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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 22 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** FREE Week of March 31, 2009

Dick Illingworth dies at age 92

Popular Aurora media mogul, Dick Illingworth died Sunday night in hospital at the age of 92. He had been taken to Southlake Regional Health

Centre earlier last week. "I don't think they're going to let me out for a while," he told The Auroran last week as he tried to explain why he wouldn't

have any stories to offer the newspaper.

A private funeral will be held for the family, but a public celebration of his life has been planned for the Aurora Legion, next Wednesday, April 8th,

beginning at 2.30 p.m. Twice mayor of Aurora, Dick was born June 11, 1916, in York Township, today part of Toronto. He attended public school at Lambton Park, then got as far as Grade 11 at Runnymede

Collegiate Institute, when he left school during the depression to work in a woolen mill.

He earned \$8 for putting in a 56-hour workweek.

He stayed there until 1940 when he applied to the Royal Canadian Air Force and was called up January 4, 1941.

He was accepted as a photographer, but they didn't need photographers so he became a drill instructor and he drilled men for six hours a day and used another two hours for physical training.

"God, I was in good shape," he said.

In 1942 he became a navigator and served with the Ferry Command from 1942 to 1945.

His job was to deliver bombers across the Atlantic.

He was out in 1946, married to Florence - since deceased - in 1949, and has one daughter, Suzanne, currently living near Ottawa and a son, Rick, who lives in British Columbia.

Dick worked for Stafford Foods for three years as a salesman and sold ice cream cones - just the cones - for Imperial Cone for 15 years, from 1950 to 1965.

In 1958, he became the aide-de-camp and served four lieutenants.

Please see page 7

Klees says yes to leadership bid

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees told The Auroran Sunday he will seek the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

As of Sunday afternoon, no one else had officially jumped into the race, but it is expected others are eyeing the seat.

"Our Province needs decisive leadership, and we're not getting it from Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal Party," he said. "The disastrous budget last week underscores the McGuinty government's completely inept stewardship of Ontario. He has no plan, is out of touch with Ontarians, and will only drag us deeper into debt, will further destabilize

our economy, and undermine the quality of life of every man, woman and child in this province.

"With this lack of direction, we can expect more job losses and drastic reductions in our social services such as health care and services to seniors all over Ontario," he said.

MPP Klees is ready to be Premier of the province and that is his prime objective.

He brings 25 years of business experience, 14 years as an MPP and cabinet minister and 25 years as an active member of the PC Party to the leadership race.

The popular MPP is known throughout the Party as a consensus builder and advocate of grassroots policy development and decision making.

He has served as Chair of the PC Caucus since the 2004 election and has been the Official Opposition Critic for Education, Transportation and Infrastructure.

The leadership became open several weeks ago when PC leader John Tory attempted to win a seat in a "safe" conservative riding, but lost.

Shortly after that by-election, Tory resigned as PC leader, and Klees was one of several mentioned as a possible successor.



Prior to a complete drumhead service Sunday afternoon, a Legion president and two former presidents got together to recall the days when the current Aurora Legion location on Industrial Parkway North began construction, some 35 years ago. Holding the shovel that was used by mayor at the time, Evelyn Buck, to turn the soil back in 1974 is Legion president Rick Preston, while former presidents Ken White, left, and Len Whines look on. Several dignitaries were on hand for the Sunday event.
Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Council approves low budget hike

As expected, the Town of Aurora has passed a 1.89 per cent tax increase for 2009.

In what was clearly a proud moment for the town's soon to be retiring Finance Director, John Gutteridge, council passed, by an

8-1 vote, the lowest tax increase since 2000.

"I've been doing this for a number of years and I think this is the lowest budget I've ever brought in," Mr. Gutteridge told council.

Please see page 7



FRANK KLEES



DICK ILLINGWORTH

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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 1995 with an initial membership of 25, now 82, for retired and semi-retired professional and business men and women, former 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 maries-grieffjourney@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.

"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.

APRIL 2-5

Volunteers of the Canadian Cancer Society will be selling daffodils this weekend. Participating locations include Metro,

Shoppers, Sobey's, LCBO, St. Andrews Foodland, Winners and No Frills. Money raised helps fund life-saving research and support services for people living with cancer in the community. If you are interested in volunteering call 905-830-0447 ext. 3836.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Yoga class at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, will raise funds for Amnesty International's work to stop violence against women. Suggested minimum donation \$10. Bring a mat if possible. Suits all levels. Light refreshments. 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 905-476-6535.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

The Anglican Church Women hold their annual Corpotate Communion Service at 7.30 p.m. this evening in the chapel at 79 Victoria Street. The evening will celebrate the Ministry of Women in the church. For further information, call 905-727-6101.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast will be held at York Dance Academy, 305 Industrial Parkway South, Unit 19, Aurora from 7.30 to 8.45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4, for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Aurora Public Library with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4 for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Gardening Workshop with Master Gardener, Elizabeth Brims. Aurora Public Library hosts a free seminar at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4 for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Enjoy a mellow evening of music, poetry, and stories. Take part in a family-oriented coffee house featuring home-baked treats in St. Andrew's Hall, on Victoria Street. Enter at Mosley Street. The event, in aid of a War Child Canada project, begins at 7.30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, ore call 905-727-9493 option 4 for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be a joint event with the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce and Human Resources Professionals of York Region at Oakview Terrace, 13256 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill. Showcase starts at 11.30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

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, MAY 10

The Aurora Historical Society hosts a luncheon in the Ballroom of Hillary House in honour of Mother's Day. Guests can enjoy a three-course meal in historic Hillary House. Two seating times are available: Noon and 1.30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$16 for Aurora Historical Society members and must be purchased in advance. For tickets and more information call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

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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Kathy van Nostrand and Brian Roberts are pleased to announce the addition of a new Associate Tax Partner to the team of professionals at van Nostrand & Partners.

Dan McGeown left a senior position with a Big 4 accounting firm to return to his hometown to practice personal and corporate taxation with van Nostrand & Partners.

Dan, a CGA, has been specializing in tax since 1989. Over the course of his career he has dealt with a wide variety of personal and corporate tax issues, including international tax and transfer pricing. Dan will assist the firm's clientele in the areas of tax compliance, tax planning and controversy management. His experience as an auditor with the Canada Revenue Agency is invaluable to any client facing a tax audit.

Dan completed the C.I.C.A. In-Depth Tax Course, and went on to teach the In-Depth to CAs, CGAs, CMAs, lawyers and other tax professionals.

If you require assistance with sensitive or complex tax issues, please contact Dan at 905-727-8046 Ext. 27 or dan@kvncga.ca

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Auroran photographer David Falconer covering Earth Hour Saturday discovered that not a lot of residents and businesses participated in this event. One of the best views of all of Aurora was from the area of Wellington and Leslie. Unfortunately it did not look like too many lights were turned off, he said. The photographer then drove to a few other areas, mainly residential, but the results were the same - streets and houses bright as ever. On his way home he decided to drive up Yonge Street to see if any businesses participated in Earth Hour and when stopped at a stop light noticed one business had their lights off and candles lit. Feeling a need for a coffee David entered the restaurant and was greeted with friendly smiles from the staff and the warm feeling of a candle lit room. Once seated he was told the restaurant had been doing this for the past three years. Unfortunately with the interior lights out, the restaurant looked closed, even though the "open" sign was on. The restaurant is Jonathan's, Yonge and Dunning. The photographer's views are below.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora cuts electricity by only eight per cent

While the Town of Richmond Hill used 27 per cent less energy during Saturday's annual Earth Hour cutback, Aurora could only manage an eight per cent reduction.

Figures were released Sunday by PowerStream's director of corporate communications Eric Fagan.

Thousands of PowerStream customers, in the nine municipalities served by the electric utility, indicated their willingness to help fight climate change by turning off their lights for 60 minutes to reduce electricity consumption.

PowerStream's System Control reported a service territory-wide

10 per cent electricity reduction between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. Saturday.

The reduction represented a savings of 88.3 megawatts in peak demand, or enough electricity to power 1,471 average-size homes over a 24-hour period.

The reductions achieved per municipality were as follows: Aurora, eight per cent; Barrie, four per cent; Bradford West Gwillimbury, 13 per cent; Essa (Thornton) 11 per cent; Markham seven per cent; New Tecumseth, nine per cent; Penetanguishene 13 per cent; Richmond Hill 27 per cent; and the City of Vaughan five per cent.

PowerStream also supported Earth Hour 2009 in other ways.

In addition to powering down lights at its four work locations in Barrie, Markham and Vaughan, the company also was the title sponsor of the Barrie Earth Hour Music Festival and provided support for the Woodbridge Lantern Walk as well as an Earth Hour sign up contest at the public libraries in Markham.

"Earth Hour is a symbolic event for residents to show their support to help fight climate change and shed light on how we can all make a big difference by reducing our electricity consumption," said Brian Bentz,

President and CEO of PowerStream. "We are pleased with our customers' response to this global event."

PowerStream Inc. is the second largest municipally-owned electricity distribution company in Ontario, providing service to more than 315,000 residential and business customers in Aurora, Barrie, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa (Thornton), Markham, New Tecumseth (Alliston, Beeton, Tottenham), Penetanguishene, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

It is an incorporated entity, jointly owned by the municipalities of Barrie, Markham and Vaughan.

Council considers banning donations

Aurora Town Council is seriously considering recommending to the Province that all union and corporate donations made to candidates during a municipal election be banned.

At last week's council meeting, Professor Robert MacDermid, an associate Professor of Political Science at York University, spoke about the disproportionate amount of money some candidates receive from unions, corporations and businesses, but more specifically, from developers.

Mayor Phyllis Morris had invited Mr. MacDermid to speak to council about research he had done into past election contributions made to municipal candidates.

Mayor Morris asked that council consider endorsing a City of Ajax recommendation to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that would allow municipalities to pass a by-law banning such donations.

While most members of council agreed with the recommendations, the issue of self-financing a municipal campaign, caused concern.

Several councillors pointed out that without self-financing they would not be able to generate enough funds to run in a municipal election.

Council decided that the issue of self-finance required further discussion and the issue was referred to a general committee meeting.



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Some e-mails read like "hate mail": councillor

Council members seem to have found themselves in a modern day quandary, with a twist.

At last week's council meeting Mayor Phyllis Morris introduced a motion asking that the town's new solicitor, Christopher Cooper, provide his opinion on whether e-mails sent by a member of council to all members of council can be placed on a public agenda.

Councillor Evelyn Buck took exception to Mayor Morris discussing the issue since the mayor was chairing the meeting and left shortly thereafter.

Apparently, at least two members of council have disclaimers on their e-mail correspondence which states that the information is confidential and cannot be publicly disclosed.

Like most corporations, e-mails are sent throughout the day as a normal course of business, but as Mayor Morris pointed out, e-mails sent to all councillors are not to be debated on-line.

"The public's business will be conducted in public," Mayor Morris told The Auroran.

Which members of council are attempting to discuss issues on-line

was not divulged, but members of council were also clearly upset by the content of the e-mails.

"They read like hate mail," said Councillor Evelina MacEachern.

Councillor Al Wilson said he would only have to

"look at the source" and delete them.

In voting for the recommendation, Councillor Bob McRoberts stated that it was a "seemingly ongoing situation" and he hoped it would finally be addressed.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Award brings Aurora plethora of publicity

You don't really realize where you live until you read about yourself in other publications.

And the Town of Aurora has been getting its share of publicity lately, thanks to winning the coveted Prince of Wales award some weeks ago.

I was sitting in my office Saturday afternoon, wondering, along with my colleague Cathy Vrancic (see Cathy's Corner, Page 5) just how I would fill this space, when historian Micheal Seaman walked in.

"Aurora's history and heritage has been getting some attention recently through features in a number of national magazines," he said, "including Heritage - the Magazine of the Heritage Canada Foundation, a six-page full colour feature; Edifice Magazine - Canada's Old Home magazine, the current edition features an extensive feature about Aurora, edited by Dr. Christopher Cooper who hosted the Old House Restoration Workshop in Aurora a few years ago; Municipal World, February edition features Aurora; and CHO news, provincial heritage, features Aurora on its cover."

And he brought me copies of the Aurora features, complete with pictures, of our historic town.

"It's certainly great to see Aurora's heritage buildings receive the attention that they deserve," he said. "People from across the country will be reading about the many interesting heritage sites we have here in Aurora and it is hoped that this coverage will inspire them to visit."

Which brought back a few memories.

Now I know there are people in Aurora who could care less about the history of the town; and there are people who don't think the Town should be investing money in "old blisters", as one councillor referred to Church Street School several years ago.

But, I'm sorry, I disagree.

Aurora is a historic community, rich with items from the past and I, for one, look forward to the day when Church Street School again becomes the town museum, and the tons of stuff now in storage can be displayed again.

Not to mention the stuff I hope to donate to the museum once it resumes its rightful place in the community.

A number of years ago, I had the idea of running a regular train (steam, if possible) from the old Toronto roundhouse to Aurora - better known as the Head of Rail.

Since the first train out of Toronto in 1853 came to Aurora, it seemed only right that the railway should play a part in the promotion of the town's history.

At the time, there were rail sidings, covered by growth, it's true, that were so plentiful a locomotive could have uncoupled its cars, and gone to the other end of the train for the trip back to the "Big Smoke".

That train could have made one trip a day or possibly several a day, thereby providing Aurora with complete train service to the city all day long, instead of the current southbound and northbound GO Trains that run only at rush hour.

I had access to enough "rolling stock" that there could have been a restaurant set up on the tracks. What better way to enjoy a restaurant than in a historic train coach?

Different coloured lines would have been placed on the sidewalks from the historic station to historic sites in town, such as Church St. School and Hillary House, for walking tourists to follow.

It was such a great idea, I did a report on it that was an inch thick and probably weighed more than a pound. It was as comprehensive as my daughter's thesis.

Then two things happened:

1) Someone tore up the tracks from the Toronto roundhouse to the main line; and

2) Someone tore up all the sidings in front of the Aurora railroad station.

So much for that idea.

And I heard from some Aurora residents, who didn't like the idea at all.

"You want to turn us into another Niagara-On-The-Lake?" asked one.

Well, frankly, yes, I do, or did.

That historic town is a huge tourist destination, and Aurora could be the same, if I could get everyone on the same page.

I don't understand why people drive all the way to Cookstown every weekend during the summer, when the same thing could be right here. The main intersection of Cookstown - Highways 27 and 89 - is hardly anything to write home about.

This all goes back to the 60s when a group of people wanted to establish a rail museum in Aurora, and the idea fell by the wayside.

Land and locomotives were available for the project, but it didn't fly.

As a result, Aurora, as a tourist destination, died a horrible death.

Perhaps, when Church Street School reopens, and the Wells Street School building is finally decided upon, Aurora could become a tourist destination.

It certainly wouldn't hurt the economy.



Some years ago, Aurora cartoonist Lyle Glover had a series of cartoons called Bobby and Dickie, about a publisher named Bob Buchanan and Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth. Illingworth died in hospital Sunday night. He had served two separate terms as mayor. The above cartoon was used on the cover of a program honouring Illingworth's 80th birthday. Last week's three streetscape photos baffled many of you. From the top down, they were Wellington Street, Spruce Street and Tyler Street. Only Pauline Topping answered the question correctly.

Letter to the Editor

Head of Canada parade explains use of word "ay"

To the editor,

Why "AY" and not "EH", you say - well first because we are a new nation; a unique nation; no longer just an out branch of our British ancestry - as much as we do appreciate and revere our heritage.

We are different.

We are composed of so many nations and so many backgrounds; but ultimately we all live here in Canada and so I say - We're all Canadian AY! - to draw attention to the fact that we are specific brand!

I've been asking around town and so many of you agree that you just cannot get warmed up to 'eh'. So let's claim our unique characteristics with a loud and proud AY!

When we see the letters 'eh' the bravado of a great "AY" seems lost in 'eh' which sounds and looks a lot like "eck" or "eww" or something negative.

Do you think 'AY' when you say it, or do you think "eh"?

When we are teased by our American cousins - do you think they're imagining we are saying 'eh' or ay?

Try googling it!

If we were cartoon characters - I think the bubbles would be filled with AYs!

So I say we can embrace our difference and our evolving culture - okay - ay?

Or maybe it is just me?

I am proud to be

Can"AY"dian! Let's stand up strong for our country and culture.

Let's give the honour that is deserved and identify ourselves as uniquely and proudly Canadian.

We are peace-keepers.

We're kind and generally have fantastic manners! We like to say please and thank you! And, of course AY!

We're Canadian Ay! Is an event created to help stimulate the spirit of Canada in our community and create another Great Canadian Parade in Aurora!

It takes time to create floats and to come up with ideas and get a lot of people working together with this common goal - so we are starting early - giving us all about three months to get ready for our national Birthday celebrations!

We dream of having a We're Canadian Ay! Event in Aurora at the Royal Canadian Legion every year.

Our parade and our national pride will grow greater year after year with promotions and such events honouring our Canadian identity.

The drums are sounding....and we are calling all Red Hot Canadians!

Canada Day Parade Subcommittee (CDPSC) invites YOU to help us build another fantastic Canada Day Parade in Canada's Birthday

Town of Aurora this July 1st.

Parade starts at 10 a.m. and participants and volunteers are wanted!

The CDPSC meet at the Town Hall, Please join us Monday, April 6th; Tuesday, April 21st; Wednesday, May 6th, Thursday, May 14th, Wednesday, May 20th,

Tuesday, May 26th; Thursday, June 4th; Thursday, June 11, Wednesday, June 17th; Monday, June 22nd Float Safety Meeting; Monday, June 29th and Tuesday, June 30th.

**Sher St.Kitts
Canada Day Parade
Subcommittee Chair**

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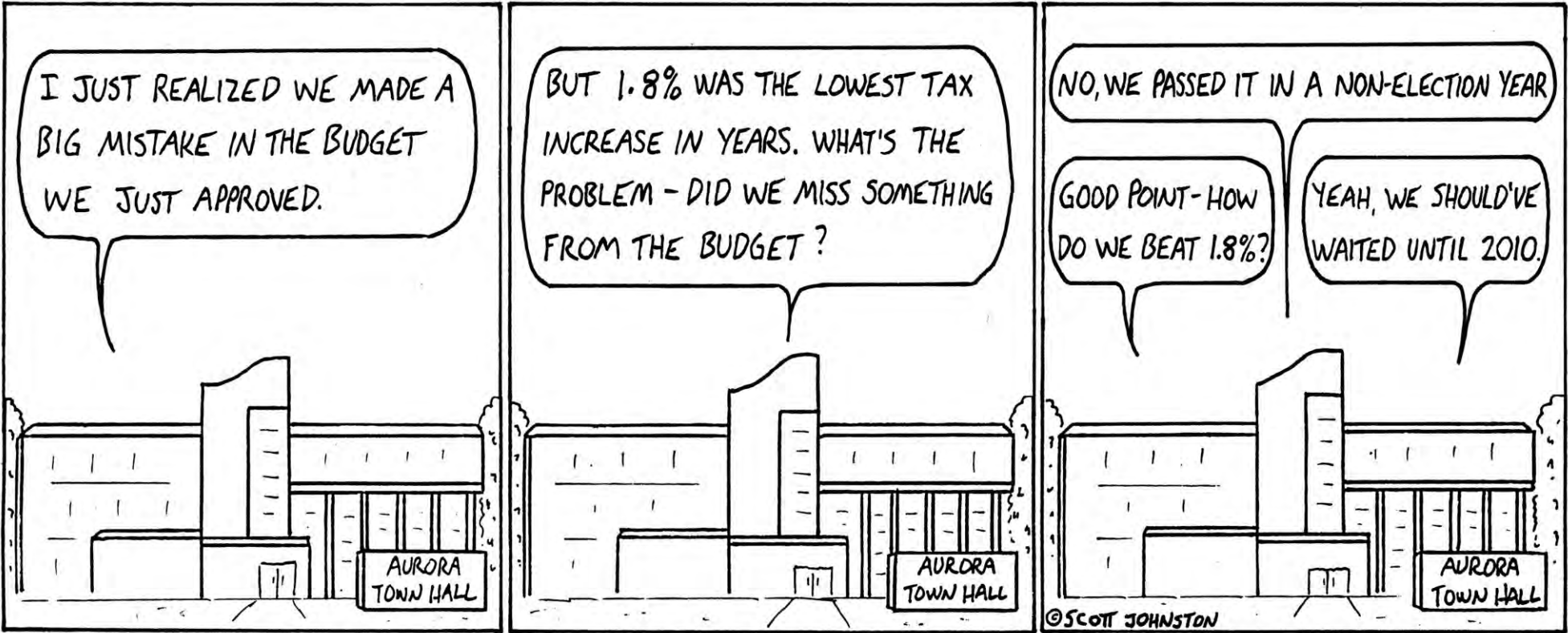
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Trip of a lifetime

A couple of weeks ago, there was a colour picture on the front page of The Auroran showing a group of students with their luggage standing in front of a bus.

The caption beneath the picture stated, "Led by (teacher) Mark Thomas, this group of Grade 10, 11 and 12 students left Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School last week for a ten day trip to visit WWI and WW II sites and battlefields in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands".

These fortunate students were going on a trip I have always dreamed of taking.

I wanted to learn about this unique experience so I contacted Mark Thomas upon his return from Europe.

It turns out this is the second such trip that Williams' students have participated in; the last occurred in 2006. According to history teacher Mark Thomas, he is in the very early planning stages for a return trip in 2011.

I was told that 18 students went on the excursion to Europe.

The cost per student was \$2,900. As Mr. Thomas noted, "many of the students had after school jobs to pay for this."

He said the students had an "incredible experience that they will never forget".

Before going overseas the students did some research to ascertain if any of their own relatives had been involved in either of the conflicts. The students also learned about some of the Aurora people who

were killed in the battles.

For readers' information, the Aurora Cenotaph, located on Yonge Street in the south part of town, contains two structures. The first, commemorating the dead from WWII, contains 55 names engraved on the granite marker.

On the side of the granite tablet is inscribed the battles, which these men fought and died in. Dieppe. The Invasion, D Day. The Battle of the Bulge. Sicily. Monte Casino. The list goes on. Reading them reminds us that Canadians were at all the major engagements in the European theatre of World War II.

Situated directly behind stands the World War I monument. The inscription reads "Their name Liveth for evermore 1914-1919".

The dedication reads "To the honoured memory of the men of the Town of Aurora and the Townships of King and Whitchurch who died in the Great War and in grateful tribute to all who shared its dangers."

The names of 70 men are listed.

The names of the battles are familiar to anyone who has watched the history channel: Ypres, Somme, Passchendaele, Hill 70, Vimy Ridge.

Dr. Williams students visited some of the above-mentioned European battlefields while on their trip.

I asked Mark what memories stood out for him and he said he was left with four lasting impressions.

"The students were awed by the untenable position that the Canadians found themselves in at

Dieppe - there was no shelter or escape for the young Canadian soldiers from the German guns.

"Second, visiting the various cemeteries. Most of my students - who you have to remember are 15 to 18 years old - had never ever been to a cemetery before. And for them to see the ages on the tombstones - kids not much older than them - that never made it home - it brought some of my students to tears and it really drove home the history lessons that I had been teaching them.

"The trip to Vimy Ridge was another incredible day for the students. They had a chance to see and walk through the tunnels that the Canadian soldiers had dug. It was very emotional for some of the students to walk through the trenches and to visualize what it must have been like to be a young Canadian infantry soldier during WW I.

"The other memory that will stay with me is the trip to Normandy. It was, in a word, incredible. The students walked in the water and along Juno Beach knowing that 65 years ago, a monumental battle for freedom had taken place on that very shoreline.

"The students also climbed on the German gun turrets that marked the hillside along the beach and they also visited the Juno Beach Centre".

It's a pity that more students couldn't participate in such a trip of a lifetime.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

It doesn't work that way...

It isn't easy being a writer.

Oh, it looks easy enough...when you're reading an article in a newspaper or a magazine you might think to yourself, "That looks easy! I could do that!" But it doesn't really work that way...

First, you have to have an idea. Then you have to turn that idea into an article. Next, you have to get an idea and turn it into a column again...and again...and again. At least that's what Ron keeps telling me.

I get ideas all the time but the trouble is that I get them when I'm in the shower or barrelling down the highway - you know, at times when turning them into a column is either inconvenient or downright hazardous. I always think I will remember these great ideas, but it doesn't really work that way...

When I sit down at my computer and open a blank document, my mind often goes as blank as the page in front of me.

So I get up, unload the dishwasher, throw in a load of laundry, maybe complain to the dog about the bane of writer's block. He's very sympathetic.

I think that if I do something useful instead of staring

hopelessly at a wordless sheet of cyber-paper, one of my lost ideas will find its way back to me. But it doesn't really work that way...

Next thing I know, I have forgotten about remembering an idea for my column and I start getting other ideas.

Really bad ideas like dragging my new ladder out of the garage and painting a wall 15 feet above floor level. Of course when I am up on the ladder with brush in one hand, paint can in the other, that's when I get a good idea.

I think I will remember it when I'm done painting, but it doesn't work that way. By then it's time to make dinner.

The next day, I go to the office. I sit in front of a computer screen and hour after hour, I dance with numbers, not words. Who knew that accounting could be such fun?

One would think the change would be refreshing but as any bean counter will tell you, it doesn't really work that way...Numbers have a way of numbing the brain. That's why they're called "numbers".

I file away the work I've done and shut down the computer. I get in the car feeling elatedly anesthetised by the sense of accomplishment that comes from having met all

my deadlines...

Oh-oh...deadlines? Oh no! Deadlines!

When I cut back to publishing a column every other week, I expected the relief that goes with counting on the illustrious, talented, creative Scott Johnston to meet half my deadlines. He's my hero.

Oh, the joy of having a week off every other week! But it doesn't really work that way...

Sometimes I sit bolt upright in bed - and scream. Damir doesn't like it.

"What's wrong?" he asks. "Did you have a nightmare?"

"Yes," I say, shaking with panic. "What week is this?"

He rolls his eyes. By now he knows what this means. It means I have lost track of whose turn it is to submit a column to The Auroran. It means it's my turn!

I jump out of bed. Damir pulls the covers over his head and asks tiredly, "Why don't you just get the column ready a week early?"

Why? Because it really doesn't work that way!

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

Letters to the Editor

Aurora not a charitable foundation, she says

To the editor,

Often, I know if I linger longer I will cease to be civil.

I usually manage to stay until the hour of adjournment. If town business is being accomplished I'm there until it's done.

Having to fight to exercise my authority as a councillor is tedious. It takes all my resources to maintain equilibrium.

When I arrive at the point of saying something sufficiently cutting that it can never be forgotten or forgiven, that's when I pack up my papers and remove myself from the area of risk.

Tuesday was budget night. The most important night of the year. From hence all things stem.

Mine was the solitary vote in opposition. I regret that. There was no shortage of work and effort on the part of councillors and staff to get the job done.

My reason was simple. I do not share the mayor's priorities. In my book, the Corporation is not a Philanthropic Society or a Charitable Foundation.

I believe people should be free to determine which charities they will or won't support.

I don't appreciate

someone else's hand in my pocket, filching my resources for charity and do good projects. Nor do I want it done to anyone else who has trusted me to represent their interest.

Tuesday's agenda exemplifies my concerns. Notice had been served of a second workshop with the Integrity Commissioner. The meeting did not take place. No notice of cancellation was served. It simply was not mentioned again.

The first workshop was attended by all but three. The mayor and Councillors Evelina MacEachern and John Gallo were absent.

Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas had served notice for an educational session prior to the Commissioner's request. At that time, Councillor MacEachern declared her opposition and stated she would not attend.

When the second session was called, the councillor declared she would not attend because it was closed to the public. The meeting was nevertheless scheduled and then ...didn't happen. No reason given.

The budget provides for an Integrity Commissioner. Even with all members signed on,

save one, having it happen under these circumstances seems unlikely. An annual retainer of \$12,000 and \$3,000 to deal with complaints was itemized. Now that's weird. I understand the level of compensation for an Integrity Commissioner reflects legal fees and or a Judge's compensation as the norm.

It seems either the program will not go forward or the cost is vastly under-estimated. Either way the budget does not appear to be realistic.

My position on restoration of the Petch House is known.

The budget figure was increased from \$100,000 to \$108,000. Eight thousand dollars has apparently come from another source. \$100,000 comes from the tax levy. No offset from development charge revenues.

Privately, the word is, if the building survives the move, restoration will cost \$200,000 and the building will be reduced from 450 to 200 sq.ft. That's about the size of a three-hole privy and a wood shed combined. How authentic is that?

Neil Garbe, CAO, says if we do not undertake the project, we will simply pop the money into a reserve account. The

sum swallows town taxes from approximately 130 homes. Mr. Garbe comes to us from York Region.

\$100,000 is more than Jim Tree asked for part-time workers and casual full time employees for six months, to do work that needs to be done, at a time when some residents may badly need employment. We refused his request.

On Tuesday, the July 1st parade became a burden to taxpayers for the first time in its history. Heretofore, revenues have met its cost. But that took an almighty volunteer effort to accomplish.

It happened annually for almost 40 years. But people get tired. A year of preparation over-laps from one to another. The parade gradually diminished and was a pale shadow of its former glory.

One year I rode in a car with former Mayor George Timpson. George hid in the corner and I hung out the window waving. I'm not sure how much it contributed to the fun of the moment.

But I was asked and I did it out of sympathy for the volunteer who was desperately trying to build a parade.

Staff eventually advised volunteer inter-

est in continuing the responsibility had finally evaporated. On the other hand, celebrations at the Lambert Willson Park had grown proportionately.

More families came to the park to participate in fun events and competitions starting earlier in the day, than watched the parade on Yonge Street. Change is hard. But sometimes it happens when you're not even trying. I thought that was a good time to rest the parade.

Then along came self-proclaimed Wonder Woman, Sher St. Kitts of King Township, who declared she could give Aurora the finest parade ever seen.

Now it seems the effort requires too much from Ms St. Kitts. Taxpayers, at her demand, are to pay for the parade and town staff to carry the work load. It's happening in the 2009 budget.

On Tuesday night, still another outfit received \$2,700 worth of free time in a town facility. They run a Masters Lacrosse Tournament and make a charitable donation to another organization. They sought free use of the facility to increase their donation. Last year, they raised \$47,000. They were able to plump it up with free time at the facility.

\$2,700 revenue to the community centre would improve the bottom line of the facility's operation and help keep fees down for regular users.

We calculate operating costs and revenue to

establish user fees for minor sports organizations, who are also volunteers providing opportunities for young residents of our town. But for outsiders, we are giving it away. It's not my idea of good or fair fiscal management.

The budget recommended painting the ceiling of Community Centre, Rink 2. The item was deleted. Following direction from the mayor, Neil Garbe our new CAO, accompanied by three other top officials inspected the ceiling and wrote a memo for the record advising the recommendation was for the work to be done within three years. That was not the recommendation.

Hard times were frequently referenced by the mayor during budget deliberations. Yet our town's economy is booming. Building continues and assessment revenues increase proportionately.

The national economic downturn may well mean residents become unemployed. We have work that needs to be done and the means to pay for it without increasing taxes.

Senior levels of government are pumping money to the lower levels to help mitigate precisely these problems.

That is precisely not what we are doing with this budget.

It's why it does not have my support.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Reader opposes planned walkway

To the editor,

I am writing this letter to reach the Aurora resi-

dents.

This is in regards to the proposal of this walkway to be built through

the Mackenzie wetlands, right behind Hadley Grange seniors' apartments.

I am asking for your support to stop this development.

My concern is for the loss of habitat and safety to the animals that call this home, and all the nesting sites that will be disrupted.

Too much of our green space is disappearing and this should be a concern for us all.

I would ask for your support by calling the 905-727-3123, ext.3233 for Jim Tree, or you can e-mail him at jtree@e-aurora.ca.

There is a meeting scheduled for April 28th at the town from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Champion cribbage team thanks the Aurora Legion

To the editor,

On behalf of my teammates, Linda White, Mary Sedore and Mike Pugh, I would like to thank the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for their support as we

advanced to the Zone Cribbage tournament, placing second.

This sent us to the District tournament on March 7th, where we placed first, thereby advancing to the Provincial tournament in Kapuskasing

where we brought home second place.

The Provincial tournament hosted 56 teams consisting of 216 players.

We were only one win away from advancing to the Dominion Command Tournament in British Columbia.

Thank you for your support.

Reader insulted

To the editor,

I am sure I speak for many when I say that Cathy Vrancic's column (Cathy's Corner, The Auroran, March

3) was an insult to those of us who enjoy our four seasons.

Dorothy Polhamus
Aurora

Bobby White
Aurora

Barb Macleod
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

St.Andrews’sstudents can’t wait to play Bingo

EDITOR’S NOTE:The author of the following story is Christian Julien,a Grade 11 boarding student at Aurora’s St.Andrew’s College.He’s from Trinidad & Tobago.In the story,he outlines what happens to him and others on Friday nights.

Every Friday evening, a handful of Andreans hop in a taxi and head over to the South Lake Residential Care Village, a.k.a.the seniors’centre. Once they arrive they hurry through the front door and up the elevator. They’re late...it’s starting. As the elevator doors

finally open, the eager Andreans hustle around the corner to join in the festivities. Bingo is starting. People often wonder why some guys are willing to give up their valuable time, on a Friday nonetheless, to play Bingo with seniors. Why they help them

place markers on their cards as the numbers are called, play along on their own cards, and help clean up afterwards, before calling another cab and heading home. Why would anybody do such a thing? Why would a sensible person sacrifice their free time;time that could be

spent with friends, gam-ing, or catching up on sleep and homework? It just doesn’t seem to make sense.And yet every week, there are St. Andrew’s students down at the seniors’center, playing Bingo. What keeps them com-ing back? Is it the warm fuzzy

feeling one gets from helping others? Is it the Bingo prizes: chocolate, coke and other sugary delights? Is it the people one meets, characters like John the orator (who calls the bingo numbers), flirta-tious Mary-Jane, gentle Claire, or quiet, independ-ent Ruth? Or is it the respect one

gradually builds for the senior citizens, people who have lived full lives, people who have seen war, famine, destruction and hardship, and have lived to tell the tale, peo-ple with deep pools of life experience the likes of which you and I may never know, men and women who have laboured blood, sweat and tears towards building the nation we take for granted every day.Perhaps it’s respect that keeps them coming back for more.

Whatever the reason, Andreans continue to make their weekly pilgrim-ages to South Lake Residential Care Village, the true reason for their return unknown.

There’s only one real way to find out their true motivation.Come play Bingo with us sometime.

**Gordon Lee
LaSalle, Quebec**

**Christian Julien
Aurora**

Anyone know the Cummer family?

To the editor,

I am in the process of making a Family Tree for the Lee family and have made an observance that

the Cummer family has had some involvement in the development of Aurora. Jacob Cummer came to Ontario from

Pennsylvania in the 1790’s. Their reasons were that they wished to remain beholden to the United Kingdom and

hence they were British Empire Loyalists. One generation later Catherine Cummer mar-ried George Lee. Her brother Elihu

Pease, whose son was Edward Pease, a council-lor in Aurora. My father’s father, George Lee, farmed what once was the Hunt Club just south of Aurora Cemetery.Note that this George was the son of the first George Lee.

I understand that a certain Frank Cummer lived in Aurora and main-tained a collection of pho-tos and artifacts that were about Aurora and the Cummers.

My own father, Lorne C.Lee, served four years on Aurora Council in the 1930’s and acted as town solicitor for many years. If anyone can add to these thoughts I would appreciate it.

newspaper.

He also did work for radio and television and hosted a show called "Our Town", which was the longest running show on Aurora Cable Internet before ACI was taken over by Rogers recently.

Dick married well-known artist Dorothy Clark McClure, also a Citizen of the Year.

Dorothy has three chil-dren of her own, a daugh-ter and two sons.

Illingworth dies in hospital

From page 1
tenant governors:Keiller MacKay, Earl Rowe, Ross MacDonald and, his favourite, Pauline McGibbon.

In 1954, he came to Aurora ("I’m still a new-comer") and lived near the Hunt Club on Yonge Street, near the Aurora Cemetery.

He moved to 1 Cousins Drive in 1956, and that was his home until he died.

Dick was nominated for the public school board in 1963, got elected, and served one term.

In 1965 he ran for coun-cil, was elected twice, before running for mayor in 1969 and winning.He was

re-elected in 1971 and acclaimed in 1973.

Then the roof caved in. Working at Queen’s Park, his boss was Minister of Industry & Tourism John White.

White was then named minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, a job that made Dick’s job as Aurora mayor a conflict of interest.

He resigned, stayed with the province, should have retired in 1981, but hung on an extra year, then retired, and ran for Aurora mayor again.

He got his seat back. and served one three-year term, and was defeated in 1985, by John West.

"He did me the biggest favour of my life by win-ning," Dick said after the election, "although I didn’t think so the night of the election."

John Slykhuis, a news editor, asked Dick to cover Aurora for his newspaper, and Dick, the politician, almost overnight became Dick, the media mogul.

Since then, Dick has been awarded Rotary International’s highest honour, the Paul Harris Fellowship, a double hon-our since Dick was not a Rotarian.He was also named Aurora’s Citizen of the Year.

He was employed by the eight-year-old Auroran

Council approves low budget

From page 1
Councillor Evelyn Buck was the only dissenting vote and even she acknowledged that the tax increase was one of the "smallest increases in many, many years".

"I keep hearing references to the downturn in the econo-my," Councillor Buck said. "The Town of Aurora has never seen such good times in its history.

"My priorities are not the same as the rest (of coun-cil)," Councillor Buck said in voting against the budget.

Mayor Morris and council-lors repeatedly thanked Mr. Gutteridge and town staff for the work they had done in reducing the projected 7.8 per cent tax increase for 2009.

Prior to passing the budget, Councillor Wendy Gaertner took the opportuni-ty to admonish members of the Aurora Library Board, some of whom were in atten-dance, for failing to reduce their requested 10.7 per cent budget increase.

"A library is very important to a community," Councillor Gaertner said."The library budget was presented in September (2008), but a lot has happened since last September.

"I’m very disappointed that the library did not revisit

their budget.Council had to do it to find some savings and we did."

With approval of the budget, Aurora residents will pay an additional \$19.27 per year based on an aver-age assessed home of \$370,000.

It is anticipated that the Region’s tax increase for the

year will be 2.2 per cent or \$35.90.

There will be no increase this year for the school boards.

Only 29 per cent of taxes collected remain with the town.

The school boards take 31 per cent and the Region of York takes 40 per cent.

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Ash trees could succumb to this insect

If you have an ash tree on your property, you may want to keep an eye on it.

These trees are the only food of the aptly named Emerald Ash Borer, a shimmering green insect that's munching its way closer to Aurora.

When a female lays its eggs on the bark, the newly hatched larvae tunnel underneath and eat the cambium, a layer of live cells between the bark and sapwood.

Eventually, the larvae tunnels girdle the tree, cutting off the transport of nutrients and water, and eventually killing it.

This beetle was first found in the Detroit area in June, 2002, having arrived in wooden packaging material from its native east and central Asia. Shortly after, it was seen in Windsor.

Since then, despite efforts to contain it or at least halt the borer's progress, it has made its way through southern Ontario.

In some cases, it has travelled great distances, most likely hidden in firewood, and is now found as far away as Montreal and Sault Ste. Marie.

While the borer has gained a toehold in Toronto, Halton, Peel, Durham, and Vaughan, according to Jim Tree of Aurora's Parks Department, it has not yet been seen in Aurora.

One of the problems with this threat is how hard the beetle is to detect.

Because the larvae tunnel underneath the bark, there is little evidence of an infestation until the tree starts to die off, and by then, it is too late.

The beetles themselves, although colourful, are small - only about a centimetre in length - so are hard to spot.

They're equally difficult to control. Birds, including woodpeckers, will eat the larvae, but they can't get them all.

Some pesticides have been used successfully to preserve trees in other municipalities, but are very expensive.

However, if necessary, they may prove to be cost effective in the long run, in order to save at least some of the larger or more significant ash trees in Aurora.

Unfortunately, ash has been a popular species to plant in urban areas due to its hardiness and rapid growth, and Aurora has a large population of these trees, both in its forests,

and along its streets.

Mr. Tree confirms that while the City of Toronto has stopped planting ash trees, Aurora still has some remaining in the town's nursery, so these will continue to be used.

However, the town is looking for new species to plant in order to increase diversity, and is moving away from the former practice of planting the same trees together along its streets.

This insect will only eat ash trees, not mountain ash, which is a different type of tree, so if a resident has one of the latter on the lawn, it will not be affected.

This is not the first time that Aurora's trees have been under attack.

About 40 years ago, Dutch Elm Disease, a fungus carried by another

species of beetle, decimated the town's elm tree population.

Fortunately, a number of large elms survived, such as the one towering over Henderson Drive just west of the Factory Theatre.

This provides hope that even if, as the experts predict, Aurora does lose a number of its ash trees, it may not lose them all.

Town staff is keeping an eye out for incidences of this beetle in Aurora.

One of the first signs of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation is a general

deterioration in the health of a tree, including a dieback of the crown.

When the mature beetles emerge from the tree, generally in June and July, they leave a distinctive D-shaped exit hole in the bark.

If a resident does see any evidence of this insect, he or she should contact Aurora's Parks Department.

Additional information on the Emerald Ash Borer may be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at www.inspection.gc.ca.

Planned pluckers' contest hits a bad chord in 1995

Kleinburg has its Binder Twine festival, Shelburne has its Fiddler contest and Collingwood has its Elvis competition.

Back in 1995 Aurora almost had a Pluckers' Contest for guitar players.

It was the brainchild of Aurora's Ferguson Mobbs, who brought the 140 Air Cadet Squadron to Aurora.

He believed that if other municipalities could hold annual competitions drawing thousands of visitors to the community, Aurora could do the same.

He proposed a yearly Guitar Amateur Competition as a win, win situation, a win

for the people, local businesses and the town plus a win for the amateur musicians in getting exposure and recognition with proceeds for local charities.

The first ever Ontario Guitar Championships was scheduled during the weekend of September 22 to 24, 1995.

It was hoped to attract about 200 guitar players to enter the classical, folk/country, rock/blues, jazz/new age and metal categories.

It was planned to have four different venues for the Saturday day-long playoffs and jam session at the Town Park Band Shell.

Sunday would feature a dinner at the Howard Johnson Hotel where the finalists in the five categories would vie for the overall best guitarist prize.

Steve Falk, a member of the organizing committee and a musician, was in charge of the competition rules and regulations and the proposed competition had the backing of the town's Leisure Services Department.

The judges were professional musicians.

Unfortunately by the

August registration deadline there was a shortage of entries resulting in the postponement of the championships until the following year giving organizers more time to plan and promote it.

But the concept of a Plucker's Festival and Competition never took off and no attempt was made to revive it.

Now with the Annual Chamber of Commerce Street Sale and Festival attracting thousands of people, Aurora may have found its niche.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday March 23 - N-S: Peter Schneiders and Betty Saley; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White. E-W: Isobel Garrett and Mary Oglanby; Jeannine Mackie and Zeta Corry; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin.

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What's Happening at the Howard Johnson Aurora...

Opening Night of GOOD EVENING

Saturday, April 4/09

This Tony Award-winning sketch comedy review is a very funny show about some unlikely subjects, including a one legged actor applying for the role of Tarzan, an in depth interview with an unimpressed shepherd who witnessed the Nativity, and a French singer who misunderstands an Anglo Saxon vulgarity and composes a song around it.

Also running April 11, 18 and 25, May 2, 9 & May 10...
Mother's Day Matinee performance, doors open at 4:30

Dinner & Show – \$39.95 plus tax & gratuities
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Showtime approx. 8:30 p.m.

A hot and cold buffet dinner will be served featuring a full salad bar, carved roast beef and decadent desserts.



Happy Easter



Easter Buffet

Sunday, April 12, 2009
10am - 2pm and 5pm - 8pm

****The 10am-2pm seating will also include an Omelet Station and Breakfast Items****

Featuring:
Carved Roast Beef au Jus
and Virginia Baked Ham with Cedar & Raisin Sauce

A full Salad Bar

Entrees:
Grilled Chicken Breast With Wild Mushrooms
Stuffed Sole with Scallops And Shrimps
Cheese Tortellini with Spinach Feta Sauce Rosé
Vegetables and Potatoes
Mashed Potatoes with Yams


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Sunday, April 19th



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Great prizes!!

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- **The Chamber of Commerce
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- **from any Rotarian**
- **call 905-841-1352**

THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of March 31, 2009

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CHAMPS

Minor bantams capture provincial championship

Wednesday, in front of a packed Aurora Community Centre, the Minor Bantam A team accomplished something that no "A" team has done in Aurora for 19 years - they captured an OMHA championship.

After a brilliant playoff run that resulted in a record of 15-5-1, and going into Game Four being up 5 points to 1, the Tigers ended their season with a convincing 4-0 win over Hespeler.

The Hespeler Shamrocks gave it all they had in the first two periods of the game, but by 11:28 of the third period, the Tigers claimed their prize by taking a 4-0 lead against Hespeler who had run out of steam against the superior speed of the Tigers.

The playoff road was not an easy one.

After beating Markham in the first round the team faced Barrie and Newmarket, both teams that finished ahead of Aurora in

the regular season.

The semi-finals against 2007/2008 OMHA champions, Whitby Wildcats proved to be the most challenging going to five games and ending in a tense 2-0 win for Aurora.

In a pleasant coincidence the last Minor Bantam "A" team to win the OMHA's was the 1979/80 team that Head Coach John Archibald was on.

As well, in 1981/1982, assistant coaches Mike Nisbet and Bruce Ing were on the Juvenile A team that beat Hespeler to win the OMHA Championship.

Now, their sons' pictures will hang on the wall with their pictures at the ACC.

Their banner will be added to the banners that line the rafters over the ice.

Even without the pictures and the banner and trophy, the memory of the final game will live on for all these 13 and 14 year olds for a long time.

From the multitude of cheering fans in the stands, to receiving the infamous red caps, to the drinking of sparkling grape juice out of the OMHA cup in the dressing room as they all sang, this was an experience they will never forget.

It takes great coaches and great kids who are not only good hockey players but respectful, hardworking and determined young men to produce a championship team, and this team has the right combination of both.

Making up the team are

Head Coach, John Archibald; Assistant Coaches, Bruce Ing, Mike Nisbet; Trainer, Randy Romano; and Manager, Lora Ruscica.

The team consists of Eric Archibald, Ryan Baskin, Braden Casselden, Eric Damecour, Quincy Ing, Daniel Jones, Collin Laird, Colton Lee, Andrew McDonald, Liam Mackichan, Douglas Nisbet, Matthew Pryse, Evan Romano, Vincent Ruscica, Peter Sandwell, Casey Severini and Ethan Slimkovich.

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Grade 2 student at Aurora’s Highview Public School Cameron Lang, 8, ponders his next move in the Aurora Optimist Club regional finals held last week at the Aurora Legion. Final results of the tournament were not available at press time.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Wintario in Aurora back in May,1978

In April, 1978, Aurora Mayor George Timpson advised councillors that Aurora's bid to host the Wintario Lottery Draw had been successful and the draw would take place at the Aurora High School on May 11, 1978.

He pointed out that by hosting the draw, the town would receive province-wide publicity through the telecast of the draw.

At that time the town was attempting to raise \$100,000 to put the "Finishing Touch" to the extension of the Aurora Public Library on Victoria Street.

Plans were made to have a variety show, featuring local performers and groups, as a fundraiser for the library to be held prior to the telecast.

As the competition to host Wintario was very keen, Timpson gave credit to York North Progressive Conservative MPP Bill Hodgson for lobbying on the town's behalf at Queen's

Park. Former Councillor Betty Pedersen was very active with the Aurora Library and served as secretary to the fundraising committee.

She was asked to assist in making the arrangements for hosting Wintario.

She said afterwards that it was the biggest challenge of her life and she was involved in arranging site surveys, staging the variety show and the timing was crucial, she said.

The stage show was called Musicfest '78 and the lineup included Rod Bowles' impressions of Elvis Presley; Nemesis, a popular local rock band; the Sweet Adelines; a Dixieland band; Aurora, a light pop and folk group; soloists Peter Manierka and Judy Rodgers; the Woodgate Irish Dancers and Irv Jackson's clown routine.

It was a night to remember, but unfortunately there were no Aurora winners in the draw.

Briefly

Seniors free

Theatre Aurora's Playwrights of Spring Festival continues this week from April 1 to April 4.

Show times are 8 p.m. Seniors, can you believe it, are admitted free to the Wednesday, April 1, 2009 performance of Willow Quartet by Joan Burrows.

To reserve a seat, call the Box Office at 905-727-3669. Theatre Aurora is located on Henderson Drive, west of Yonge Street.

Here’s a rumour for you

This little tidbit was overheard last week. The annual Magna hoedown, now in its 22nd year, may get cancelled this year.

Usually held in September on the front grass of Aurora's Magna headquarters on Wellington Street East, the hoedown raises thousands of dollars for selected

area charities. However, Magna contributes greatly to the hoedown each year, and the economy, which has been blamed for the closure of two Magna plants recently, could be responsible for the event that began in the 70s as “Frank's Fiesta”, named after Magna boss Frank Stronach.



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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday March 29, 2009



House League Novice

Team 201 Caravan Kids Flames 5 - Adam Dipiero 4G, Ben Godber 1G, William Reid 1A. **Team 203 Caravan Kids Senators 4** - Chris Sands 2G, Jacob Cowl 1G 1A, Caelan Bloor 2A.

Team 205 Caravan Kids Leafs 4 - Dylan Clark 2G, Evan Bryan 1G 2A, Mitchell Levy 1G, Vaughan Hewgill 1A. **Team 206 Caravan Kids Penguins 3** - Nicholas Vamvakaris 3G, Colin Windle 2A.

Team 202 Caravan Kids Bruins 5 - Jaedon Jackson 3G 1A, Christopher Walsh 2G 1A, Matthew Romano 2A, Shayne Colin 2A, Jacop Yap 1A, Nicholas Huxley 1A, Wayne Freeman 1A, Claudio Basso 1A. **Team 204 Caravan Kids Flyers 0.**

Midget

Team 904 Home Hardware 8 - Greg Gianopolous 4G, Eric Saracini 1G 1A, Bryan Kearns 1G, Nick Orsati 1G, Geoff Gianopolous 1G 1A, Devin Scudds 2A, Patrick McMurray 1A, Michael Moody 2A. **Team 903 Crabby Joes 4** - Jake Thompson 2G 1A, Robert Horton 1G, James Adams 1G, Dylan Sutherland 1A, Matt Raponi 1A.

Team 906 Packaging World 6 - Matthew Pellegrini 2G, Ian Weston 2G 3A, Dillon Cappell 2G, Rhys Williams 1A, Chris Dynes 1A, Cody Benson 1A, Mike French 1A, Ben Slimkowich 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 1** - Aaron Wochenmarkt 1G, James Sendel 1A.

Team 902 KTI Limited 4 - Mike Shoesmith 2G, Ethan Shore 2G, Graeme Smart 2A, Josh Bentolila 2A, Jacob Peart 1A, Marlon Young 1A, **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 0.**

Team 909 Graystone's 3 - Adrian Clark 1G, Chris Burns 1G, Sean Maule 1G 1A, Travis Hooper 1A, Patrick Lee 1A, Stephen Thompson 1A. **Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 3** - Caleb Gould 1G, Jason Durst 1G, Mike McGee 1G, Conner Sands 2A, Cameron Day 1A, Dylan Calvert 1A.

Team 907 Rival Concepts 6 - Chris McGill 1G, Chris Tillsey 1G 1A, Keegan OLeary 1G 2A, Derek Smith 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 2G 1A, Evan Campbell 2A, Michael Coggin 1A, Nick Gundert 1A. **Team 908 AHPA 2** - Steve Foss 1G, Tom Gibson 1G, Connor Murray 1A, Michael Orschel 1A.

Team 910 Backyard Pool & Spa 4 - Mike McGee 1G 1A, Cameron Day 2G, Caleb Gould 1G, Kyle Partanen 1A, Jason Durst 1A, Conner Sands 1A. **Team 907 Rival Concepts 0.**

Team 904 Home Hardware 11 - Greg Gianopolous 6G 1A, Chris O'Hara 1G 2A,

Devin Scudds 1G 3A, Anthony Mesillo 1G 1A, Eric Saracini 2G, Jay Lamont 2A, Nick Orsati 4A, Geoff Gianopolous 3A. **Team 901 Sentia Solutions 3** - Adam Gitto 2G, Wil Ginther 1G, Paul De Roos 1A, Simon Esposito 1A, Chris Porter 1A.

Team 908 AHPA 5 - Braun Hause 1G 2A, Paul Duggan 1G 1A, Derek Sweeting 2G, Tom Gibson 1G 1A, Steve Foss 1A, Luca Ghedin 1A. **Team 909 Graystone's 2** - Chris Burns 1G, Adrian Clark 1G, Madison Weber 1A.

Team 902 KTI Limited 6 - Mike Shoesmith 3G, David Iwai 2G, Charlie Teel 1G 1A, Robert Revington 1A, Curtis Hough 2A, Eric Shoesmith 1A, Ethan Shore 1A. **Team 905 Barb Blaser Remax 5** - James Sendel 3G, Dane Gregoris 1G, Will Burke 1G, Julien Savarsadosa 1A, Richard Sendel 1A, Nick Di Nallo 1A.

Team 903 Crabby Joes 0. Team 906 Packaging World 0.

MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S HOCKEY							
TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	
Highland Chev-Cad	15	7	2	98	64	32	
Baldwin's	14	8	2	107	88	30	
Tom & Jerry's	12	9	3	87	80	27	
Masterclean Contracting	12	10	2	106	106	26	
Priestly Demolition	11	10	2	86	77	24	
FPL Aggregates	8	13	3	79	97	19	
Law Insurance Brokers	8	13	3	74	90	19	
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6	15	3	70	98	15	
FIRST PLAYOFF ROUND							
FPL Aggregates	2			Law Insurance		2	
Baldwin's	1			Tom & Jerry's		1	
Priestly Demolition	5			Rec Sports		2	
Masterclean	1			Highland's Chev		0	
PLAYER STANDINGS							
NAME				G	A	Pts	
Tom Hussey	Masterclean		22	33	55		
Rob Blakely	Masterclean		23	22	45		
John Archibald	Highland's		25	13	38		
Mark Swirla	Priestly		17	20	37		
Todd Richardson	FPL		25	11	36		
Jody Matthews	Highland's		15	20	35		
Brad McMillan	Baldwin's		15	19	34		
Doug Adair Rec	Sports		13	20	33		
Craig McConnell	Masterclean		19	13	32		
John Anderson	Rec Sports		15	17	32		
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's		10	22	32		
Pat O'Mahony	Priestly		9	21	30		
Mike O'Conner	Baldwin's		17	10	27		
Mark Sedore	Priestly		13	14	27		
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports		12	15	27		
Jason Muise	Priestly		16	9	25		
Darren Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's		11	14	25		
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance		8	17	25		
Steve Robertson	Baldwin's		15	9	24		
Dwayne Smith	Law Insurance		13	11	24		
Scott Crabbe	Highland's		9	15	24		
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's		9	15	24		
Dave Caverley	FPL		10	13	23		
Ron Thiessen	Tom & Jerry's		11	11	22		
Mike Caicco	Baldwin's		5	17	22		
Chris Neale	Highland's		12	9	21		
Ken Fisher	Law Insurance		7	14	21		
Bruce Chappell	Highland's		4	17	21		
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's		13	7	20		
Gerald Briand	Baldwin's		7	13	20		
Peter Briand	Baldwins		10	9	19		
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's		9	10	19		
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's		8	11	19		
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean		4	15	19		
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's		4	15	19		
Ken Rumble	Highland's		5	13	18		
Steven MacDonald	Highland's		5	12	17		
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL		3	14	17		
Brandon Chappell	Highland's		9	7	16		
Kevin O'Keefe	Priestly		7	8	15		
John Leeder	Law Insurance		9	5	14		
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 Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's		6	7	13		
Ralph Tuck	Masterclean		2	11	13		
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's		6	6	12		
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		
Phil Pestatsky	Priestly		7	4	11		
Derek Preston	FPL		7	4	11		
Alain Boudreau	Highland's		5	6	11		
Bruce Ing	Law Insurance		5	6	11		
Scott Leslie	Masterclean		3	8	11		
Les Nip	Baldwin's		3	8	11		
Dan Cote	Law Insurance		4	6	10		
Jerry Mackerell	Priestly		4	6	10		
Mike Nisbet	FPL		4	6	10		
Doug McGrath	Baldwin's		2	8	10		
Steve Riswick	Tom & Jerry's		2	8	10		
Murray Campbell	Law Insurance		2	8	10		
Brian Mackenzie	Rec Sports		1	9	10		
Dennis Giles	FPL		4	5	9		
Steve Bromley	Tom & Jerry's		2	7	9		
Jerome Flanigan	Baldwin's		2	7	9		
Vince Rochon	Masterclean		1	8	9		
Fred Cox	Masterclean		6	2	8		
Hank VanBakel	Masterclean		5	3	8		
John Sibener	Masterclean		4	4	8		
Craig Gellatly	FPL		3	5	8		
Keith Carruthers	Masterclean		3	5	8		
Bill Collins	Priestly		2	6	8		
Don Nichols	Highland's		2	6	8		

Aurora soccer players hope to raise \$15,000

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) announced last week that its charity of choice would be “Right To Play”.

The group set a goal of raising \$15,000 for “Right To Play’s” sport and play programs during the upcoming season.

The inspiration for the “Right To Play” partnership began last season with the Club’s U8 girls’ team, Argentina.

They decided to make their goals count both on and off the soccer pitch.

The concept was simple - players, coaches and parents decided to run a fundraiser that would promote giving back through sport.

Each time a player registered a shot on goal, the parents on the sidelines would donate 25 cents to the team.

That resulted in \$235 being raised.

As the simplicity of the concept spread, AYSC committed to supporting “Right To Play” by engaging the entire membership of the club.

This season, 4,000 players, 250 house league teams and 36 competitive teams will participate in the activity.

Funds raised will support “Right To Play” programs in

23 countries of operation throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America.

Currently, “Right To Play” engages 600,000 children with regular sport and play activity every week.

AYSC has set a goal of \$15,000 for the upcoming season.

Teams will be encouraged to collect pledges based on the number of shots on goal or goals scored throughout their season.

The June festival, scheduled for June 27-28, will be the showcase for AYSC’s “Inspiring Global Changes One Goal at a Time” campaign.

With more than 3,300 players participating in the festival, AYSC hopes to raise more than \$5,000 at that event alone.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting program and I am confident that our members will embrace this fundraising effort,” said AYSC executive director Lawrence Janit.

“I truly believe our young players can inspire global change one goal at a time.”

Parents, spectators and fans of AYSC are encouraged to show their support of the project throughout the season.

8th annual Bob Hartwell run starts at Community Centre

Everyone is invited to participate in the 8th annual Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge Sunday, April 26th.

That was the message presented to Aurora Council last week by members of the event's organizing committee.

The Hartwell Challenge celebrates the life and spirit of the late Bob Hartwell, an Aurora runner who died in October, 2001, at age 54 while running a marathon.

The former councillor was involved in a number of clubs and organizations in Aurora, and was a driving force behind the creation of the Community Safety Village, located in Bruce's Mill Conservation area just southeast of town.

Mr. Hartwell was so well-loved and respected in the community, that following his death, he was posthumously named Aurora's Citizen of the Year.

Over the past several years the Challenge has raised \$120,000 for the Community Safety Village, which is now debt-free, according to General Committee Chair

Steve Hinder.

In addition, \$10,000 to \$15,000 has been donated to other local charities.

This year, all funds raised will go towards the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre.

Race Director Sara Sterling advised Council that this year, the centre of operations for the Run will be the Aurora Community Centre.

From there, the linear route of the half marathon will take participants west along Aurora Heights Drive, south on Bathurst Street to Bloomington, and west to Keele Street.

Runners and walkers will then retrace this route back to the ACC.

It was noted that it would be a safer course this year, as the streets would be fully or partially closed along the route.

For those with perhaps a little less stamina, there would also be a shorter five-kilometre route.

The committee is looking for as much community participation as possible.

Apart from taking part in any of the runs/walks and collecting pledges, people can volunteer to help out.

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All About Aurora

By Mayor Phyllis Morris

Council passes 1.89 per cent budget increase

While the forecast for 2009 had shown a projected 7.6 per cent increase, a Town budget of 1.89 per cent has been adopted.

In these particularly challenging economic times, council recognized and respected that many taxpayers are finding themselves (or someone they know) affected either directly or indirectly by the downturn in the economy.

Town council and staff members knew going into this particular budget that it had to responsibly and effectively address the current financial challenges, that many residents and businesses are facing.

While reviewing all of the 2009 budget requests and assessing the community's needs, foremost in council's mind was a determination to maintain the current service levels, while ensuring a financially responsible budget was delivered not only for today, but one that kept sight of the impact that decisions made today could have on future budget forecasts and plans.

The amount needed to run the everyday operations of the Town has been established this year to be \$41.8 million. Council also approved \$16.6 million for 81 capital projects.

Town Council and staffers spent considerable time during the last six weeks working closely together to develop a budget that saw a 1.89 per cent Aurora tax increase - which was welcome news - and also represents the lowest Aurora tax increase since 2000.

A 1.89 per cent increase means that a home assessed at \$370,000 will

see a tax hike on the Aurora portion of a property tax bill of \$19.27 for the total year.

Council made some tough decisions to be able to deliver the low increase.

But none that will directly impact taxpayers or see a decrease in service levels.

In early January, Neil Garbe joined the Town as Chief Administrative Officer and immediately set to work with the Director of Finance to assist all Town Departments to reassess their budget projections each had been working on since the Fall of 2008 (as the 7.6 per cent requests and projection had been set and forecasted prior to the economic downturn).

The 2009 budget review by council began January 31st.

By March 5th, it was completed and readied for presentation to council for final approval March 24th.

Despite the quick timetable, as part of Council's commitment to open and accessible government, the revised and streamlined budget timetable still included numerous public consultation opportunities, including a budget feedback section that was made available for the first time on the Town's website.

Residents were also invited to participate and comment during numerous public meetings, and council hosted a special Budget Open House specifically to listen to taxpayers' comments.

All budget meetings and debates were conducted in public and through these communicative processes

valuable public feedback was received.

Meetings were also held with staff and the president of the Chamber of Commerce to ensure the business voice and needs were well understood and represented.

In an effort to actively support business the Town is promoting "2009" as the "Year of Business Initiative" and will be encouraging residents to support our local Aurora businesses and service providers.

The Town is responsible for providing a number of services to taxpayers, including recreation facilities and programs, parks construction and maintenance, roads, water distribution and collection, community planning, by-law enforcement, zoning and building inspections, taxi and marriage licensing, as well as Governance and general administration.

The Town also funds Library Services.

Funding for the Municipality comes from the tax rate, revenues and reserve funds.

With only one taxpayer paying the bills, the Town was pleased to learn that this year the portion of funding received back from both upper levels of Government, totalled just over \$4,700,000 - made up of \$1.16 million from the (Federal) Building Canada Fund, \$1.27 million from the Federal Gas tax and \$2.27 million from the Province's Investing in Ontario ACT.

These grant funds must be used for capital projects such as roads, water and sewage infrastructure. The Town must maintain the

same level of capital spending from the general levy as the previous year, otherwise the Town can jeopardize the grant funds.

The reason for this rule is that the Federal and Provincial Governments want to ensure that municipalities continue to maintain the capital expenditures required to deal with their aging infrastructure.

Addressing aging and costly infrastructure needs had been in the forefront this year.

Despite some necessary spending constraints we are still able to look forward to some exciting new projects this year such as:

- The Church St School Cultural Centre.... (look for a future column on the Cultural Centre, which is opening this year).
- A Downtown Aurora Revitalization Study (which is now underway).
- A new playground for Machell Park.
- A contribution to the 10-year Aurora Community Arboretum project located in the Valley Lands
- The much anticipated road reconstruction for Richardson Dr., Hutchinson Rd., Batson Dr., Webster Ave. and Patrick Drive.
- Significant rehabilitation of wastewater infrastructure
- Within the Town's oper-

ating budget \$350,000 was also allocated as a contribution to the Town's Capital reserves. These funds will be in place to help fund future capital projects.

Council sincerely appreciates the hard work staff put into this budget.

As one veteran councillor, said about the budget, "it's the best budget process, I've been involved with".

After working through 12 previous Town budgets myself, I have to agree.

On behalf of council I'd like to thank Neil Garbe and Town staff for working so diligently with council to help us hold the line, despite the many challenges.

And on a final note, I'd like to wish Finance Director, John Gutteridge a long and well-deserved happy retirement.

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Five Aurora eateries win coveted award

If you wish to "Eat Smart" in Aurora, you now have five choices.

York Region's Eat Smart program recognizes restaurants, cafeterias and food take-outs that offer a variety of healthier food choices on the menu or by request, have exceptional standards in food safety, including kitchen staff certified in safe food handling, and that provide a 100 per cent smoke free environment.

This year the five Aurora locations honoured include: Brown's Fine Foods at St. Andrew's College, Chinook, Jonathan's Mediterranean and More, Moon Garden, and Oakland Hall Inn.

To be chosen, qualifying facilities are first nominated by York Region Public Health inspectors.

Once nominated, each establishment undergoes a

rigorous review to ensure that it meets the high Eat Smart standards.

Moon Garden and Chinook are no strangers to this award, having both been recipients in previous years.

Chinook owner Maureen Crosby noted that she is

delighted the Health Department is carrying out this recognition program, as it helps increase public awareness of facility cleanliness and food quality.

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris will present awards to the recipients at the April 28 council meeting.

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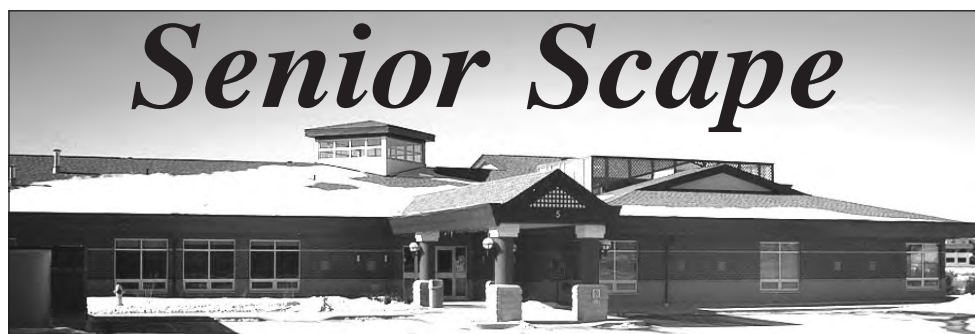
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Senior Scape

Tough season for us seniors

By BRIAN WARBURTON

After such a merciless winter as we have just experienced, and that on the coat-tails of the worst recessions anyone can remember, relief is welcome wherever it appears.

Better weather in the form of a bountiful spring, is a good place to start, even though that does not repair financial disaster.

Little doubt remains that the auto industry will undergo major reorganization, and probably the banking industry will become more closely regulated than it is now.

Little doubt remains in my mind that our system of capitalism is still a work in progress, even though it has produced more wealth for more people than ever before in history. Even so, regulations should be in place to allow the ups and downs of economic activity to be scaled to a more even level.

What has this got to do with seniors? Plenty, inasmuch as the standard of living depends on a well-functioning economy. The truth is that seniors and others rely on a healthy economy to maintain savings, pensions and wealth invested in homes and other property.

A wealthy economy is what sustains the health system, the education system, the pension system and what is left of the roads we drive on and everything else for which different levels of government are responsible.

So after this winter of despair, what is happening in the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) that is good?

What good activities that

have maintained us so well for so long continue to do so? Everything is in pretty good shape.

It is safe to say some seniors may have returned to work of necessity, but by and large, most of us are secure enough, even though assets have diminished in value for some.

Special and novel events as always gather interested attention for a while, pending the appearance of the next event.

Novel events appear intermittently and while we always need special events, we need the regular activities also. The activities that are able to continue are the foundation on which all else stands.

So the regular activities rule the roost, and they rule because they have provided entertainment endlessly for years and probably will continue to do so.

Some of the activities that offer a little exercise include badminton, table tennis, pickle ball and carpet bowling.

Snooker and billiards require players to stroll around the game table, and difficult shots require players to contort and stretch their bodies way beyond what bodies were designed for.

The Older Adult Centre Association of Ontario [OACAO], which is quite a mouthful for older adults, met for three days in Barrie last year for the 35th annual provincial meeting.

The ASA participated with representation from Charles Sequeira, Virginia Bodnar, Ruth Church and Lydia Schuster.

The agenda for the three days was busy, with meetings

and seminars scheduled constantly.

It is difficult to assimilate all of the information presented at such meetings, but experience teaches participants to focus on what is useful and applicable to their organizations.

Utilizing libraries to supply information to seniors, including distribution of the popular ASA newsletter caught my attention.

A workshop focused on sensitive life topics such as arranging care for aging parents was relevant, and in brief, was addressed with the advice to start talking about ongoing care when the time comes and to address any problems as they arise.

The information acquired by our ASA directors at this annual provincial meeting has been absorbed by them and will be considered in depth.

With the passage of time, fertile ASA minds may launch new initiatives to take root, develop and bear the fruit of an improved prosperity in senior affairs.

The coming together of so many experienced and caring seniors sharing knowledge and real life skills must promote and advance techniques well suited to difficult situations.

I can say from my experience in the ASA that ideas and initiatives are like seeds planted by nature that spring up unexpectedly wherever a promising place and time provide success.

New ideas are a constant surprise, which is a huge element of the attraction and pleasure as the new initiative bears fruit.



Guest speaker Severn Cullis-Suzuki, right, addresses a crowd of youth last week at the Aurora municipal building as part of the annual Ecological Action Conference. About 300 turned up for the day-long conference that featured eight workshops. Severn, the daughter of popular environmentalist David Suzuki, has been active in environmental and social justice work since she was in Kindergarten. With Grade 5 friends, she started the Environmental Children's Organization, which is committed to teaching others about environmental issues. Currently, she sits on the BC Citizen's Conservation Council on Climate Change and on the board of the David Suzuki Foundation.

Auroran photos
by David Falconer



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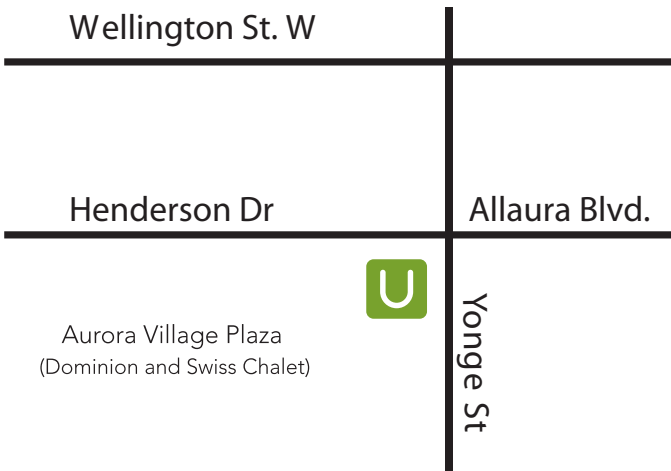
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