McRoberts, Ron Wallace, Nigel Kean, Dave Walker, and Dan Revington. Margaret Brevik, who died last year, also served on the committee.

In the Young Heritage Leaders category, the town honoured the Queen's York Rangers, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps #2700.

One of their initiatives was the candlelight vigil at the Aurora cenotaph during the week leading up to Remembrance Day.

They were inspired to initiate the event after participating in the annual candlelight tribute which has been held at the Aurora cemetery since 2000.

Honoured last week were Brendan Williams, Brenda Dickenson, Jonathan Cole, Sebastian Kuchman, Zackary Stork, Crystal Cameron, Stephanie Luck and Corey Duke.

Meanwhile, the Town of Aurora also received an honourable mention for the 2008 lieutenant governor's Ontario Heritage Award for community leadership, although no one can explain why Aurora was chosen in the population over 125,000 category.



Dr. G. Leslie Oliver



Mayor Phyllis Morris and Helen Roberts

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# Tigers trail by one game

The Aurora Tigers, even though they won two of their last three games, were up against it Tuesday night at the Aurora Community Centre in their best of seven playoff series against the Huntsville Otters.

In the north division of the Provincial Junior A hockey league, Tigers trailed the Otters three games to two.

They needed a win Tuesday night to stay alive for the all-important seventh game of the series, slated for Huntsville Wednesday night.

Results of that game were not available at The Auroran's press time.

Check the newspaper's website [www.auroran.com](http://www.auroran.com) for updates.

It was believed Aurora was in big trouble last week when they went into Huntsville with their backs to the wall, trailing two games to none.

In the 'must-have' game of the series the Tigers needed to come ready from the opening whistle. Fortunately for them, goaltender David Blair was the most ready player in the house.

Tigers emerged on the right side of a 3-2 score, then returned to Aurora Friday night to hand the Otters a 5-2 setback.

That tied the series as the teams headed back to Huntsville Sunday afternoon, but, even though they led twice in the game, Aurora came up on the wrong end of a 4-2 score.

In Huntsville last week, the Otters started the game aggressively, pressing the Tigers and forcing most of the play into the Tigers zone. However, Kyle Paige turned the game's momentum in the Tigers favour when he rushed the length of the ice during a penalty kill, got a clear shot on the Otters goalie, and then wrapped the rebound around behind the net and tucked it in from the other side.

With the Otters on their heels, the Tigers pressed and got another when Nick Vangog buried a Brandon

Happeney rebound to give Aurora its first two-goal lead of the series.

The Tigers continued to work hard during the period, forcing the Otters to shoot from the outside for most of their chances.

Blair handled the shots easily.

The Otters started the second period aggressively and it worked, as a partial breakaway resulted in a powerplay opportunity 36 seconds into the frame.

Less than a minute into the powerplay, the Otters beat Blair to halve the Tigers lead.

Aurora weathered the storm until late in the period when the Otters got their first and second penalties of the game one minute apart to give the Tigers a two-man advantage for one minute.

Matt Pasztor's point blast 40 seconds into the two-man advantage restored the Tigers two-goal lead. Blair was busier in the second; calming the game down when the Otters were pressing.

Tigers took their lead to the dressing room after two.

Aurora had a chance to put it away early in the third when the Otters went to the penalty box, but couldn't get it done.

Not long after the Tigers powerplay, the Otters freed up the puck in a goalmouth scramble back to the point for a shot Blair couldn't handle, setting the stage for an exciting finish.

Less than five minutes later, the Otters were awarded a penalty shot. Blair was outstanding as he held his ground on the shot to preserve the lead.

Blair was the story for the rest of the game as he stopped wave after wave of Otter opportunity, including one drive where he stopped three shots in succession.

The Tigers did well to protect the lead, but Blair was the difference.

He handled 40 shots in the game, with his teammates firing 35 at the Otters

net. Friday, back in Aurora, the game wasn't decided until the second period, after Aurora had fallen behind by a goal.

Almost 400 fans in the Community Centre believed it was just about over for Aurora, until the team turned things around and left the game with a convincing 5-2 victory.

On that night, the Tigers broke a season-long tradition, giving Blair his first back-to-back start after his stellar performance in Huntsville in the third game.

Tiger Coach Craig Evans had to be pleased with the result as the Tigers evened the best of seven series at two.

The Tigers had their regular season lineup in place for the first time in four games as David Morley rejoined linemates Michael Sardella and Dominic Monardo.

As the Tigers did in Huntsville, they opened the scoring when Jeff Vanderlugt picked the Otters' defenseman's pocket in their zone

and pulled the puck to his backhand to beat the Otter goalie.

The Otters brought things even when they were able to capitalize on a powerplay, sneaking one in on Blair's short side near the end of the period. The teams went to the intermission tied at one.

The second period didn't start well for the Tigers as the Otters found the net on the second rebound from Blair to take the lead.

But that was the last time they would beat him as he shut the door.

With a different powerplay unit of Brandon Happeney, Mike Bodley and Lucas VanNatter, Aurora moved the puck low and high with Matt Pasztor and Todd Hellyer until Pasztor's blast from the point went through a Bodley screen to bring the teams even with just over eight minutes gone in the period.

Three minutes later, Morley's flip pass out of the zone found Monardo flying down the wing with Sardella

trailing.

Perhaps the goalie expected the pass to Sardella, but he pulled from the post and Monardo made him pay with a low shot on the short side.

The Tigers spent the remaining eight minutes killing penalties, including a 50-second two-man disadvantage.

Blair needed some help from his partners to keep the puck out, but held his ground to lead the Tigers to the intermission with a one goal lead and the momentum.

The Tigers came out quickly in the third when VanNatter scored.

Two minutes later, VanNatter and Paige combined again to put the dagger in the Otter's heart. VanNatter, again on a penalty kill, lugged it down the ice and sent a perfect lead pass to a streaking Paige who deked the Huntsville goalie and slipped it through his legs.

With 15 minutes remaining in the game, the Otters pressed, but the Tigers were

clearly smelling blood, keeping the puck deep in the Huntsville zone and playing strong two-way hockey when the Otters tried to get estab-

Please see page 11

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 1 @DALLAS 9PM SCORE	 2 Domestic Pints & any individual pizza deal!	 3 TALLBOY TUESDAY!!	 4 CHEAP Schooners All Day!	 5 @CANADIANS 7PM CBC	 6 MIAMI 7PM TSN	 UFC 96
 8 UTAH 12:30PM CBC	 9 @SENATORS 7:30PM LEAFS TV	 10 ISLANDERS 7:30PM LEAFS TV	 11 @PHIL 7PM TSN2	 12 LIGHTNING 7:30PM SNFT	 13 DETROIT 7PM TSN2	 14 FLAMES 7PM CBC
 15 INDIANA 12:30PM CBC	 16 @CHAR 7PM TSN	 17 St.Patrick's Day Party!!	 18 CHEAP Schooners All Day!	 19 March Madness: Round One	 20 March Madness: Round One	 21 March Madness: Round Two
 22 March Madness: Round Two	 23 Domestic Pints & any individual pizza deal!	 24 CAPITALS 7PM TSN	 25 MILWAUKEE 7PM SCORE	 26 March Madness: Sweet 16	 27 March Madness: Sweet 16	 28 March Madness: Elite 8
 29 March Madness: Elite 8	 30 TALLBOY TUESDAY!!	<h3>Win Raptors tickets on St.Patricks Day!!!</h3>				

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# MONDAY NIGHT MEN’S HOCKEY

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Masterclean Contracting	11101	95	9723			
FPL Aggregates	8	113	76	9019		
Law Insurance Brokers	7132	67	8416			
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6151	64	9313			

WEEKLY SCORES

Masterclean6

Law Insurance6

Rec Sports3

FPL Aggregates4

Highland's Chev4

Baldwin's5

Tom & Jerry's3

Priestly Demolition4

PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	G	A	Pts
Tom HusseyMasterclean192847			
Rob Blakely Masterclean211738			
John Archibauld Highland's24	1337		
Todd Richardson FPL251035			
Mark Swirla Priestly161935			
Jody Matthews Highland's151732			
Brad McMillan Baldwin's151631			
Craig McConnell Masterclean17	1128		
Doug Adair Rec Sports12	1628		
John Anderson Rec Sports12	1628		
Steve Kavanah Baldwin's9	1928		
Jason MuisePriestly16925			
Ed Kilroy Rec Sports12	1325		
Mark SedorePriestly12	1325		
Darren Yaremko Tom & Jerry's11	1425		
Pat O'Mahony Priestly9	1625		
Mike O'Conner Baldwin's14923			
Steve Robertson Baldwin's14923			
Mark Inglis Law Insurance6	1723		
Dwayne Smith Law Insurance11	1122		
Dave Caverley FPL10	1222		
Chris Neale Highland's12921			
Ron Thiessen Tom & Jerry's	101121		
Scott CrabbeHighland's61521			
Dean Iwai Tom & Jerry's13720			
Bruce Chappell Highland's	31720		
Vince GrecoTom & Jerry's91019			
Peter BriandBaldwins9918			
Gerald Briand Baldwin's71118			
Ken Fisher Law Insurance61218			
Mike CaiccoBaldwin's41418			
Hugh Alcorn Masterclean31518			
Ed Jackson Baldwin's71017			
Steven MacDonald Highland's51217			
Joel ReevesTom & Jerry's4	1317		
Scott Thomas om & Jerry's	41317		
Ken RumbleHighland's41216			
Charlie SteenhorstFPL3	1316		
Brandon Chappell Highland's9615			
Paul GibsonBaldwin's8614			
Kevin O'Keefe Priestly7714			
Raz Khamissa Law Insurance9413			
Tom WebsterRec Sports9413			
John Yaremko Tom & Jerry's6713			
Pat Davies Priestly84	12		
John LeederLaw Insurance7512			
Ron Van Noort FPL6612			
Jason Hurlbut Tom & Jerry's5712			
Bob Ince Rec Sports5712			
Ralph Tuck Masterclean21012			
Phil Pestatsky Priestly7411			
Darryl Thompson Tom & Jerry's	6511		
Scott PogueLaw Insurance3811			
Craig Donaldson FPL4711			
Alain Boudreau Highland's4610			
Dan Cote Law Insurance4	610		
Mike Nisbet FPL	4610		
Bruce Ing Law Insurance5510			
Steve Riswick Tom & Jerry's2810			
Doug McGrath Baldwin's2810			
Les Nip Baldwin's2810			
Brian Mackenzie Rec Sports1	910		
Derek Preston FPL639			
Dennis GilesFPL459			
Jerome Flanigan Baldwin's	279		
Steve Bromley Tom & Jerry's	279		
Scott Leslie Masterclean	279		
Vince Rochon Masterclean	189		
Fred Cox Masterclean	628		
John Sibener Masterclean448			
MurrayCampbell	268		
Jerry Mackerell Priestly268			
Don Nichols Highland's268			
Gord Lee Law Insurance	437		
Hank VanBakel Masterclean	437		
Keith Carruthers Masterclean	347		
Craig Gellatly FPL	347		
Mike Slimkovich FPL	347		
Larry Preston FPL	167		
Doug Hackett FPL077			



The second annual Christmas Dream,held this year at Jonathan’s Restaurant,resulted in \$12,300 being raised and split among three area groups,the Salvation Army,Welcoming Arms and the Aurora Food Pantry.The cheque presentation was made last week.On hand were,left to right,Robin Matthews, Glenda Bishop,Mary Georgopoulos,Susan Doyle,Wendy Browne,Sandra Humfryes,Sher St.Kitts, Lorne Rummenie,and Beverley Wood.In the back row are George St.Kitts and Aurora Councillor Stephen Grainger.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Tigers trail in playoff series

**From page 10**  
lished in the Tigers zone. Blair again played a strong game in the win.He faced 32 shots while the Tigers sent 36 at the Otters net. Tigers travelled to Huntsville Sunday with a renewed confidence. With the best of seven series tied at two games apiece the slate was clean, the opportunity theirs.Some bad bounces and a surprising non-call made for a long bus ride home as the Tigers lost 4-2 and now trail the Otters 3-2 in the series. The Otters came out hitting as is their style, matching lines as is the home team's prerogative to get the advantage, but it was the Tigers who struck first when Kyle Paige and Jeff Vanderlugt continued to work their magic with Lucas VanNatter as he scored his team-leading sixth goal of the playoffs.The lead didn't

last long as the Otters jammed one in on a goal mouth scramble a minute later to even things.The first period ended tied at one. Things looked bad midway through the second for the Tigers when they were faced with a two-man disadvantage for over a minute. Big Jeff Vanderlugt capitalized on a gaffe by an Otters defenseman, roared down the ice and deked the Otters goalie to regain the lead. Another powerplay five minutes later and this time the Otters scored on their powerplay to tie the game at two. The third period was end-to-end action as both teams took turns pinning their opponent in their zone. Both goalies had to be sharp to keep the game tight. Midway through the period, the Tigers were on the only penalty-kill of the period when an Otter fired the puck from behind the net.It

bounced off a Tigers defenseman and went into the net. With still more than eight minutes left in the game, there was lots of time for the Tigers to get the equalizer. The Otters, however, were keeping the puck deep whenever they got control, forcing the Tigers to start from their own end. With just over a minute left in the game the Otters iced the puck.The linesman indicated icing.When the puck crossed the icing line, the Tigers eased up. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to the Tigers, the linesman had waved

off the icing. An Otter picked the puck up in the corner and fired it at the goal.It bounced off Blair's pad and found the net. The two-goal differential was more than the Tigers could handle as time ran out on the game. Blair played well in the loss.He faced 40 shots, while the Tigers put 28 on the Otters net. It was Huntsville's Dane Horvat who did all the dirty work to Aurora.He scored the last three goals of the game, including two in the final frame to secure the Huntsville victory.

## York Region economy solid despite downturn

**From page 1**  
rate in the region at the end of 2007 was 5.1 per cent. An indication of York's expanding economy is employment growth which has outpaced population growth since 1971 with 47 per cent of the families reporting incomes of greater than \$100,000. The Town of Aurora has a population of 51,000 and has more than 1,300 businesses, including corporate head offices of State Farm Insurance and Magna International. With 38 per cent of the population having a university degree, Aurora is well above the Ontario average. The Town offers the advantages of an urban centre while maintaining its small town atmosphere. It is strategically located within the region and the GTA with transportation connections directly to Highways 404 and 400 providing easy access to Highways 401 and 407. Aurora is fully serviced by York Region Transit, Viva and GO Transit.

## Softball registration on this weekend

With the temperatures still well below the normal for this time of year, it's incumbent to talk about softball. This Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8, the Aurora Diggers Girls'Softball League will hold its annual registrations. This includes all girls'softball, house league and others. The registration will take place at the Aurora Recreation Centre, on Wellington Street East, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, and the same time on Sunday but the location changes to the Aurora Community Centre, Aurora Heights Drive, just west of Yonge Street. Further details involving the registration are available on the Diggers'website [www.auroradiggersgirlssoftball.ca](http://www.auroradiggersgirlssoftball.ca). Now, don't you feel just a little bit warmer?

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# Group seeks permission to dig under town parking lot

Many developers come to Town Hall seeking support for their projects, but one group is taking this literally.

The Rockport Group is seeking an encroachment permit that would allow shoring and tieback systems to be installed under part of the Town Hall parking lot.

These anchors, buried deep in the ground, would help retain earth during the excavation for the neighbouring five-story residential condominium development.

Although common in other municipalities,

especially ones with denser urban centres, this is the first time that the Town of Aurora had received an application for tiebacks that would encroach on town lands.

Staff members explained that the tieback anchors would be placed at a depth that would not interfere with water mains, sewers and other underground utilities.

Once the condominium's foundations were completed, the tiebacks would no longer be required, but would remain in place.

Following staff members' discussions with the developer, and a review of industry and municipal practices for this type of encroachment, the Town's Legal Services department had drafted a Tieback Encroachment Agreement.

This agreement puts the onus on the developer to ensure that any tiebacks are clear of utilities, that monitoring of movement takes place along the shoring wall, and that any damage to utilities or infrastructure would be restored to the Town's satisfaction.

For the above reasons, and since there were no financial implications to the town, staffers were recommending that an encroachment agreement be authorized.

While this may be a common construction method outside of Aurora, council was not eager to embrace it without further assurances.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern noted the history of issues with the shifting of the foundation of the Town Hall building and was concerned there may be risks associated with the proposed activities. She suggested she would feel more comfortable making a decision on this recommendation, if the consultant that had studied the foundation question at the Town Hall reviewed the proposal, and provided comments.

Staffers believe the risks should be minimal as the anchors would be drilled or augered into the ground, as opposed to being pounded in, which would result in

vibrations.

As for the remaining tiebacks causing problems with future infrastructure, staffers reported that they had reviewed any expected uses of that area of the parking lot and had concluded that no new structures were planned there, nor were any other "deep dig" activities that may be impacted, such as large tree planting or installation of utilities.

To provide a measure of comfort with their decision on this issue, council recommended

that the report be referred back to staff, and that staff contact the town's consultant to provide comments on the proposal.

In an unusual move, at the end of the meeting, the issue was re-opened.

Despite staff assurances that the applicant would be required to pay the town's consulting fee, expected to be up to \$2,000, council amended their original motion to add that the applicant be asked to cover the costs of the consultant's report.

## Skating results

Aurora results of the recent Challenge Cup competitions held in Brampton are as follows:

Raquel Burgess, Jr. Bronze Flight 7, 12th; Sierra Chovanec, Bronze Triathlon, 6th; Lauren Cooper, Gold Triathlon, 1st; Samantha Duncan, Preliminary Ladies Flight 1, 9th; Elyse Glen, Sr. Bronze Flight 2, 2nd; Final, 9th; Maya Goldman, Gold Triathlon, 3rd; Savannah Hendy, Preliminary Ladies Flight 4, 7th; Courtney McGrath, Preliminary

Ladies Flight 2, 11th; Katherine Morawietz, Jr. Bronze Flight 5, 6th; Nicole Marino, Preliminary Ladies Flight 6, 3rd; Marliena Perri, Preliminary Ladies Flight 5, 5th; Taylor Piotrowski, Prelim Flight 4, 3rd; Carley Steiner, Jr. Bronze Flight 6, 10th; Kate Sutton, Sr. Bronze Flight 3, WD.

As a result of the competitions, Lauren Cooper advances to represent Aurora at the StarSkate National Championships in Fredericton, New Brunswick, later this month.

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# AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Results to Sunday, March 1, 2009



### House League

#### Minor Peewee

**Team 403 3** - Bryn Burbank 1G, Evan Nichols 1G, Chris Sutherland 1G, Aaron Rival 1A, Mchael Imseis 1A, Ryan Ouwroules 1A. **Team 406 2**.

**Team 403 2** - Ryan Ouwrolues 2G, Lockhart McMann 1A, Chris Sutherland 1A, Bryn Burbank 1A. **Team 404 2**.

#### Peewee

**Team 503 Greenpoint Laser 5** - Brayden Beswick 3G, Braydon Babineau 1G 1A, Luc Martineau 1G, Liam Henderson 2A, Mitchell Palmer 1A. **Team 504 Pizza Pizza 4** - Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Oliver Jones 1G, Joseph Veneziano 1G, Michael Tanel 1G, Max Brown 1A, Benjamin McGowan 1A, Brendan Elliott 1A, Harris Riopelle 1A, Landon Kirby 1A.

**Team 505 Laurion Law Office 3** - Scott Taylor 2G, Jamie Wilson 1G, Graham Killby 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Carson Dupuis 1A. **Team 502 Omar's Shoes 1** - Mitchell Arnew 1G, Alec Ground 1A.

**Team 507 Sgt. Pepper's Bar & Grill 7** -

Morgan Walker 4G, Tyler Futterer 2G 1A, Keith Jarvis 1G, Mackenzie Smith 1A, Scott Dunlop 1A, Chris Downs 1A, Jason Glionna 1A, Scotty Barker 1A. **Team 508 Tilemaster 1** - Matthew Pelkola 1G.

**Team 506 Wikoff Color Corp. 4** - Harry Smith 3G, Michael Slack 2G, Carson Roell 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A, Carson Elliott 1A. **Team 502 Perfect Moves 2** - Mitchell Carter 1G, Matthew Sanita 1G, Chris Sanita 1A, Samanta Sanita 1A.

#### Bantam

**Team 705 2** - Ryan Rival 1G, Josh Hazlett 1G, JP Hudon 1A, Cole Roffey 1A. **Team 702 1** - Evan Jones 1G.

**Team 705 4** - Jack Straw 2G, Jordan Caruso 1G, Ryan Rival 1G, Josh Hazlett 2A, Kyle Coughlin 1A, Sam Straw 1A. **Team 707 2** - Joey Ramano 1G, Ali Akbar 1G, Ryan Daloin 1A, Robert Bulgaretti 1A.

#### Midget

**Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 4** - Peter Durst 1G, Mike McGee 1G, Ryan Cathers 1G, Dylan Calvert 1G 2A, Cameron Day 2A, Stewart Marsh 2A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 2** - Andrew Osmond 1G, Zack Roitner 1G, Wil Ginther 1A, Mike Del

Plavignano.

**Team 908 AHPA 8** - Derek Sweeting 4G 1A, Tyler Clements 1G, Braun Hause 1G 1A, Aaron Lempinen 1G, Tom Gibson 1G 1A, Luca Ghegin 2A, Steve Foss 1A, Drew Coley 1A. **Team 903 Crabby Joes 4** - Matt Raponi 2G, Mike Renfer 2G 1A, Jake Thompson 2A, Matt Perdeaux 1A.

**Team 906 Packaging World 3** - Daniel Sacchetti 1G, Ben Slimkowich 1G, Jesse Cappell 1G, Dillon Cappell 1A. **Team 909 Graystones 0**.

**Team 907 Rival Concepts 3** - Evan Campbell 2G, Taylor Bryce 1G 1A, Connor Dinwoodie 1A, Mike Gray 1A, Cameron Smith 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 0**.

**Team 902 KTI Limited 8** - Curtis Hough 2G 2A, Eric Shoesmith 1G, David Iwai 4G, Chris MacDonald 1G, Graeme Smart 1A, Mike Shoesmith 3A, Ethan Shore 3A, Robert Revington 1A. **Team 904 Aurora Home Hardware 5** - Peter Axiotis 2G, Eric Saracini 2G, Greg Gianopolous 1G, Geoff Gianopolous 1A, Luke Leddy 5A.

**Team 903 Crabby Joes 4** - Matt Raponi 1G 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Ian Stock 1G, Mike Renfer 1G 1A, Marcel Lamanna 1A, Dylan Sutherland 1A, Ray Mullins 1A,

James Adams 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 1** - Ryan Bagshaw 1G, James Sendel 1A, Tyler Friars 1A

**Team 904 Aurora Home Hardware 5** - Greg Gianopolous 2G 1A, Peter Axiotis 1G, Eric Saracini 2G 1A, Michael Moody 2A, Patrick McMurray 1A, Chris OHara 1A, Geoff Gianopolous 1A. **Team 907 Rival Concepts 1** - Keegan O'Leary 2G, Taylor Bryce 1A.

**Team 906 Packaging World 3** - Dillon Cappell 2G, Matthew Pellegrini 1G, Daniel Korolnek 1A, Daniel Sacchetti 1A, Ian Weston 1A, Jesse Cappell 1A, Evan Jones 1A. **Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 2** - Caleb Gould 1G 1A, Alex MacKreal 1G, Mike McGee 1A, Peter Durst 1A.

**Team 908 AHPA 2** - Aaron Lempinen 1G, Tyler Clements 1G, Steve Foss 1A, Tom Gibson 1A, Derek Sweeting 1A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 2** - Andrew Osmond 1G 1A, Zack Roitner 1G, Adam Gitto 1A, Mike Hay 2A.

**Team 902 KTI Limited 5** - Ethan Shore 2G, Josh Bentolila 1G 2A, David Iwai 2G 1A, Curtis Hough 4A, David Stauble 1A. **Team 909 Graystones 3** - Patrick Lee 1G 1A, Adrian Clark 1G, Madison Weber 1G 1A, Sean Ellison 1A.



RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

January 1, 1991, was a date to remember

It was January 1, 1991, when the government introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a replacement of the Manufacturers' Sales Tax.

The MST was a single stage sales tax generally applied to the manufacturers' sales price of goods produced in Canada and to the customs value of goods imported into Canada.

Wholesalers and retailers paid the tax when they purchased goods to sell to consumers.

The MST was criticized for several reasons as its opponents argued it often led to a cascading of taxation such as manufacturers and retailers paying MST on manufactured goods which already contained MST.

Also, it was noted a wide range of consumer products were exempt from MST.

Due to the many criticisms of the MST, the government initiated several reviews in 1956, 1966 and 1983, with each review providing different strategies for recommended sales tax reform.

Finally in the late 1980s, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced he wanted to replace the MST with the value-added GST.

It was to be a nationally harmonized sales tax, replacing individual provincial sales tax, but negotiations with the provinces were unsuccessful.

The GST has continued to spark controversy ever since its inception.

NATIONAL DEBT CHALLENGE

It was in April, 1991, when Rick Arlt, a Newmarket real estate agent, founded the Bank on Canada and issued a challenge to all politicians, schools and corporations to help reduce the national debt of \$387 billion.

He said all money raised would be sent to the Receiver General of Canada to be applied directly to the debt and charity receipts would be issued.

Another Rick Arlt is badly needed, now!

A BIG BAND PLAYED IT AS IT WAS

Music lovers fortunate enough to be around in the big band era when orchestras such as Tommy Dorsey, Vaughan Monroe and Gene Krupa played in the big tent at the CNE or the Palace Pier had the opportunity to go back in time in the late 1990s.

Vocalist trombonist Rick Stevenson formed a 16-piece orchestra of local musicians called Endangered Species to reflect his concern about the days of the big bands and how their music was endangered.

Stephenson not only led the band and played gutsy trombone in the Jack Teagarden style, he was also the band vocalist with a voice reminiscent of Frank Sinatra.

The Endangered Species is once again endangered.

FEUDING OVER WATER

Over the years with the rapid development of the region there has been a chronic shortage of water and wastewater services and in March, 1985, it developed into a feud between Newmarket Mayor Ray Twinney and Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth at regional council.

Twinney, as chairman of the engineering committee, had announced a new water source and increasing sewage allocation for Newmarket causing Illingworth to ask if regional council was being dominated by the engineering chairman

Twinney replied; "I asked the engineer, dummy." Admitting the information was just as new to him, Chairman Eldred King suggested Mayor Twinney should have waited until reports were submitted to regional council, and peace reigned once more.

AURORA RESIDENT RECEIVES MEDAL

In February, 1978, George Morgan of Child Drive, was awarded a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for his work in an executive capacity with both St. Joseph and St. Michael Hospitals for 12 years.

A resident of Aurora since 1959 with his wife and three children, he served on the town library and public school boards as well as the planning committee.

In World War II he served with the infantry in North Africa and Italy and retired as a major, second in command of the Irish Regiment of Toronto.

NAMING HIGHWAY 401

It was on January 11, 1965, when Ontario Premier John Robarts announced that Highway 401 would be named the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway.

The name was selected to honour Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.

Macdonald, with his Quebec colleague Sir George Etienne Cartier, worked to ensure the creation of the new Dominion of Canada.

Kingston was chosen as the site of the ceremony as it was the community to which the Macdonald fam-

ily immigrated in 1820.

The first section of today's Highway 401 was a 29.6 km stretch between Highland Creek and Oshawa and was originally designated as Highway 2A and opened in December, 1947.

THE LAST WORD

If there is one thing the countries of the world need today is a leader, a real leader, as it appears real leaders have been left out of any level of government, as politicians capable of inspiring public confidence have disappeared.

President Barack Obama generated a lot of passion and leadership qualities during the election but his leadership abilities, especially in tough economic times, remain to be seen.

The same might be said for Michael Ignatieff, the new head of the federal Liberal Party, and John Tory of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives who was unable to win his seat in the general election and is currently running in a by-election in what is considered a safe Conservative riding.

It's quite clear that Prime Minister Stephen Harper isn't up to the job given his comments and actions in an economic crisis with the possibility of an unwanted election or a constitutional crisis.

The country needs a leader, any leader!

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Brown confirms government launch of new process

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown confirmed last week that the Canadian government has launched a consultation process on how to best implement the Canadian Secured Credit Facility (CSCF).

The CSCF was announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan with an allocation of up to \$12 billion to purchase term asset-backed securities backed by loans and leases on vehicles and equipment.

"A lack of credit availability, including that for new vehicle purchases, was identified as a major issue in my pre-budget consultations in Newmarket-Aurora," said Ms. Brown. "Access to financing by businesses and consumers is a essential to facilitating our economic recovery."

The CSCF is intended to ensure continued access to financing for the purchase and leasing of automobiles, capital equipment, medical

equipment and other similar assets.

The facility will be priced on commercial terms to minimize the risk to taxpayers.

The new credit facility follows through on the commitment made by the prime minister that was part of a joint federal-provincial support package for the auto industry.

That support, including the availability of up to \$4 billion in loans to auto manufacturers, was designed to assist the entire automotive supply chain including dealerships.

The government has since received restructuring plans from General Motors and Chrysler which are currently under review to ensure conditions are met that will sustain the long-term viability of the auto industry in Canada.

"Any loans extended to the auto manufacturers will be done with extreme care and designed to be repaid in full,"

Ms. Brown said.

The Department of Finance and the Business Development Bank of Canada will jointly conduct the consultation process.

Those interested in participating in the consultation are invited to refer to the document titled "Consultation on the Canadian Secured Credit Facility" at www.bdc.ca

and to forward their comments to cscf@bdc.ca before March 6.

Ms. Brown is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committees on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade as well as Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party Auto Caucus.

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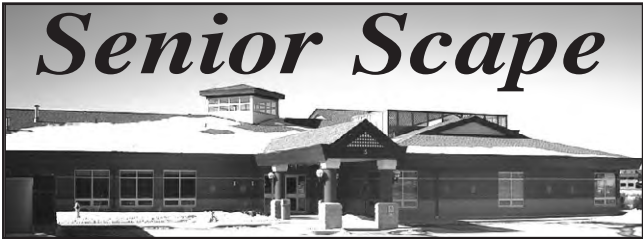
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# Senior Scape

## Seniors get a new logo

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) has developed and adopted a logo to establish a symbolic and distinctive visual representation of identity on all official documents, signs etc., issued or approved by the ASA.

The initiative to develop a logo was based on a suggestion made by Tom Yates, and the Board of Directors after careful consideration, adopted the suggestion and formed a committee consisting of Louise Williams, Elfriede Greupner, Jytte Gillies and Tom Yates.

The logo is one among 17 developed by Louise Williams, Elfriede Greupner and Jytte Gillies with the final design produced by Jytte Gillies, and proudly featured for the first time on the front page of the ASA February Newsletter.

The artwork has been scrutinized by the Town of Aurora legal department to ensure no patent infringements have occurred, and the result is a delightful and gracious piece of artwork, of which we can all be justifiably proud.

The name Aurora originated in Roman mythology

and literature as the "Roman Goddess of the Dawn" and occurs in English in the name given to the northern lights as the aurora borealis, and is evoked dramatically by Jytte's logo design.

Jytte has reached deeply into her store of ingenuity and resourcefulness to create excellence in a logo of a delicate but powerful artistic evocation of the northern lights. I recognize also the artistic work produced by Louise Williams and Elfriede Greupner in addition to additional artwork produced by Jytte Gillies.

These fine ladies are adept in the field of artistic representation and are respected among our ASA members for their artistic expression.

The 17 logos completed by the artists represent a small measure of long, deep and careful consideration of what the logo should signify or represent.

The marriage of mythology from the mysterious mists of antiquity, to the interaction of charged particles from the sun and the magnetic field at the highest reaches of earths'

atmosphere, embraces a great and breathtaking beauty of imagination.

Louise, Elfriede and Jytte, each bring a refreshing element to our senior years in adding colour and excellence to the ASA logo, and the excitement of achievement to our elder years.

Charles Sequeira informs me that the Nintendo Wii console has been installed and that several Wii remote controls need to be obtained to supplement the one included in the game package.

The game will be assigned to a small group to determine spatial demands, and how the game is played properly and with due caution for other members.

The Wii is expected to be available in the near future.

A bus trip to Casino Rama on March 12th, which includes a buffet lunch and the excitement of a little gambling, may provide a welcome relief from what old man winter has left in his arsenal.

The Sound of Music is the attraction of a trip scheduled for March 25th.

Enquire at the front desk for further information or to book tickets.

Bingo is one of the perennial favourites with 30 to 40 players engrossed each Friday, at 1 p.m., with the voice of Cliff Davies calling the numbers.

Bid Euchre, Duplicate Bridge, Bridge and Canasta are card games which can hold the interest of adherents in all seasons and for many reasons and do so with formidable success.

The chess club is recruiting players to play in a match against one of the schools.

Scrabble is another simple but engaging game which improves vocabulary while probably strengthening the mind and will last as long as reading and writing I would think.

The above are some of the unpretentious but satisfying recreations that draw seniors to the ASA, and all age groups to wherever the games are made available.

While no doubt exists that winter lingers still, thoughts are turning to the looming springtime and outdoor activities that will beckon shortly.



Honoured by the Heart & Stroke Foundation last week at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce student luncheon, held at DiNardo's, was Herb Fleury. Here, he receives his award from Maureen O'Leary.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

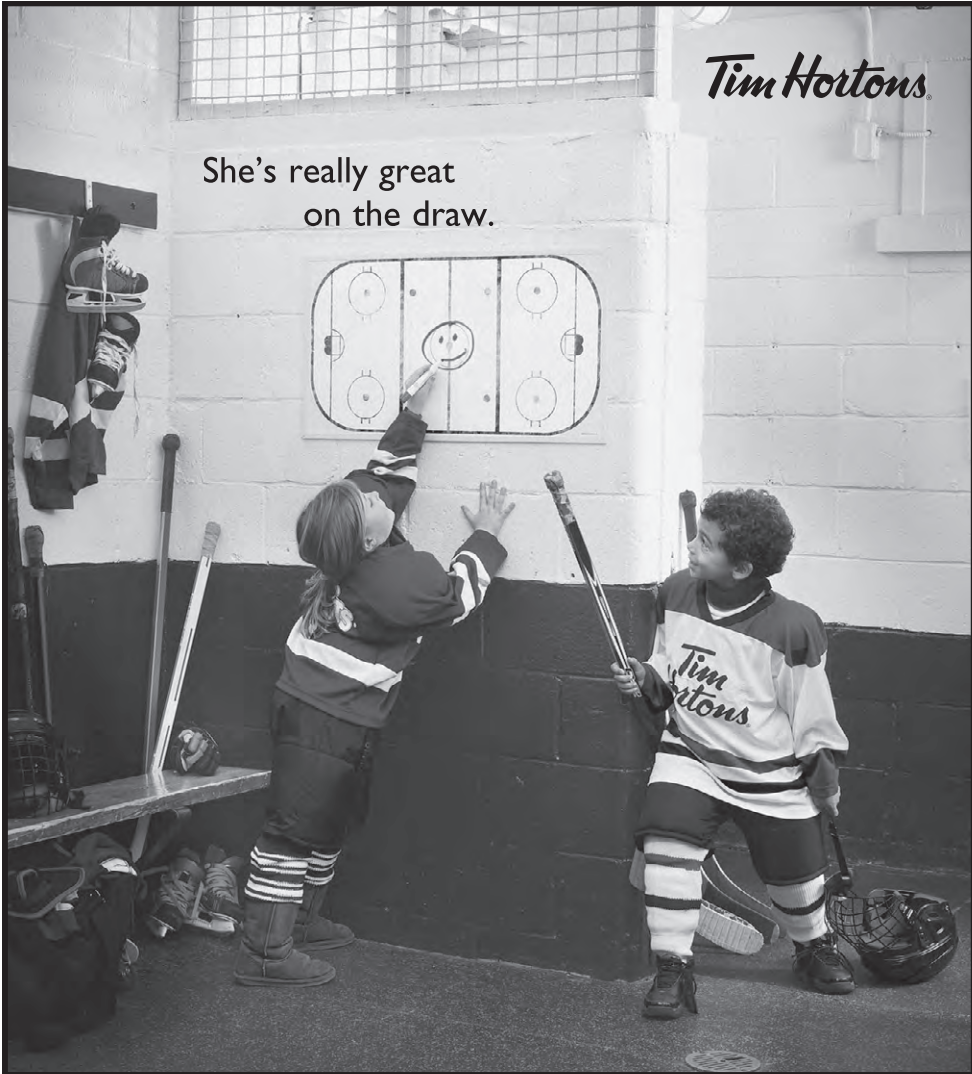
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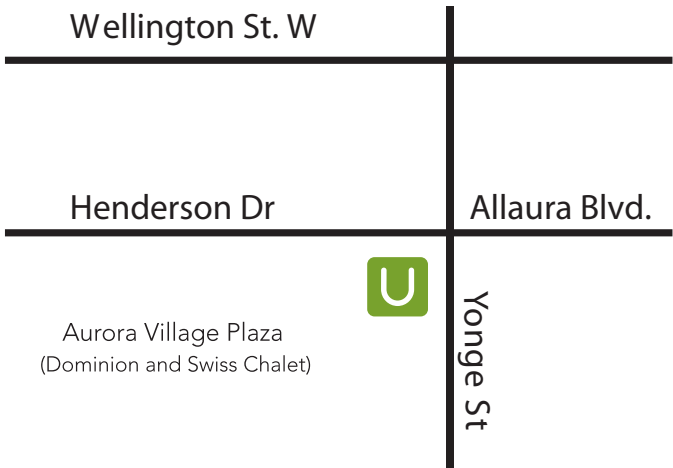
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