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Vol. 5 No. 12

Week of January 11, 2005

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Beauty and the Bush. Photographer David Falconer, strolling through Sheppard's Bush last week, happened upon Aurora's Taleen Konialian, who provided a warm contrast to the bleak, cold woods. She's studying law and finds the Sheppard solitude a great place to be alone.

Telethon Saturday will help survivors

It started as a flicker of an idea in a room at Aurora Cable Internet last week.

Everyone wanted to do something to assist the survivors of one of the world's worst disasters, a tidal wave which took the lives of more than 150,000 people, and the numbers climb every day.

A telethon, someone suggested. Perhaps a telethon would work.

And from that, grew this Saturday's planned three-hour telethon, located at two sites, headlined by the likes of CFTO's Lance Brown and CHUM's Gord James, and involving scores of organizers and volunteers.

Most of the activity will take place at ACI's studios on Industrial Parkway South, but the municipal office of the Town of Aurora will serve as a location where several volunteers will man the phones.

At a meeting held in the tiny board room of ACI last week, a dozen people kicked around ideas of how it would work, who would get the money, who would handle the phones, who would

entertain the public.

Monday at an Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon, nearly 200 guests learned that the

Chamber kicked off the telethon with a \$5,000 donation.

In addition, guest speaker **Please see page 11**



Following her talk to nearly 200 members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Monday, Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach, right, received a plaque from chamber president Patty Davidson. Ms. Stronach offered her support to Saturday's ACI three-hour telethon that will raise funds for survivors of the tidal waves that struck southeast Asian countries and killed more than 150,000 people two weeks ago. Telethon starts Saturday at 6 p.m.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Concluding Aurora activities in 2004

ED. NOTE: This item concludes The Auroran's look at the year 2004.

July started off as it has every year since 1969 when the town decided to hold a Civic Birthday Party to celebrate Canada's Birthday.

In addition to the traditional parade, there was a sidewalk painting contest, several events at the Leisure Complex and Lambert Willson Park including a beer garden with entertainment by the Fab Four and a spectacular fireworks display.

Aurora resident and Oak

Ridges MPP Frank Klees officially declared his intention to run for the leadership of the Tory party to replace Ernie Eves. First elected in 1995 Klees was re-elected in 1999 and again in 2003 and served the government in several senior portfolios.

For the second straight year the students and staff of Highview Public School were the top fundraisers for the Heart and Stroke Foundation Jump Rope for Heart and Hoop for Hearts events among schools in northern York Region and south Simcoe.

Highview raised \$27,000 up from \$23,000 in 2003, with all

schools combining to push the fundraiser over the \$400,000 mark.

Jump Rope for Heart was originated by school teacher Phil Horsman, Aurora's 2004 Citizen of the Year.

Aurorans learned they may have their own Wal-Mart store if the commercial project proposed by Whitwell Developments for the lands on the north side of Wellington Street East and Highway 404 gets the green light from council.

After two well attended public meetings in which several residents expressed their strong

opposition to the proposed enhanced transmission line by Hydro One, Aurora Council got into the act.

It was one of the most raucous meetings ever held in the council chambers and at one time Mayor Tim Jones threatened to recess the meeting to obtain order.

Finally, after two hours of citizen presentations, council adopted a resolution advising Hydro One that it was adamantly opposed to their current proposal due to potential EMF health risks.

Council received an update from the project manager and architect of the proposed seniors'

centre with a revised design needed to bring the facility in below the approved \$3.6 million figure.

The reconstruction of the St. John's Sideroad between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue included a significant component of town works such as the installation of a watermain, sidewalk, bikeway and illumination, as well as a boardwalk on the north side in the marsh area.

The tendered costs were significantly over budget, but as the region had approved the construction bid and it would have been more expensive for the town

Please see page 14



Brian



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Every Friday night from 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School gym there will be a Basketball and Volleyball Drop-In for ages 14 to 18. Shoot hoops or dig for volleyballs for only a Toonie. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellow 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 905-830-0205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m. For further information contact Bob Butler at h.butler@sympatico.ca or 905-713-3314.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Helping Hand: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-6101.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps camping, canoeing, first aid, orienteering in two to six week camps for males & females 12 to 18. Aurora squadron meets every Friday. For more information call 905-726-8600, Tuesday evenings between 7 and 9 p.m.

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7.30 p.m.

Overnight parking restrictions in effect until April 15th from 2 to 8 a.m. on all town streets.

Towns of York Toastmasters meetings are free and open to the general public. Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. For more information see the club's web site at www.town-sof-york.org or phone Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Operation Catch-Up presents free "Tutoring and Homework Help" for ages 10 to 18 years every Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. during the regular school year at the old Victoria Street library building. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings and special interest groups. Contact Barb at 905-713-3587.

JANUARY 14

Hot Spot Youth Club celebrates its 13th birthday at the Lions Hall from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Snack barprofit will be donated to the York Region Abuse Program. Information: 905-717-1002.

JANUARY 15

Aurora Cable Internet telethon to raise funds for disaster survivors. 6 to 9 p.m. Call 905-726-4747 to donate.

JANUARY 15-FEBRUARY 19

Learn to be a student chef by attending this hands-on introductory cooking class and experience the joys of cooking while having fun and even being a bit messy on Saturdays from 3 to 4.30 p.m. at the seniors' centre. The fee is \$65 for the six weeks.

JANUARY 18

Aurora Council's general committee meets at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

JANUARY 21

Opening night for Theatre Aurora's production of the mystery/thriller "Wait Until Dark" by Frederick Knott. The plot involves a blind woman, a con man and a doll full of heroin. Continues January 22, 26 to 29 and February 2 to 5. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

JANUARY 23

Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara sponsors a Community Skate at the Family Leisure Complex from 2 to 4 p.m.

JANUARY 25

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

JANUARY 26

A public planning meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall to consider two applications. One is for two properties on Yonge Street between Maple and Mark Streets and the other is the Cousins' property on Industrial Parkway South.

JANUARY 27

Blood Donor Clinic. Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, 2.30 to 8 p.m.

JANUARY 29

York Symphony Orchestra presents "1 Serenade, 3 Soloists and 2 Suites" at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora, featuring guest artists Livio Rattner on violin and Ingrid Takahashi and Joan Voros on flute at 8 p.m. For tickets call 416-410-0860.

FEBRUARY 2

Sixth of a 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops is presented by the Aurora Public Library and Aurora Cable Internet. "Securing Your PC" is the subject. Library's Magna Room, 7 to 8.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 6

Benefit concert, featuring the York Regional Police Male Chorus, for Wells Street School student. Trinity Anglican Church. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 each or \$30 for a family. Call the school, 905-727-4722 or Erina Kelly, 905-727-5206, to purchase.

FEBRUARY 12

Third Annual Red & White Gala in support of the Palliative Care Network for York Region, at Tuscan's on Edward Street. Dinner, dancing, live entertainment, silent and live auctions. \$160 per couple. For more information, call 905-895-3628 ex. 270.

FEBRUARY 15

Writers' Workshop with local author and instructor, Marnie Maguire. Aurora Public Library, Marjorie Andrews Room, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

FEBRUARY 21-25

To celebrate "Canada Reads Week", the Aurora Public Library presents The Great Canadian Book Quiz. Answer questions at the Adult Information Desk for a chance to win a book prize package.



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East Gwillimbury Mayor Jamie Young, left, offers a mess of pancakes to Aurora Mayor Tim Jones Saturday during annual EG Mayor and Council Pancake breakfast. Hundreds of residents showed up, prompting Mayor Jones to muse that it might be an idea to try it in Aurora.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

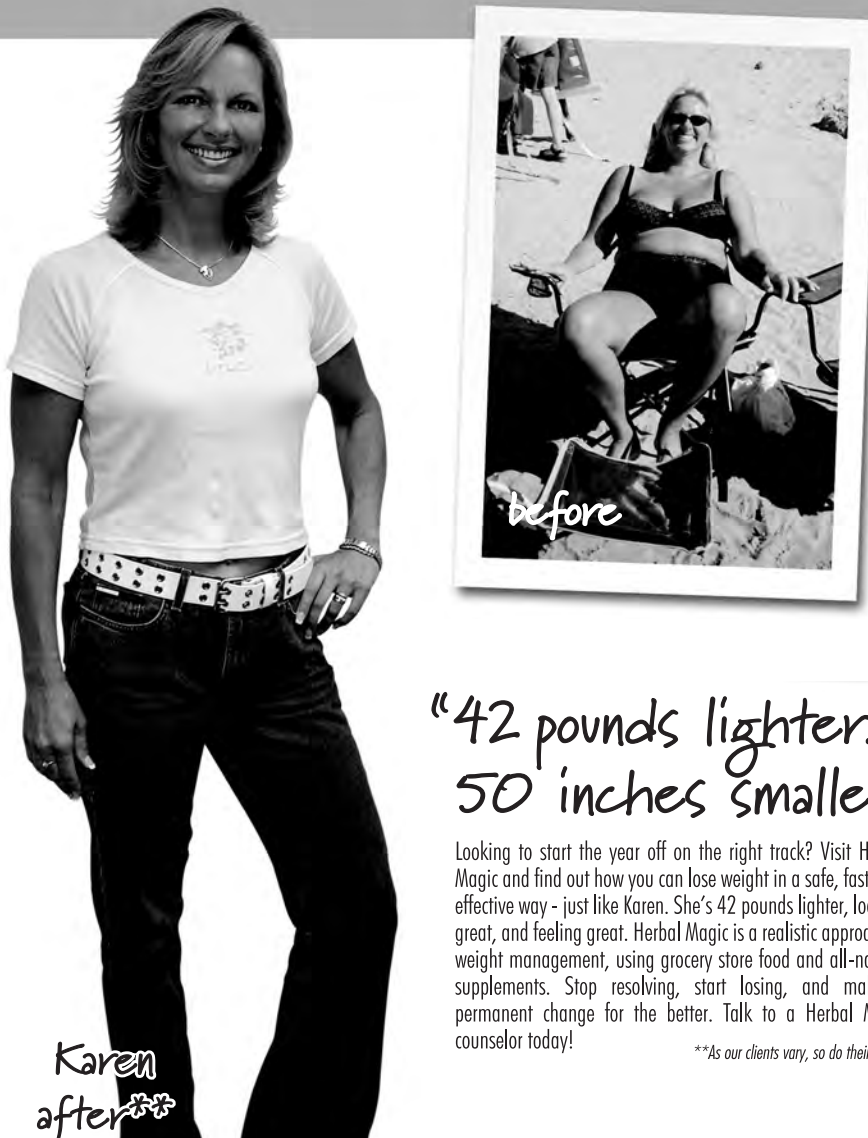
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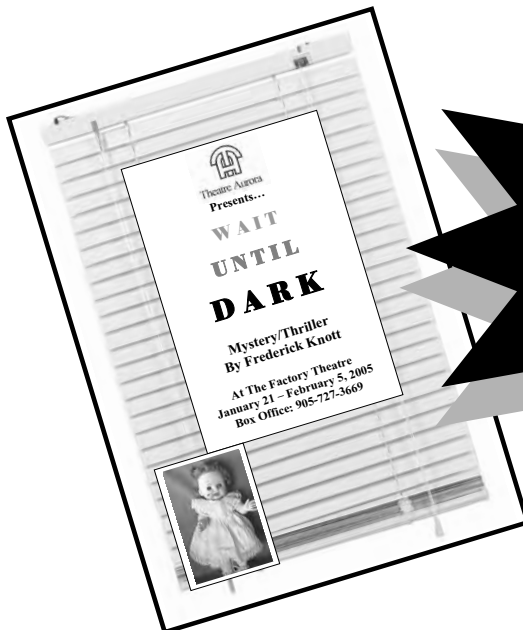



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"Wait Until Dark"






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Poor Richard

Rules that make a council function

A survival guide is badly needed,
To tell what's wrong from right;
Unless councillors learn the rules,
There will continue to be a fight!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Parliamentary procedure means many things to many people and while there is wide acceptance that the rules of procedure must be followed, there isn't the same acceptance of what parliamentary procedure is and what it does.

To survive a meeting of a decision-making body such as a municipal council, it is mandatory that all members understand the basic concepts of parliamentary procedure and in the case of municipalities, the Procedural Bylaw.

At the very heart of parliamentary procedure are Motions.

In order for a motion to be debated it must first be moved and seconded.

There are five types of motions, including the main motion, a subsidiary motion, a privileged motion, an incidental motion and unclassified.

The main motion requires the members to vote on an agenda item.

But the main motion must yield to subsidiary, privileged or incidental motions and therefore be considered last.

There can only be one main motion at a time and it is debatable and amendable.

There are several types of Subsidiary Motions from an amendment to the main motion, which is debatable and amendable.

Other Subsidiary Motions are to extend or limit debate, lay on the table, postpone to a certain time, postpone indefinitely, or refer to a committee.

Some are debatable, others are not, and some require a two-thirds vote of council.

One Subsidiary Motion that often creates a problem for councillors is a motion to close debate.

It is not debatable, cannot be amended and requires a two-thirds vote of council for adoption.

When resolved in the affirmative, the original motion shall be put without debate or amendment.

It's quite legal if carried out as intended, unless it is moved early in the debate.

There are also Privileged Motions which include a motion to adjourn which is not debatable or amendable, or a motion to recess, which is not debatable but is amendable as to the length of the recess.

A Question of Privilege is not debatable and cannot be amended.

This is normally moved when a member considers that his or her integrity or the integrity of council has been called into question and may be raised at any time with the consent of the chair.

A motion resulting from a question of privilege is to be treated as a main motion and disposed of by council, before proceeding with the debate on the motion on the floor from the point where it was suspended.

There are also Incidental Motions which include the division of questions or votes, leave to withdraw a motion, or suspension of the rules, none of which are debatable or amendable.

The one Incidental Motion that creates the most dis-sentation and confusion at council happens when a Point of Order is raised.

It is not debatable or amendable.

It is used when a member believes there has been a breach of the Rules of Procedure, the use of improper, offensive or abusive language, notice that the issue being discussed was not within the scope of the motion, or any other informality or irregularity of the proceedings of council.

Once a point of order has been raised, all debate will stop, the member will state the point of order until the chair rules on the point raised.

If no member appeals, the decision of the chair will stand.

If a member appeals the ruling of the chair, the member has the opportunity to state his or her case, the chair has the right to reply, council shall decide the question without further debate and the decision is final.

Last but not least are Unclassified Motions which include ratification or to reconsider a previous motion.

Once the final outcome of a main motion has been enacted, it may not be reconsidered again for six months, except under certain conditions.

There should be few problems if members learn the rules and follow them.



One more look at Aurora's famous Queen's Hotel that proudly stood on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington, current site of a Toronto Dominion/Canada Trust Bank. Built around 1860, it was originally known as The Machell House, probably since the community in which it existed was known as Machell's Corners. The above photo, taken who knows when, shows Aurora's busiest intersection as a gentle four corners...no traffic lights, no construction, no pedestrians. Because of the distance from the railway station to the east, management provided a horse-drawn "shuttle service" which met every train and lured travellers to the town's "largest and most elegant" hotel. It was demolished in 1971.

Letters to the Editor

Keep donating, reader says

To the editor,

Some Western tourists holidaying in South Asia at the time of the tsunami experienced what it is like to have nothing.

Stripped of their shelter, clothes, money, documents, cell phones, jewelry, they realized the vicious force that nature possesses.

They, too, had to walk the lines of decomposing corpses anxiously searching for family and friends. After their rescue, three tourists when interviewed, admitted they felt guilty that they were helicoptered out; tourists were touched by the kindness of local people who volunteered to interpret and comfort them through their difficulties or offered food from their meager supplies.

Soon all the visitors will be returned to their homes but local people of those countries will be left with their grief, the chaos and uncertainty, perhaps a plastic sheet for shelter.

The positive outcome of this event is that it was not the vengeful act of a marauding army but a natural disaster and as such united the world in a swift

and generous flood of gifts (the volume of which sometimes embarrassed their governments into increasing their country's contributions).

There was criticism that some of the stricken countries were slow to distribute supplies once delivered but these countries have been numbed by appalling events and may lack the energy and drive that other observer nations may have.

Experts predict that the death toll may be doubled in the second wave of destruction caused by disease as a result of polluted water and destruction of sewage systems.

The devastation is staggering, the tasks ahead unimaginable, roads are washed out, train tracks ripped up, family dwellings decked like a box of matches.

The world has started to provide fresh water, food and temporary shelter, but what we need to factor in are funds to sustain these countries: to rebuild roads and railways; clinics and hospitals to repair the wounded and stem the tide of disease; to build houses for the poor that will grant them some security; water

treatment facilities that can be maintained by local people; work opportunities; rebuilding of schools and places of worship.

Canada is a country that spent \$1.4 billion on Boxing Day sales - let us give in gratitude for the comparative luxury in which we live; for the safety of our children; for the tenure of our work; for the ease of communication; for the comfort of our homes.

If you haven't already given - do so now; if you have sent money but it didn't seem enough - give again; if you're spent up from Christmas arrange to pay a small monthly fee for the year.

Sustained, predictable giving is valuable.

The world was united in an unprecedented loving generosity by this disaster. Let us build on that.

Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora

ED. NOTE: A perfect opportunity to donate to this fund occurs Saturday between 6 and 9 p.m. on Aurora Cable Internet (Channel 10) when a giant fund-raising telethon will be held.

Friends plan big concert to aid Jr. Kindergartener

ED. NOTE: The following letter was sent to parents of students at Wells Street Public School and is reprinted here, with permission, to extend the invitation throughout Aurora.

Early in December, Riley Bailey, a Junior Kindergarten student at Wells Street Public School, was diagnosed with a non-malignant brain tumour.

The tumour and surgery have been traumatic and have affected Riley's speech ability and physical strength.

Her mother and father were with her every day at the hospital.

Riley is now home and is waiting to be admitted to the MacMillan Centre for extensive therapy and rehabilitation.

The expenses of Riley's lengthy stay in hospital and the rehabilitation are considerable.

Neighbours have set up a trust fund at Scotiabank to help the family.

To this end neighbours and friends have arranged a benefit concert featuring the York Regional Police Male Chorus.

Trinity Anglican Church has kindly donated the use of their facility for this event, which will be held on Sunday, February 6th at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$30 for a family and are available through the school office at 905-727-4722 or Erina Kelly at 905-727-5206.

We hope that you will come out and enjoy an evening of music and support this worthwhile cause.

Jean Beard
Principal

AURORAN

"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The
Auroran Publications Inc.
At 75 Mary Street, Unit #3
Aurora, L4G 1G3

Owner & Publisher
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
Dick Illingworth

Photography
David Falconer

Display Advertising
Bob Ince
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Production
Cynthia Proctor
auroran@neptune.on.ca

All Departments
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Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Arranging a Tsunami Telethon
Jan. 15th, 2005, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
CALL (Saturday only)- 905-726-4747

Over the Christmas holiday, I had a call from Wendy Carroll of Aurora Cable Internet asking me if the Town would consider working with them on a telethon to aid the relief work that is underway from the devastating effects of the recent southeast Asia tsunamis.

As I believe any resident of Aurora would say, "Of course" was my immediate reply, and, as this was still in the conceptual stage, I committed to meeting with the ACI team to contribute what I could to making this idea a reality.

After I hung up, I got to thinking how fortunate we are compared with those affected by the devastation that has occurred, and that only heightened my resolve to help out.

I made Ron Wallace aware of this event and he wasted no time in following up, as you saw in last week's Auroran, he raised our local awareness with a front page story.

At the time of doing this column, I have just returned from the first planning meeting at ACI for this event.

I am always impressed with the way things can happen when the resolve is so evident.

The table was full with staff from ACI, Ron Wallace of The Auroran, myself, and my co-op student Courtney Kidd.

As I had brought this to Aurora staff's attention Monday, January 3rd - yes the Town Hall was open Monday - I was able to commit to having the Town Hall open with a room and six phones for use on the evening of Saturday, January 15th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Aurora is fortunate to have staff who are committed to make things happen!

As the Town Hall location is planned to be a remote, with ACI as the base, arrangements were made for ACI to get in a few hours ahead to set up.

Volunteers for the phones were to be co-ordinated by ACI, and it is my hope that members of council will form part of this requirement.

I have already had commitments from Councillors West, Morris and Kean in support of this activity.

The program itself is planned to comprise of a live telecast from the ACI studios and either a taped or live feed from the Aurora Town Hall.

Some local talent will be asked to perform at the studio in between interviews with those making donations and other personalities who are expected to be present.

My co-op student Courtney has volunteered to call all local community groups and organizations to make them aware of this activity and to encourage them to consider donating funds through the telethon to the relief effort.

Info Aurora, our loyal volunteers in the Town Hall reception area and my Administrative Assistant are also assisting with these calls.

Courtney was also going to ask her school to challenge the other high schools to support this effort.

Anyone wishing to donate before the actual Telethon may do so directly through the Town Hall Treasury Office or the Aurora Cable Internet front desk.

At the Town Hall, a temporary receipt will be issued and cheques should be made out to "CARE CANADA".

At Aurora Cable Internet, you can use your Charge Card or Debit Card to donate either in person or over the phone.

All donations over \$10 are eligible for a charitable receipt if requested from CARE.

As well, contributions may be made at the Aurora and Oak Ridges branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia in the CARE CANADA account, although no tax receipts can be issued using this method.

It's my understanding that donations made in this manner before January 11th would be matched by the Federal

Government of Canada. All donations will be acknowledged during the telethon.

I committed to assist with promoting this event through methods like this column, our electronic Notice Board at Yonge and Aurora Heights and in the Town's Notice Board page.

I made an announcement at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon Monday, where our Member of Parliament, Belinda Stronach, was the guest speaker.

I would ask that if you are aware of any fundraisers going on or being thought of, that they be made aware of this opportunity to participate in the telethon.

When you compare everything that we have going for us in

Aurora with those who have lost everything through this disaster, and who now are at risk for lack of food, water and medical supplies and assistance, I would call on all residents who would like to assist with supporting this telethon to do so on or before Jan 15th through the methods I have described.

For more information you can call Aurora Cable Internet at 905-727-1981, extension 254 for Linda Morrison or 221 for Wendy Carroll.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca.



Cathy's
Corner



Whining 101

Since 2004 has evidently gone down in the history of The Auroran as "Another Year of Fine Whining", I thought we could all use a few helpful hints on how to prepare for the 2005 crop of letters to the editor.

First, it is necessary to have something to whine about, a.k.a. a point.

Having a point ensures that you will occasionally get a positive response from readers, something along the lines of: "Hmmm...I think he/she has a point."

This can be very comforting.

If your point, however, is so sharp that your victim fights...I mean writes...back, next time, you may want to consider sticking to the point rather than sticking someone with the point.

Otherwise, you run the risk of people thinking that your finger pointing is pointedly pointless...and writing to tell about it.

Second, remember to check the freshness date.

Some whines don't age well.

After the expiry date, you run the risk of becoming pointless in making your point too often or too late or both.

Whether you are flogging a dead horse, beating a dead horse, or beating a horse to death, doesn't really matter.

After Council has voted, it's all sour grapes. Even when it's 5-4.

Third, a good whine needs to breathe, so remember to come up for air once in a while.

It allows others to get a whine in edge-wise.

This can be surprisingly stimulating and exciting, especially if it leads to a change in topic.

Fourth, contrary to popular practice, it is not necessary to cork councillors.

This is redundant as they do a fine job of corking each other, and occasionally themselves by way of a sudden onset of foot-in-mouth disorder.

It happens regardless of whether they are on-site or out to lunch, on camera or in camera, having a "meeting", a "get-together", a "session", a "gathering", an "assembly" or

a simple meltdown.

After all, they're only human.

Fifth, again contrary to popular practice, it is not necessary to have a live audience to indulge your whining pleasure.

Whining can be a satisfying solitary activity for people who...no longer get invited anywhere. There is always hope.

One solution is to purchase several surrogate "whine bearers".

Barbie dolls are no good because they talk too much, so stick to those sympathetic looking teddy bears with the perky ears.

Then, be nice to yourself - set out a little cheese to go with your whine and...knock yourself out. Before someone else does.

Finally, it is crucial to know how to distinguish between whines and brouhahas, since there is a big difference between a winery and a brewery.

A winery sounds like a cat with a fermenting fur ball. Painful.

That would be The Auroran a week after a council meeting during which the acoustic system failed to malfunction.

A brewery is much worse - it sounds like a pack of dogs bickering over which one gets a piece of that cat first...or whenever council has a quorum.

In conclusion, you may conclude that I know a thing or two about whining because, being human, I enjoy some fine whining once in a while, too.

But most of the time, I like to sit back with a really fine glass of vintage wine and smile...because there is always something to smile about in Aurora.

It's just that sometimes, you've got to smile before you can see it.

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
laughingmatters @aci.on.ca

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Aurora Canadian Tire and the Aurora Optimists Club for sponsoring the Aurora Minor Hockey Association's 9th Annual Showcase Tournament.

BRICKBATS to the weatherman for the weird and wacky weather over the Christmas weekend which tied up several planes of anxious passengers who wanted to get home for the holidays and the dangerous road conditions making it a time-consuming and dangerous journey even to go a short distance.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Atom AA Tigers on winning the Whitby Silver Stick Regional Qualifying Tournament just before Christmas, by defeating the Mississauga North Stars 4-0 in the championship game. The team qualified for Silver Stick Championships to be played later this month in Newmarket.

BRICKBATS to the Toronto Star carrier who delivers papers in the Cousins Drive area for being unable to find the front door when he throws the paper from somewhere. He will never make a baseball team as the paper can land anywhere from close to the front door to the centre of the lawn!

BOUQUETS to Newmarket volunteer members of the Inn from the Cold steering committee and the Newmarket Community Church on Pony Drive for providing a shelter for the homeless when the temperature falls below 15 degrees F. A worthy project and one that other municipalities might follow on cold nights.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Paul Martin for his on-going business and pleasure travels to all parts of the world at the expense of the Canadian taxpayer. His latest jaunt to Libya required two government aircraft. An Airbus for the business part of the trip, followed by a Challenger so he can be whisked off with his family for a two-week holiday in Morocco.

BOUQUETS to the federal Liberal government for considering legislation to create a national do-not-call registry, which is designed to shield Canadian households from unwanted telemarketing calls.

BRICKBATS to those in National Defence or Veterans Affairs for not taking action to protect the sale of a veteran's war medals, including the Victoria Cross. Medals should never be sold. Bouquets to Toronto Sun readers for raising \$75,000 to help save the sale of the VC awarded to Cpl. Fred Topham.

BOUQUETS to the York Regional Police Male Chorus for their on-going donations to local charities. Recently, a donation of \$500 was made to Toronto District 6 Masons for the Masonic Foundation of Ontario's hearing implant project and will benefit a child in York Region.

BRICKBATS to the Canadian Immigration system for allowing a U.S. citizen, who had been deported a record-setting 20 times from Canada, to re-enter and be arrested in Toronto on charges of attempted fraud and another trip back to the States. The previous record was 16 deportations.

BOUQUETS to former federal Tory Minister Sinclair Stevens on being cleared by a federal court Judge, more than 17 years after a public inquiry looked into his business dealings and found him with a conflict of interest, resulting in his resignation from cabinet.

BRICKBATS to York Region Transit for their New Year's gift to children and families by increasing the cash fare on York Region Transit from \$1 to \$2.25 as fares are being standardized. Seniors get hit, too, as their fare jumps from \$1.30 to \$2.25. Perhaps it means nothing, since most buses in Aurora travel empty!

Letters to the Editor

Firefighters commended for fund-raising calendar

To the editor,

On behalf of women everywhere, I would like to thank the Region of York firefighters for putting together a benefit calendar to raise much needed donations for Breast Cancer Research.

It is dedicated people like you who assist me in reclaiming trust and hope in our society today.

Without your dedication, hard work and the thousands of hours you put into making the calendar work, none of the hundreds of thousands of dollars could be raised.

I am certain the women looking at the calendar right now are smiling to

themselves, knowing that firefighters care.

I also want to applaud you and express my appreciation for the professional, and moral ethics you all represent while doing the many, many shows and signing events.

I have attended many of these functions and feel that you represent the Central York Firefighters with all your hearts and would never do anything to give the public any cause to doubt your professionalism.

It is apparent to all who attend these functions that it is an excellent course of action and that no other charity event could raise

as many dollars as these particular events.

As a wife of a firefighter who is involved in the executive for the Region of York Firefighters I cannot tell you how proud he has made his entire family through his unselfishness, dedication and hard work.

As a family, we accept all the time he has put into the calendar because of the charity it is being done for and that the money raised assists in cancer research that will help a family that is suffering with a loved one undergoing breast cancer therapy.

I cannot count the amount of people I have chatted with who have purchased a calendar

because a family member has either died or is currently suffering from breast cancer.

Being in the marketing profession, I also understand the hurdles and frustration you all have to go through every time you do one of these events.

Again, I applaud you. IT IS NOT AN EASY JOB.

I particularly want to thank Shaun Mitchell for all of his time and devotion for this charity.

I don't think Shaun really understands that he has increased the respect for firefighters two-fold within our community.

**Heather Horton
Aurora**

Grand gesture great error: reader

ED. NOTE: The following letter was sent to York Region Council and a copy forwarded to The Auroran:

Dear York Region Council,

I was surprised to read in the Toronto Star that the York Region Finance Committee has voted to give \$500,000 to the Red Cross in York Region for use by the Red Cross and World Vision in tsunami relief.

The death of more than 150,000 people, the destruction of entire villages, the ongoing dangers

of disease, and the challenges to regain a semblance of normality in the affected countries and regions are all heart-breaking.

However, York Region Council was not elected to represent citizens to deal with matters of international aid.

In Canada we have a multi-level system of government and it has always been my understanding that international aid was the purview of the Federal Government.

The multicultural nature of our Region does not change that.

York Region Council is

elected to focus on regional issues.

Have you failed to read about our local challenges with regard to the homeless, the unemployed, and the disadvantaged?

Whether or not the council had the legal right to make such a contribution, it is my very strong opinion that the council should not have done so.

Even if regional and/or municipal government does have a legitimate role in matters of this sort, this donation clearly demonstrates that York Region Council is reacting to media reports rather than managing our funds in a thoughtful manner.

The Indian Ocean tsunami killed 150,000 in mere moments, and triggered a remarkable global relief effort that has raised \$4 billion (U.S.) for the stricken region.

But in comparison, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria alone kill 40 times that number every year, taking no fewer than six million lives.

And still, the United Nations must scramble for the \$3 billion a year it needs to combat these diseases.

And globally, the World Health Organization estimates 18 million people die every year (figures courtesy Toronto Star).

In making a grand gesture you have made a great error.

Facilitate and encourage donations if you will, in a manner similar to that of most municipalities and regions.

Don't make actual donations unless they come from your own pocket.

**Ian J. Turnbull
Aurora**

New family has winter concerns

To the editor,

We are newly landed in Aurora from Quebec City and love it.

Two things to comment on:

A) snow removal, you folks clear the roads and add salt when it's not really necessary. This is a large waste of money and not good for the environment. Please look into this, you could save more lives during storms by teaching people the importance of a well-maintained vehicle as well as the safety of having

snow tires. In addition, we folks from Quebec think people in areas with only sporadic snowfalls could use snow driving lessons.

B) Plowing sidewalks in Aurora. We live near a trail path, the tractor comes by often. The problem is the blade exceeds the width of the sidewalk, thus the grass is being torn up from the equipment. Can someone please look at this so homeowners are not left to clean and repair the lawn for no reason?

**The Brochu family
Aurora**


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Letters to the Editor

The reasons why out-of-town cab drivers seek Aurora fares

To the editor,

I read with some interest the letter "Drivers irked by out-siders" in the Dec. 21 issue of The Auroran, penned by a group of taxi drivers regarding alleged encroachments on their territory by their competitors from neighbouring Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As a resident of that town,

I feel I must take the opportunity to rush to the defence of my fellow citizens by attempting to elaborate why they feel it necessary to pursue fares in areas other than their own.

Their dilemma is that Whitchurch-Stouffville is not the sprawling metropolis that Aurora is, and as such the market for their services is limited by the resultant mod-

est customer demographic.

These drivers find themselves busy only for the few days a month when the various government assistance checks are doled out, and the only runs they are able to make are short ones.

Both the beer store and the LCBO are relatively close to the downtown and as such, present limited revenue opportunities ferrying their customers to their weekly shopping.

By the time the money begins to run out, those citizens who depend on these monthly stipends for their only income foolishly decide their best opportunity is to invest the remainder of their monies in a secure revenue producing venue.

And as there is no bingo in Whitchurch-Stouffville they must head to Bingo World in Aurora to make their imprudent investments.

Naturally that arrangement never pans out, and having no money to pay for the ride home, the customer must now leave the desperate drivers who brought them hence to loiter optimistically in various hopeful quarters of Aurora trying to snag a fare in

a faint hope to at least pay part of their expenses for the long trip back home.

(They seem to hang around the "No Frills" hoping to catch either Frank or Belinda finishing up the groceries, and then drop them off home at the Magna Compound, since they have to go east anyhow.)

It is not entirely the fault of taxi drivers of Whitchurch-Stouffville that the circle of life they depend on is the Social Assistance/Taxicabs/Bingo triumvirate, but it is their only chance to make a decent living, being caught in that most unfortunate circumstance.

And many find they have to augment their income by taking on additional similarly low-paying and demoralizing jobs like Liberal Party fund raiser, port-a-potty cleaner, or perhaps even member of town council.

So in the interest of preventing a major confrontation before it starts, might I suggest a solution.

If you all see fit to continue allowing our citizens access to your bingo hall, (and other similar cultural attractions), via their favourite mode of transportation so as to prevent our

taxi drivers from having to join the ranks of the similarly under-employed, in return we will give your citizens access to one of our best kept secrets; the wines of Stouffville.

Yes, we are home to some of Ontario's finest producers of niche wines, who yield many different varieties that are enjoyed by large segments of our population, and would therefore also be appreciated by the similar palates in your town.

Such superbly intoxicating libations as "Chateau Traileur Parc", "White Trashfindel", "NASCARbernet", "Chef Boyardeaux", "I Can't Believe

It's Not Vinegar!", "World Championship Riesling" and "Nasti Spumante" are yours for your indulgence and amusement and are graciously available from your friendly neighbours to the east.

(But not for free, though. We may be hospitable, but we're not stupid.)

The friendly town of Stouffville will do almost anything we can to ensure harmonious relationships between neighbours.

Well, at least some of us anyway.

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda

Johnston's wit

To The editor,

Congratulations to Scott Johnston on his article, "Aurora 2004: a year in review" (Auroran, January 4th).

I particularly enjoyed April 2nd, October 22nd and December 7th, all alluding to the dubious and ill-conceived motion to change the address of the Town Hall.

Reader's dream

To the editor,

Rev, Martin Luther King had a dream. I, too, had a dream that I'd like to share with you.

I dreamt that in the aftermath of tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia the Town of Aurora Council decided to donate money that would have been spent on an "assembly" to the flood victims.

In my dream Mayor Jones pleads for council to work together and help to save lives.

Councillor Kean says he is ahead of the rest and is collecting funds already.

Councillor Vrancic says he will donate his councillor's education allotment to the amount.

Councillor West suggests he is in agreement of foregoing the assembly for the sake of saving lives and thinks money the Town is going to spend ripping his name off the Town Hall should be added to the fund.

Councillor Gaertner adds she is donating one month of her council pay to the fund and challenges the other members to do the same.

Councillor Hogg says council should debate this matter further and, as long as they don't take all night, he would back the motion.

Suddenly I woke up, and thanked God I had a bed to sleep in and food for my family.

I phoned my eight councillors and left a message telling them how proud I was

Much truth is revealed in Scott's tongue in cheek humour, and hopefully councillors will read and take to heart this very insightful and humorous look at the past 12 months.

Speaking of humour, congrats also to Cathy's Corner, always very funny.

Graham Wride
Aurora

of their coming together and helping to ease the human suffering.

You, too, can do the same and I provide you with the names and phone numbers of councillors so you can show your support for their actions.

The phone number is 905-727-3123 and the extensions are as follows: Buck 4269, Hogg 4268, Gaertner 4265, Kean 4263, Morris 4267, Vrancic 4266, Wallace 4262, West 4264.

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Work is continuing on the site of Aurora's newest gasoline station on the southeast corner of Leslie Street and Wellington East. Plans for the facility have been in the works for more than 14 years. Station should be operating shortly.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Fourteen years in the making, gasoline station nearly ready

It was in January, 1991, when Aurora Council first received an application for a gasoline station and convenience store at the southeast corner of Leslie and Wellington Streets from Shell Oil.

The oil company purchased the two-acre

property containing a historic residence and applied for a demolition permit for the little white house built in 1860.

Today, some 14 years later, the station is almost ready for customers.

At the time, the development application was

referred from the planning committee to the official plan review committee because of the potential development could have on surrounding lands, including a shopping mall proposal for the southwest corner of the intersection, which was later withdrawn.

While the regional transportation department and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture had no objections to the proposal, the environmental protection division of the regional health department expressed concerns and wanted more information concerning the well water supply and septic tank system.

Although the house was demolished, the service station was not built at that time even though it was properly zoned.

Later the growth management study placed

the property within the Bayview East Urban Expansion or 2B lands, which was approved by council as OPA #30 more than four years ago.

Regional council gave approval to the official plan amendment in August, 2000, and the Shell Oil representative requested the 1991 application be processed.

The rezoning application was re-submitted on August 8, 2002, and was approved in principle at the December 18, 2002, public planning meeting subject to the approval of the site plan.

At a recent council meeting staff reported that the applicant had addressed all department and agency comments and an implementing bylaw prepared for council's consideration, which was adopted by council without comment or debate.



Aurora's Dave Greig, right, plays the part of Horace Vandergelders in "Hello Dolly" a famous musical, being presented at the Newmarket Theatre Thursday to Sunday, Jan. 20 to 23. He'll share the role with Jonathan Kramer of Newmarket, while Dolly, Diane Cobbold, above, will share her role with Elizabeth Penrice. For tickets, call the box office at 905-953-5122.

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Association plans hikes

At least three hikes are on the Oak Ridges Trail Association's agenda that would appeal to Aurora hikers next month.

On Monday, Feb. 14, one will start at Seneca College's King Campus on Dufferin St. in King Township and head to Yonge Street in Aurora, taking in the new length of train adjoining the Case Woodlot on Henderson.

The nine kilometre jaunt is expected to take about three and a half hours to complete, and it gets underway at 2 p.m.

Further information is

available from Stan Butcher at 905-773-3960.

The second hike is planned for Sunday, Feb. 27, and starts in Aurora's Sheppard's Bush, heading to the Vandorf Sideroad.

The four-kilometre walk should take about 90 minutes.

Harold Sellers at 905-853-3518 has further information.

A day later, a third hike will give walkers a look at the new elevated roadway over the MacKenzie Wetlands and Nokiidaa Trail.

Stan Butcher at 905-773-3960 is the contact.

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Father Phil's final day at work



For Rev. Philip Poole, last Sunday was his "final day at the office" and his parishioners made sure it was a day he won't soon forget.

Close friends from Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church organized a "Poole Party" that day, to say goodbye to the popular man who will now become the new suffragan bishop for the diocese of Toronto.

Parishioner Richard Baker recorded the photographs seen on this page, put them on the church website, then sent them to The Auroran for reprinting.

With choirs, skits and presentations, the event was witnessed by a capacity crowd at the Victoria Street church.

Father Phil and his wife, Karen, are seen cutting the cake, below. In the meantime, Archbishop Terry Finlay will take over Father Phil's duties on an interim basis.



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Page 10

Week of January 11, 2005

Optimist optimistic about minor hockey showcase

The Ninth Annual Minor Hockey Showcase was held over the Christmas holidays at the Aurora Community Centre, and being partly sponsored by the Aurora Optimist Club, member Alex Ansell, who is skills co-ordinator of the event, produced the following report for the Club's newsletter. An edited version appears here with his permission.

By ALEX ANSELL

Monday, December 27, started the Ninth Annual Minor Hockey Showcase, co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Aurora, the Aurora Canadian Tire Associate Store and the Aurora Minor Hockey Association.

More than 1,100 boys and girls on 66 teams in nine divisions participated in the four-day event, with 108 games being played.

Of course the highlight of the event was the skills competition put on by our Club for the nine age divisions.

The tyke to major atom age groups were put through their paces doing skating, stick handling and shooting drills.

The skills for the senior groups of minor peewee to bantam had more of an NHL flavour and included accuracy, hardest shot and breakaway passing.

Skills competitions took place December 27. Almost 1,100 boys and girls participated.

The equivalent of 99 people were involved in running these competitions.

Points earned in the skills competition by each team were factored into the overall standing for each age group in the tournament so the skills become a very important factor in determining the two finalist teams for the championship games.

On Thursday, the celebrity game took place before a large crowd.

Central York firefighters, including Mr. February and Mr. September (from their calendar) formed the basis of the team. Kris King and three top-level women's players bolstered the team.

The coaches won the game, 5-4.

During the first intermission, the five fastest teams of each age group of the tyke to minor peewee skated in special relay races.

Between the second and third periods, the four hardest shots of the major peewee to minor midget divisions were involved in head to head shootouts.

After the game, the winning team members in each age group for the skills competition were presented with hockey bags courtesy of Aurora Canadian Tire.

Admission to the game was a donation to the Aurora Food Bank and much food was collected.

On Friday, December 31, the finals for each age group were held. President Brian Walsh shared the presentation of the gold and silver medals and trophies to the champions and finalists with Mike Wright, owner of the Aurora Canadian Tire Store.

Many thanks are extended to Martha Dickey of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association for her organization and cooperation in making this tournament such a success.

Thanks are also extended to the 21 members and 22 non-members including Judy Sherin, Mary Beth Marshall, Clare Velema, Bob Ince, Doug Kelly, Frank Klees, Glen Sharp, Joe Henderson, Wendy Henderson, Blair Boyd, George Wortman, Bob Bartlett, Robert Bartlett, Daniel Marshall, Mike Sheridan, David Sheridan, Josh Maeir, and high school volunteers Patrick Madden, Ian Everest, Rob Wilson, Caitlin Kelly and Danielle White for helping to run the skills competitions.

Many thanks are also given to the members and non-members who ran the skills on Thursday night, sold 50-50 tickets (especially master seller Ken Banks) and helped out with the celebrity game and reception.

It was a win-win situation for all of those involved but particularly for the house league kids.

P.S. Our Optimist Club of Aurora team won the minor midget division.

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TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	12	1	2	65	34	26
Priestly Demolition	7	6	2	62	58	16
FPL Aggregates	7	6	2	55	46	16
Tom & Jerry's	7	7	1	50	49	15
Highland Chev Cadillac	6	8	1	55	65	13
J.J. Barron Realty	5	7	3	48	60	13
Rec Cycle & Sports	5	8	2	45	57	12
Masterclean Contracting	5	9	1	46	54	11

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS JAN. 3						
Masterclean	7		Rec Sports		4	
Barron Realty	1		FPL Aggregates		2	
Law Insurance	6		Highland Chev		7	
Priestly	2		Tom & Jerry's		4	

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY PLAYER STANDINGS				
PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
Mark Sedore	Priestly Demolition	19	10	29
Pat O'Mahoney	FPL Aggregates	17	11	28
Gerald Briand	Law Insurance	12	16	28
Jason Muise	Priestly Demolition	18	8	26
Ed Jackson	Barron's Realty	12	13	25
Bruce Chappell	Highlands Chev	6	18	24
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	14	9	23
Steven MacDonald	FPL Aggregates	13	10	23
Steve Kavanaugh	Barron's Realty	7	16	23
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	6	16	22
Steve Robertson	Highlands Chev	9	11	20
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	8	12	20
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	9	10	19
Mark Lemmon	Tom & Jerry's	9	9	18
Peter Briand	Law Insurance	5	13	18
Paul Fujiwawa	Highlands Chev	12	5	17
Ken Rumble	Highlands Chev	9	8	17
Jerome Flanagan	Tom & Jerry's	7	10	17
Brad Wilson	Priestly Demolition	8	7	15
RJ Farnsworth	Masterclean	9	5	14
Kevin Brown	Highlands Chev	7	7	14
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	6	8	14
Steve Reswick	Masterclean	5	9	14
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	7	6	13
Raz Khamissa	Barron's Realty	7	6	13
Pat Davies	Priestly Demolition	4	9	13
Dan Smith	FPL Aggregates	3	10	13
Chris Neal	Rec Sports	6	6	12
Mike Nisbet	FPL Aggregates	2	10	12
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	5	6	11
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	5	6	11
Bruce Ing	Masterclean	3	8	11
Mike Caicco	Barron's Realty	2	9	11
Kerry Heintzman	Priestly Demolition	1	10	11
Bob Ince	Rec Sports	6	4	10
Jerry Mackrell	Rec Sports	3	7	10



Aurora Minor Bantam AE Tigers

Goalie shines as underdogs
upset favourites to win title

"Underdog" Aurora Tigers pulled off a major upset during the holiday season as the Minor Bantam AE Team won the championship in the Niagara-On-The-Lake Tournament.

The Tigers lost their first game of the tourney 3-0 to a strong Niagara Falls team, but bounced back quickly with consecutive victories over Hamilton, 5-2 and 4-3 over the Host Niagara-On-The-Lake team.

Spectators felt the win over N.O.T.L. was Aurora's best all around game this year!

As luck would have it, Aurora met Niagara Falls again in the final.

The Tigers started strong, however a steady stream of penalties took away any momentum they had.

Strong penalty killing and great goaltending kept Niagara off the score sheet.

The opposition finally

scored late in the first period to make it 1-0.

Mathew Scrimmes nullified that with his marker at the buzzer to end the second period with the score tied at one.

After a hard fought third frame, Niagara put on the pressure but goaltender Mikail Khamissa single handedly kept the score tied, forcing overtime.

And that extra time still couldn't decide a winner.

A shootout followed with both teams unable to put a single puck past the

respective opposing goalies.

Mikail made another crucial save on the fifth shooter from Niagara, giving the goalie a perfect five for five record on shots.

That left it all up to Ethan Shore, who faked the goalie and deposited the puck into an empty net, giving Aurora the championship.

Khamissa was named the star of the game while defenseman Trevor McCartney took the honours as the tournament's most valuable player.

ACI Saturday Telethon
will help wave survivors

From page 1

Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach told the audience she would also attend the event and lend her support.

The telethon has been scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 15, between 6 and 9 p.m.

Also on the itinerary are cast members from Marquee Productions "Wizard of Oz".

Comedy skits about life in Aurora, suggested by The Auroran's cartoonist, Scott Johnston and performed by Canadian improv members, are planned.

Musicians from the Aurora School of Music have been lined up, and apparently a few "surprise celebrities" are expected

to appear.

Aurora Cable celebrities, Angie Dawson, Dick Illingworth, Betty Pedersen, and The Two Fit Chicks, will be there.

A representative of Care Canada, recipient of the funds, will join the event from Ottawa.

Hosting the show will be Anthony Regan who Aurorans will know from Tiger hockey broadcasts.

Anthony previously hosted CBC's Easter Seals Telethon.

Organizers are hoping phones will be manned by town councillors and local hockey players.

ACI officials also want to hear about any groups who have done fundraising for the telethon and they can e-mail the news to

communitytv@aci.on.ca.

Meanwhile, The Auroran's new website - www.auroran.com - will get its first action as the place to watch the donations mount.


After the telethon ends, the caring doesn't stop.

The Aurora Seniors' Association is planning a Tsunami Relief Sunday Supper, Jan. 23, at the seniors' centre on Victoria Street.

The buffet begins at 5 p.m. and the minimum donation is \$10 a person.

While tickets will be available at the door, advance reservations are recommended. You may do that by calling 905-727-2816.

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House League League Games

603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 6: Carter Schaefer 1G, Paul Duggan 1G, Marco Santella 2G, Brendan Beatty 1G, Sheldon Rivard 1G 2A, shutout, Eric Seguin. **605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 0.**

606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 11: Gianni Episcopo 3G 1A, Mattheus Vloet 3G 1A, Brett Weeks 1G 1A, Scott Ashbourne 2G 2A, Adam Colacitti 1G 2A, Peter Durst 1G 1A, James Chappell 1A, Kyle MacCallum 2A, Keenan Van Rooyen 1A, Connor Murray 1A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 2:** Alex Heintzman 1G, Nick Gundert 1A, Michael VanBekel 1G, Julian Savosardaro 1A, Adam Stubbs 1A.

602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 4: Daniel Sampieri 1G 2A, Daniel Crowther 1G, Michael DelPlavignano 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Patrick Che 1A, Drew Coley 1A, Michael Orschel 1A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 2:** Michael Coggin 2G.

601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 2: Matthew DeSousa 1G, Evan Jones 1G, Zach Langford 1A, Justin Killens 1A, Neil Gaston 1A. **603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 1:** Carter Schaefer 1G.

601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 7: Justin Killens 1G 2A, Adam Gitto 2G, Graham Cormack 4G, Evan Jones 1A, Chris McGill 1A, Julian Biasoni 1A, Matthew Raponi 1A, Dylan Lastuk, shutout. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 0.**

605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 3: Robert Fiorini 1G, Caleb Gould 1G, John Haralampopoulos 1A, Marcel Lamanna 1G, George Marshall 1A, Michael Moody 1A, Dylan Teacher 1A. **602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 3:** Patrick Che 1A, Daniel Crowther 1G, Daniel Devine 1A, Tyler Friars 1A, Michael Orschel 2G.

603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 3: Aaron Bentley 1G, Brendan Beatty 1G 1A, Sheldon Rivard 1G 2A, Paul Duggan 2A. **606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 3:** Anthony Marsillo 2G, James Chappell 1G, Mattheus Vloet 1A, Gianni Episcopo 1A.

605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 6: Michael Moody 3G, Marcel Lamanna 1G, Caleb Gould 2G, Jordan Adams 1A, Johnny Haralampopoulos 1A, Scott Parry 1A, Elio Panaccione 1A, Nicholas Palombo 1A, Andrew Osmond 1A. **601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 2:** Evan Jones 1G, Justin Killens 1G 1A, Matthew Raponi 1A, Graham Cormack 1A.

603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 4: Brendan Beatty 1G, Chris Tillsley 1G, Sheldon Rivard 1G, Marco Santella 1G, Paul Duggan 2A, Michael Gray 1A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 4:** Kyle Blaser 1G, Alex Heintzman 2G, Dexter Speller Drews, 1G, Chris Dynes 1A, Rhys Williams 2A.

606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 4: Anthony Marsillo 3G, Michael Wyper 1G, Keenan Van Rooyen 1A, Gianni

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results up to 9 AM Sunday, January 9th

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



Episcopo 1A. **602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 1:** Michael Orschel 1G.

605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 5: Jordan Adams 1A, John Haralampopoulos 2G 1A, Marcel Lamanna 3A, Michael Moody 1G, Dylan Teacher 2G 2A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 4:** Michael Faulds 1A, Alex Heintzman 2G, Julian Savosardaro 1A, Conor Sheridan 2G.

602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 3: Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Michael Delplavignano 1G, Michael Orschel 1G 2A, Daniel Crowther 1A, Trevor Smith 2A, Marlon Young 1A, Daniel Sampieri 1A. **603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 2:** Brendan Beatty 2G, Paul Duggan 2A, Sheldon Rivard 1A.

606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 8: Gianni Episcopo 1G 1A, Anthony Marsillo 2G, Nicholas Orsatti 1G 2A, Peter Durst 4G, Brett Weeks 1A, Scott Ashbourne 1A. **601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 1:** Graham Cormack 1G, Neil Gaston 1A.

801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 7: Matt Fong 1G, Dylan Brennan 3G 1A, Chris Wong 1G, Jordan Streigler 1G, Darren Giroux 1G, Mike Damecour 1A, Niko Lee Yow 1A, Evan Benson 2A, Dan Creighton 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 5:** Greg Haralampopoulos 2G 1A, Greg Marlow 1G, Christian Di Vincenzo 2G 1A, Tyler Flanagan 3A.

805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: Mike Roberts 1G Conner Ryeland 1G 1A, Sean Kipfer 1G, Michael Sanita 1G 1A, Alex Strapp 1G, Keith Hannah 1A, Nick Epworth 1A, Andrew Wilkins 1A, Alex Pagnotta 1A. **806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 4:** M. Holland 1G, R. Van Winckle 1G 1A, McNellis 1G, T. Miskolczy-Macdonald 1G, R. Rojas 1A, R. Casseldon 1A, M. Spick 1A.

804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 3: Devin Maule 1G, Brice Roffey 1G, Joe Doucher 1G, Charlie Teel 1A, Brandon Simon 2A, Taylor Tripp 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Tyler Flanagan 1G, Amir Ashan 1G, Christian Di Vincenzo 1A, Chris Perry 1A, Alex Munn 1A.

801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 5: Niko Lee Yow 1G 1A, Dylan Brennan 3G, Michael Damecour 1G, Dan Creighton 1A, Bradley Juffs 1A, Jordan Streigler 1A. **803 SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 3:** Michael Tufnell 1G, Cameron Buchanan 1G, Derek Smith 1G 1A, Michael Nealon 1A, Mohammed Akbar 1A.

803 SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 6: Geoffrey Harrison 1G, Jared Pelletier 1G, Derek Smith 1G 1A, Brendan Murphy 1G 1A, Michael Nealon 1G 1A, Michael Tufnell 1G, Mohammed Akbar 1A, Cameron Buchanan 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Greg Haralampopoulos 1G, Adam Brutto 1G, Drew Boorn 1A.

806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 4: E. Davenport 1G 1A, M. Holland 1G, J. Smith 1G, T. Miskolczy-Macdonald 1G, J. Adams 1A, L. Leddy 1A. **801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Ray Mullins 1G, Dylan Brennan 2G, Dan

Creighton 2A.

805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 2: Connor Ryeland 1G, Nick Epworth 1G, Stefano Longhin, shutout. **804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 0.**

805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 6: Chris Porter 1G, Connor Ryeland 2G, Mark McCrudden 2G, Michael Sanita 1G 1A, Nick Epworth 1A, Andrew Wilkins 1A, Brian Burns 1A. **801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Niko Lee Yow 1G, Darren Giroux 1G, Brad Juffs 1G, Ray Mullins 1A, Sam Caldwell 1A.

804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 3: Anthony Pusateri 1G, Mike Davis 1G, Brandon Simon 1G, Joe Doucher 1A. **803 SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 3:** Brendan Murphy 1G, Cameron Buchanan 1G, Geoffrey Harrison 1G, Zachary Ashfield 1A, Mohammed Akbar 1A.

1005 AURORA OPTICAL 9: Sean McCartney 4G 2A, Tim Sotoadeh 2G 1A, Ryan Gennaro 2G, Andrew MacDermid 1G, Keon Karamchi 4A, Ryan Comerford 2A, Kyle Kaminski 1A, Nasser Kazami, shutout. **1002 IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 0.**

Rep Results

Tyke Select 3 Clarington Thunder 2

Tyke Select 4 Newmarket 3

Novice AA 2 Richmond Hill 2
Jack Caldwell 1G, John MacDonald 1G, Quentin Campbell 1A.

Orillia 4 Novice AE 3
Ben Ashton 1G 2A, Josh Bell 1G 2A, Ben Goldman 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 1G 1A.

Minor Atom AA 4 Richmond Hill 4
Trevor George 1G 1A, Cameron Nuttall 1G 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 1G, Kiefer McIntosh 1G 1A, William Reid 1A, Stefan Lazzer 2A, Eric Ludwig 1A.

Minor Atom AE 4 Barrie Colts 2

Atom AA 6 Barrie Colts 2
Andrew Papousek 2G 1A, Brian Puskar 1G 1A, Trevor Best 1G 1A, Daniel Delbello 1G 1A, Devin Watson 1G 1A, Adam Balaban 3A, Tanner Thiessen 1A, Johnny Knowles 2A, Marco Ghegin 1A.

TD 4 Atom AA 2
Andrew Papousek 1G, Trevor Best 1G, Johnny Knowles 1A, Daniel Delbello 1A, Matthew Roy 1A, Dennis Kim 1A.

Stouffville 2 Atom A 1
Ryan St. Germain 1G, A. J. Killens 1A, Kyle Spicer 1A.

Atom AE 3 Georgina 0
Thomas Hagias 1G, Tyler White 1G, Daniel Laflamme 1G, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Dylan Hussey 1A, Sean Glynn 1A, Kelley Hudson, shutout.

Atom AE 3 Newmarket 1

Minor Peewee AA 3 Barrie Colts 3
Dylan Skelton 2G, Cody Weese 1G, Justin Nice 1A, Denis Casey 1A,

Steadman Dinning 1A, Brett Matthews 1A.

Minor Peewee AA 5 Ajax 2
Eleeza Cox 1G, Steadman Dinning 2G 1A, Justin Nice 2G 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1A, Matthew Miller 2A.

TNT 7 Minor Peewee A 2
Kyle McCreedy 2G

Peewee AA 3 Newmarket 0
Luke Macleod 1G, Andrew Whitley 1A, Kevin Zacharuk 1G, Max Lerner 1G.

Peewee A 6 NobleKing 0
Shawn Clark 3G, Derrick Hamner 1G, Justin Brown 1G, Taylor Nuttall 1G 2A, Evan Casselden 2A, Paul Keilty 1A, Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1A, Dylan Cross 1A.

Bradford 4 Peewee A 2
Derrick Hamner 1G, Oliver Boettcher 1G, Shawn Clark 1A, Jeffrey Sanderson 3A, Justin Brown 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 8 Richmond Hill 1
Matthew Mikhaili 2G 2A, Emilio Nafarrate 3A, Tyler Hanlon 2G 1A, Johnny Borsellino 1G 1A, Connor McQueston 1G 1A, Tyler Persaud 1A, Christian Stankiewicz 2G, Brandon Galante 1A, Alex Denault 1A.

Newmarket 5 Minor Bantam AA 2
Connor McQueston 1G, Tyler Hanlon 1G, Brandon Galante 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 6 Ajax 1
Connor McQueston 1G, Matthew Mikhaili 1G 2A, Adrian Dirosa 1A, Johnny Borsellino 1G 1A, David Roper 2A, Ryan Besse 1A, Alex Denault 1A, Brandon Galante 1G, Tyler Hanlon 1G 1A, Ryan Findlay 1G, Tyler Persaud 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 4 Semi-Finals 2nd vs 3rd 1
Tyler Hanlon 1G 2A, Brandon Galante 3A, Johnny Borsellino 2G 1A, Matthew Mikhaili 1G, Ryan Besse 1A.

Newmarket 6 Minor Bantam A 3
Braun Hause 1G 1A, Adam Bloom 1G 1A, Gregory Buchner 1G, Michael Morson 1A, Darrel Evans 1A, Benjamin Mulholland 1A.

Stouffville 5 Minor Bantam A 1
Luca Ghegin 1G, David Bar 1A.

Bantam AA 4 Markham 1
Eric Sarracini 1G, Kyle Scott 1A, Ian Middleton 2A, Ben Sherritt 2G, Steven Keane 1G 1A, Taylor Postill 1A, Steven Donches 1A.

Bantam A 5 Markham 2
Josh Meron 1G, Darcy Pelosse 1G 2A, Jesse Coote 1G, Jamie Tuck 1G 1A, Spencer McCartney 1G, Colton Horner 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A, Nick Crain 2A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A, Jeremy Cohen 1A.

Bantam A 3 Stouffville 2
Fraser Kegel 1G, Jake Hurlbut 2G, Ross Pizzurro 1A, Spencer McCartney 1A, Jeremy Cohen 1A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A, Josh Meron 1A, Colton Horner 1A.

Minor Midget AA 8 Georgina 1

Minor Midget A 4 Stouffville 3

Midget AA 1 Caledon 1
Dave Martyn 1G.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

This famous speech rocked an Aurora hall

In 1857 Aurora's Temperance Hall was the scene of one of Canada's best known political speeches when the Honourable George Brown, a Father of Confederation and founder of The Globe, gave his famous "representation by population" speech.

By the Act of Union, both Upper and Lower Canada were to have equal representation in Parliament, but Brown argued that as Upper Canada, or Ontario, was growing faster than Quebec, it should have greater representation.

His Aurora speech was said to make eventual union possible.

In 1874, the Aurora Drill Hall shook with applause as the Honourable Edward Blake launched the Canada First movement with his Aurora Speech.

At a time when the struggling nation was not doing too well, Blake advocated a strong national feeling for Canada, Senate reform, compulsory voting and proportional repre-



Young Kyla Campo, left, shows a copy of her new book “I’m Not Stupid At All” that she produced with a grant she received from Aurora’s Arts & Culture Fund. Kyla dedicated the project “to my friends with learning disabilities”. With her is mom, Deborah, a popular York Region artist.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

sentation.

He called on Canadians to develop a national spirit to bring together the seven provinces who had been used to regarding themselves as being isolated from each other and their petty jealousies and local interests.

SOIL CONDITIONS

In 1985, council of the day purchased the Browning property for \$131,000 to provide a lighted walkway to the Victoria Street Library from Yonge Street, plus a little parkette with benches for pedestrians.

After several studies, council called tenders in September, 1986, for the walkway and landscaping of the Browning property at an estimated cost of \$55,000.

Before the tender was awarded, John Emery, of Fairmont Properties, presented an \$8 to \$10 million downtown redevelopment plan for the Browning property plus two adjacent properties.

The proposal was to build a three-storey retail/condominium apartment complex with underground parking.

Despite a shortage of 40 parking spaces, council approved the project in principle, subject to a payment of \$155,000 in lieu of parking.

But by August, 1987, the redevelopment proposal was dropped due to poor soil conditions.

Emery told council that the properties on Yonge Street between Church and Mosley Streets did not have the load bearing capacity to support a three-storey building.

This is adjacent to the same site on which council later approved the construction of the new \$8.7 million library at Church and Yonge Streets.

WAGON TRAIN

Back in 1975, much like today, people were frustrated and angry with the economic slowdown, loss of jobs, high taxes, shortage of affordable housing and politicians at all levels.

They wanted to stop the world, catch their breath and return to the good old days of peace and quiet.

It wasn't an April Fool joke but on April 1, 1975, 12 families, including two from Newmarket, consisting of some 50 people, including 10 children, decided to return to the good old days.

They set off on a 2,960-mile trek from the GTA to the Peace River area of Alberta by wagon train, as in the old days, with wagon master Gordon Roberts.

The wagon train pulled away from the Bar I Ranch, near Kleinburg, with 12 wagons, 36 horses, 17 dogs, four mules, two goats and a pig.

Seven of the wagons were the pioneer type with white canvas lashed over hoops.

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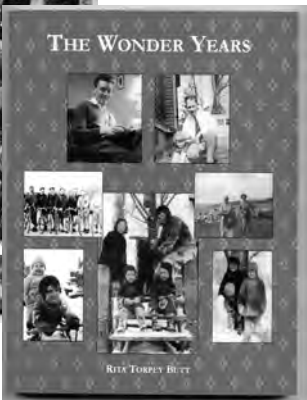
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York Region columnist
RITA TORPEY BUTT

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Aurora activities aplenty in 2004

From page 1

to go on its own, council approved proceeding with the works in conjunction with the regional contract.

In August with the resignation of Chief Administrative Officer Larry Allison after 22 years with the town to accept a similar position in Innisfil, council hired Scott Somerville as interim CAO on a six-month contract until a permanent replacement was found.

Phase I of the St. John's Sideroad reconstruction project, the section between Old Yonge Street and the Industrial Parkway, was started in public opposition. Concern was expressed about noise, safety and parking.

Aurora had two Olympic hopefuls for the Summer Games in Athens. Mara Jones was named to a rowing team and Steve Jorens competed in the Sprint Kayak event.

Lawyers representing the Markham/Aurora Task Force started a legal battle with Hydro One's plans to install high-capacity transmission towers from Markham to Newmarket through Aurora claiming the project was flawed.

The Task Force was funded by \$100,000 from Markham and \$25,000, which Aurora council approved in principle.

Aurora residents were faced with the expense of another OMB hearing as a result of an appeal launched by a landowner after the town delayed issuing a landfill permit for his property on Bloomington Road.

The blowing of train whistles at Aurora rail crossings during the night became a council issue as some residents want the whistles banned. Council agreed to start the process with a request to CN to eliminate the whistling.

The long-standing controversy of on-street parking on Gurnett and Kennedy Streets due to the lack of off-street parking at the medical offices at Yonge and Kennedy ended with the installation of a three-way stop at Gurnett and Kennedy.

While it was still summer, Aurora Council was preparing for winter with the approval of a winter roads service delivery program and with the growth of the town adding an extra route. Tender prices were 30 per cent higher than 2003.

In September the town finally sold four acres of town-owned land south of Wellington Street adjacent to the controversial hydro corridor for \$1.6 million for residential development.

Council learned it was facing an OMB hearing for a development that had never come to council. The previous December an application was submitted for a residential complex on 12.5 acres of land on the Industrial Parkway North. The application had never reached council as it was incomplete and staff

had difficulty obtaining the required information. By the time it had been received the 90-day time limit had expired and the applicant appealed to the OMB.

The controversial Hydro One transmission corridor was back before council as some members were having second thoughts and said it was a waste of time and money to fight Hydro One as it was a Crown corporation of the provincial government.

Four firms submitted bids for the pre-grading of the seniors' centre and the contract was awarded to Gentile Contracting, the low bidder, with a price of \$239,000.

The low bid for the construction of the new recreational complex by Bondfield Construction was accepted at a price of \$16,595,000, with the arena portion of the project scheduled for completion by August 15, 2005.

The need for a new fire hall for Aurora was identified for construction in 2005, as recommended by the Master Fire Service Plan and the Joint Council Fire Committee.

The estimated expenditure of \$1.6 million is to be included in the 2005 capital budget with construction planned for the Wellington East site adjacent to the new recreational complex.

According to a report from the town's external auditor, the municipality experienced an assessment growth of six per cent or \$989,000 in additional taxes for 2003 and the town ended the year with a surplus of \$622,523.

Council's tentative decision to provide \$25,000 to assist the Markham/Aurora Task Force in its fight against Hydro One was back before council and after a lengthy debate, council on a 7-2 vote approved the funds.

Due to rising costs of vehicle maintenance, repairs, insurance and the price of fuel, council agreed to a request from taxi operators for a fare increase and approved a 14 per cent increase, the first in five years.

The long established Thompson Funeral Home located on Victoria Street since 1922 received final approval from council to move to the northeast corner of Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway South.

In spite of strong opposition from residents and representatives of other shopping centres in Aurora and Newmarket, council gave the green light for the construction of a regional shopping centre at Wellington Street East and Highway 404 on a 4-2 vote.

Lack of servicing in Aurora could delay the building of a new Catholic French Language Secondary School in partnership with a residential development at the northeast corner of Bloomington Road and Bathurst Street.

The controversy over the change of address for the Town Hall from John West Way to Municipal Drive was back before council as a result of a motion to rescind the motion to approve the address change which had been approved by council on a 5-4 vote the previous April.

Due to a lack of off-street parking at the GO Transit rail station parking lot, it was suggested the Sheppard's Bush parking lot on Industry Street be used to get the cars off residential streets.

Due to the condition of the parking lot and poor lighting and the lack of sidewalks on Mary Street, council refused to approve the request and referred the parking issue to GO Transit.

After repeated requests for a breakdown of the costs of the new recreational complex and how it was to be financed, it was reported the total estimated cost was \$24.2 million.

Of this amount, \$12.6 million is to be paid by development charges, \$5.3 million from reserve accounts leaving a total of \$6.3 million to be debentured over 20 years.

The impact on the average tax bill is estimated at \$54 per year and in order to meet the development charge commitment, it will be necessary to issue 400

single family permits a year for 10 years to pay the annual debt charges.

For the first time in memory a member of Aurora Council was asked to leave the chambers during a meeting for failure to withdraw a statement made about other council members.

Council approved the tender bid of Rutherford Construction for the construction of the seniors' centre at a cost of \$2.3 million. As this was below the budgeted amount, council was able to replace certain items that had been deleted to cut costs.

November started with a mystery surrounding the award of the pre-grading contract to Gentile Contracting for \$239,000 the previous June. For some unexplained reason, at least in public session, the work was never commenced.

Following an in-camera session, it was announced that the contract had now been awarded to the third low bidder at a price of \$312,302, an increase of \$73,302 over the original award.

A question that has been a hot issue at council since the first of the year is when a meeting is not a meeting in accordance with the Municipal Act. A legal opinion was obtained from an expert in municipal law that a council could hold an assembly or workshop session.

In order to hold a free-wheeling informal meeting of council it was necessary to amend the procedural bylaw, which was approved by the general committee on a 4-3 vote.

Aurora Council is noted for its long and often controversial council and committee meetings, but a November general committee meeting set a record for brevity.

In under 30 minutes, the committee, with 14 items on the agenda, lifted six for debate. Even the discussion was limited as four

members of council were absent from the meeting.

If Aurora Council gets its way the environmental assessment for the Hydro One transmission corridor will be bumped up to a more comprehensive individual assessment, and a request for the bump-up was sent to the Ministry of the Environment.

December started with the good news that the town would enjoy labour peace for the next three years as an agreement was signed with CUPE Local 905 representing 33 outside workers.

The workers had been in a legal strike position since May. The new contract includes a 10.5 per cent increase over three years, plus a six per cent catch-up adjustment to recognize the disparity that existed with other municipalities.

Council approved official plan and zoning bylaw changes to permit Aurora Toyota to move from its Yonge Street location to the southwest corner of Wellington Street East and Bayview Avenue, where the historic Hartman House is located.

Ever since the Royal

Theatre closed on Centre Street in the mid-1950s, the town has been trying to attract a movie theatre. It was announced that plans for the expansion of the Aurora Centre included a movie theatre to the west of the Zeller's Store on Bayview Avenue.

Plans to construct a private sector gas-fired generating plant on Newmarket Hydro property were unveiled to Aurora Council by officials of Northland Power to be operational by December 2006.

The year ended with an overview of the 2005 budget which was not good news. When the \$16.9 million 2004 budget was approved, the outlook for 2005 was for a 19 per cent increase.

Since then there has been almost a million dollars of assessment growth which will lower the increase on the draft \$17.8 million 2005 budget. Public input will be obtained through a survey and public meetings in the New Year for approval by council in March.

And that was the good and the bad that occurred in the year that was.

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