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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of March 10, 2009

Employee John Bootsma kibitzes with boss Mary Georgopoulos from Jonathan's Restaurant Saturday when she entered a team in the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual bowling fund-raising event held in Aurora.

Council holds budget increase to 1.8 per cent

After a month and a half of late nights and all day Saturday meetings, Aurora Council is set to approve one of the lowest tax increases in nearly a decade.

At the March 24 meeting, council is expected to pass a budget with a 1.8 per cent tax increase.

The tax increase at the start of the budget deliberations was projected to be 7.9 per cent.

Mayor Phyllis Morris had assured residents that council and staff would do whatever was possible to bring the budget in line with the current economy.

"Choices have to be made if we are to avoid large tax hikes each year," the mayor said. "In this eco-

nomc climate, the choices we made are fiscally responsible and responsive."

Last week, council and staff worked together to cut an additional 4.0 per cent from the projected increase, including deferring several new hires.

Every department came forward with proposed reductions and cuts to their operating budgets.

The only exception was the Aurora Public Library, that did not reduce operating costs.

Most of the capital projects remain in the budget, including a \$1.9 million road reconstruction of Richardson and Patrick Drives, two of the few remaining streets in town which still

have ditches and no sidewalks.

For residents with a home assessed at \$370,000 the municipal increase will amount to an extra \$21.67 per year.

The Region is set to impose a tax increase of 2.2 per cent, while the school boards project no tax increase this year.

Since 2000, municipal taxes have increased by nearly 50 per cent, a staggering amount.

In 2000 municipal taxes increased by 5.95 per cent; 2001 - 8.41 per cent; 2002 - 8.80 per cent; 2003 - 5.90 per cent; 2004 - 5.50 per cent; 2005 - 7.90 per cent; 2006 - 7.90 per cent; 2007 - 4.00 per cent; and 2008 - 5.50 per cent.

Haven't made up my mind to seek leadership: Klees

Newmarket-Aurora representative at Queen's Park, Frank Klees told The Auroran Sunday he hasn't made up his mind whether he will once again seek the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party.

His name came up in several discussions after last week's upset that saw leader John Tory go down to defeat in what was considered a safe Tory riding.

"I campaigned for him and what I heard at the door was that people didn't like the idea of Laurie giving up her seat," Klees said. "People expect politicians to finish out their terms."

Liberal Rick Johnson in the riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock won the seat which PC MPP Laurie Scott had vacated, to allow Tory to run.

"The people highly resented Laurie resigning in mid-stream," Klees said. "The idea backfired."

Klees, an Aurora resident who has already sought the leadership of the party once, and came in third in a three-person race,

said he would not make a decision until he discussed the possibility with "caucus, and, of

course, my family".

From 1992 to 1994, he was

Please see page 8

Full service hours are now in effect

Residents of Aurora can thank Thom Vandenbussche, a senior building inspector with the Town of Aurora and Raman Malhotra, manager of the Canadian Tire Gas Bar at Yonge and Edwards Street for bringing a full serve gas station back to Aurora.

On a recent visit to the Canadian Tire Gas Bar to get propane, Mr. Vandenbussche noticed a sign saying that two attendants would be on site during the hours when propane was sold.

He asked the manager if it was possible for the second employee, assigned to dispense propane, could also help to provide full service to seniors and the handicapped.

Apparently, Mr. Malhotra has been offering full service for a while but

customers had to call in advance to book a time.

Under the new arrangement, full service will be provided to those who request it with a valid accessibility permit during specified hours.

Last week, Mr. Malhotra confirmed to The Auroran that he will not only provide full service to permit customers but to "anyone who is having problems and needs help".

While the hours will vary from winter and summer, full service is now available Tuesdays through Fridays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and holidays - from noon to 5 p.m.

Currently, full service is not available on Mondays.

Briefly

Probus seeking members

Aurora's Bob Saunders is this year's president of The Probus Club, and one of his main priorities is to increase the club's membership.

The Probus Club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North.

"I am attempting to get our membership up to the 100 mark as it has fallen off dramatically," the new president said. "Along with this goal I am also trying to get media exposure, something the Club has shied away from in the past and I feel this is the key to bolstering interest in the club."

The Newmarket Men's Club is having the same problem, so the two groups are working together on sharing a few social events.

"I have managed to induct a Past-Pres. of the Richmond Hill Rotary Club (of which I was a member for many years) and his wife and am hoping to induct three more members," he said.

The speaker at Wednesday's meeting is Mary Francis Turner, Vice-President of York Region Rapid Transit.

For more information call 905-841-3558 or 905-727-9344.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The Probus Club of Aurora meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Royal Canadian Legion on Industrial Parkway North. . Probus was sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club in 1985 with an initial membership of 25, now 82, for retired and semi-retired professional and business men and women, club executives and others. The club is non-sectarian and non-political. For information call 905-841-3558 or 905-727-9344.

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.

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight- week session starting Wed. April 8 to May 27, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no fee for this program. Participation is open to all the community. To register or for more info please call Mary Smith at 905-727-6984.

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.

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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

St. Patrick's Day event at the Aurora Legion. In the lounge from 7 p.m. to midnight. Irish dancers, entertainment by the White Heather Pipes and Drums, dance music provided by Phil McGovern. No tickets required, simply wear something green. Irish stew meal for \$8.

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.

“Fun on the Farm” from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12 at Hillary House. Children can enjoy crafts, games and stories in a National Historic Site. Pre-registration required. \$18 per child or \$15 for members. For more information and to register call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

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.

“St. Patrick's Day” celebration at Hillary House from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. \$18 per child or \$15 for members. For more information or to register call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

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.

“Games Day” at Hillary House from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. \$18 per child or \$15 for members. For more information and to register call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

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, mam-

mals and insects. Event begins at 10 a.m. and free tickets are available in advance.

“In Bloom” at Hillary House from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. \$18 per child or \$15 for members. For more information and to register call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

“Victorian Tea Party” at Hillary House from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. \$18 per child or \$15 for members. For more information and to register call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

MARCH 21 AND 22

Lions' Club Pancake Breakfast returns to Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Park at the end of Industry Street, south of Mary Street.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Aurora Seniors Association presents a two-hour musical fund-raising event "A Taste of the Revue" featuring George St. Kitts. Show time is 2 p.m. "A Taste Of the Revue" will feature a variety of music selections including jazz, motown, rhythm & blues and classic hits by Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the front desk of the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

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.

MARCH 28 AND 29

Lions' Club Pancake Breakfast returns to Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Park at the end of Industry Street, south of Mary Street.

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.

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Mayor names 2009 the Year of Business

Mayor Phyllis Morris has proclaimed 2009 the Year of Business Initiative in Aurora.

As noted in a lengthy proclamation read out at a recent council meeting, Aurora's success as a town is closely linked to the success of its businesses.

And the town definitely has a strong business community.

From its humble beginnings in the mid-1800s, the town has seen several significant industry ventures.

Probably the most significant of these was the Fleury Plow Works, which manufactured plows and agricultural equipment.

This was such an important employer in the 19th

century, that a Fleury plow was placed on Aurora's town crest in 1863.

Other once prominent businesses in Aurora over the years have included the T. Sisman Shoe Company, Collis Leather, Sterling Drug, and Choice Cut-up Chicken Ltd., at which chicken processing in Canada was founded.

The town's Chamber of Commerce has been around a long time, as well, having been established in 1910.

Its current 900 individual members support several activities in town, including the Home Show, Yonge Street Festival and Business Awards Dinner.

Today, there are approxi-

mately 1,200 companies in Aurora employing more than 13,635 people.

But the town is not content to rest on its success to date.

As part of the Year of Business Initiative, Aurora will undertake a number of activities to support business in town, including working to revitalize the downtown core, providing a series of education initiatives aimed at small and medium sized companies, conducting a roundtable on business, and creating a business retention strategy.

The 2009 announcement comes on the heels of 2008's proclamation as the Year of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Aurora.

Aurora could win in tourism push

Tourism is increasing in York Region, and Aurora has the opportunity to take advantage of it.

That was the message to council recently provided by Brenda McGowan, Program Manager of Tourism Development for the Region of York.

York Region has completed a draft report entitled the "Long Term Tourism Destination Development Strategy".

This document identifies ways to encourage sustainable tourism economic activities that could contribute to and enhance York Region as a place to work, live and visit.

In her presentation to council, Ms McGowan noted that in 2006, York Region's 2.7 million visitors spent \$248 million.

The bulk of these tourists were from Ontario, and most were interested in shopping, outdoor activities, sports events and sightseeing.

There was also an increased interest in companies and organizations holding meetings locally.

York Region could take advantage of this, especially with its proximity to Toronto, she said.

As for Aurora, it was suggested that additional tourist spending could link to expanded sporting activities, an increased scope of festivals and events, the creation of new facilities, and sustainable infrastructure development, all of which would benefit the residents of our town.

York Region would like council to obtain input from its various departments and return a written response by May 1.

The Region also asks the town to identify priority lands for tourism development, and provide a list of tourism-related projects that are in the planning stage, such as hotels, attractions, and recreation facilities.

Although comments were not expected until May 1, council was quick to volunteer one observation right away, pointing out to the delegate the lack of Aurora content in the accompanying booklet.

For example, while the lengthy document contained dozens of beautiful photographs, none of them appeared to have been taken in Aurora.

Even Hillary House, one of the area's few national historic sites, was not included. Ms McGowan promised that the region would take that into consideration.

Councillor Stephen

Granger asked if community feedback was being sought. The response was that after the draft version came back to regional council, residents and consumers would be consulted prior to the final report being completed in September.

As for the sustainable funding noted in the report, this would be sought from grants and investments, and not through taxes.

Staff members advised that to review the document, consolidate comments, and provide a report to council for approval before the May 1 deadline, would be tight, but doable.



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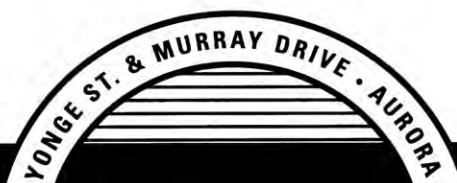
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Two weeks ago, we showed you the Grade 1 class from Wells Street Public School taken in 1966. In the above photo, we show you the Kindergarten class from the same school a year earlier. Most of the students were in the photo two weeks ago. In the photo above, in the back row, right to left, are Laura De LaHaye, Michael Spence, Edward Rayside, Jeanette Welles, Charles ?, Cathie Buchanan, Philip Lubbock, Cathie Partridge, Nancy Kundell and Sonya ?. In the front row, right to left, are Jennifer Gilbert, Patricia McClenny, Sherry Lee Patrick, Nancy Hipple, Sally Ann Rose, Judy Barkwell, Jeanne Walker, Patty Berry, Mary Cook, Karen Krockter, Pam ? and Lyn Weller. The teacher is Mrs. F. Closs and school principal at the time was Del Babcock.



Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

*"Beware the Ides of March",
The old Soothsayer did say;
Julius Caesar wouldn't listen
The warnings hold true today.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

If the old Soothsayer was around today some of his warnings might be directed at politicians and others and there are plenty of them who deserve warnings.

He would like to warn Aurora councillors to get their act together during the last two years of their term and start acting as a team working on behalf of the taxpayers or forget about running in the 2010 municipal election as their actions are an embarrassment to many citizens.

The soothsayer would also warn municipal and regional politicians that taxpayers have a short fuse and will not take kindly to huge property tax increases, much of it brought about by runaway development and the demands that new growth brings.

He might also warn taxpayers that if they don't become more vocal as to how their tax dollars are spent at all levels of government and get out and vote at election time, they get the government they deserve.

The soothsayer says he feels sorry for all staff members who are forced to sit through long council meetings and listen to the incessant babble that emanates from members of council without having the opportunity to bring some sanity to the proceedings.

He would also warn members of regional council they should stop being trained sheep and members of the old boy's club and start asking questions as to why so many tenders are awarded with the winning bidder coming back on so many occasions for additional funds.

It's only money, but it's the taxpayers.

The Soothsayer warns the province and the municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed that unless they take stronger action the lake will become sicker and sicker and action is urgently required.

At the provincial level he says it is a sad commentary on life in Ontario when health and education has to be funded by gambling and he wonders what Premier Dalton McGuinty will do next for revenue and warns him that the taxpayers will only stand so much.

He points out that the recent reassessment by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation was like a punch in the face for many homeowners and Premier Dalton McGuinty says "tough".

At the federal level, the soothsayer throws up his hands in disgust due to the complete lack of leadership of both of the major political parties.

He warns that Stephen Harper is a dead loss as a leader

Soothsayer wonders what is going on at political level

in tough economic times and will not likely last the year as Prime Minister and Leader of the Tory Party as he is out of touch with the people and the same goes for Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Letter to the Editor

Chess remains a hot game to Aurora youth

To the editor,

After 13 years since its inception more than 3,000 participating Aurora youth from area schools have played in the annual Aurora Optimist Chess Tournament.

This year we were successful once more in having 248 student participants attending from 18 schools in the area tournament Feb. 26th at the Royal Canadian Legion in the banquet hall.

Special thanks to the many Aurora Optimist volunteers, teachers and helpers who made this the smoothest run tournament ever.

Each student received a participating recognition award and 53 have qualified to move on to the next competition which is the York Regional Chess finals.

This year's Aurora Optimist Chess trophy winners were:

Grade 1: Jeffrey Fang, Thomas Jarko, Paige Deasley.

Grade 2: Mitchell Bruce, Stuart Barber, Cameron Lang.

Grade 3: Ryan Mascarenhas, William Reid, Maxwell Jones.

Grade 4: Matthew Minchelia, John O'Reilly, Andrew Currie.

Grade 5: Patrick Yu, Matteo

Bomben, Bryan Manweiler.

Grade 6: Michael Finik, Loui Zidawi, Geoffrey Siow.

Grade 7: Benjamin Wang, Conor O'Reilly, Michael Liscio.

Grade 8: Genya Oparin, Conor Fennell, Josh Lawlor.

Grade 9: George Papakonstantinos, Chris Fafalios, Alan Daniels.

Grade 10: David Lau, Jone Tae Hwang, Jerry Jiang.

Grade 11: Min Kim, John Cherian, Jason Choi.

Grade 12: Glen Cho, Gisong Song, Alex Nho.

Honorable mentions and school team banners were won by: Aurora Montessori School for best Primary results; Holy Spirit Catholic School for best Junior results; Aurora Senior P.S. for best Intermediate results; St. Andrews College for best Senior results.

So for seeing some great chess players in action come to the upcoming York Regional Optimist Chess Tournament Saturday, March 28th, at the Aurora Branch of Royal Canadian Legion whose support is greatly appreciated.

**Stephen Granger
Co-Chair
Aurora Optimist
Chess Club**

The soothsayer is also concerned about the leadership style of Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff claiming it is much like Harper's and Michael is willing to sell his soul to gain power.

He is very upset about the wasteful spending especially at the federal level as taxpayers get stuck for millions of dollars by high-spending politicians.

He wonders how the federal government could have a surplus of \$10 billion in March, 2008, or about \$300 per Canadian and a year later predicts a huge deficit.

The soothsayer also warns the Prime Minister that his friendship with U.S. President Barack Obama may be short-lived as protection measures are implemented in the United States in spite of the President's promises.

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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

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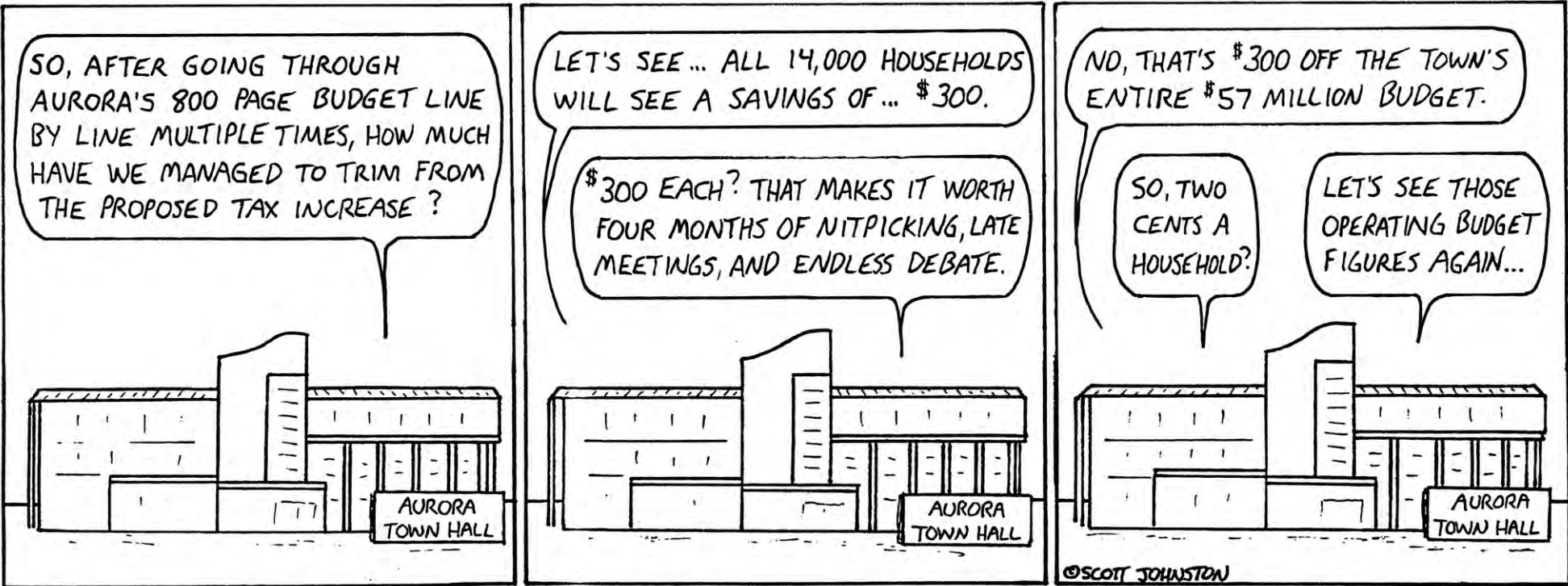
Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

"As I recall it"

Those loyal readers may recall last week's column about Clifford Gambell.

Clifford is an 89-year-old World War II veteran who lives in Barrie with his wife Pat.

My association with Cliff and his wife dates back to a column I wrote last fall about the Remembrance Day displays at Devins Drive Public School.

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

Student Tyler McKechnie's work featured some wartime memorabilia of one of his uncles.

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 that she enjoyed my column and told me that she had also provided their grandson Tyler with some of her husband Clifford's war-time memorabilia, which had also adorned the walls at Devins.

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

I automatically said, "sure". And what an interesting read it was!

Cliff joined the infantry division of the Army and ended up at a basic training camp in North Bay, Ontario.

During his training he was going to transfer to the Winnipeg Grenadiers, but changed his mind when told the training would take place at Camp Shilo in Manitoba.

"That's the last place anyone would want to go," he said.

In his own words:

"After the regiment was brought up to full strength it was shipped overseas to Hong Kong where they were completely slaughtered. Those that survived and were taken prisoner were prisoners until August 1945. I believe very few of them lived to come home."

After this training he decided to join the Ordinance Corps, which is the outfit that repairs, maintains and supplies the rest of the army.

Once over in England, Cliff became a dispatch rider for the 1st Canadian Base Workshops - Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

He broke his foot in a truck accident just prior to D-Day and after he recovered he asked for, and received, a transfer to the Infantry again.

Cliff was captured in January, 1945, while in Belgium and spent three months as a prisoner of war. This was his routine:

"Each day we were out of the huts and had roll call by 6 a.m., then we had black coffee. We were then marched out to work all day without food, then marched back at 5 p.m. to the camp at which time we got one meal. The food was mostly turnip soup, if you got a piece of turnip you were lucky and if you were lucky enough to get a piece of horsemeat that was great as you could chew on it for hours. We also got a loaf of bread shared by four men, it was black bread, six inches long and four inches square and another coffee. That was it as far as food was concerned."

As you can imagine, he became very sick:

"I was being treated for malnutrition, yellow jaundice as

well as bronchial pneumonia. I had lost 62 pounds."

He finally regained his health after the war and his wife and daughter Patricia arrived in Canada in May, 1946.

"Since then we had some ups and downs, fortunately nothing too serious...for all we have achieved and enjoyed I have to give credit to my beautiful and wonderful wife. We have three wonderful daughters, all happily married and financially better off than we ever were. I am now 89 years old but I won't tell you my wife's age as she will kill me. However, she doesn't look any older than when I married her.

"I just checked our latest newspaper and my name is not in the obituaries so I am just fine."

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Cliff and the other millions of Canadians who wore a uniform during World War II.

I hope that Cliff lives another 89 years, but we all know that as time passes, we will have less and less of these witnesses to history.

We need to keep the stories and memories alive of our freedom fighters; they must be preserved and passed on to tomorrow's youth.

I know that every school in Aurora does something to commemorate Remembrance Day and any idea, be it display cases, or slide shows, or plays, or bringing in Veterans to address the students, is a tremendous way of engaging students by trying to bring history to life.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Groundhog Daze

It was a brisk day last week, and I'd decided to get out for a bit of fresh air.

Walking through the arboretum with a hot coffee, I noticed a small figure running frantically towards me.

As it got closer, I could see it was a small brown animal. I soon recognized it as 'Aurora Annie', the groundhog that Dick Illingworth speaks of every February in his column.

Seeing me at the side of the path, she hurried my way.

"Hide me!" she cried, desperately grabbing hold of my pant leg with both tiny fists.

As the sound of angry voices drifted towards us on the crisp dry air, she looked up with wide frantic eyes. "Please!"

Making a quick decision, I grabbed her, and scooped her into a nearby garbage can. It wasn't dignified, but at least she was out of sight.

Soon what can only be described as an angry mob appeared along the path. They didn't actually have torches and pitchforks, or tar and feathers, but that was the impression they gave.

"Hey," asked the man leading the group. "Have you seen a groundhog go by here?"

"A groundhog?" I asked, innocently.

"Yeah. About this high", he said, waving his gloved hand around knee height. "It was just ahead of us. We want a word with it."

Murmurs of agreement came from the rest of the group.

"That doesn't ring a bell," I replied, tossing my coffee cup loudly into the can to try to cover up the sounds of whimpering that

echoed faintly from within.

"C'mon, guys," the leader said, pointing down a fork in the path. "It must have gone down this way."

They hurried off, trailing frosty breaths in their wake.

Soon, two fearful eyes peeked over the edge of the garbage can.

"Are they gone?" Annie asked.

"I think so. Here," I said, plucking her out from under the coffee cups, "let me give you a hand."

"Thanks," she said, as I placed her down on the path.

"Why did they want to talk to you so badly?"

"It's winter," she moaned, brushing bits of litter off her shoulder. "People are just sick of it."

"But these cool temperatures aren't your fault. Besides, didn't you and your groundhog friends all predict six more weeks of winter?"

"True, but no sooner had we done that, when it turned warm in mid-February. People got their hopes up, and then this deep freeze hit again."

"And all this talk in the media about global warming doesn't help, either. It's just gone and raised everyone's expectations."

"Surely, you're exaggerating," I protested.

"Exaggerating?" she exclaimed, looking around anxiously. "Have you read the letters to the editor of The Auroran lately? Everyone's had enough of winter. Even Cathy Vrancic devoted an entire column to how much she hates it. And she can find the good in everything."

Actually, I thought I saw Cathy in the crowd earlier, but it was hard to tell under all those layers. I didn't mention that to Annie, as she continued.

"Everyone's looking for a scapegoat. Or in this case 'scape-groundhog'. And Willie's too far away. Nobody's gonna go all the way up to Warton just to give him a piece of their mind. So that leaves me."

Just then we heard the unmistakable noises of the crowd heading back our way.

"I've got to find somewhere to hide," Annie moaned, looking around frantically.

Then, snapping her little fingers she said, "maybe I can hide in the audience section of the Council Chamber. It's not far from here, and no one ever watches the meetings, so they're unlikely to look for me there. Besides, it needn't be for long. Spring can't be too far away, right?"

She looked up at me hopefully. I think being on the run for a month had taken its toll.

"I'm sure that's true," I agreed, as she took one last furtive look around, before hurrying off towards Town Hall.

As I wandered out of the park, I hoped she managed to keep her head down until it warmed up. After all, it really isn't fair to blame the messenger.

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



Bouquets & **BRICKBATS**

By DICK ILLINGWORTH



BOUQUETS to the member of council who will request a staff report on how to cover the debenture payments for the Stronach Aurora Recreational Complex if the town doesn't receive the development charges for 400 homes a year for the next 10 years due to the economic downturn.

BRICKBATS to the town staff responsible for the town's Notice Board which is carried in an out-of-town newspaper with a commitment to deliver it to every home in Aurora. Poor Richard on Cousins Drive hasn't received a copy of the Notice Board for about three months. Why?



BOUQUETS to Herb Fleury on being recognized by the Heart and Stroke Foundation for his work for the Foundation over the years. It was well deserved!

BRICKBATS to Toronto Mayor David Miller for crying poor but still willing to pay \$140,000 to rent and staff a climate change group's office in London in order to help paint Toronto as a global city. While climate change is important, it should be left to the federal government and the welfare of Toronto taxpayers should be the top priority.



BOUQUETS to the federal government for taking action to restore Canadian citizenship to the Lost Generation estimated at 200,000 citizens who thought they held Canadian citizenship as many were born here or lived most of their lives here but were affected by the antiquated Citizenship Act of 1947, the law that governs who is and who is not a Canadian citizen.

BRICKBATS to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty for doing a lot of talking but taking little action on what his government is planning to help the citizens of Ontario weather the current economic turbulence. Hopefully the measures in the budget later this month are worth the wait.



BOUQUETS to the Royal Canadian Legion for launching a class action suit against the federal government on behalf of all former members of the Canadian Forces for reducing their Service Income Security Insurance Plan Long Term Disability benefits by the amount of their disability pension from Veteran Affairs. The class action suit challenges the authority of the federal government to lawfully reduce the benefits.



BRICKBATS to the federal government for failing to give due respect to the role Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Wilfred Laurier played in the development of Canada and although they are on the \$10 and \$5 bills, it has not been enough to cement them into the memories of Canadians according to a survey from the Dominion Institute.



BOUQUETS to the diplomat who can arrange a graceful exit for the Canadian troops in Afghanistan as even Prime Minister Stephen Harper admits that it is impossible to beat the Taliban.



BRICKBATS to a justice system which took more than five years to clear former Privacy Commissioner George Radwanski of fraud but rapped him for negligent accounting. From 2000 to 2003 the federal commissioner was charged with sticking taxpayers with extravagant expense accounts.



BOUQUETS to the Aurora Dream Team for sponsoring the second annual Christmas Dream held at Jonathon's Restaurant resulting in \$12,300 being raised. Cheques were presented recently to the Salvation Army, Welcoming Arms and the Aurora Food Pantry.



BOUQUETS to Newmarket Aurora MPP Frank Klees for taking the initiative to launch a petition calling on the McGuinty government to include a three-month Provincial Sales Tax holiday on cars and trucks as a means to stimulate car sales and relieve the pressure on car dealerships that are backed up with inventory.

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Sub-committee releases results of birds reared in local boxes

To the editor,

The Volunteers in the Naturalization and Wildlife group, a sub-committee of the Environmental Advisory Committee, have completed an analysis of the 2008 nest results in more than 200 bird boxes that have been located in Aurora's parks and open spaces.

Last year's cold weather in late May reduced fledgling successes but nevertheless 174 Tree Swallow, 42 Black capped Chickadee and 183 House Sparrow chicks were reared and left the nest boxes successfully.

One of our most exciting successes was a brood of five young Kestrel Hawks reared in one of the large boxes placed on a hydro pole in the Holland River Valley.

This was particularly uplifting as Kestrel numbers

over the last decade have declined significantly.

Along with the monitoring of our nest boxes we also recorded the breeding results of other birds that nested in Aurora.

The most interesting was a Merlin that nested in the Aurora Heights subdivision and reared two young, the first Merlin nest ever to be recorded in York.

An Osprey also nested successfully in the Town.

Other record breeding successes were Song Sparrow, Cowbird, Savannah Sparrow, Cardinal, Grackle, Robin, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Rough winged Swallow, Red winged Blackbird, Yellow Warbler, Goldfinch, Mourning Dove, Killdeer Plover, Mallard and Canada Goose.

The most unusual was a Blue Jay that nested suc-

cessfully inside Jim Tree's (our Park Manager's) closed patio umbrella on his deck.

Next year we hope to extend this environmental initiative and request that any citizen who finds a bird's nest in their garden, that is accessible so that the contents can be seen, monitored and recorded, fill out an easy form that is being developed for this purpose.

More about this in early spring when our birds start to nest.

We plan on constructing more nest boxes this year, but due to the difficulty of enrolling volunteers to inspect and monitor the boxes at two to three week intervals throughout the breeding season, we will not be placing the boxes in our parks and open spaces.

As an alternative we are considering placing them in school grounds in Aurora, preferably where the schools have an active environmental club and where the students will be willing to inspect, monitor and record

nesting results.

This will be a rare opportunity for students to learn the importance of recording field data accurately and take part in an important aspect of Environmental Science, as the results will be recorded on to Royal Ontario Museum nest record cards that are part of their ongoing environmental monitoring. Aurora has become a major contributor to this scheme and last year Aurora citizens sent 134 cards. This was the fourth highest number of cards submitted.

This was particularly satisfying as three highest numbers were submitted by professional nest surveys commissioned by the provincial government.

If any of our local schools, environmental clubs or teachers are interested in discussing taking part in this important environmental project my number is 905-727-8979.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

A few suggestions how to save money

To the editor,

In a follow up to my letter published in the February 17th issue of The Auroran (thank you), I thought I ought to read just what is planned in the Town of Aurora 2009 budget proposals.

I would suggest anyone interested in reducing their tax bill to do the same.

Thank you, Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, for encouraging residents to offer points of view.

It is very unlikely I will attend any meetings, and so instead I would like to offer council my two pennyworth's here.

I am sure many of the projects listed are of value to someone, but several stand out as unnecessary at this time and better left until our economy is in better shape.

Overall the listed projects would cost around \$19 million with obligatory reserves totaling \$14.8 million, give or take a few bucks.

This leaves a shortfall of around \$4 million.

Now I can only guess where that would have to come from!

May I suggest the following items for shelving at this time?

Item 13: Wellington St. East Urban Design Features/Landscaping- \$500 k.

Item 14: Parkland Acquisition - \$2,000 k.

Item 23: Baseball Facility - \$1,680 k.

Item 27: Town Hall Phase 3 Repaving of Parking Lot - \$344 k.

Item 42: Wildlife Park Development - \$250 k.

Item 71: Davis Road Park Playground Development - \$250 k.

Item 93: Customer Relation Management (CRM) - \$300 k.

Total saved from the above projects is \$5,324 k.

There are many other projects that could probably be dropped, but then we do want to leave something for them to do!

Would these suggested cuts allow council to reduce taxes?

Robert Grattage
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Reader disagrees with MP's letter

To the editor,

I write in response to our Member of Parliament Lois Brown's letter of last week.

In it, she argued that the Conservatives have demonstrated strong leadership with respect to woman's issues.

I disagree.

To begin, I laud the Prime Minister for appointing a record number of women to Cabinet.

I also support a minister solely dedicated to the status of women as long overdue.

I must remind readers, however, that the status of women has been a cabinet portfolio since the Trudeau Liberal Governments of the 1970s.

I also remind you that the

Liberals appointed this country's first female speaker of the house, senator, and chief justice.

I cite these events to make a point: students of Canadian politics know that this Conservative Party is far from that of Macdonald, Diefenbaker and Mulroney, and that today's Liberal Party is far from that of King and Laurier.

To take partisan credit for these past achievements is disingenuous at best.

As for the Harper government, their record on supporting gender equality is questionable.

This government cut \$5 million from a budget of \$22 million from Status of Women Canada, a government

organization that promotes the full participation of women in society.

Twelve of 16 regional offices were closed.

The Court Challenges Program, designed to provide assistance to important court cases that advance equality as guaranteed by the Charter, stopped accepting applications as of September, 2006.

That same year, this government stated that it would no longer fund women's groups who advocate or lobby for their rights.

Finally, the government introduced as part of 2009 Budget the Public Sector Equitable Compensation Act.

If the bill receives Royal Assent, federal civil servants will no longer have the right to

approach the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal with pay equity complaints.

These matters are to become part of public service contract negotiations, with the Public Service Labour Relations Board acting as arbiter.

Will the Relations Board support and enforce pay equity? Likely.

What I take issue with is that Harper government seems to believe that these matters are for closed-door bargaining sessions.

I firmly believe that making the same wage for the same work is a subject of fundamental human rights and ought to be addressed appropriately.

It is not an issue that should be relegated to a work-

place grievance – a stance that even the federal public service union takes.

Women's rights are more about having more women in the cabinet and what we've done in the past. It's about moving forward towards real equality - in compensation, in law, and within society.

It necessitates that we pro-

vide and support all ways and means to correct inequality, as well as giving this issue the attention it rightly deserves.

It requires strong leadership.

Clearly, our government is not up to the task.

**Ryan Zade
Aurora**

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Family structure important

To the editor,

The Toronto District School Board Report, Oct. 2007, provides an impressive list of statistics for researchers to examine.

Is it race, social class, or the level of education of the parents which makes a dramatic impact on students' chances for suc-

cess at school?

A key variable which maybe overlooked is the students' family structure.

For example, the report illustrates that about 73 per cent of the high school students live with two parents.

However, of the students, from Grades 9 to 12, 18 per cent of live with their mother only and 3 per cent live with their father only.

Five per cent live with "other" people, or else live alone.

The presence of a parent, who has time to prepare meals, help with homework and to offer guidance for their children, is an important function and many students may lack this type of family support.

**Jim Jackson
Aurora**

Klees is right

To the editor,

Frank Klees is right on the money (Frankly Speaking, March 3, The Auroran)!

The inaction of the McGuinty government not only places the Ontario economy at risk, but also the financial underpinnings of the provincial government.

A modern welfare economy is run on tax dollars.

When those who generate sales and profits have those revenues cut significantly there are fewer tax dollars available to spend on the various government programs.

Only two outcomes are possible, a large deficit, which is a tax on future wealth borne by our children and our children's children, or an increase in taxes.

A third avenue is possible, but that would involve cutting government spending.

However, that is only likely to happen when elephants learn to fly, despite what some MPP's might have us believe.

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Some of the cast of Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Production of 101 Dalmatians are shown here. They gathered to watch as Meridian Credit Union's assistant branch manager Barbara Hardy, left, passed on a cheque from the company valued at almost \$3,000 to Marquee's Sheryl Amirault, right, as a sponsor (Meridian Good Neighbour Program) for the Marquee swimming portion KinderStages as well as the T-shirts that the children are wearing. All children are between 4 and 6 years old and will perform in the show at the Newmarket Theatre May 30th.

Auroran photo by Rob Shuetze

Klees contemplating leadership of party

From page 1
third vice-president and policy chair of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

He was first elected to the legislature in 1995, defeating former Liberal leadership candidate Charles Beer.

He was easily re-elected in the 1999 provincial election, and joined the cabinet of Premier Mike Harris as Chief Government Whip, Deputy House Leader and Minister without Portfolio.

In 2000, Klees was preparing to run as a candidate for the leadership of the new Canadian Alliance party, but withdrew because one of his key financial backers insisted on a last-minute deal to make a significant funding commitment conditional on Klees throwing his support to one of the other candidates on the second ballot.

Klees stepped down from his ministerial position on July 30, 2001, for what he described as personal reasons.

After returning to the backbenches for a year, he was reappointed to cabinet in 2002 as Minister of

Tourism under Harris' successor, Ernie Eves.

In 2003 he became Minister of Transportation, and served in that position until the defeat of the Eves government in the October 2003 election.

Klees was re-elected in 2003, one of 24 Progressive Conservatives elected, and was a candidate in the 2004 Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership election which took place on September 18, 2004.

The other candidates in the race were Whitby-Ajax MPP Jim Flaherty and John Tory.

Klees made healthcare his biggest priority in the campaign. He was the only candidate to openly endorse a semi-privatized health care system.

Other key issues of his campaign were school choice, physical education in the school system, OHIP statements, and foreign-trained doctors applying for employment.

He was eliminated from the contest after placing third on the first ballot. Tory won on the second ballot.

Klees increased his pro-

file during the campaign, and is currently the Progressive Conservative Critic for Education and Citizenship and Immigration in the Legislature and is a Justice Committee member. He was elected in the newly-created provincial riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the Ontario general election two years ago.

Several others have been named as potential leaders, but Klees believes the front runner is MPP Tim Hudak, PC Finance Critic and provincial representative in the riding of Niagara West-Glanbrook.

Meanwhile, Klees said he was buoyed by the response to his plan to have the government put a holiday in place for people buying cars.

His idea, launched recently in Aurora, would see automobile dealers sell cars without charging GST or PST on the purchase price.

"I receive thousands of petitions daily," he said.

If it happens, it would be noted in the provincial budget which will be introduced March 26.

Fire causes \$200,000 damage to plaza store

Fire caused an estimated \$200,000 damage last week to a beauty salon in a plaza at the corner on Yonge Street and Brookland

Avenue.

Several other stores in the plaza suffered smoke damage and were forced to close the following day.

Central York Fire Services officials say the cause of the fire was unknown, but investigators were leaning toward an electrical problem.

Aurora readies for Earth Hour

The countdown to Earth Hour is underway as municipalities around the world plan for March 28th at 8:30 p.m. in turning off their lights for one hour to raise public awareness to climate change.

Aurora is one of them.

As of the end of February, 538 cities in 75 countries had signed up and it is expected that many more will participate.

Last year, the first time Earth Hour went global, 35 countries participated with Toronto as the designated city to determine if there was a public attitude for the event.

But World Wildlife Fund Canada organizers decided it should be more widespread and set a target of 200 cities with the GTA leading the way.

In Newmarket there was a 14 per cent drop in energy consumption and in Aurora a 10 per cent drop.

At the February meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee it was recommended that Aurora participate in Earth Hour



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How Aurora got its name

Newcomers to Aurora may be interested to learn how Aurora got its name.

The year 1804 is taken as about the time a hamlet began at the corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets with Robert Machell as the first merchant to open a store at the intersection.

The hamlet became known as Machell's Corners.

Machell is remembered by Machell Avenue and Machell Park. The park was named after him as a result of a park-naming school contest and the winner was his great-great granddaughter.

But one name has long been associated with Aurora and it is that of the first postmaster for the area and the first Reeve on the newly incorporated Village of Aurora in 1863 and that was Charles Doan.

As postmaster, he named the little town in 1854 after the Roman Goddess of the Dawn and gave Aurora its Coat of Arms, bearing the motto Sol Meus Testis, or As The Sun Is My Witness.

With Machell's Corners becoming the Head of Rail in 1853 when the first stream train in Upper Canada arrived, Doan sensed the dawn of a new era as a business and trading centre worthy of the name Aurora.

The founder of the Doan family in North America was Deacon John Doan, a Puritan, who arrived at Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1620. He settled in Eastham and to this day some of his descendants remain in the Cape Cod area where the Doan Rock is located.

One of his grandsons, Daniel Doan, left the Puritan faith and became a Quaker. He left the family homestead in Eastham and moved to Sandwich, about 40 miles

away.

Continued harassment and prosecution by the Puritans caused Daniel and his family, plus other Doan family members to leave Massachusetts for Pennsylvania in March, 1696.

Daniel prospered and became the founder of that branch of the family from which all the Doans in Ontario came. He was disowned by the Quakers in 1711 for dealing in astrology.

The American Revolution was a difficult time for the Quakers and the Doans in particular, because of their strong pacifist views.

Moses Doan is believed to have worked with John Graves Simcoe and it is assumed this relationship may have brought members of the Doan family to Upper Canada.

John Doan and his family were among the first to make the move and in 1807 joined the Yonge Street Quaker settlement in what is now Newmarket.

As a builder, he was almost immediately appointed to a committee to build a new meeting house. It is the one still standing as a historic site on the west side of Yonge Street, south of Eagle Street.

In 1812, trouble arose with the Quakers and John and Ebenezer separated themselves from the Quakers and declined to attend meetings. Both families moved to Hope, now Sharon, to join the Children of Peace, founded by David Willson.

In 1825, work was started on the Sharon Temple, which was completed in 1832. It was designed by Willson along traditional lines of three stories for the Trinity, 12 Lantern Towers for the

Disciples and the Ark in the centre of the Temple.

The Temple was used one Saturday a month for services with regular Sunday services in the Meeting Hall on the grounds, since demolished.

Charles Doan was born to John Doan and his wife on November 6, 1808.

Tiny Machell's Corners was in the centre of rebel country in 1837 when the fiery William Lyon Mackenzie marched down Yonge Street in his ill-fated attempt to seize York.

Many local residents were sympathetic to the rebels. Charles Doan participated in the Yonge Street march and was arrested for his part in the Rebellion and thrown into jail.

He was released from jail in May, 1838. While imprisoned, he carved two small boxes which are currently owned by the Aurora Museum. They were presented to the Museum in October 1989 by Paul Doane Bryce.

A very ambitious young man, Charles Doan moved from Sharon to Machell's Corners to become the postmaster of Whitchurch Township.

He built Castle Doan at the corner of Yonge Street and Catherine Avenue as the location for the post office. The historic house was later demolished to make way for the new Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

Doan built Doan Hall just north of the Yonge/Wellington intersection, where Doane Hall Pharmacy was located for many years. He had a store at the corner which became the new post office. Doan Hall was demolished in 1963 despite efforts to save it.

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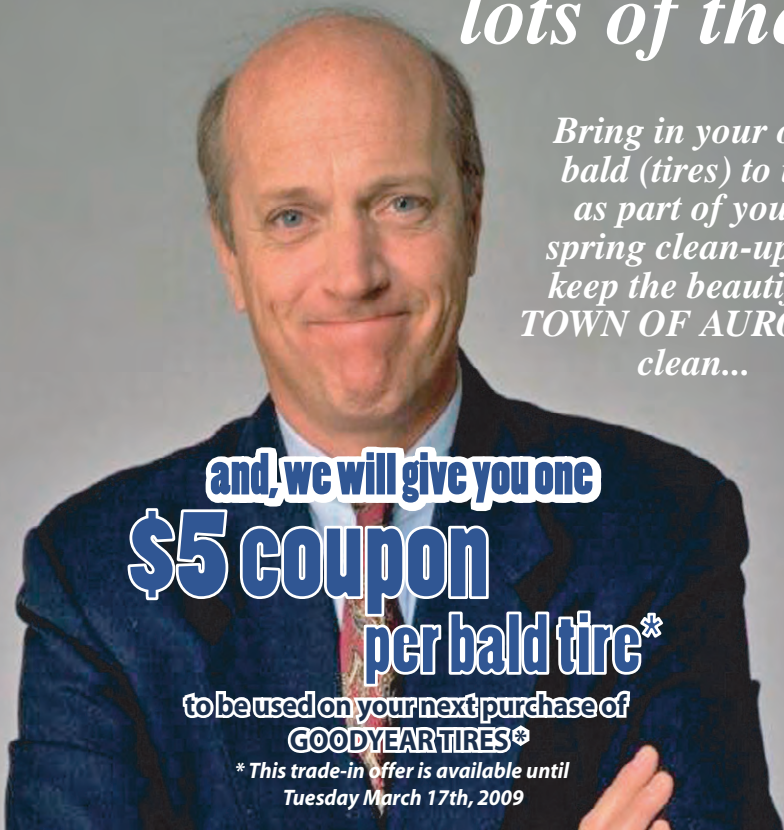
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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of March 10, 2009

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Tigers eliminated in six games

The effort was there but unfortunately not the desired result as the Aurora Tigers were eliminated from the OPJHL playoffs last Tuesday night at the Aurora Community Centre.

A veteran-laden Huntsville squad buoyed by an exuberant busload of Otter fans, clinched the series in Game 6 of the Phillips Division semifinals by a score of 4-2.

And because it was Game 6, the Tigers lost the series four games to two.

Had they won, a seventh game would have had to be played in Huntsville the following evening, and chances of Aurora winning that one would be pretty slim.

Aurora captain Dominic Monardo started the scoring at 4:29 of the first period as the Tigers threw everything they could at the Huntsville goal, determined to force Game Seven in Otterland on Wednesday night.

The lead was short-lived, however, as Huntsville's leader

Jon Whitelaw tied the score just under 90

seconds later.

At 9:18, the Otters went up by one on Taylor Holdaway's rebound shot over a sprawling Aurora netminder David Blair.

Despite a wide open, fast paced tempo that featured several scoring opportunities for both teams, the score remained 2-1 until just over two minutes into the third period.

Huntsville's Corey George playing his most dominant game of the series, scored on the powerplay to give the Otters a two-goal lead. George also assisted on every other Huntsville goal.

However, never-say-die Tigers replied 27 seconds later as Dominic Monardo scored his second goal of the game to give the Tigers a ray of hope.

The Tigers nearly managed to tie the score late in the game but Huntsville's Rob Waddell put the game and series on ice with an empty-net marker making it a 4-2 victory for Huntsville.

The Otters moved on to face the surprising

Orangeville Crushers, who upset Couchiching in a dramatic seventh game overtime before nearly 800 fans.

Couchiching is coached by Aurora boy and former NHL star Greg Hotham.

As of press time, Huntsville and Orangeville were deadlocked at one game apiece.

The Tigers had more than their share of chances throughout last Tuesday's game, ringing shots off posts, running pucks through the crease, or simply hitting the goalie when they had open shots, but it wasn't to be on this night.

The Tigers were lucky the score stayed at 2-1 as they just seemed flat for the remainder of the period. Blair had to be sharp to keep his team in it.

Both teams were fired up after the intermission speeches, making the second period an exciting, but scoreless affair.

It was during the second that the Tigers had several of their best chances to equalize the score. They played well, but found the back of the

net elusive all period.

It looked bad for the Tigers when the Otters went ahead 3-1 on a powerplay with just two minutes gone in the period, but Monardo's steal and bury less than 30 seconds later gave the Tigers some new life.

The remainder of the third was nerve-racking as both teams had excellent chances to score but their goaltenders kept it tight.

With Blair pulled for an extra attacker the Tigers came close but a full-ice clearing by an Otter hit the post of the empty net, negating the icing and teeing up the rebound for a pursuing Otter.

Blair went the distance for the third game in a row in the series. He faced 37 Huntsville shots, while the Tigers put 46 on the Otter net.

So, the Tigers' season ends on a losing note.

Tiger players had an exciting and challenging

year as they experienced several personnel changes, not the least was the loss of their coach, who moved to coach a team from Quebec.

Notes:

* Injured Aurora forward David Morley, a surprise starter in Games Four and Five, despite a broken thumb, tried to make a go of it in Game Six, but was only able to muster a couple of shifts.

* Tigers second round defeat marks their earliest elimination from the playoffs since the 2000-2001 season.

* all York Region teams have now been eliminated from the OJHL playoffs.

* the winner of the OJHL finals will play in the Dudley Hewitt Cup, in April in Schreiber, Ontario, a small railway town on the north shore of Lake Superior. Winner of that tournament will represent Central Canada at

the RBC Royal Bank Cup to be held in Victoria, B.C. May 2nd to 10th.

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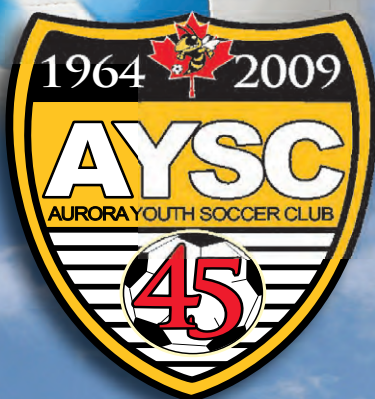
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Ball team prepares for Italian tourney

Aurora minor ball coach Mike Ariganello, recently returned from Sala Baganza, Italy, where his Aurora team of 14 and 15 year olds, will compete this August.

The team will play against teams from across Europe in the 25th annual Sala Baganza classic. Mike and the families from the team are working with the Aurora Minor Baseball Association (AMBA) to create an annual

trophy, donated in honour of Mattia Bertoni, a Sala Baganza player who died tragically at Christmas.

To raise funds for the trophy, the AMBA partnered with Ariganello's Aurora tournament team to offer Aurora baseball enthusiasts the opportunity to attend the World Baseball Classic in Toronto last week.

A coach bus was arranged to transport 50

fans to Rogers Centre to watch Team Canada stars such as 2007 MVP Justin Morneau battle their rivals from Team USA.

Pizza and pop en route were donated by Daniel Tsang, owner of the Aurora Pizza Pizza on Yonge Street.

Once at the stadium, the group enjoyed premium 200 level seating with great sight-lines of the action.

Arrangements were also made for a meet and greet event with baseball personalities from Italy and Canada.

The Town of Aurora has enjoyed one of the fastest growing baseball associations in Ontario.

Since 2001, baseball enrollment has increased from more than 200 to more

than 600 players expected this season.

The AMBA has produced four Ontario Baseball Association champions since 2004.

Players range from five-year-old t-ball enthusiasts to competitive junior players of university age. Many tournaments have been hosted by the association, including regional finals and Ontario baseball championships.

As well, Aurora teams have competed internationally, playing at Cooperstown Dream Park, as well as tournaments in Buffalo, NY.

This is the first time an Aurora baseball team has competed in Europe and the Jays will be the sole Canadian team at the tournament.



Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris accepts a book passed along by Aurora Coach Mike Ariganello from the Mayor of Sala Baganza, Cristina Merusi

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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, March 8, 2009



House League Tyke

Team 104 Tim Hortons Flyers 5 - Will Sherman 1G 1A, Kyle Fowler 1G, Aaron Preiano 1G, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Warren Hill 1G, Peter Simsir 1A, Jeremy Garbe 1A. **Team 106 Tim Hortons Penguins 4** - Carson Williams 2G, Andrew Langlois 2G, Cody Fisher 1A.

Team 107 Tim Hortons Lightning 4 - Sam Ashton 3G, Michael Kieffer 1G, Garrett Kohler 1A, Jean Francois Merrimen 1A, Andrew Campbell 1A. **Team 105 Tim Hortons Leafs 4** - Malcolm Johnston 3G, Eric Flicker 1G, Colby Harrison 1A, Jack Patterson 1A, Matthew Gram 1A.

Team 101 Tim Hortons Flames 2 - Dylan Prescott 1G, Tommy Collins 1G, Todd Fischer 1A. **Team 103 Tim Hortons Senators 2** - Ethan Moulds 1G, Mason Brown 1G, Sebastian Negalescu 1A.

Team 102 Tim Hortons Bruins 5 - GianLuca Santacono 1G 1A, Hunter Wong 2G, Blair Crabbe 1G, Anthony Miranda 1G, Rony Wahab 1A. **Team 108 Tim Hortons Wild 3** - Jason Gage 1G, Jason Iaboni 1G, Sam Lombard 1G, Josh Lombard 1A, Zachary Diaz 1A.

Novice

Team 204 Caravan Kids Flyers 2 - Jacob Turriff 1G, Dillon Varone 1G, Ethan Cohen 1A. **Team 203 Caravan Kids Senators 2** - Chris Sands 2G.

Team 205 Caravan Kids Leafs 3 - Christian Ridd 1G 1A, Mitchell Levy 1G, Jack Fournier 1G. **Team 202 Caravan Kids Bruins 2** - Jaedon Jackson 2G.

Team 201 Caravan Kids Flames 4 - Ben Godber 2G, Adam Depiero 2G, William Reid 1A, Jack Hosmer 1A, Andrew End 1A. **Team 206 Caravan Kids Penguins 3** - Raffaele Parente 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Alexander

Mueller 1G, Colin Windle 2A.

Team 202 Bruins 9 - Christopher Walsh 3G, 1A, Jaedon Jackson 2G, 3A, Matthew Winters 2G, Brock Stewart 1G, Shayne Collins 1G, Wayne Freeman 1A. **Team 203 Senators 2** - Jacob Cowl 1G, Chris Sands 1G.

Team 204 Caravan Kids Flyers 9 - Dillon Varone 5G 1A, Matthew Parkin 1G, Bret Walsh 1G 1A, Nicholas Sever 1G 1A, Paul Cotturo 1G 1A, Liam Patterson 3A, Jacob Turriff 1A. **Team 206 Caravan Kids Penguins 3** - Teigan Avery 1G, Raffaele Parente 1G 1A, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Alexander Mueller 2A, Brayden Pitre 1A.

Team 205 Caravan Kids Leafs 5 - Dylan Clark 2G, Peter Leontis 1G 1A, Evan Bryan 1G, Vaughan Hewgill 1G, Mitchell Levy 1A. **Team 201 Caravan Kids Flames 4** - Ben Godber 2G 1A, Jack Chivers 1G, William Reid 1G, Nicholas Robinson 3A, Lucas Alberico 2A.

Peewee

Team 504 Pizza Pizza 3 - Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Max Brown 1G, Michael Tanel 1G, Michael De Cesare 1A, Landon Kirby 1A. **Team 501 Perfect Moves 2** - Joel Gouveia 1G, Chris Sanita 1G, Jonah Blaser 1A, Austin Tanaka 1A.

Team 507 Sgt. Pepper's 2 - Morgan Walker 1G, Tyler Futterer 1G, Alexander Harrison 1A, Mac Cawfield 1A, Kevin Wood 1A, Keith Jarvis 1A. **Team 505 Laurian Law Office 2** - Russell Johnson 2G, Michael Arcuri 2A, Ian Coschi 1A, Scott Taylor 1A.

Team 506 Wikoff Color Corp. 3 - Michael Slack 1G 1A, Zachary Kroll 1G, Carson Elliott 1A, Carson Roell 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1G, Andrew Walter 1A. **Team 508 Tilemaster 3** - Matthew Pelkola 1G, Owen Woodcock 1G, Hunter Jones 1G, Tyler Hindley 1A, Thomas McDonald 1A, Adam DeRoos 1A, Ryan McGolrick 1A.

Team 503 Greenpoint Laser 5 - David

Gonder, shutout, Mitch Lamantia 2G 1A, Alec Barnett 1G, Liam Henderson 1G 1A, Brayden Beswick 2A, Luc Martineau 1G, Corey Young 1A. **Team 502 Omar's Shoes 0.**

Midget

Team 904 Home Hardware 10 - Greg Gianopolous 4G 2A, Nick Orsati 1G 1A, Peter Axiotis 2G 3A, Eric Saracini 1G 1A, Patrick McMurray 1G 1A, Jay Lamont 1G, Chris Ohara 1A, Bruce Philips 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 3** - Jamie Russell 2G, Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Dane Gregoris 1A, David Nacarrato 2A, Nick Di Nallo 1A, Marco Santella 1A.

Team 906 Packaging World 2 - Mike French 2G, Daniel Korolnek 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A. **Team 908 AHPA 1** - Derek Sweeting 1G, Braun Hause 1A.

Team 909 Graystone's 4 - Chris Burns 2G, Madison Weber 2G, Adrian Clark 1A, Sean Maule 1A, Patrick Lee 1A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 2** - Eric De Roos 1G, Adam Gitto 1G, Phil Meunier 1A.

Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 4 - Adam Stobs 1G, Mike McGee 3G 1A, Garet Lewis 1A, Peter Durst 2A, Ryan Cathers 1A. **Team 903 Crabby Joes 2** - Mike Renfer 1G, Louis LaManna 1G 1A, Dylan Sutherland 1A, Sean Kenyon 1A.

Team 902 KTI Limited 3 - Curtis Hough 1G, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Eric Shoesmith 1G, Josh Bentolila 1A, Mike Shoesmith 1A, Colin Munn 1A. **Team 907 Rival Concepts 1** - Jordan Nolan 1G, Taylor Bryce 1A.

Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 4 - Dylan Calvert 2G, Mike McGee 1G, Peter Durst 1G, Jason Durst 1A, Conner Sands 1A, Ryan Cathers 1A, Cameron Day 1A, Adam Stobs 1A, Aaron MacDonald 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 0.**

Team 903 Crabby Joes 3 - Mike Renfer 1G, Marcel LaManna 1G, Jake Thompson 1G, Dylan Sutherland 1A, Matt Perdeaux

1A. Team 907 Rival Concepts 3 - Nick Gundert 1G, Ryan Jones 2G 1A, Derek Smith 1A, Evan Campbell 1A.

Team 906 Packaging World 5 - Dillon Cappell 2G, Ian Weston 1G, Mike French 1G, Jesse Cappell 1G 1A, Daniel Sachetti 1A, Evan Jones 1A, Chris Dynes 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 3** - Zack Roitner 2G, Chris Porter 1G, Hunter Warden 2A, Mike DelPlavignano 1A, Adam Gitto 1A, Simon Esposito 1A.

Team 909 Graystone's 9 - Madison Weber 2G, Sean Maule 2G 1A, Cory Blom 1G, Jake Boyle 1G, Travis Hooper 2G 3A, Sean Ellison 1G 3A, Jay Finch 3A, Adrian Clark 4A, Matthew Thompson 1A. **Team 904 Aurora Home Hardware 4** - Anthony Mesillo 1G, Eric Saracini 1G, Greg Gianopolous 1G 1A, Luke Leddy 2A, Michael Moody 1A, Patrick McMurray 1A, Jay Lamont 1A.

Team 902 KTI Limited 3 - Charlie Teel 1G 1A, Chris McDonald 1G, Mike Shoesmith 1G 1A, Graeme Smart 1A, Robert Revington 1A, Jacob Peart 1A, David Stauble 1A. **Team 908 AHPA 2** - Tyler Clements 1G, Derek Sweeting 1G 1A, Braun Hause 1A.

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 4 - Andrew Cundari 2G, Taylor Tuck 1G, Peter Chimienti 1G, Jack Snedden 1A, Luke O'Keefe 1A, Anthony Capraro 1A, Max Lombard 1A, Ryan Jamieson 1A. **Orillia Novice AE 3.**

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 6 - Taylor Tuck 2G 1A, Andrew Cundari 1G, Anthony Capraro 1G, Julien Aben 1G 1A, Jack Snedden 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A, Luke O'Keefe 1A, Max Lombard 1A, Braden Reid 1A, Scott Rumble 1A. **Orillia Novice AE 3.**

Orillia Novice AE 4. Aurora Tigers Novice AE 3 - Taylor Tuck 1G 1A, Anthony Capraro 1G, Jack Snedden 1G, Max Lombard 1A.

MONDAY NIGHT
MEN’S HOCKEY

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Highland Chev-Cad	14	7	2	93	61	30
Baldwin's	14	8	1	101	82	29
Masterclean Contracting	12	10	1	100	100	25
Tom & Jerry's	11	9	3	85	80	25
Priestly Demolition	11	10	2	86	77	24
FPL Aggregates	8	12	3	79	95	19
Law Insurance Brokers	8	13	2	71	87	18
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6	15	2	66	95	14

WEEKLY SCORES

Masterclean	5	Law Insurance	4
FPL Aggregates	3	Priestly Demolition	3
Highland's Chev	2	Baldwin's	3
Rec Sports	2	Tom & Jerry's	0

PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME		G	A	Pts
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	21	30	51
Rob Blakely	Masterclean	22	19	41
John Archibauld	Highland's	24	13	37
Todd Richardson	FPL	25	11	36
Mark Swirla	Priestly	16	19	35
Jody Matthews	Highland's	15	19	34
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	19	13	32
Brad McMillan	Baldwin's	15	17	32
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	12	19	31
John Anderson	Rec Sports	13	17	30
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	9	21	30
Pat O'Mahony	Priestly	9	20	29
Jason Muise	Priestly	16	9	25
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	12	13	25
Mark Sedore	Priestly	12	13	25
Darren Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	11	14	25
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	8	17	25
Steve Robertson	Baldwin's	15	9	24
Mike O'Conner	Baldwin's	14	10	24
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	8	15	23
Dave Caverley	FPL	10	13	23
Dwayne Smith	Law Insurance	11	11	22
Scott Crabbe	Highland's	7	15	22
Chris Neale	Highland's	12	9	21
Ron Thiessen	Tom & Jerry's	10	11	21
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	13	7	20
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	3	17	20
Peter Briand	Baldwins	10	9	19
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	9	10	19
Ken Fisher	Law Insurance	7	12	19
Gerald Briand	Baldwin's	7	12	19
Mike Caicco	Baldwin's	5	14	19
Ken Rumble	Highland's	5	13	18
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	15	18
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	7	10	17
Steven MacDonald	Highland's	5	12	17
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	4	13	17
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	3	14	17
Brandon Chappell	Highland's	9	7	16
Kevin O'Keefe	Priestly	7	8	15
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	9	5	14
Paul Gibson	Baldwin's	8	6	14
Ron Van Noort	FPL	7	7	14
Pat Davies	Priestly	9	4	13
Raz Khamissa	Law Insurance	9	4	13
John Leeder	Law Insurance	8	5	13
John Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	6	7	13
Craig Donaldson	FPL	5	7	12
Jason Hurlbut	Tom & Jerry's	5	7	12
Bob Ince	Rec Sports	5	7	12
Scott Pogue	Law Insurance	3	9	12
Ralph Tuck	Masterclean	2	10	12
Phil Pestatsky	Priestly	7	4	11
Derek Preston	FPL	7	4	11
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	6	5	11
Bruce Ing	Law Insurance	5	6	11
Alain Boudreau	Highland's	4	6	10
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	4	6	10
Mike Nisbet	FPL	4	6	10
Steve Riswick	Tom & Jerry's	2	8	10
Doug McGrath	Baldwin's	2	8	10
Les Nip	Baldwin's	2	8	10
Scott Leslie	Masterclean	2	8	10
Brian Mackenzie	Rec Sports	1	9	10
Dennis Giles	FPL	4	5	9
Jerry Mackerell	Priestly	3	6	9
Steve Bromley	Tom & Jerry's	2	7	9
Murray Campbell	Law Insurance	2	7	9
Jerome Flanigan	Baldwin's	2	7	9
Vince Rochon	Masterclean	1	8	9
Fred Cox	Masterclean	6	2	8
John Sibener	Masterclean	4	4	8
Craig Gellatly	FPL	3	5	8
Bill Collins	Priestly	2	6	8
Don Nichols	Highland's	2	6	8
Gord Lee	Law Insurance	4	3	7
Hank VanBakel	Masterclean	4	3	7
Keith Carruthers	Masterclean	3	4	7
Mike Slimkovich	FPL	3	4	7
Brad Willson	Law Insurance	2	5	7
Larry Preston	FPL	1	6	7
Doug Hackett	FPL	0	7	7

Gardens to move to new park

Although the winds of winter are still blowing, snow covers the ground and the temperature is below zero, avid gardeners are browsing seed catalogues and preparing for warmer weather.

For many apartment dwellers, especially seniors, used to having their own gardens, the York Region Food Network may be able to provide a garden plot through its Community Garden Program.

Seniors, low income families, food bank clients and gardeners with no place to garden will once again use their green thumbs to cultivate their own plot.

In 1996 when the program was launched in Aurora, an industrial firm on Industrial Parkway North donated the back part of their property for the community gardens.

The town's Parks Department staff ploughed the soil and erected a snow fence around the site. Local high school students volunteered time to stake out the individual plots.

In addition to producing greatly needed food, the program also introduced participants to a whole new social support network to help people sustain themselves.

Provincial funding for the program was cancelled in the spring of 1996 when the Ministry of Health suspended the Healthy Community Grants Program.

In spite of that the community garden carried on with volunteers and donations.

In 2003 when the industry decided to expand, it was necessary for the community garden to find a new location and the town arranged for the gardens to be moved to town-owned land south of the Jack Wood farmhouse.

Then in September, 2007, the future of the gardens was in doubt as council considered the sale of the property and the potential move of the gardens to another location.

Catherine Cook, York Region Food Network Coordinator, appeared before council to discuss a staff report regarding the proposed move of the Aurora Community Garden to a new location and stressed the need for a permanent home.

While the Food Network and the gardeners would like to remain where they were on part of the town-owned Jack Wood property where they had requested a severance, they

appreciate the efforts of the town in locating an alternative site.

In a report to council, it was recommended to relocate the garden to a parcel of town-owned open space, known as Alliance Park on Industrial Parkway South, and that staff be directed to prepare the site for the start of the 2009 gardening season.

After viewing 13 potential sites, Network officials agreed the proposed Alliance Park on Industrial Parkway South met virtually every need required by the Food Network.

As the proposed location is located in an environmentally sensitive area, it is unlikely that the property could be used for future commercial or industrial use, thereby assuring the Food Network use of the land for an indefinite period of time.

Ms Cook told council that while the proposed site had many favourable features, it had a history of being used as a town snow dumping site which contains road salt and as such it was vital that soil test results adequately prove that the land is suitable for growing vegetables.

Staffers advised that soil sampling was carried out on the site and sent away to be analyzed. No contaminants were identified.

Staffers also noted that a potable water service was necessary for crop irrigation purposes which the site will require to facilitate the gardens and surface drainage and additional soil may be required plus parking for at least six vehicles at an estimated cost of \$12,000.

The Director of Finance advised that funds for this expenditure would be charged to the Operating Account resulting in running a deficit in order to perform the works.

Members of council expressed concern about the \$12,000 deficit plus any ongoing costs, but approved the staff recommendation as presented and suggested the funds be taken from a reserve fund,

Over the years the Aurora community gardens provided up to 47 plots for Aurora families to grow nutritious food for families.

The gardeners contributed many volunteer hours toward the overall maintenance of the program, including the tending of a communal plot that grew food for the Aurora Food Pantry.

But it wasn't the first time that Aurora had become interested

in community gardens. In August, 1981, citizens expressed an interest in renting a small plot of land to grow vegetables.

Council directed the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to investigate possible sites for the garden but no action was taken at that time.

In May, 1975, with the com-

ing of senior housing units in Aurora it was suggested a community garden be developed.

It was suggested that council, possibly in partnership with the Aurora Horticultural Society plan a community garden for 1976.


It never happened then but in 1996 the gardens became a reality.



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Once, there were few trees in Aurora

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In addition to releasing oxygen and capturing carbon, trees help to prevent soil erosion, provide habitat for animals, and filter the water, all things that can clean the air and protect the watersheds.

At one time, land currently home to the Town of Aurora had few trees on it.

It was mostly farmland.

Since then, thousands of trees have been planted or grown on the town's footprint.

IT NEVER HAPPENED

In June, 1985, Aurora Council gave consideration to making Reuben Street a one-way roadway.

The short street connecting Yonge with Temperance Streets, provided an alternative entrance to the town's outdoor swimming pool, which was located on property below George Street Public School.

The street was so narrow parking was prohibited on both sides.

The lack of on-street parking was of concern to residents and appeals were made with Councillor Evelyn Buck suggesting Reuben become a one-way street westward from Yonge Street, but it never happened.

CITIZENS OBJECT TO CIVIC CENTRE

In August, 1974, two Aurora citizens objected in writing to the proposed civic centre to be constructed on Wellington Street West where the York District School Board is located today.

The letters were sent to council by Sid Britton and Illyd Harris objecting to the cost involved and other factors.

Britton questioned the need for the \$350,000 complex and raised points involving the actual site and timing and

suggested a referendum be held during the upcoming December municipal election.

Harris, who later became a councillor, expressed concern about the town's financial position and listed current and future expenditures. He suggested the use of the town-owned Church Street School

Both men asked the Ontario Municipal Board to conduct a hearing regarding the town's request to dispense with a vote on the cost and type of building proposed.

PLANNING POWERS TRANSFERRED TO REGION

It was in November, 1973, when provincial and regional officials met in Toronto to discuss the transfer of some of the provincial planning powers to the region.

It had earlier been stated that the province would not transfer the planning powers until the region had an approved official plan, but Treasurer John White said he was prepared to transfer some powers prior to the formal approval of the official plan.

Delegation of power included such items as approval by the regions of official plans of municipalities, implementing zoning bylaws, and subdivision approvals as submitted by area municipalities within the region.

The Minister indicated there would be a provincial subsidy for increased staff required by the regions to implement the new planning powers.

He also indicated he would prefer the Ontario Municipal Board rather than the Ministry be the judging authority of any conflict between regional governments and area municipalities under the legislation.

THE MAIN STREET PROJECT

In November, 1986, Aurora's Main Street Project was officially launched when representatives of Heritage Canada presented Mayor John West with a Main Street plaque which would later be displayed in the downtown core.

The Main Street program stresses community involvement and self help as the key to success in downtowns.

If still available the Main Street project may be worth investigating but the merchants and businesspeople must be prepared to play an active role and do something to

help themselves.

RESIDENTS OPPOSE TOWNHOUSE PLAN

In February, 1987, the Henry Stolp building group made an application to develop a five-story condominium apartment building and 75 townhouses on a nine-acre site bounded by Old Yonge Street, the Aurora automotive campus, Yonge Street and the St. John's Sideroad.

Aurora Council decided not to rezone the land until concerns about the apartment's height and traffic on Old Yonge could be worked out by council's technical committee.

About 30 residents expressed concern about the apartment and plans to widen Old Yonge Street and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications refused to grant the developer access to Yonge Street.

Eventually the plan for townhouses was approved and the Tara Hill subdivision developed on the former Timothy Eaton property.

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Playing to sold out audiences for two nights last week, the band Slippermen entertained Friday and Saturday at Theatre Aurora on Henderson Drive. Benefitting from the concert was the Yellow Brick House, which got a share of the ticket price. Slippermen presented an evening of 70s Genesis music and was well-received by the audience.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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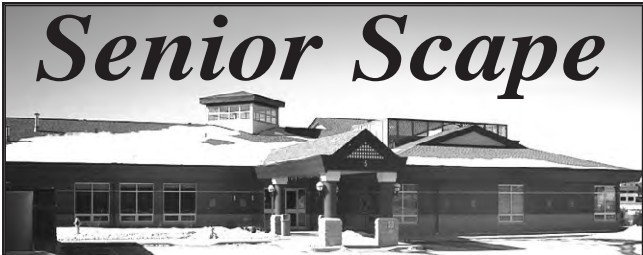
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St. Kitts entertains Sunday, March 22

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) presents George St. Kitts, twice nominated for a Canadian Juno Award, in "A Taste of the Revue" Sunday, March 22nd, from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

George is a gifted artist and will render his version of classic hit music by Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr.

He will also adapt music from Motown, Rhythm and Blues and Jazz to his own distinctive style and the result will be an arrangement of music consisting of George's brilliant interpretation of classic popular music, made famous and unforgettable by stars of entertainment.

Still in the field of entertainment and even closer to home, is the ASA drama club, our playful and hilarious "Silver Stars", currently rehearsing "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde".

This group of extroverts meets Tuesdays and Fridays at the ASA to refine their acting skills and to add the

sparkle of their respective talents to the production of this play, originally written by Robert Louis Stevenson and later adapted to a comedy.

Three performances will be offered in June and for more information call Judy at 905-841-2385.

In preparation for the AGM, scheduled for June 2nd, nominations are required for the new Board of Directors (BoD).

Nominations will be accepted from Tuesday, March 17th, until Friday, April 17th, and the elections will take place in May.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd.

The three directors whose terms end in June are Flo Murray, Ruth Church and Charles Sequeira and they have the option to seek re-election if they so choose.

Enough is enough, I say, and few will dispute my words when I say the snarky brutality of cold winter winds gives

weather a bad name.

But now, the daylight saving hour has leapt forward and the sun has started to shine on us once more, and while it is still on the cool side, the sun is warming almost to the point of kicking old man winter right in the butt and out of our lives for a while.

Nature will soon replenish the ranks of the flora and fauna diminished by a season that lacks forgiveness and dispatches all but the strong or the lucky.

Spring is the season of renewal for all forms of life and for a renewal of our senior spirits which are sorely in need of rejuvenation.

Since seniors are retired, it may come as a surprise to learn that many seniors still enjoy a change of pace with holidays in exotic places, but surprise or not, the holiday season commences for seniors with the good weather.

And so seniors travel the world and return with their experiences to relate the often exciting and exotic nature of their trip.

This is the time when the digital cameras come out of mothballs, and images of places visited are recorded together with moods of the moment, which must be captured as memories.

In years to come,

these digital images will prompt memories of pleasure to return and be enjoyed once more.

On Wednesday, March 18th, from noon until 1.30 p.m., an Irish stew will be the feature of the

ASA luncheon, with entertainment provided by Bill McGovern.

This luncheon will be busy, and, no doubt, all tickets will be sold in advance, and none on the day of the luncheon.

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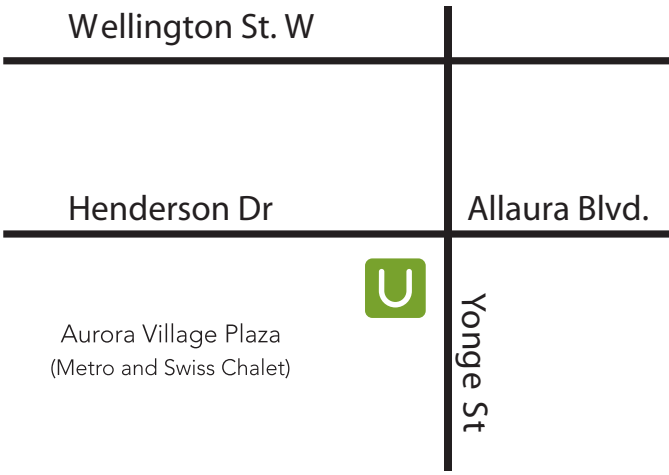
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