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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 10 905-727-3300 **auroran.com**

FREE Week of December 22, 2009

Black out, Liberals back to square one

Former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Newmarket Councillor Chris Emanuel are spending the Holiday season weighing their

options now that King Township Mayor Margaret Black has stepped aside as Liberal candidate in the federal riding of

Newmarket-Aurora. Mayor Black decided to run for re-election as mayor December 1. She said she made her decision after seeing what lay ahead for King in the year ahead.

"On November 30, there were a couple of applications before us and I thought they needed strong leadership," she said. "I realized my heart is in King, my passion for life is in King and I believe King really needs me at this time. There is much to do and it's where I should be."

While Mayor Black said she has always been fascinated by federal politics, she said local issues are what are really important to her.

"I think at the local level we're really dealing with issues that affect people's lives, their quality of life and will really have an impact," she said. "At this point I can't see changing from being a local politician."

Mayor Black's decision leaves the door open for others to seek the

Please see page 3



Fourteen-year-old Cody Mulhern of Aurora carries the Olympic Torch through the Yonge and Wellington Streets intersection Friday, cheered by hundreds of students and other onlookers.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

14-year-old student

Aurora resident carries the torch

The excitement was evident on the faces of more than 100 students Friday as 14-year-old Aurora resident Cody Mulhern approached Yonge and Wellington proudly holding the Olympic Torch.

Mulhern was chosen to carry the flame through Aurora after entering SOGO Active, a fitness challenge sponsored by Coca-Cola.

"It was pretty amazing having a chance to carry it," he said. "It really meant a lot to me. I was really proud to

be able to hold a part of the Olympics."

Mulhern was one of several people to carry the torch on the Aurora leg of its winding coast-to-coast journey through Canada.

He was cheered on by countless students, teachers, and parents who descended upon the intersection to experience Olympic magic first hand.

While large contingents of students and teachers came from nearby schools, some parents took their chil-

Please see page 15

Briefly

A week off

The Auroran will take a week off between Christmas and New Year's to give its overworked employees a chance to take a deep breath and prepare themselves for the newspaper's 10th year of operation in 2010.

There will be no paper December 29. The next issue of The Auroran will come to you January 5.

Pay as you play

The Auroran has learned that the Highland Gate Golf Club, once known as the Aurora Highlands, will be accessible for limited daily-fee play while continuing to offer ClubLink Silver-level memberships.

The new membership fee will be \$5,000.

Introduction of the daily-fee option will not affect Highland Gate's traditional member amenities such as priority access to tee times, inter-club competitions or men's and ladies' nights.

Details are available by calling a membership consultant at 1-800-661-1818.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a cappella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Firehall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a cappella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group sings about love, friendship, family, humour and brotherhood and meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Firehall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket .

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves home-made soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. weekly.

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.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day

Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three 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 on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings 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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

The annual Aurora Family First Night Event begins this evening at 6 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m. at The Aurora Family Leisure Complex, 135 Industrial Parkway North. Included in the activities are sleigh rides (snow willing), a bonfire, free swimming and skating, a sing along, craft making, skills games and magic and reptile shows. First Night is free of charge to the public. For more information contact the Special Events Office at 905-726-4762.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

Happy New Year.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

Aurora Film Circuit presents "An Education". In 1960s London, a beautiful and accomplished schoolgirl becomes involved in a relationship with a charming older man. He's worldly, drives a sports car, makes her laugh – even her parents are won over. But is he all he seems to be? What will happen to her long-sought plan to attend Oxford? This is the story of one young woman's coming of age, but it is also the story of the age that produced the young woman. Carey Mulligan is in the lead role of Jenny. Tickets at \$10 are available at R&R Used Books and the library.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13

Aurora Public Library invites you to an informal discussion forum, re. today's economy, with Roger Strong. Why the old rules may not apply; How to treat your RRSP and your debt. Mr. Strong has been in risk analysis, finance, investment and macro economics for more than 30 years. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Free. Admission restricted to those 18 and over. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk

or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Service Canada, presents a free seminar on Retirement Pension, Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement. 7 to 8 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with community agencies, presents five monthly parenting workshops between January and May, 2010. Each month will focus on a different topic geared to different ages. Register for one or all. Free. 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or phone 905-727-9493 option 4.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Ontario Early Years, presents 'Beyond Bedtime Stories'. Learn how everyday interactions at meals, in the bath, and playing on the floor can be springboards to literacy success. For parents and/or caregivers of children up to six years old. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Picture Perfect: The Story of Black's Photography. Aurora Public Library hosts this book event. Meet Aurora author Marnie Maguire, and learn about one of Canada's most successful home-grown businesses. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

The Dr. G W Williams Students' Council will host the second annual Spring Rummage Sale again next year. Stay tuned for details.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Councillor Evelyn Buck



"It was great to see so many out this year getting
into the spirit of the Santa Parade".

From my family to yours, we wish you a happy, enjoyable
and most importantly, safe holiday season.

The very best to all in 2010!

Evelyn

www.evelynbuck.com



Eleven-year-old members of the Aurora Minor Peewee AE Tiger hockey team do more than play hockey. Last week, they delivered the results of a food drive held at all their home games during the month of November and early December. Also, to help the Aurora Food Pantry this year, each player committed to sell reusable bags at a cost of \$2 each. With the money collected from the food drive and the bag sale, the players then went shopping at No Frills in Aurora, and delivered the results to the Aurora Food Pantry, above, last week.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Open space land may be developed

Aurora councillors have approved a plan in principle to develop town land west of Leslie Street, just north of Wellington, but zoning requirements could make this a difficult undertaking.

The plan, put forth by Chak Wai Cheng and Kathy Cheng calls for a commercial/office development on the land located at 15286 and 15306 Leslie Street.

The development would consist of four buildings and room for 450 parking spaces below and at grade.

The current designation of the land as "linear and other open space lands", but does not allow for commercial development.

"A site specific re-designation to 'Community Commercial' is being sought in order to remove the institutional policies which are no longer necessary as these lands have been deemed surplus lands," read the official report presented to a planning meeting last week.

The Town has also undertaken an environmental impact study to examine the proposal as it requires the removal of woodland on the property.

According to the report, the study concluded the land in question "does not sustain provincially or regionally rare

species... dominated by non-native planted species."

Less than half a hectare of marshland will be lost with this development, but "without development, functions characteristic of wetland habitat are liable to be lost".

The report also stated this wetland is neither provincially significant nor is it a habitat for "sensitive species."

"I think everyone was essentially satisfied with the conclusions and recommendations of that which was spelled out in our report," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning and Development Services.

Councillors voted unanimously to approve the application in principle following the public planning meeting.

"There were a number of landowners who spoke (at the

meeting)," said Mr. Ramunno. "(There were) three landowners abutting the subject lands, none of whom had an objection to the application.

They were hoping that when a future site plan came in they would be involved."

Mr. Ramunno said these landowners expressed concern about public landscaping in the area, as well as servicing plans, "and those are technical reports that are required for the site plan stage."

Councillors have directed staff to report back to them in January with a follow-up report for the official plan amendment for zoning and to work with the applicants when they come forward with a formal site plan.

This would require a report to council "sometime in the next year," Mr. Ramunno said.

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Candidate drops from race

From page 1
local Liberal nomination.

Mr. Jones and Councillor Emanuel both sought the nomination earlier this year.

Mr. Jones bowed out of the race in June, throwing his support behind Mayor Black, while Councillor Emanuel withdrew his name at the end of July.

Mayor Black officially won the nomination August 12.

In the wake of her decision, however, neither Mr. Jones nor Councillor Emanuel would rule out seeking the now vacant nomination.

"I'm as surprised at this (as anybody)," said Mr. Jones regarding the decision. "Given how everything evolved to get us to where we are today I'm not prepared to do anything but ponder the whole thing over Christmas and perhaps talk to the usual cast of characters to see what is best for the party going ahead."

This was a sentiment shared by Councillor Emanuel.

"I'm still keen on the idea and people are still approaching me to do it," he said. "I am going to talk with my supporters and friends, but I was in it before and obviously I'm going to give it consideration again."

Councillor Emanuel said he believes there are still "winning conditions" for the Liberals in Newmarket-Aurora, citing frustration with Canada's involvement in Afghanistan and lagging employment rates.

Despite withdrawing his name from the race to support Mayor Black, Mr. Jones said, however, he has no regrets over his decision.

"I did what I thought was best for the party and best

going forward," he said. "The decision was a good one for the time and I think Margaret would have been an excellent MP. Now that she's not running, now we just have to find another excellent MP."

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Was there ever a “Toronto #1”?

Something’s been bothering me. If the first locomotive built in Canada was called “Toronto No. 2” was there ever a “Toronto No. 1”? That locomotive brought the first passenger train (four cars) to Machell’s Corners (you know it better as Aurora these days) in 1853. It was a big one, that locomotive. According to my research - which of course, has been extensive - the locomotive was built by the James Good Foundry in Toronto. It pulled carriages on the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad, better known then as the Oats, Straw and Hay Railway, first to Aurora, then to Bradford and finally to Collingwood. The black locomotive was a big, iron beauty. Constructed to be rugged and sturdy, the Toronto Number 2 Locomotive was the first railroad engine built in Canada. This information comes from a writer named Susanna McLeod, who penned it in 2008. I have shamelessly stolen it from the internet.

The locomotive was heavy, weighing in at 25 tons. According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, the engine was a 4-4-0, meaning it had four driving wheels and four smaller front wheels, and no rear truck. The engineer's cabin had several large windows and a front-row view of the huge funnel-shaped stack billowing gray smoke. Behind the cabin, a tender stored the fuel and water to feed the fire box and heat the boiler. Fresh out of the foundry April 16th, 1853, the Toronto No. 2 “was rolled on temporary wood rails along Queen and York Streets to the permanent track at Front Street,” stated the North American Railway Hall of Fame. A month later, the locomotive was pulling its passenger coaches along a short rail line to Machell's Corners. The route eventually lengthened to 94 miles one way, saving riders from a three-week ship voyage through the lakes. Over three years, the foundry produced 21 locomotive engines, nine of them for the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad at a cost of approximately \$5,000 each, wrote George Graham Maines in A Dictionary of Canadian Biography. The Canadian-made Toronto No. 2 engine was capable of hauling heavy loads and was much better equipped to withstand drastic climate changes. As locomotive designs progressed to larger machines powered by electricity and diesel, the Toronto No. 2 and its equals gradually disappeared from the rails. So, is that the bell from the Toronto 2, sitting proudly in front of Aurora's historic railway station today? Not likely, but no one has offered proof that it isn't! Thursday night, my wife and I visited the home of Earle Lepofsky, who has a basement full of model railroad stuff. I gave him the photograph that appeared in last week's Auroran, a model of the Toronto 2 locomotive. In return, he gave me a battery-operated model railway, shown in the photo below. The youngster with me, who enjoyed putting the railway together more than I did, I think, is granddaughter Mikayla Stade.



This group of youngsters made up the Royal Canadian Army Cadet marching band in 1958-59. Students of Aurora District High School, better known today as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, this shot was taken in the school gymnasium and was provided to us by Brian Knowles. If Brian is in the picture, we can't find him. See anyone you know? Or, are you in the picture?

Letters to the Editor

A collection you could own

To the editor,

When I say there is nothing I enjoy more than Friday night at the movies I'm not talking about any ordinary movie and I'm not talking small. I own what is probably the largest amateur collection of B-Western movies, especially Gene Autry horse operas. I began collecting 36 years ago and have already amassed more than 1,000 films including 92 of the 93 flicks which Gene Autry sang and galloped his horse Champion from 1934 to 1953. These Cowboy and Indian movies are what drew kids by the millions to the Saturday afternoon matinees in the late 30's and 40's for only 10 cents for an afternoon of great fun and wonder. I first went to see Autry in theatres in Ottawa, Sutton and Aurora where I grew up. Now 71, I remember Gene as someone a kid could look up to. The good guys wore white hats and the bad guys wore black hats. Today you can't tell the good guys from the bad. In those days the kids knew who their heroes were. It was make believe, sure, but it was fun. Gene's movies had some singing, a good simple story line, a fair amount of action and not too much violence. Part of the fun of watching these old B-Westerns is to recognize the mistakes that were made, because the B-Westerns were made with such low budgets, they were sometimes shot in two weeks and many of the errors were left in. My library contains Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, Tom Mix, Ken Maynard, Tim McCoy, Harry Carey, Hoot Gibson, Charles Starrett (the Durango Kid), Johnny Mack Brown, Don Red Barry, Rod Cameron (a Canadian), Buster Crabbe,

Wild Bill Elliott (I'm just a peaceable man), Tim Holt, Buck Jones, Allen Rockey Lane, Lash LaRue, Audie Murphy, Randolph Scott, Bob Steele, John Wayne, The Texas Rangers, Trail Blazers, The Range Busters and many more. Aside from the western cowboy films, my library also contains many serials (212 at last count). Remember how you went back each week to see another chapter. All week you and your friends would be coming up with all kinds of ideas as to what would happen next. Smiley Burnette was Autry's comic sidekick and Pat Buttram played the best pal role except the role of Champion who was always Gene's best pal. But despite my enthusiasm, I am the first to admit the day of the B-Western is over. They really died in the late 50's when television became so popular. It got to the point where the times were changing and the way the movies were made was changing also. So I collected all Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Hopalong Cassidy half-hour T.V. shows. Also in my collections are "B" Mysteries, with Charlie Chan, Mr. Moto, Boston Blackie, Dick Tracy, Falcon, The Saint, The Thin Man, Michael Shane, The Whistler, Philo Vance, The Lone Wolf, Nick Carter, Bulldog Drummond, Nancy Drew, Alfred Hitchcock, Shirley Temple, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, Lucille Ball, and old rare films such as all the Tarzan movies with Johnny Weismuller plus other Tarzans; all the Blondie and Dagwood movies and posters; Bud Abbott and Lou Costello movies and posters; Dead End Kids, Dead End Kids and Little Tough Guys, East Side Kids Primer, Bowery Boys, all the Three

Stooges and little Rascals; all store bought Disney goes with collection; Ma and Pa Kettle, Charlie Chan, Laurel and Hardy, Marx Brothers, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Red Skelton, Ester Williams and all the Honeymooners. I started with 16 mm film to super 8mm film then to Beta to VHS to super VHS. and now I'm too tired to go to DVD. I also have hundreds of books on Westerns and the movies they made in addition to many autographs, pictures, lobby cards and inserts, all framed. I also have records from the 30's - 40's - 50's - 60's - 70's - 80's; TV guides from the 90's to end in 2003; and trading cards. If you are interested you can bid on the entire collection starting at \$15,000 of which I will donate 25 per cent to Southlake Hospital. This is from one collector to another collector

For more information, call me at 905-727-9829. Ron Cundell Kettleby Reader hopes school project becomes annual To the editor, The students and staff at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School served dinner to a number of families last Thursday. They arranged a visit from Santa, gifts for the children, a cooked meal, food baskets prizes and entertainment. I believe it is their first event of this type, and was very successful. Here's hoping they make it an annual event. Bill Hack Aurora

THE AURORAN

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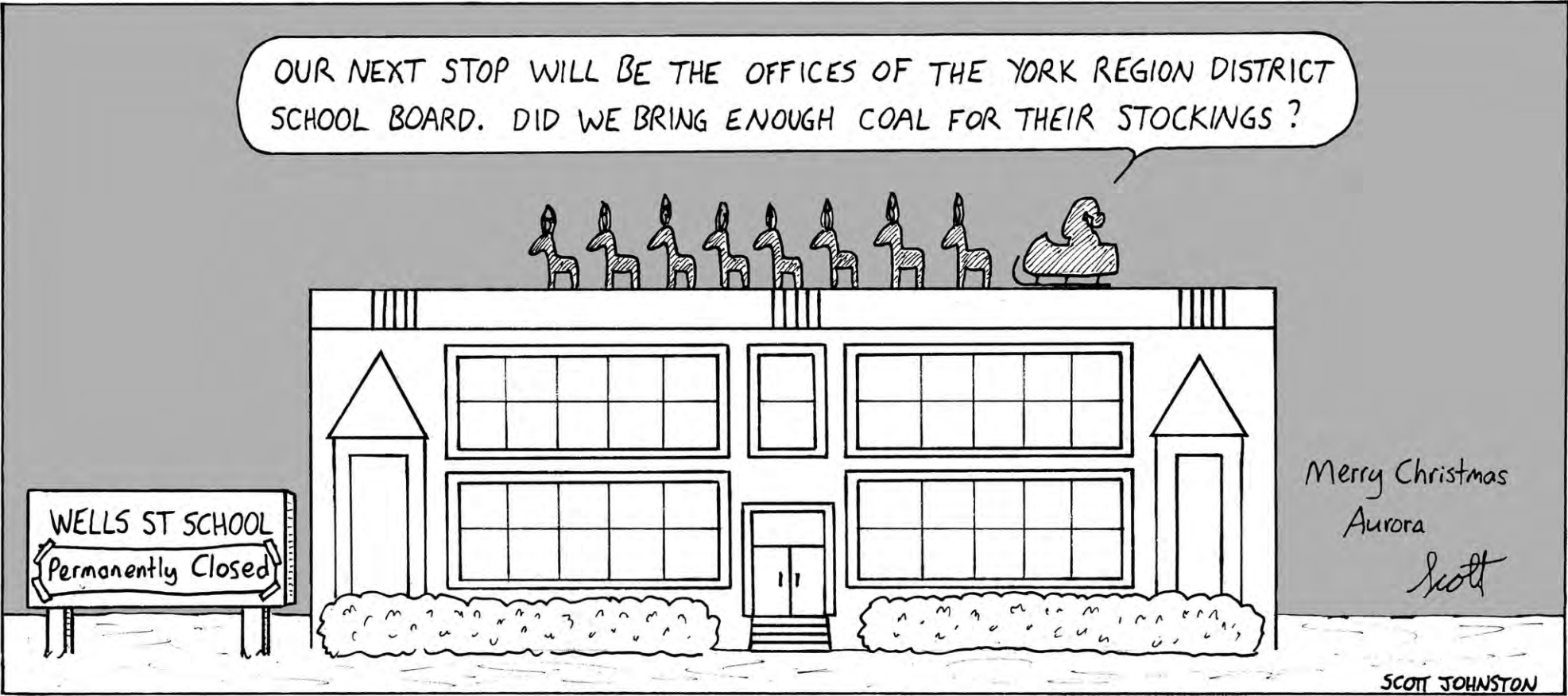
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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial Ron Wallace ron@auroran.com	Production Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com
Photography David Falconer dfalconer@sympatico.ca	Main Number 905-727-3300
Advertising Bob Ince bob@auroran.com	Classifieds 905-727-7128 classifieds@auroran.com
Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com	Facsimile Machine 905-727-2620
Trish Miller-Kostin trish@auroran.com	Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Aurora Christmas lights

Let's take a break this week and temporarily put aside the goings on at Town Council, all the talk of ward systems, term limits, and extra seats on York Region Council, and instead, let's consider something else - the wonderful Christmas lights on Aurora homes.

This is my third year undertaking this grand adventure on your behalf.

I was going to rather modestly call this sightseeing expedition the "Stephen Somerville Fantastically Grand Tour of Aurora Home Christmas Lights III" or "SSFGTAHCLIII" for short.

Unlike the other tours, this one would not cost you anything.

Mind you, donations would be (and always are) welcome to the "Please Give Somerville a new 2010 350 HP Corvette Fund."

The focus of this intended column has changed a few times over the past week.

My 12-year-old nephew Brock, my nine-year-old nephew Devan, and my soon to be six years old son, Ryan, and I were going to offer the readers a guided tour of Christmas lights throughout Aurora.

Then we decided to pick out just a few streets from each quadrant of the Town, but now this column has evolved to just picking out, not the best light displays, as there is too many to choose from, but what we found interesting, or out of the ordinary.

It didn't have to be the best, the most expensive or the most ostentatious display of electrical creativity known to man; it simply had to catch our eye.

My trusty scribes and I went out last Wednesday night, prior to

the Leaf game, so that we wouldn't become depressed listening to the play-by-play as we completed our work.

We drove around for just under an hour. The route we took was bounded by Kennedy Street to the south, Bathurst to the west, Yonge to the east and on the north side of St. John's Sideroad in the Brentwood subdivision.

I kindly suggest doing this tour just after 8 p.m. - when it is dark but not too late that people will have turned off their lights, or worse off the police may think you are casing people's homes.

Make sure to stop by your favourite coffee shop before you proceed.

Bring the kiddies along as well.

Then turn on some Christmas music in the car and settle in for your drive through the Aurora streets.

Here are some things that caught our eye on the tour, but it is not a Top 10 list by any means.

My nephew Brock really liked the huge Christmas tree on the northwest corner of Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad.

In the small Brentwood subdivision just north of St. John's and near Bathurst Street, a number of houses on Joseph Tuck Ct, just off of Woodlands Hills Blvd. are very well done, with the lights on one home in particular standing out.

Just south of St. John's, near Bathurst, on Lenarthur Ct, is one house in particular, with a snowman and Santa and his sled.

Off Orchard Heights, on Meadowwood Drive near Chadburn, is a home with a number of candy cane lights near the driveway, supported by a generous amount of Christmas lights on the windows

augmented by a ground based spotlight; a real masterpiece.

The red and yellow lights on the home at the corner of Crawford Rose Drive and Aurora Heights Drive were very impressive.

So were the lights on a number of the homes on Kennedy Street West, near George Street!

My nephew Devan especially liked the colourful lights on the house at Cedar Crescent, near Mark Street.

The boys and I agreed that our favourite site - again this year - was at the corner of Bigwin Drive and Devins Drive.

The house had everything;

They had an inflated Santa coming out of a roof; and a large snow globe with a life-size Santa inside.

There were a number of large lighted candy canes on the lawn, while the house was adorned with blue and gold lights.

And I must not forget the plastic snowman and polar bear that stood guard at either end of the property.

Well done!

Please stop by and have a look for yourself if you get a chance.

I apologize for not visiting all parts of Aurora, but I wasn't about to keep the boys out too late - it was after all, a school night!

My sympathies to those of you who have laboured over your lights and spent countless dollars and hours chasing perfection.

Please mail any complaints of omission, in triplicate, to both Mayor Phyllis Morris and the editor of this paper.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

'Twas The Night Before Christmas 2009

'Twas the night before Christmas, and at the North Pole
Elves readied the big sleigh for its annual role
Meanwhile Santa was busy, with choices he had
As he tried to decide who was good and was bad

It was kind of last minute, and much was to do
But he hoped this would take, but a moment or two
So his notes he reviewed, to see if 'twas clear
Of who most deserved gifts in Aurora this year.

Residents he had sorted, the night before this
Just staffers and councillors, weren't set in his list
He considered at first, the names of town staff
And he smiled as he read them, and started to laugh

While they had run great events, no fame did they seek,
And they dealt with report backs, from council each week
While turnover was high in their ranks this session
Staffers' status as "good", was never in question

Santa put a big checkmark beside all the text
Then turned to consider, the council page next
As he read through his notes, his eyes went quite wide
At reminders of chaos on the political side

From Open Forum statements, allowed by the Chair
Civility had headed straight downhill from there
Accusations kept flying, dysfunction the theme
The only winners here were the lawyers, it seemed

Points of order kept clogging most council meetings
Moments of unity were increasingly fleeting
And who would have thought that when winds of
change would blow
The new Integrity guy'd be the first one to go

Confusion spilled into town recreation,
A two million buck ball field, brought consternation
As for existing venues, calm waters? No luck
With public fights o'er pool time, 'tween Selkies and Ducks

Some long delayed decisions, just didn't seem right
Why'd it take three years to fund, Mosaic's three lights?
While over Petch House's future, council debated
And the end of train whistles? Those folks still waited

But there were some rays of hope, for council to show
Business prospects were up, but taxes less so

And while for old Wells Street School, the future was
grave
There was still a small chance that it just might be
saved

Although council divisions were currently wide
Santa Claus steered clear of political sides
If Aurorans want changes, he thought with reflection
They'll have their own chance in next year's election

He leaned back in his chair, with a far away look
And sighing he closed up his naughty/nice book
Overall in that small town, it'd been quite a year
Which of them would get presents, was not always clear

Most folks had in Aurora, been good without doubt
But for some others, he thought, the jury's still out
Since they could go either way, I won't make a stance
But flip a coin when I get there, and leave it to chance

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

He'll pay \$580 more with HST added

To the editor,

The message is getting through, HST will add 8 per cent to the many services that we currently don't pay.

My bills will go up by \$60/year on cable, \$48/year on gasoline, net gas bill/service charges will add another \$155/year, and my electrical bill will

go up by \$56/year.

There are other services I have not included, but you can see our costs will go up by at least \$580/year.

On the other hand, our Federal Government will increase our State Pensions by a mere \$300/year. We will be a heck of a lot poorer, but pensioners and low wage

earners will really suffer under this half baked Provincial Government.

The average wage increase in Ontario for 2009 will be around 2.69 per cent, according to the Hewitt survey.

On the positive side, the latest consumer price index (CPI) in Ontario from October 2008 to October 2009 was 0.2 per cent.

Canadians already receiving CPP benefits as of December 2009 will see their benefits increase by 0.4 per cent on January 1, 2010 (that's about \$25 per month, while OAS will remain unchanged).

Now to add insult to injury, our Aurora Council are considering a budget that will add an average of \$30 to our local taxes.

Where does all this end?

Sure there are lots of people who couldn't care less, but there are many others who do care.

Why can't Town Councils keep their budget within the level of inflation?

Don't think this HST fight is a lost cause; the Manitoba Provincial

Government has, this week, said "no" to the HST.

They concluded that the HST could put the province's economic recovery at risk, increase the provincial deficit, which are opposed by many businesses - particularly small businesses, and would impose millions in new costs on consumers.

Think about harmonizing with a lower Provincial tax (say five per cent), that would neutralize the impact.

Anything more is a TAX GRAB!

Please don't ignore this HST tax hike: write and complain.

It does affect everyone and if you can afford to throw away \$580/year (after income tax) from your household budget, then give it to the needy.

Otherwise, write to d m c g u i n - ty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org and complain about it.

Why can't public enjoy wetland, he asks

To the editor,

Re: the Nokiidaa Trail.

I read with interest the belief of the N.A.A.C.S.I. recited in the letter to The Auroran of December 1, regarding denial of public access to the wetlands via the Nokiidaa trail and concluded, "what a load of codswallop!" as the British say.

I automatically distrust anything with a string of initials - prejudice I know.

I also distrust any group that appoints itself "as stewards of our local land, air, water, our communities and our children's future".

It managed to include the Aboriginal Canadians but, unfortunately, motherhood and apple pie were left out - a sad omission.

Presumably, the community and probably others, paid for the preservation of the wetlands which, no doubt, is money well spent.

But why should we not enjoy the fruits of our spending?

A walk through the wetlands would be most enjoyable, both for the spiritual ambiance and the opportunity to see nature in the raw -

otherwise we would have to hop on a plane to darkest Africa or maybe whitest Arctic or does the NAACSI frown on this also?

I don't doubt that as we stroll along the boardwalk we may drop a Coke can or a McDonald's wrapper but these would be easily retrieved.

This would be a very productive self-appointed task

for the NAACSI and I'm sure the wildlife would appreciate it.

The presence of humans is not necessarily a deterrent to wildlife.

In fact, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and deer love us, not to mention seagulls and Canada Geese.

The NAACSI should get a life and let us get on with ours without interference from yet another many lettered "do gooder" group.

William Duthie
Aurora

Robert Grattage
Aurora

Two programs very successful

To the editor,

As the year comes to a close and the holidays are upon us, we wish to express our warmth and gratitude to everyone who made the "Step in Time" and "B.U.L.L.I.E.S." projects a success.

The 2009 "Aurora Spirit Walk" was a vision designed to honour and raise aware-

ness of a wonderful young Autistic gentleman who passed entirely too soon.

I learned more from this young man who said not a word, than some who have said too much.

He will be sadly missed however his memory raised almost \$1,500 for our community including Kerry's Place Autism Services, The Aurora Food Pantry and

Youth for Youth.

The increased funds were raised from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and the sponsors' monies we decided to put back into the community.

To the many who attended, the sponsors (Aurora Custom Mouldings, Toscana Bakery & Sparkle Pharmacy) and the marketing people of Ron Wallace at

The Auroran and Electric Spagetti, we could not have made this successful without your caring.

Next year we plan to spook many more from miles around and bring more community together.

We are also continuing our goal to provide fresh produce to the Aurora Food Pantry and have not stopped even though the Aurora Farmers' Market has closed for the winter.

Calderones Produce at 255 Industrial Parkway South have agreed to assist us with as much locally grown produce as possible.

If you wish to purchase something fresh we will deliver it each Saturday morning.

We wish you a sensational and safe Holiday and in the spirit of giving, next year will be a Ten (2010).

The Team and Dave Heard
"A Step in Time"
"B.U.L.L.I.E.S."
Aurora

Legion scores again with Christmas lunch

To the editor,

Once again I send out kudos to the Aurora Legion Branch #385.

On Thursday they put on another amazing lunch for what seemed like between 300 and 400 people including more than 40 veterans.

The food, as usual was fantastic, and the service was great.

It is so great to see so many friends show up for this annual event.

Thanks especially to Len, Ian, Carlos, Bob and

the many ladies of the Auxillary, plus many others who go to so much work to make this event a yearly success.

For anyone in Aurora who is not sure what they are doing for New Year's Eve, please take a look at the New Years Eve Party at the Legion.

The price for two people for a great night with a disc jockey is only \$125.

That includes a buffet plus all you can drink, noisemakers and balloons at midnight.

For anyone living in Aurora the price also includes a ride home in a bus.

Young and old always have a great time.

Call Carlos at the Legion to reserve your tickets.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

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A Child's Christmas Vision

To the editor,

The journey we are on is that of flight and birds
We soar high to crest if passion is in our words.

So curl up on Christmas like that of our friend Dog
Not a worry in front of fireplace and the crackle of a log.

Let your heart purr friendly as a playful calico cat
Curled up and warm like your favourite knitted hat.

A warm drink to cuddle the heart as that of chocolate
Candles burning bright on mantle each one gently lit.

Time to turn in, dream of Santa, and no I am not bananas
He really exists, if you really believe, so put on your
comfy pajamas.

Happy Holidays from a big kid
Dave Heard
Aurora

Feature useless from Bell: reader

To the editor,

Bell doesn't have a clue.
I got a call recently, which was a recording, about my credit card accounts.

It's a scam or a sales play or whatever.

I hung up.

But this time, I used the Bell's last caller feature, which costs me \$1.50 to get the last incoming phone number, if it is listed.

I did that, so I could report the number to Bell.

The recording gave me an area code and number that doesn't even exist.

Ryan from Bell customer service in Thunder Bay, told me

that Bell has no control over what numbers they are given or if they are valid numbers.

I could, Ryan suggested, report the number to the local police.

Now, why would I call the police with a fictitious number?

Bell were not obliged to remove this charge from my account.

I was, however, offered a range of plans other than the one I currently have, which would give me this last number feature for free.

Whopeeee.

Bill Hack
Aurora

Reader says thanks to runners, students

To the editor,

On Friday morning, Aurora was lucky enough to host the Olympic Torch as it made its way to Vancouver for the first opening ceremonies to be held in Canada since 1988.

I wanted to first congratulate all of the runners who took part.

I wanted also to congratulate

all of the teachers and parents who were able to bring Aurora's young people to the event, giving them the ability to be a part of the Olympic tradition and to see first hand the Olympic values of friendship, excellence and respect.

Paul Pirri
Aurora

Info incorrect: mayor

To the editor,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to a letter to the editor, submitted by Councillor Evelyn Buck which appeared in last week's issue of The Auroran.

In that letter, it is alleged that the Town's Chief Administrative Officer acted without authority in appointing the Town's Director of

She's grateful to landowner

To the editor,

This is the first "letter to the editor" I have ever written, but I am compelled to ask The Auroran to express my appreciation and gratitude for the beautiful, giant, lit Christmas tree prominently displayed at the northwest corner of St. John's Sideroad and Yonge Street.

Corporate & Financial Services.

That information is incorrect.

The Town's Chief Administrative Officer acted in accordance with the Town Council adopted Staff Recruitment & Selection Policy and a council directive.

Phyllis Morris
Mayor of Aurora

It even has a golden star on the top!

I have driven by this intersection for more than 30 years and I am so appreciative of the cheerful message of the Season that this property owner has so generously shared with all.

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Santa called
and asked if you've been naughty or nice.

Good thing for lawyer-client privilege.

*Season's Greetings from all of us at
Laurion Law Office*

Aurora slides into fifth place tie

What the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey teams needs is more games played away from the Aurora Community Centre.

In four away games played last week, Tigers collected four wins, or eight points, and moved into a fifth place tie in the standings.

Coach Paul Hampton said "all I want for Christmas is a bunch of two pointers", so he has to be very happy with last week's gift.

The Tigers spent a gruelling weekend travelling to Orillia, Brampton and Trenton for three important road games in the space of 48 hours and capped off the weekend with a full six points by beating the Golden Hawks 6-3 in Trenton Sunday afternoon.

Last Monday, they travelled to Buffalo and handed the Junior Sabres a 5-3 loss, thanks to an empty net goal with only seconds remaining in regulation time.

Aurora played nine games in December and captured 17 of a possible 18 points to vault from tenth in league standings to fifth and trailing fourth place by only a single point.

Sunday afternoon, the Tigers were pinned in their own end for the first couple of minutes of the game as Trenton poured on the pressure early.

However Curtis Black kept Aurora even until the Tigers finally got it going when captain David Morley put Aurora ahead 1-0.

Two and a half minutes later the Hawks solved Black to bring the teams even.

Morley then added to his scoring race by firing through a crowd to beat the Hawks goalie high to the far side just before the halfway mark of the period.

The Tigers held the lead for the remainder of the period. With less than a second left, Mark Ramkema scored.

The second started well for the Tigers again as Nick Vangog started his first hat trick of the season by scoring on a power play with under two minutes gone in the period.

Trenton then found a way to get it going as they beat Black for two more with just over 12 minutes gone in the period.

Vangog then got his second of the period to restore the Tigers two-goal lead.

Trenton poured everything they could at the Tigers but couldn't beat Black. The Tigers

showed significant fortitude when they had to kill a five-on-three for 90 seconds with three minutes left in the game.

With the Hawks net empty for an extra attacker, Vangog completed the trick as he put the puck in to make the final 6-3.

Last Monday, the Tigers travelled across the border to play the Buffalo Jr. Sabres at the HSBC Centre.

Both teams had their challenges with odd-man situations on the night, but the Tigers prevailed on the big ice to defeat the Sabres 5-3.

The Tigers started the game on a powerplay when Buffalo was penalized for having too many men on the ice to pick up the pucks following the warup.

Apparently two is the acceptable number to remain.

Whether that set a tone for the officials with the players is hard to tell, but two Tigers went to the box on different occasions due to their mouths - not their play - leaving Aurora to kill 5-on-3 penalty situations.

Buffalo opened the scoring on a two-man advantage power play just past the six-minute mark of the period.

They held their lead for another seven minutes before David Morley and Lucas VanNatter combined again to even the score.

Three minutes later, Andrew Secco's clearing pass bounced nicely to George Lovatsis who went in two-on-one with Nick Vangog.

Lovatsis took the puck wide and then fed Vangog who made no mistake.

With just over three minutes left in the period, Lovatsis picked up an Alexi Pianosi rebound and scored to give Aurora a two-goal advantage.

Within the first minute of the third period, Mark Ramkema scored the eventual game winner. However, the Sabres then started to creep back into the game.

They scored on another two-man advantage with just over seven minutes gone in the period. Less than two minutes later the Sabres were within one as they scored their third powerplay of the night with more than ten minutes left to play.

With a minute left and a faceoff in the Tigers zone, the Sabres pulled their goalie.

Pianosi fired a wrist shot

from his goal line right into the heart of the gaping cage to finish any chance of a Sabres comeback.

Friday night was the first of three gruelling weekend games for Aurora and they prevailed, defeating the Couchiching Terriers 6-3 in a game near Orillia.

Captain Morley scored twice and added an assist in that game, to increase his scoring lead in the individual standings.

The last time the Tigers and Bramalea Blues met, the Blues took the Tigers to a shootout and gave the Tigers their only loss in December.

This time, however, Aurora started early and kept the pressure on for most of the game to score a convincing 7-1 win at the Powerade Centre Saturday night.

Morley again led the charge with his first hat trick of the year, and his line of VanNatter and Michael Sardella had a 12-point night, accounting for six of the Tigers seven goals.

Aurora started early when Pianosi scored.

Morley scored his first of the night under three minutes later when he stole the puck and beat a surprised Blues goalie for a short-handed marker.

Bramalea showed they weren't about to lie down, scoring their only goal of the game less than a minute later.

Morley was at it again early in the second when he combined with VanNatter and Andrew Secco during a penalty kill to break in on the Blues goalie, take a shot and then fetch his own rebound and bounce it in off the back of the goalie to restore the two-goal lead.

VanNatter then scored midway through the second.

VanNatter and Morley combined off the opening faceoff in the third to again score in the first minute of the period.

Ten minutes later Morley scored his third of the night.

Aurora got one more as Jordan Gidaro lifted the puck into the air from behind the Blues net and then scampered around to knock it into the Blues net as it landed in the

crease, to close the book on the Blues for the night.

That set the scene for Sunday afternoon's encounter in Trenton, and again Aurora rose to the occasion.

The Tigers will now break for Christmas and return to action Saturday, January 2nd in Georgetown. They're back in Aurora at the Community Centre to face Couchiching and battle for fourth place in the league standings Sunday, January 3rd.

That afternoon encounter begins at 2.30 p.m.

AURORA 5 BUFFALO 3

First period

B - Nick Melligan (Zappia, Certo) PP 6.06
A - Lucas VanNatter (unassisted) SH 12.48
A - Nick Vangog (Lovatsis, Giadaro) 15.10

Second period

A - George Lovatsis (Pianosi) 17.52

Third Period

A - Mark Ramkema (Pianosi, Sardella) PP 0.55
B - Garrett Moore (Melligan, Owczarczak) PP 7.18
B - Matt Grazen (Cassidy, Zappia) PP 8.45
A - Alexi Pianosi (Morley) EN 19.13

AURORA 6 COUCHICHING 3

First period

C - Josh Cousineau (Hall) 7.56
A - Michael Sardella (Morley, Taylor) 8.15
A - David Morley (Sardella, VanNatter) 14.54

Second period

C - Kirk Zdrilich (McLaughlin, Thornton) 1.51
A - David Morley (Sardella, Pianosi) PP 7.46
C - Kirk Zdrilich (unassisted) SH 19.42

Third period
A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Pianosi) 2.01
A - Michael Sardella (VanNatter) 12.06
A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Cerilli) 16.53

10.18
A - Jordan Gidaro (unassisted) PP 16.03

AURORA 6 TRENTON 3

First Period

AURORA 7 BRAMALEA 1

First period

A - Alexi Pianosi (VanNatter, Michael Sardella) 0.59
A - David Morley (unassisted) SH 3.44
B - Derek Weil (Gard, O'Neill) 4.16

Second period

A - David Morley (VanNatter, Secco) SH 3.05
A - Lucas VanNatter (Sardella, Morley) 11.33

Third period

A - Lucas VanNatter (Morley) 0.30
A - David Morley (Sardella)

A - David Morley (VanNatter) 3.12
T - Taylor Pernerowski (Gehl, Haines) PP 5.46
A - David Morley (Moody) 9.45
A - Mark Ramkema (Taylor, Morley) 19.59

Second Period

A - Nick Vangog (Ramkema, Taylor) PP 1.54
T - Joe Davies (Beauchamp, Foglia) 7.10
T - Jeremy McCarty (Bouchard, Davies) PP 12.35
A - Nick Vangog (Stewart, Lovatsis) 15.05

Third Period

A - Nick Vangog (unassisted) EN 19.43

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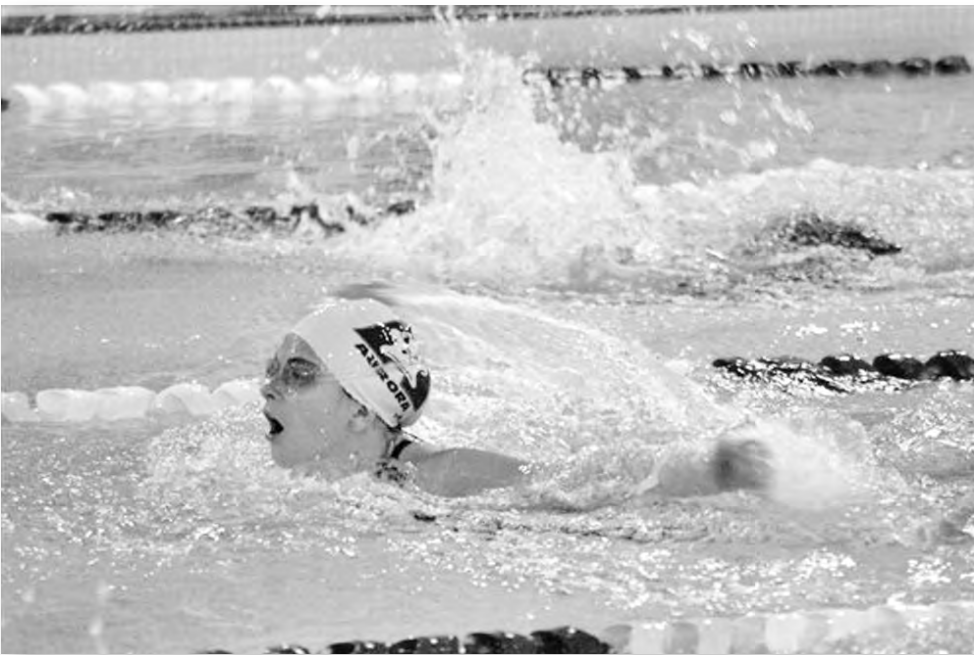
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Youngsters excel at swimming meet

Aurora's Ducks Swimming sent their youngest swimmers to Markham to participate in the Alex Baumann Invitational last week. The team was led by 10-year-old Victoria Bridges who won three

gold, one silver and one bronze medal and Grace Harris, nine, who scored a gold. Other medalists included Marcha Koren, 11, with two bronze and Kathryn Minkhorst, 13, with a bronze.

The swimmers moved up from the bottom of the entry list to many 4th, 5th, and 6th positions. Coach Reg Chappell is looking forward to the New Year when many of the young swimmers begin to win their medals.



Karina Robb, above, of the Aurora Ducks Swimming group, placed fourth in the Alex Baumann Invitational swim tournament held in Markham last week.



Aurora's newest high school iced a hockey team recently and lost the above game to Newmarket High 3-1. Tim Brochu, the coach of the new St-Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School on Wellington Street, was behind the bench when the team hosted Newmarket at the Aurora Leisure Complex. The coach said his team was tired, having just finished a one-day tournament at York University, where they ended the day with a 2-2 record, playing four games in eight hours.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Minor bantam team scores silver medal in tournament

The Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE team won a silver medal in the Annual Pittsburgh Three Rivers Cup Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament recently. This year's Minor Bantam AE team has had many changes from last season with a new coaching staff and many new players on the team. Several moved up from house league for their first taste of rep hockey. Even the returnees found themselves asked to perform a new role. For many rep hockey teams that first road trip tournament of the season marks the time when the team starts to bond. After a slow 0-7-6 start to the regular season highlighted only by six ties in a row, this team

needed to come together. After the slow start the team went 5-2-0 and headed off to Pittsburgh with a bit of a "swagger" that wasn't there at the beginning of the season. In the tournament the team came first in the round robin defeating 2 American teams of mixed minor and major bantam ages and tying the Guelph Storm who were also visiting from Canada. The Tigers fell 3-0 to the Storm in the final but despite the loss the team has returned to their OMHA regular season undaunted and hungry to win. The dressing room is "tight", the players are having fun and the team motto - "we will find a way...or make one!" - is starting to sink in.



Watch for the recent FREE draw WINNERS and New FREE DRAWS provided by theauroran.com MarketPlace businesses in the Jan. 5th, 2010 issue of THE AURORAN

Businesses in theauroran.com Marketplace will be offering thousands of dollars in FREE DRAWS. (Participants must be 18 years of age or older to enter).

EVENT Calendar

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Aurora's Lunch Lady, Micheline Farmer, second from left, and her staff pose with the Lunch Lady mascot in their industrial kitchen on Furbacher Lane, just moments before starting their daily rounds to Aurora schools.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

“Lunch Lady” feeds nourishing meals to Aurora school children

By BROCK WEIR
Auroran reporter

Micheline Farmer knew first hand how difficult it was for parents to send their children to school every morning with nutritious lunches.

Coming from a teaching background, Ms. Farmer said with consideration for allergies and the food restrictions imposed by schools, “this was something I realized parents were struggling with.”

Your kids might know Ms. Farmer as Aurora’s “Lunch Lady.”

When she moved to York Region a few years ago, she discovered her friend and financial advisor was involved in the franchising of the Lunch Lady company.

“I talked to him about it and it was just a wonderful opportunity and a great service,” she said. “I decided I would buy a franchise. The fact that I would be making lunches and nutritious food for children in schools was really attractive to me.”

The Lunch Lady company was founded in 1995 by Ruthie Burd.

Burd started the company out of her own home kitchen when her son was diagnosed with autism. She left her corporate job to work from home, and decided to instill better eating habits with her own children.

This, said Ms. Farmer, began to extend to Burd’s neighbourhood children, to her children’s schoolmates, to the point where she was making 500 lunches in her own kitchen.

“Over the years, she decided she needed to get a commercial kitchen and had to franchise because there were too many schools wanting her service.”

The Lunch Lady Group now focuses on serving fresh, hot lunches in elementary schools across Canada.

After Ms. Farmer bought her franchise, she then needed to sign area schools onto her service. While she received help and guidance from Lunch Lady’s main office, Ms. Farmer said persistence was key to getting the ball rolling.

“A lot of times we find that the schools are, and rightly so, quite suspicious and really don’t like strangers walking around their school,” she said.

Ms. Farmer attributes a lot of the inroads she has made into Aurora schools to word-of-mouth. Teachers, she said, might experience the service at one school before transferring to another and spreading the word.

Parents too, she said, have helped in this regard.

“Parents who have had our service in another school will call and invite us to talk to their new school to tell them about the program,” she said. “We then get invited to the school council meeting and talk to parent council and give them an idea of our program.”

The menu is set by Lunch Lady’s head office with a focus on nutrition.

“All of our bread products, for instance, are whole wheat products,” says Ms. Farmer. “We offer a lot of raw vegetables and fruit. We’re very cautious of sodium content in our entrees, so nothing served will have more than 1,000 mg of salt. We have no fried foods, no pop, no candy, and all of our fruit juices are unsweetened. We focus on nutrition, we focus on balance, and anything that we can put vegetables in we will!”

Menus are set on three-month cycles, and the new winter menu has about 26 different items to choose from.

Parents are able to order off a paper menu sent home with students or through the Lunch Lady website for \$4 per entrée.

When Ms. Farmer first started her franchise, she had two employees in tow. She now has

nine women in her kitchen on Furbacher Lane.

“All my employees are moms with young children,” she said. “They really enjoy the atmosphere we have here and enjoy that they’re finished their day before their children are finished school and they’re also off when the schools are closed.”

One of her employees is Cathryn Caryer-Amis who joined the Lunch Lady team in September 2008, getting back into the work force when both her kids headed back to school.

“I couldn’t justify staying home anymore,” she said. “I wanted a job that fit with my kids’ school hours. I needed to be there for the kids and I saw an ad in the paper and gasped. Then I came in and met Micheline and she’s just the best lady in the world to work for and the ladies here are really fun. We work hard but we have fun.”

She said she has delivered lunches to various schools, including Light of Christ and the

Aurora Montessori School. Working with the kids is one of the highlights of her job, she said.

“Once the kids get used to the program they love it and look forward to it,” she said. “They get really excited and it feels good.”

A typical day for the Lunch Lady employees starts the day before by printing out a list of ordered items and sorting them in preparation for the next day.

Staff arrives at 8 a.m. to prepare the kitchen and lunches are then ready for production by 9 a.m. on a makeshift assembly line.

Lunches are packaged in bags personalized for each student and the Ladies begin their deliveries to each school around 11 a.m.

Ms. Farmer’s Lunch Lady franchise currently serves Aurora and parts of Richmond Hill.

Participating schools include Aurora Grove Public School, the Aurora Montessori School and Light of Christ Catholic School.

Popular Ian Munro, 57, dies in hospital

Aurora’s Ian Munro died at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket last Monday after he suffered a heart attack.

He was 57.

Ian, an engineer by profession, was president of a local ratepayers’ group in Aurora in the mid-1980s.

He was also big in politics, being a member of the Newmarket-Aurora provincial Progressive Conservative Association board for several years.

Provincial MPP Frank Klees attended the funeral in Newmarket Thursday.

“He was a great supporter of mine,” Mr. Klees told The Auroran.

He was also well-known to Auroran columnist Stephen Somerville.

“I got to know Ian over the past number of years because our professional lives crossed paths regarding the natural gas fired peaking plant in Northern York Region,” he said. “Ian was one of the citizen members of the Ontario Power Authority’s Working Group that examined the issue.”

Mr. Munro is survived by his wife Grace.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

This column is the last for 2009, and I turn my attention to family and friends and everything that gives Christmas its special quality of good feelings.

Loved ones are always tremendously important throughout the year, and often not appreciated until they are gone or far away, which is sad; so this is the time like no other, when we display good feelings from within.

With the presents and parties and goodwill, Christmas throughout the world is composed into a wonderland of festivities that transforms it not only into a wonderful time of year, but we add it to our traditions and pass it down to those who follow us.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) celebrated its Christmas dinner recently, with the West McKenzie Hall filled with people in excellent spirits and more than ready to party.

Entertainment was provided by the Devins Drive Public School Children's Choir, and they fitted into the ASA Christmas spirit precisely.

The ASA has a first-rate billiards room, well equipped for snooker, billiards and pool.

Players in the room have offered their services to teach any of the games in the Billiard Room free of charge to any member.

Non-members are welcome also and I hope non-members and former members will find their way to the ASA and join with the present active members to stamp further excellence on this room.

Seniors who visit the ASA for the first time may request a three visit guest pass, which is free.

This offer is available only to first time visitors.

A daily charge of \$5 will apply to non-members who use the facilities at the ASA including the billiards room, but who do not qualify for a guest pass.

The coaching offer is valid Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from January 5th to 21st.

Coaches will be available by arrangement only, so please call 905-727-4767 to arrange your lesson.

The Mayor's 3rd annual High Tea was celebrated in the West McKenzie Hall last week with almost every seat occupied.

The atmosphere was gentle, thoughtful and polite as a High Tea should be.

Entertainment was by the group Soulise, followed by a the Holiday Thriller Dancers, who came out of retirement for this performance and were very entertaining.

The last to perform were three Aurora 2009 Teen Idols, young ladies who each held the attention of the audience with their beautiful singing.

They are Michaela Kostas, Courtney Field and Braedyn Kathleen Ellis who each sang solo.

Their singing was a delight and no doubt they will be in demand in the future, maybe with a career in singing.

Judy Buchanan, producer and director of the Silver Stars, ASA Christmas Celebration, must be well satisfied with the reaction of the audience to this compilation of song, story telling and two short plays presented in the West McKenzie Hall to a sold out audience recently.

The opening scene was a toy store on Christmas Eve, displayed colourfully with children's toys, and motionless amongst the toys, were a Santa Claus played by Dick Douglas, a grandmother by Lorraine Worrall, a mama doll by Virginia Bodnar, a toy soldier by Jim Edwards, and a jack in the box and a rag doll played by Zara Stuart-Jones and Betty McKenzie respectively.

They were assisted by shoppers Shirley Douglas, Margaret Walsh and Kate Jones, and together portrayed a delightfully imaginative sketch of what might have happened when the toys came to life on the night before Christmas.

Later, the married couple of Bud and Stella Switzer showed their skills as a well-matched duet singing songs of Christmas, followed by a wonderful scene composed of a story teller, narrating Christmas stories to Kate Jones.

Now it is time to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you, and to remember those who are not with us, but loved and cherished forever.



Last month Parker, 10, left, and Hunter, 7, Irwin were talking about the Aurora Food Pantry. They learned that usage was up but donations were down. Earlier this month, the boys and their mother, Jennifer, visited more than 400 houses in Aurora and delivered flyers introducing themselves and letting people know they would be back to collect whatever non-perishable food items people wanted to donate. On the return visit, they collected about 300 pounds of food. It was delivered to the Lions Club but that's not where the story ends. Monday, the boys delivered food and gifts to families in need. This could become an annual event.



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Torch arrives in Aurora

From page 2

dren out of schools for the morning to take part, while other adults said they called in sick to work.

"We're thrilled (the torch) is coming through Aurora," said Greg Rider as the torch was still off in the distance. "I think the torch run from coast to coast is something that brings Canadians together."

Christian Mettel brought his children and some of their friends to see the flame as well.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," he said. "How often do we get it right here in our hometown a kilometre away from your house?"

His daughter, Kaitlin, agreed.

"We'll probably never see this again in our town," she said.

While the excitement was palpable for many people, two activists were on the scene to protest the Vancouver Olympics, particularly events slated to be held in Whistler.

"I'm coming out today for awareness," said Heidi Stoecklin.

Stoecklin said the International Olympic Committee was asked by First

Nations groups in the Whistler area take the events elsewhere; a request, she said, that was unheeded.

She said she wanted Aurora to be aware of "the truth" and stand up together for Canada's native peoples.

"I know a lot of people are going to be upset with me and with us that we're here doing this, but I would rather disappoint everybody than allow this crime to continue."

Once the Aurora leg of the relay concluded near St. Andrew's College, Mulhern and other participants attended a public celebration at Town Park.

In a speech to the assembled crowd, Mayor Phyllis Morris welcomed participants to the party, which included games and face painting for the kids, a performance by the reigning Aurora Idol, a unicycle-riding fire eater, and a free pancake breakfast.

Mayor Morris was said she was left "gobsmacked" after taking part in the relay events and said the entire experience left her "bubbling over".

"I'm absolutely flabbergasted at how organized (the relay) was and today I was there when the convoy arrived and it was absolutely incredible," she

said. "I want to go back and think about all this. I am so excited!"

Despite all the activities, the torch bearers were the star attractions at Town Park.

Kids and adults alike lined up to have their picture taken with the runners and even get a chance to hold the now-extinguished torches for themselves.

"It is an amazing experience but it didn't really strike me until you see the faces of the children," said Duke Petrovich.

Mr. Petrovich is CEO of the Wrigley Company and had the chance to carry the torch through Aurora.

"They are our future," he said. "To experience this, to carry this on in their lifetime, is what you think about as you're running down the street."

Aurora resident Carol Farrenkopf was also on hand at Town Park. She helped carry the torch on its journey through Markham the previous day.

"It was so meaningful," she said. "I'll just say this whole experience has been very moving. I cried for the whole run."


Following Aurora, the relay continued through Newmarket to Keswick then headed south through Bradford before ending the day in Brampton.

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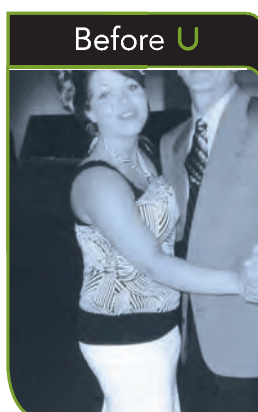
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