

# AURORAN

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Vol. 5 No. 14

Week of January 25, 2005

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## Buck becomes an onlooker

Incensed about the donation of \$500,000 in support of the victims of the recent tsunami disaster and the manner in which it was done without any public consultation by York Region, Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck attended last week's regional council meeting.

That's as far as she got.

She had sent an e-mail to the region requesting delegation status but was not listed on the agenda so she made a verbal request to staff.

During the council meeting Chairman Bill Fisch referred to Buck's request status and asked for council's direction. As no mem-

ber of council, including Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, indicated that she be heard, the meeting proceeded.

Included in the Finance and Administration Committee report to council it was reported that York Region, on behalf of its constituents, donate \$500,000 in support of the tidal wave victims.

The donation was to be funded out of the 2004 budget surplus with 75 per cent allocated to the Canadian Red Cross and 25 per cent to World Vision Canada.

When the report came to council, the item was adopted without comment or debate.

At the recent general committee meeting of Aurora Council, Councillor Buck gave Notice of Motion regarding the \$500,000 donation and requesting a formal investigation into what she alleged was an unauthorized expenditure.

Recently, council voted 7-2 in support of a Buck motion advising the region that council was opposed to the way the issue was handled by the region. The motion was not included on the region's agenda.

The motion also included a request to obtain a legal opinion if a canvass of members could take the place of a council meeting.

Buck said she was told her e-mail request did not arrive at the Region offices, however, a technical spokesman at Aurora Cable Internet, which provides Buck's service, said it did.



**McLean Wickham, left, Laurel Nichols and Alicia Repasi begin work as they prepare to peel an onion and a green pepper during a "hands-on" introductory cooking class which has been held at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Saturday mornings. Youngsters have been learning to become student chefs.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## 10-screen complex coming to Aurora

Pass the popcorn, the movie's about to begin.

Ten of them, actually.

Aurora will be home to 10 movie screens, courtesy of Cineplex Odeon Cinemas, sometime this year when a 41,000 square foot theatre is completed in the town's east end.

At a public announcement Friday morning, it was learned the new complex will locate in the Aurora Centre, current home of Zellers and Sobey's.

When finished, the building will accommodate 2,200 "rocking" chairs in 10 theatres.

Dan McGrath, executive vice president of Cineplex Odeon, told a gathering at the Town Hall, that the theatres will also feature "the best popcorn on the planet".

He teamed up with Aurora Mayor Tim Jones to leave a set of handprints in cement, that will be featured on the sidewalk in front of the new building.

Mayor Jones said he had been waiting 27 years for a theatre to arrive in Aurora.

Prior to that, Aurora was served by a single screen theatre on Centre Street called the Royal.

Both Jones and McGrath agreed the theatre would keep movie-goers in Aurora, and Jones pointed out the new building "will be four minutes from my house".

The theatres will be so comfortable, McGrath predicted consumers will prefer to go to the movies rather than stay home and watch DVDs.

And, he said, the economy of the community will benefit.

"Many people like to go to a restaurant before the movie," he said. "The complex will also employ several full and part-time people."

Construction is expected to begin this spring and officials are looking at an autumn completion date.

## Street Festival anniversary includes an evening dance

Hard to believe, but, Aurora's popular Street Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer.

Party time.

Members of the committee putting together the World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street decided it was important to acknowledge the milestone, but to keep Yonge Street in the forefront.

After all, the festival started as a result of Yonge Street's 200th anniversary 10 years ago.

So, the logical move was a street dance...on Yonge Street.

The night before this year's festival - which is scheduled for Sunday, June 5 - a giant street dance will take place on Yonge between Murray and Henderson in

Aurora's south end.

The street will be closed from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. and the dance will continue until midnight.

If you're 19 or older, you're invited.

Called Diamonds and Denim, the street dance will feature live music, a beer garden, food booths and a ton of fun.

Officials felt the closed area was ideal since no one lives on Yonge Street in that district and the major frontage is taken up by the Legion's Peace Park and cenotaph.

Detouring around the dance is simple, with motorists using Murray and Allaura to skirt the event.

Revellers are asked to have a good time, but to save some ener-

gy for the next day when the annual street festival is held, again on Yonge Street, between Wellington and Murray.

Last year, more than 40,000 enjoyed perfect summer weather as they strolled the street perusing some 500 vendors' booths which lined both sides of the road.

Numerous activities have been arranged for the day including rock climbing walls, a mist tent, classic car show, a skate board park and a ton of live music.

That activity runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chamber officials report some vendors have already purchased booth space for the festival. If you're interested, call the Chamber at 905-727-7262.



**Cineplex Odeon Executive Vice President, Dan McGrath, left, joins Mayor Tim Jones as they leave their handprints in cement that will be featured as part of Aurora's new 10-screen theatre, expected to be opened before the end of the year.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

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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 6 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.townsof-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.

Cooking and Sewing Classes for kids ages 10 to 14 years - every Wednesday 3.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church corner Mosley and Victoria Streets. Classes end March 30th. Cost \$20 for materials only.

People who enjoy knitting or would like to learn are invited to join the knitting bee in the upper room at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, Mosley and Victoria Streets, every Monday. The bee happens from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Refreshments provided and child care available.

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

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.

Aurora health care professionals are invited to Southlake Regional Health Centre to attend an information session from 7 to 8.30 p.m. to discuss the feasibility of developing a Family Health Team in Newmarket. For more information, visit www.southlakeregional.org or call 905-895-4521, ext. 2541.

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.

Aurora's Arctic Adventure takes place throughout the day at the Aurora Community Centre. Numerous activities. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Refresher driving course for seniors under the auspices of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, in the Leksand Room of the Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive. Each session runs from 9.30 a.m. to noon. To register, call Kim Hinder at the Aurora Seniors' Centre 905-727-2816.

Valentine's Dance at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Live music by the Newmarket Citizens' Band, 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

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

Aurora Writers Guild meeting at Aurora Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. New members welcome. All genres, levels and ages 18+ welcome.

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.

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association's 2005 season at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Winter clinics currently underway. More information from www.auroraminorball.ca or Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.

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.

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association's 2005 season at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Winter clinics currently underway. More information from www.auroraminorball.ca or Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.



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# Presto! Two units appear

The controversial development of the northeast corner of Cousins Drive and Yonge Street is still controversial.

Seems there are more apartments in the building than were approved.

Approval was granted in January last year to permit construction of a four-storey building with office commercial use on the ground floor and a total of 10 dwelling units on the remaining three floors.

When construction was complete, the building had 12 apartments instead of 10 and reduced commercial space.

As a result, the applicant reconfigured the parking area to allow for the required 21 parking spaces, instead of the 19 originally proposed. No changes were made to the exterior of the building.

## Traffic lights approved at St. Andrew's

Officials of Aurora's St. Andrew's College have asked York Region to install traffic signals at the entrance to the school on Yonge Street.

No problem, the Region said, just pay for them.

Cost to install the signals was estimated to be upwards of \$150,000 and regional staff advise response from college officials was favourable.

Even though a regional report found insufficient warrants at the driveway, York Region Council approved, without comment, the installation at St. Andrew's expense.

School officials said motorists had trouble turning into the school at peak traffic periods and it was difficult for student pedestrians to cross the five-lane Yonge Street.

School representatives believed speed reduction and school zone measures implemented by the region were not sufficient and a traffic signal was the most appropriate measure to address these concerns.

Regional staff, arguing against the installation, claimed the overall safety performance of the roadway was good and traffic signals had the potential of increasing the number of rear-end collisions.

It was agreed it was not safe for pedestrians to cross Yonge Street at that spot, but pedestrian signals are not warranted due to low volume. There were 11 pedestrians during an eight-hour period.

Regional staff recommended that traffic signals were not warranted, the 60 km/hr speed limit be lowered to 50 km/hr and the GO bus stops at the school entrance be eliminated.

After listening to school officials outline their problems the transportation and works committee recommended the signal request be approved at the cost of the applicant.

When the committee report and recommendation came to regional council it was adopted without comment.

Town departments have reviewed the change and have no objections to the proposal.

The original controversy, under a different owner, was for a six storey office building with the purchase of the former Aurora Cable building to the north and a residential property to the east.

Following a plea from residents about the size and incompatibility of the proposal in a residential area and a thumbs-down recommendation from staff, council rejected the application.

As a result of the refusal the existing store and former residence on the property remained open as Kidsport. That closed in 2002 and ownership of the property changed hands.

The new owner planned to demolish the existing building and build a residential/commercial three-storey building.

Rather than go through normal planning processes, the applicant elected to go to the Committee of Adjustment for a minor variance, but that didn't work, and a second meeting was held.

New plans were for a four-storey building rather than the three as originally proposed, and residents argued size, scale of the building and parking.

After a lengthy private session, the Committee of Adjustment on a 4-1 vote, approved the minor variance

and as no appeal was made, final approval was granted in October, 2003.

At last week's general committee meeting questions were asked how the two extra apartments were built without authority. Staff replied the additional units were found during the inspection process.

Councillor Damir Vrancic asked if the apartments were built without staff's knowledge and staff replied in the affirmative. When Vrancic asked what would happen if council refused to approve the request, staff replied it would likely become a legal issue.

Director of Planning Sue Seibert admitted the two units had been built without permission, but were in accordance with the zoning bylaw, so it might be difficult to defend.

Councillor Vrancic noted that the same developer had a history of making mistakes.

Although not mentioned it was the same developer who used the zoned commercial space on a Wellington Street building for residential uses and built a fifth floor on a Yonge Street building when council had adopted a site-specific bylaw limiting the building to four storeys to protect a view of the clock tower.

The committee finally agreed to obtain a legal opinion before taking any action.

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## Poor Richard

# It may be yucky, but smoking legal

*It's legal, but not wanted,  
A ban is placed on smoking;  
It wasn't always that way,  
They would say we're joking!*  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

James I of England and Ontario Health Minister George Smitherman must have gone to the same school, insofar as their thoughts on tobacco are concerned.

Good King James is reported to have said, "a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs and in this black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless".

According to history, it all began in 1559.

Jean Nicot, the French Ambassador to Portugal, presented the Queen of France with a pouch of seeds, a gift from America.

He explained that the Indians grew a plant and its dried leaves were burned and the smoke inhaled.

The court was fascinated and tobacco took root in Europe.

Some years Later, Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco to the court of Queen Elizabeth and was the hero of his time.

But his luck changed when Elizabeth died and King James ascended to the throne, and Raleigh was later beheaded.

The French government tried to discourage the French settlers from smoking tobacco, but finally gave up in 1735 and permitted the settlers to export tobacco to other European countries.

Tobacco became a status symbol.

People everywhere chewed it, sniffed it or inhaled it.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "lastly, no woman should marry a teetotaler or a man who does not smoke".

Over the years times changed and smoking became a no-no.

In the 1970s a Montreal doctor was able to convince 60 per cent of his male patients and 20 per cent of his female patients to stop smoking by threatening baldness.

A Chicago doctor found a more effective method of getting his patients to stop smoking.

He told them cigarette smoking caused impotence by lowering hormone production and reducing stamina.

The battle to control the use of tobacco products as a health measure continued with the province and local municipalities threatening to take action, while at the same time, the provincial Ministry of Agriculture was providing grants to tobacco farmers in Southwestern Ontario to improve their crops.

In 1974, it was suggested the Ontario government call an election and include a referendum question on the ballot asking the voters whether they wanted the province to enact enabling legislation through which the regulation of smoking would be properly enforced in all places accessible to the public where there are no separated designated smoking areas.

A few years back York Region enacted a three-phase bylaw restricting smoking in public places starting with the workplace, then restaurants and other places and finally taverns and pubs.

Smoking was permitted in designated smoking rooms with separate ventilation systems and on outdoor patios.

Many restaurant operators went to considerable expense to construct designated smoking rooms to save their business.

Now Health Minister Smitherman has introduced legislation to ban smoking everywhere except the home and outdoors, including Legion Halls and the designated smoking rooms built in accordance with a regional bylaw.

Frankly, I can't get too excited whether people smoke or not.

I used to be a heavy smoker, especially during the war years, as smoking helped keep me awake on the long flights across the Atlantic Ocean.

After the war when I started a selling career I stopped smoking for business, rather than health reasons.

As long as tobacco is a legal product and the provincial government is raking in revenue from tobacco products, I believe it is hypocritical of the government to tax on the one hand and be sanctimonious on the other by saying they are protecting our health.

If the use of tobacco is so harmful to people's health, then it should be banned, but until it is, it's a legal product and should be treated accordingly.



Sixty years ago, this was the Grade 8 class at Aurora Public School. Today, the building is known as the Church Street School. The photograph was taken in 1945, and we have no idea who is in this picture. Do you? Of the 27 students, a little more than half were female. Anyone recognize the teacher? Thanks to Helen Roberts, president of Aurora Heritage (Inc.), formerly the Aurora Historical Society, for supplying the picture.

## Letters to the Editor

# Delegation request DID arrive, councillor claims

To the editor,

Modern technology is simply marvellous. I would be less impressed if I really knew what I was doing. But I do enjoy the feeling that something magical happens every time I touch the right key.

Tuesday morning I called the York Region clerk's office to check the process for delegation status.

I thought I would be too late but the friendly young woman told me to send in an e-mail. So, I did.

And it came up in my list as having successfully landed. It is a marvellous sense of accomplishment when I do it right.

Still, at the back of my mind, I sort of knew I should have received an acknowledgement.

So...Thursday morning I went early. Regional Council meets at 9.30 a.m.

I had been there before when I served on the Police Services board.

The entry hall is a huge space - not impressive - massive grey concrete pillars, dull industrial floor covering.

I've been invited to various ceremonies as a past regional councillor and municipal councillor. I never

went. If I don't want to I tend not to do things I don't need to.

So nothing prepared me for the magnificence of the regional council chamber.

In contrast, Aurora's chamber looks like the Wal-Mart edition.

Councillors up there sit on a raised dais like the superlative people they apparently are not.

One can easily understand why being surrounded by such majesty and opulence might create a sense of not being part of the real world.

I was not listed as a deputation. I inquired and was informed my e-mail had not been received.

Nevertheless, not realizing my insignificance, I persisted. I requested the clerk to inform the chairperson of my desire to be a delegate and my purpose in same.

The meeting proceeded. Came time for deputations. The chairman noted there were none listed but he had a request from me for status as a delegate.

He said no reason was given but he had an idea why I was there. He threw it out to council to decide if they wished to hear from me. His query was greeted with a deafening silence. I was not heard.

Nor did we hear, in subsequent proceedings, from any other elected representative, why they saw fit to donate such a significant amount of overpaid taxes (\$500,000) to an international charity...nor why they considered it necessary to ignore the law that governs them in order to achieve that purpose.

But all was not lost. If the council was not interested in hearing what a lowly taxpayer of the region had to say about their action, the media were more than happy to plumb the depth of my conviction that the Regional Council of York and its chairman are something less than the magnanimous and solitary keepers of the public conscience they think they are.

And by the way, my wizard at Aurora Cable Internet technical support, assures me my e-mail requesting delegation status at the region was indeed received by the clerk's office mere seconds after I pressed the key that sent it zooming northward in the direction of the rarefied atmosphere of York Regional Council.

**Evelyn Buck**  
Aurora Councillor

# Kettle volunteers praised

To the editor,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who helped raise \$15,700 for the Salvation Army Christmas kettle drive.

To the six businesses where we had the kettles, thank you.

To the volunteers who manned the kettles (their

ages were from 16 to 92) thank you.

To the Town staff who took the calls in the mayor's office and the treasury staff who counted the collection, thank you.

To the fire department who placed the kettles and picked up the money, thank you.

This was a collective

effort, without each and every one of you, it could not have happened.

Thank you for caring for those less fortunate in our society.

On behalf of the Salvation Army Aurora kettle drive, thank you.

**John West**  
Chair

## AURORAN

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Community Newspaper"

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Machell's Corners

by Scott Johnston



Letter to the Editor

# Budget numbers not available

To the editor,

The preparation of the Town's Budget would normally have begun last September with the first draft in late December.

Since the projected increase last year for 2005 was 19 per cent; one would think that it would be a very high priority to complete the 2005 budget.

While this 19 per cent projected increase was hopefully a worst case scenario, it is hard to believe that we still don't have a first draft of the operating budget.

Council had indicated that this year's budget

process would be improved, that it would include more public input and earlier in the process; and that we would know much sooner in the year what our actual tax bill would be.

The newly created finance committee was to help in this process, however, it appears it hasn't. It has only had a couple of meetings and a resident survey which it commissioned to determine financial priorities (at a cost of \$14,000) appears to be stalled.

The budget meeting called for Saturday to review to numbers has been cancelled; no public consultation yet scheduled and

still no indication what the real increase will be!

The region, however, has prepared theirs and indicated a nine per cent increase for that portion.

This is an important and critical budget for the town, as it will include the real annual costs of the badly needed rec and senior centres.

How do we continue to operate our Town, plan for additional projects (such as green boxes) and satisfy the on-going need for the increasing demand for services when the annual budget and tax rates are not approved by the elected officials until April?

The real question is 'should every taxpayer be concerned about their looming final tax bill which will reflect the true increase but won't arrive in the mail box until June 2005?'

And while we all know you can try to make any increase sound minimal, why do they continue to use the rationale of something like 'it will only be the price of a coffee a week on a house assessed at \$200,000.'?

Nineteen per cent is 19 per cent no matter how you look at it!

Al Wilson  
Aurora

# Looking at the 2005 budgets

Council has a huge challenge in both capital as well as operating budgeting for 2005.

Council began deliberating its 2005 capital budget with a public meeting which was advertised and held at the Town Hall a week ago Saturday.

Council is committed to maintaining its major infrastructure renewal programs in roads, water and waste water as well as the new capital costs associated with the new recreation facilities and a new fire hall.

The capital budget as put forward January 15th totalled \$11,500,415.

The main components of our capital program for 2005 include: Roads and Works - \$5,338,200; Water and Sewer - \$650,000; Administration Technology - \$857,015; Leisure Services - \$4,326,000; Library - \$179,200; New Fire Hall - \$1,620,000.

Included in the roads construction projects being proposed are:

- reconstruction of George Street from Wellington to Tyler, plus Bell Drive and both ends of Hammond.
- Reconstruction of Fairway Drive from Murray to Stoddart, plus Eldon Cres., Glenview Dr. and the east end of Devlin Place.
- Reconstruction of Vandorf Sideroad from Industrial Parkway to Bayview.
- Reconstruction completion of Ridge Road.

Most of the funds budgeted for administration technology are earmarked for our share of the financing for a new fire aerial truck (\$400,000), with most of the rest going towards the implementation of a new financial system for the Town (\$315,000) and a core services review (\$100,000).

Funding for our capital projects is comprised of development charges, reserves and reserve funds, which are monies specifically designated for capital projects as well as a contribution from the operating budget.

Council will concentrate on its operating budget in February.

In 2004, our operating tax levy was \$16,938,482.

The challenge for council partially for 2005 and fully over the next 20 years includes having to absorb the debt charges which were committed when council approved going forward with the new community centre as well as the new operating expenses for this facility and the new seniors' centre.

These facilities are planned to be up and running this year.

Add to this increases in staff costs as negotiated with our unions and increases to be applied to non-union staff after in depth reviews of our overall compensation package as compared to other municipalities, as well as increases in fuel, hydro and natural gas, we will need to carefully review our priorities for 2005.

Although the new home completions will see our assessment revenue rise in 2005, the limitation on water and sewer services in Aurora will see our building permit revenue decline over what it has been.

Council will need to take advantage of what servicing capacity it has to maintain growth at an average level to realize needed revenue.

It is important to note that as we face double digit budget challenges, this applies only to the Town portion of the overall tax bill.

For 2004, that related to 30 per cent of the total bill.

The Region's portion is 44 per cent and the Education share is at 26 per cent.

On a home with an average current value assessment of \$250,000, Aurora residents pay on average \$832 a year or \$2.28 per day for their Town delivered services.

Currently, without any discussion or deliberation on any cuts, Council is starting with a potential 19 per cent increase for 2005, or \$158 annual increase, and it is our intention to pare that down over the next few months.

Council will be holding similar Saturday meetings for our operational budget at the Town Hall in February.

These dates will be publicized in the local media.

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



# Fred

By RON WALLACE  
Auroran Editor

Her name is Fred. She stands about four feet high and she's in charge. Like a bag of dynamite.

*(Wait a minute...why am I writing Cathy's column, you wonder? Well, she went south for a while, and I understand, it wasn't much warmer there, but she left only one column in the bin. That was last week. I said I'd fill this space for her; not as well, mind you, but at least put some words on the white space).*

So, where was I? Oh, yeah, Fred. Honestly, I don't know Fred's real name. She wouldn't tell me. And that's final, she said.

I think she lives in Aurora because, when we first met, she knew who I was.

"Ah, Councillor Wallace," Fred said. Fred was the greeting committee in the day surgery waiting room at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, and Fred set the tone for my two recent adventures up there to deal with that old-age disease called "cataracts".

Fred is, simply, a Southlake Regional Health Centre volunteer and Southlake couldn't have found a better one if it tried.

I really am a wimp when it comes to eyes, and I was not looking forward to this "operation" where someone was going to implant a lens into my peeper. As a matter of fact, if you had asked if there was anywhere I'd rather be, the list would have been endless.

My fear was all but forgotten when I met Fred, who, by the way, is a senior citizen.

She twigged early to my fears, called me a wuss, told me to get over it, and generally kept me in line.

I liked Fred. Frankly, I liked everyone I met during that day and the sec-

ond operation day, which happened only last week.

It astounded me that people could be so nice and so tolerant given the day-to-day grind of a hospital like Southlake that keeps morphing itself.

And, I'm gonna tell you, the hospital is not a favourite hang-out for me.

Prior to this operation (both were day surgeries, what I refer to as "dry cleaning service" - in by eight; out by five) I was in that hospital about 30 years ago for another day surgery.

Prior to that, we're talking tonsil and appendix removal, when I was about six years old.

So, preparing for the first eye operation, it came as no surprise to me that I had put my gown on backwards.

How would I know how they work?

When I sauntered into the operating room, there were guffaws all around as doctors, nurses and others realized the garb was done up the wrong way.

I don't know who said it, but it was a female: "Ah, he just doesn't want us to see his butt."

Why anyone would even want to see a 60-year-old butt is not the issue here.

It was the good-natured humour; the sarcastic, quick-thinking wit; the relaxed tone of the room that impressed me.

And, I found that attitude everywhere I went.

"Here, let me undo that thing before you hang yourself," someone offered.

When I was in recovery after the operation, I asked for a second cup of coffee.

"Is there no end to your demands?" the nurse snickered.

So, what had started out to be one of the major fear-moments of my life, turned into a relaxing, almost enjoyable experience.

Thank you, Fred.

Thank you, Southlake.







Jennifer Martin of Aurora, far left, is the director of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and here she conducts a rehearsal at Aurora’s old library building on Victoria Street. Sponsored by the Canadian Children’s Theatre Company, the performance may be seen at the Newmarket Theatre from March 7th to 12th. Further ticket information is available by calling 905-726-4486 or 416-995-4486.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Theatre Aurora

# “Wait Until Dark” is edge of seat thriller

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

When Theatre Aurora advertises a play as a mystery/thriller, they really mean it.

The current production of "Wait Until Dark" is no exception. It will keep you on the edge of your seat most of the performance and wondering what can happen next.

Sam Hendrix is a professional photographer who does a considerable amount of travelling. On a recent visit, he meets a woman at the airport.

After striking up a conversation, the woman tells him about a very sick little girl in a New York hospital for whom she had bought a doll, but was unable to deliver it, and asked Sam if he would do so.

Unknown to Sam the doll is filled with heroin. He lives in a Greenwich Village basement apartment with his wife Susy, who is blind. She thinks Sam brought the doll home for her, until he tells her about the sick girl.

Then the doll goes missing. Lisa, the drug runner, manages to get into the apartment to search for it without success and later winds up dead and the suspense begins.

Harry Roat, Junior and Senior, is the crook and what he wants, he normally gets. He hires two men to meet him at the apartment, after arranging for Sam and Susy to attend a false photo assignment.

He lays out an elaborate plan in which Mike Talman will pretend to be an Army buddy of Sam's to gain Susy's confidence and find out about the doll. The other man becomes Sgt. Carlino, a fake detective, to frighten Samantha to tell the truth.

Also involved in the action is Gloria, a teenager who lives upstairs.

Talman and Carlino are unable to find the doll, and by this time Susy has become suspicious of their actions and tells Talman to leave.

Roat returns, with threats of harming her if she doesn't cooperate, but Susy is prepared and uses her world of darkness to match his efforts. By doing so, she brings both Roat and the audience into her world.

The climax is one of the most chilling experiences in theatre as it takes place in the darkness, with crashes of furniture, dishes or whatever gets in the way. It has to be witnessed

to realize the emotion, fear and triumph of the scene.

Samantha Lynch has the challenging role of the blind Susy and carries it off to perfection. Her actions are realistic as are her falls on stage as she trips over items. A very strong performance.

Steven Wolfer is Harry Roat, Jr. who will stop at nothing to get what he wants, but meets his match with Susy.

Peter Shipston is the smooth-talking Mike Talman and is assisted by Lee Meakins as Sgt. Carlino.

Although a major figure in the play, Sam Hendrix played by James Oppenauer is only seen in the early and final scenes.

Teenager Gloria is well played by Victoria Clowater, at times rebel-

lious and jealous of Susy, but later a true friend.

The cast is complete with the cameo appearance in the final scenes of Peter Zauner and John Currie as policemen.

Director Reg O'Brien has assembled a very strong cast for this dramatic and thrilling production. The set of the basement apartment by Peter Kelly and Eric Glynwilliams is realistic as the feet of people can be seen walking by through the basement windows.

All in all, "Wait Until Dark" is well worth seeing, not just for the story but to witness the theatrical abilities of our local performers.

The thriller continues January 26 to 29 and February 2 to 5. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

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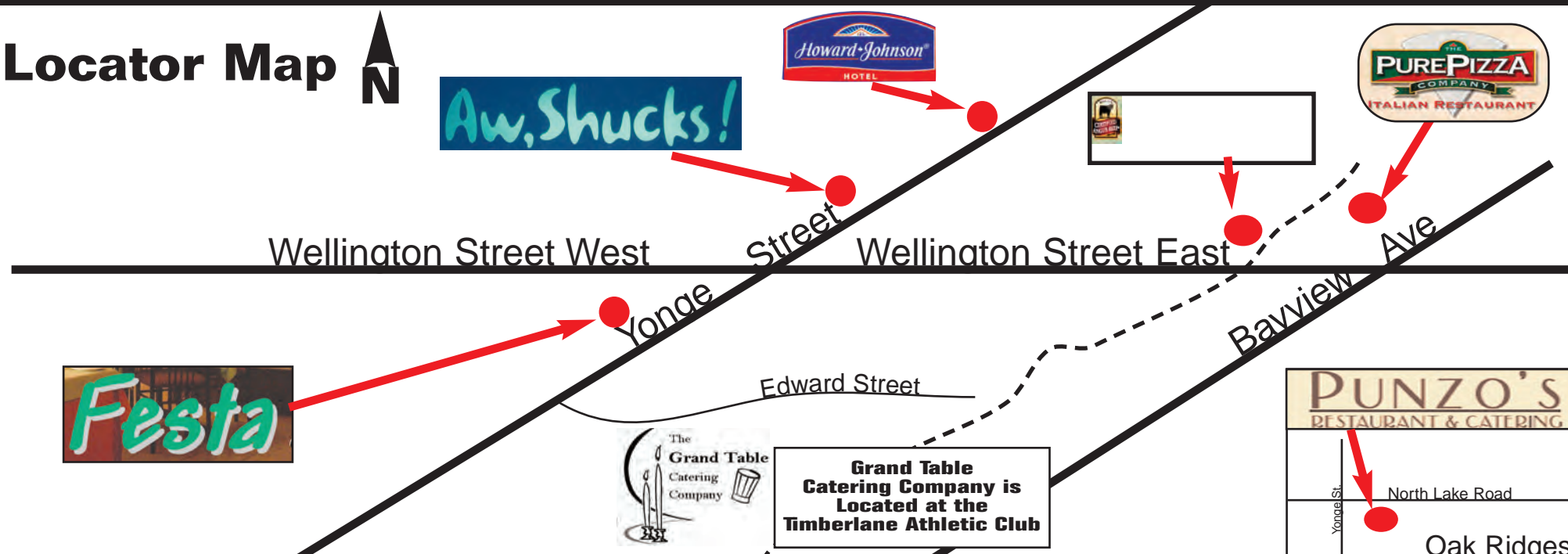
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Page 10

Week of January 25, 2005



Hosting his annual skating party, Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara helps Emily Bourne, 8, of Aurora with her skates Sunday afternoon at the Aurora Leisure Complex. Hundreds attended the event.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Skating results

Following are the results of the Midway East Area Competition, Frolics on Ice, held last week.

Pre-Preliminary Ladies I Freeskate Flight 1: Savannah Hendy, 2nd, Alyssa Simon, 3rd.  
Flight 2: Marilena Perri, 3rd.  
Flight 3: Alicia Alberton, 6th.  
Flight 4: Shauna O'Connor, 8th.  
Flight 5: Molly Oulahan, 2nd, Samantha Duncan, 5th.  
Flight 6: Teija Rom-Colthoff, 2nd, Sannon Lacombe, 6th.  
Flight 7: Caylin Butler, 2nd.  
Pre-Preliminary Ladies II Freeskate Flight 1: Jacqueline Relke, 7th.  
Flight 2: Nicole Relke, 1st, Kendall Mannella, 2nd.  
Flight 3: Tayler Sim, 5th, Samantha Galati, 8th, Kaitlin Van Winckle, 9th.  
Flight 4: Jihyun Cha, 1st, Taylor McDowall, 2nd, Nicole Calvert, 4th.  
Flight 5: Hailey Riggs, 1st.  
Flight 6: Alana Fabbricino, 2nd.  
Pre-Preliminary Ladies III Freeskate: Katie Sutton, 1st  
Preliminary I Ladies Freeskate Flight 1: Lauren Bellefeuille, 3rd.  
Flight 3: Cierra Snell, 1st.  
Preliminary II Freeskate Flight 1: Emma Slimkowich, 1st, Jordana Goldman, 2nd.  
Flight 2: Allie Sutton, 2nd.  
Junior Bronze Freeskate Flight 1: Julia Ranson, 3rd.  
Senior Bronze Freeskate Flight 1: Maya Goldman, 1st, Meaghan Jones, 5th, Emma Hayzelden, 6th.  
Flight 2: Fayme Cockshutt, 2nd.  
Junior Silver Freeskate: Michelle Wong, 2nd.  
Pre-Preliminary Solo Dance, Flight 2: Shauna O'Connor, 7th.  
Flight 3: Zahra Rajan, 2nd.  
Preliminary Solo Dance, Flight 1: Marilena Perri, 7th.  
Flight 2: Jackianne Abbey, 3rd, Nina Malek, 5th, Molly Oulahan, 8th.  
Junior Bronze Solo Dance Flight 1: Katie Sutton, 1st, Jacqueline Relke, 2nd, Kendall Mannella, 6th.  
Flight 2: Alana Fabbricino, 2nd.  
Senior Bronze Solo Dance, Flight 1: Allie Sutton, 3rd,

Jennine Bruton, 6th.  
Flight 2: Cierra Snell, 2nd, Jordana Goldman 3rd.  
Junior Silver Solo Dance, Flight 1: Maya Goldman, 3rd, Julia Ranson, 4th.  
Flight 2: Meaghan Jones, 3rd.  
Ice Angels Team: Annabelle Alberton, Gaenor Laverty, Gabrielle Perugini, 3rd.  
Pre-Preliminary I Team Elements Flight 2: Snow Bunnies Team, Samantha Duncan, Shannon Lacombe, Carley Steiner, 6th.  
Pre-Preliminary Showcase: Kendall Mannella, 1st, Alana Fabbricino, 2nd,  
Taylor McDowall, 4th.  
Open Showcase: Jennine Bruton.




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## Two easy points

The Aurora Tigers earned the two easiest points they'll get in this Provincial Hockey League this season when they travelled to Ajax Sunday afternoon.

The Axemen, scheduled to be their opponents, couldn't find enough players to field a team, so the game was defaulted in Aurora's favour.

On the statistics sheet, it will show a 1-0 victory for the Tigers.

The points gave Aurora a three-point bulge over rival Newmarket in the north division of the league. Newmarket had been sitting

on top of the heap until last week, when Aurora hosted Couchiching Friday night and skated away with an 8-3 win.

In the Friday match, Tigers were led by two-goal efforts from Josh Diamond and Jeremy Whelan, as they poured five goals into the opposition net in the second period alone, breaking a 2-2 tie after 20 minutes.

Tigers next home game is this Friday when the Stouffville Spirit visits Aurora in a game that starts at 8 p.m.

Sunday afternoon, Tigers will host Pickering in a 2.30 p.m. matchup.

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# Tennis players, lawn bowlers share park facilities

Aurora's McMahon Park is located on the north side of Maple Street and at the north end of Fleury Street.

It is the home of the Aurora Community Tennis Club and the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, two sports that might let you have some warm thoughts on these cold winter nights.

In 1967, the town's park committee agreed to improve the parks and asked then parks foreman Norm Weller to prepare an overall plan for the park for submission

to council.

Council agreed to provide a parking lot east of the courts and sod the existing parking lot south of the courts.

It was also agreed to provide floodlighting for the tennis courts and the bowling greens, and to consider a joint clubhouse.

At that time the lawn bowling club had a small building for club members and while arrangements were made to keep the washrooms open for the tennis players, the building was not available for

their use.

It was a private building located on public property.

As a result, friction developed between the young tennis players and the older lawn bowlers.

In June, 1969, council received a recommendation from the parks committee proposing a new building for both groups estimated to cost \$2,000.

It would contain lockers for nets and other tennis equipment.

The proposal was referred to the finance committee who endorsed it for inclusion in the 1970 budget.

The parks committee was directed to prepare detailed plans and estimates.

In May, 1972, a heated debate took place at council over the problem of whether the existing lawn bowling clubhouse was a public or a private building.

Staff was directed to investigate the true ownership of the property and building.

The issue came to a head when the Aurora Lions Club offered to donate \$3,000 for the addition of a kitchen to the building.

In April, 1973, Councillors Ron Simmons, George Timpson and Walt Davis were named to a committee to work with members of the Lions Club to prepare plans for the construction of a multi-purpose building for the park.

But when the committee inspected the facility

they realized the building was not worth renovating and it was suggested the town and the Lions Club share the estimated \$15,000 to build a new clubhouse and community building.

In June, 1973, council approved a tender for the construction of the community building in the park. The tender was for \$12,817 plus an estimated \$6,000 for a prefab building and \$1,500 to provide sewers and water.

The Lions Club contributed \$7,500 for the project.

The new clubhouse was to be built east of the existing building and was to be of split-level construction with a verandah overlooking the bowling greens. It was to be shared by both clubs and was scheduled to open in October, 1973.

Finally in June, 1974, Mayor Evelyn Buck officially opened the new McMahon sports pavilion. The old building was moved to Sheppard's Bush.

The conflict between the lawn bowlers and tennis players continued even with the new building. Council decided that the tennis club should pay \$400 per season for the use of the building, while the bowling club was charged only \$200.

Tennis players objected claiming they only used the basement of the facility and members of the bowling club had placed a padlock on the door leading to the upper level.

Council ordered the padlock removed on the basis that both groups should have full access to the whole building.

There was relative peace on the McMahon Park sports scene until April, 1980.

The Aurora Community Tennis Club proposed that a \$100,000 tennis clubhouse be erected north of the courts.

This ignited conflict of interest charges and raised doubts as to the role of the parks and recreation committee.

While most of the committee members support-

ed the project, Mayor George Timpson levelled the conflict charges, as some of the committee members were also members of the tennis club.

He also questioned the committee's right to discuss a project of the magnitude submitted.

The proposed building was never constructed and peace returned to council and the playing fields as both the tennis club and the lawn bowlers seemed to have ironed out their differences and both sports are booming.

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## House League League Games

**508 MANHATTAN TROPHIES 3:**Jordan Gerace 1G 1A, Adrian Tobin 1G, Hayden Sands 1G. **506 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 3:** Greg Lacroix 1G, Christian Davies 2G, Michael Takahashi 1A.

**507 COSENTINO PRODUCE 4:** Alexander Payne 1G, Cameron Annear 1G, Zachary Andrews 2G, Andrew Cosentino 1A, Lucas Cristillo 1A, Logan Weber 2A, Robert Anderson 1A, Tyler Lamantia 1A. **509 DOMINION 2:** Ryan Laird 1G, Brett Richardson 1G, Kevin McCrudden 1A.

**505 INFINITY TECHNOLOGIES 4:** Taran McGowan 3G 1A, Braden Drummond 1G, Christian Avolio 1A, Eric Sisson 1A. **503 AB COX PONTI-AC BUICK GMC 3:** Andrew Bolton 1G, Aaron Nusbaum 1G, 2A, TJ Ground 1G, Christopher Bull 1A, Paul Tuck 1A.

**501 MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 3:** Michael Reilly 2G 1A, Michael Wood 1G 1A, Adrian Bulfon 1A. **504 CAA CENTRAL ONTARIO 0.**

**502 A.D.C. ALUMINUM 9:** Anthony Decesare 2G, Ryan Hastie 1G, Mark Tanel 1G 2A, Andrew Smitten 1G, Liam McGoldrick 1G, Curtis Stobo 2G 1A, Dakota Molloy 1G, Robbie Denault 1A.

**510 THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA COMPANY 5:** Sean Halley 2G, James Phillips 1G, Dylan Jolivet 1G 1A, Marco Campoli 1G, Ben McConnell 1A.

**902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 4:** Morgan Mittlestaedt 2G, Harrison Brook 1G, Ryan Joynt 1G, Andrew Rowan 1A, Jake Teel 1A, Matt Preston 1A, Chris O'Conner 1A, James Taylor 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3:** Jeff Seymore 1G 1A, Mike Rowe 1G, Peter Walker 1G, Nathan Taylor 1A, Erin Devlin 1A.

**904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3:** Steve Pitts 1G, Ryan Jones 2G, Kiefer McBride 1A, Liam McNeely 1A. **905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Andrew Kines 1G, Steve Horan 1G, Jesse Barker 1G, Jamie Fenyes 2A, Tom Horner 1A, Joe Han 1A.

**901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 5:** Dan Lewis 1G 2A, Dan Kupraty 2G 1A, Derek Sweeting 2G 2A, Micheal Perretta 2A, Kevin McCreedy 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Cam Harris 1G, Rob Ruuskanen 1G, Alex Ginther 1G 1A, Maegan Bastarache 1A, David Petrosovic 1A.

**903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3:** Mike Row 1G, Keith Bradford 1G, Nathan Taylor 1G 1A, Peter Walker 3A, Curtis Robinson 1A. **905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Tom Horner 1G 1A, Joel Stock 1G, Jesse Barker 1G 1A, Andrew Kines 1A, Jacob Evelyn 1A, Jamie Fenyes 1A.

**904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 6:** Jon Aleksich 2G 2A, Steve Pitts 1G,

Kyle Apps 1G, Liam McNeely 1G 2A, Ian Mulhern 1G 1A, Drew Brown 1A, Torrey Duckworth 2A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Cam Harris 3G, Brandon Fitzgerald 1A, David Petrosovic 1A, Alex Ginther 1A.

**902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 3:** Ryan Joynt 2G, Andrew Rowan 1G, Bryan Dunjko 2A, Brett Scott 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 1:** Dan Kupraty 1G, Rob Kaptyn 1A.

**905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Steve Horan 2G, Nick Verdugo 1G, Andrew Kines 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Cam Harris 2G, Taylor Jefferies 1G, Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1A, Maegan Bastarache 1A, Derek Hurst 1A.

**902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 9:** Bryan Dunjko 3G 2A, Jake Teel 1G, Ryan Joynt 2G, Andrew Rowan 1G 4A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 2G 1A, Chris O'Conner 1A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 5:** Jesse Gattellero 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1G, Kevin Michie 1G, Ryan Jones 1G, Steve Gray 1G, Bill Spasopolous 1A, Kyle Apps 1A, Jon Aleksich 1A, Drew Brown 1A.

**903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3:** Mike Rowe 1G, Tyler Cappell 1G, Keith Bradford 1G, Jeff Seymore 1A, Curtis Robinson 1A, Nathan Taylor 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 2:** Chris Torresano 1G, Dan Kupraty 1G, Dale McDonald 1A, Paul Magill 1A, Evan Magill 1A.

**906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3. 903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3.**

**905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Jamie Fenyes 2G, Greg Youtoff 1G, Steve Horan 1G, Andrew Kines 2A, James Connolly 1A, Tom Horner 1A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 3:** Sam Mulholland 1G, Andrew Rowan 2G, Bryan Dunjko 2A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1A, Matt Preston 1A, Alex Disera 1A, Ryan Joynt 1A.

**1005 AURORA OPTICAL 5:** Ryan Gennaro 1G 2A, Keon Karamchi 3G 1A, Terry McCourt 1G, Mike Sotoadeh 1A, Jessie Eikland 1A. **1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Derek Amorim 1G 1A, Eric Burrow 1G, Kyle Wilton 1A, Andrew McGee 1G, Devin Andrews 2A, Tyler Fyfe 1A, Brandon Morton 1A, Sean Devlin 1A.

**1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Stephen McGill 1G, Devin Andrew 1G, Derek Amorim 1G, Brandon Morton 1A. **1009 Orange/Black PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Matt Bloom 1G, John Parkhill 1G, Graham Gabel 1A, Jake Warden 1A, Derek Lynham 1A, Andrew Leo 1A.

**1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 8:** Kyle Wilton 2G 1A, Erik Burrow 2G 1A, Cody Riddell 1G 1A, Graham Coote 1G 2A, Dennis Jarret 1G, Devin Andrews 1G 2A, Andrew McGee 1A, Alex Gilliver 1A. **1002 IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 5:** Adam Saunders 2G 1A, Patrick Bowie 2G, Stephen Facca 1G 1A, Mark Whiting 1A, David Reeves 1A.

**1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Robert Juffs 1G, Devin Andrews 1G, Tyler Fyfe 1G, Erik Burrow 1A, Dennis Jarret 1A, Stephen McGill 1A. **1010 CHEVALIER CHRYSLER 2:** Mike Laprocino 2G, Craig Cook 1A, John Epworth 1A, Michael Fong 1A, Graham Fleming 1A.

## Rep Results

**Tyke Select 5 Stouffville Clippers 2**

**Novice A 3 TNT 2**  
Paul Neophytou 1A, Erik Balkovec 1G, Brett Thiessen 2G.

**TNT 2 Novice A 1**  
Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 1G.

**TNT 4 Novice A 2**  
Lucas Pozzebon 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Jake McKee 1A, Paul Neophytou 1G, Harrison Smith 1A.

**Novice A 2 TNT 0**  
Paul Neophytou 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G, Sean O'Donnell 1A, Erik Balkovec 1A.

**Newmarket 5 Novice AE 0**

**Minor Atom AA 2 Georgina 1**  
Burke White 1G, Jody Nonnewitz 1G, Graeme Allison 1A.

**Georgina 3 Minor Atom AA 2**  
William Reid 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1G, Jody Nonnewitz 1G 1A.

**Georgina 2 Minor Atom AA 1**  
Jody Nonnewitz 1G, Mackenzie Lemmon 1A, Burke White 1A.

**Minor Atom A 0 Orillia 0**

**Minor Atom A 3 Orillia 2**  
Daniel Jones 1A, Eric Damecour 1A, Peter Sandwell 2A, Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Conor Fennell 1G, Hayden Trask 1G.

**Minor Atom A 3 Orillia 1**  
Jonathon McConnell 2G 1A, Conor Fennell 1A, Quincy Ing 1G 1A, Andrew McDonald 1A, Daniel Fiori 1A .

**Minor Atom AE 2 Stouffville 1**  
Conner McQuillan 1A, Zach Ferry 2A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Liam Devlin 2G.

**Atom AA 3 Markham 0**  
Andrew Papousek 2G, Brian Puskar 1A, Nicholas Heintzman 1A, Tanner Thiessen 1G.

**Atom AA 4 Markham 0**  
Ryan Hughes 1A, Marco Ghegin 1A, Adam Balaban 1A, Johnny Knowles 1A, Trevor Best 1G, Nicholas Heintzman 1G, Andrew Papousek 2G.

**Markham 5 Atom AA 3**  
Tanner Thiessen 1A, Adam Balaban 1A, Brian Puskar 1A, Johnny Knowles 1A, Matthew Roy 1G, Nicholas Heintzman 2G.

**Markham 3 Atom AA 2**  
Matthew Roy 1G, Marco Ghegin 1G, Adam Balaban 1A, Ryan Hughes 1A.

**Atom A 3 East Gwillimbury 1**  
Cooper Riswick 1A, Rory MacNeil 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G, Chris Youtoff 1G, A J Killens 1A, Matthew Skoulikas 1A, Ryan St. Germain 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1A.

**Atom AE 6 Barrie Colts 0**  
Tyler White 1G, Mackenzie Wooder 1A, Lukas Leslie 1A, Graham Loney 1A, Daniel Laflamme 1A, Kevin Lukezic 1G 2A, Thomas Hagias 1G 2A, Dylan Woyslaw 1G 3A, Brett Wilson 1G 1A, Ty Brochu 1G, Kelley Hudson, shutout.

**Minor Peewee AA 5 Richmond Hill 1**  
Matthew Miller 1A, Denis Casey 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1G, Eleeza Cox 1G, Chris Piron 1A, Steadman Dinning 1G, Brett Matthews 1A, Kamran Karamchi 1A, Justin Nice 2G.

**Richmond Hill 3 Minor Peewee AA 1**  
Matthew Miller 1G, Steadman Dinning 1A.

**Minor Bantam AA 3 Georgina 2**  
Ryan Findlay 1G, Matthew Mikhaili 1G, Adrian Dirosa 1A, Tyler Hanlon 1A, Christian Stankiewicz 1G.

**Minor Bantam AA 3 Georgina 2**  
Tyler Hanlon 1A, Matthew Mikhaili 1A, Ryan Besse 1A, Ryan Findlay 1A, Alex Denault 1A, Christian Stankiewicz 1G, Brandon Galante 2G, David Roper 1A.

**Stouffville 1 Minor Bantam A 0**

**Minor Bantam AE 7 Richmond Hill 1**  
Matthew Hillar 1A, Nicholas Di Nallo 1A, Zacharie Roitner 1G, Matthew Scrimis 1A, Braun Hause 3A, Ethan Shore 1G, Chris Burns 3G, Ryan Crockett 1G 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1G.

**Minor Bantam AE 7 Richmond Hill 1**  
Trevor McCartney 2A, Zacharie Roitner 1A, Cory Blom 1A, Chris Burns 2A, Ryan Crockett 1G 2A, Brandon Giniotis 2A, Brendon Stenzol 1G 1A, Ethan Shore 2G 1A, Curtis Hough 2G, Matthew Scrimis 1G 1A .

**Bantam A 5 NobleKing 2**  
Jeremy Cohen 2G, Jake Hurlbut 1G, Jamie Tuck 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1G, Chris Finlay 2A, Eric King 2A, Colton Horner 1A, Darcy Pelosse 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A.

**Minor Midget AA 3 Georgina 3**

**Minor Midget AA 2 Georgina 1**

**Minor Midget A 5 Orillia 2**  
Connor O'Grady 1G 1A, Alex Rabindranath 1G, Neil Kileeg 2A, Ryan Kesteris 4A, Jonathan Adams 3G.

**Minor Midget A 3 Stouffville 2**  
Connor O'Grady 1G, Chris Blom 1G, Alex Rabindranath 1G, Anthony D'agostino 1A, Ryan Fennell 1A, Drew Jenkins 1A, Chad Roberts 1A.



# 40-year-old Aurora Cable donates \$40,000 to fund

During the recent Aurora Cable Internet telethon to raise funds for the Tsunami disaster, which raised nearly \$80,000, Aurora Cable led the way with a donation of \$40,000.

In presenting the donation, ACI's Linda Morrison said the company was celebrating its 40th year and had built up the fund for something special.

Cable TV came to the Aurora/Newmarket area in 1965. Ed Jarman built one of the first cable television systems in Canada when he opened a station in 1952 and expanded to Newmarket in 1965.

About the same time Jim Irvine launched Aurora Cable TV in the Aurora/Oak Ridges area. By the end of 1965, he had 350 subscribers. At that time only the basic channels 2 to 13 were available.

The arrival of cable TV changed the lives and viewing habits of many TV owners.

Until then it was necessary to have a roof antenna to obtain Toronto and Hamilton stations and sometimes a snowy picture from Buffalo.

Today with satellites beaming programs from all over the world and with specialty channels available, the

living room has become part of the global village.

In 1973, Aurora Cable acquired equipment to start local programming and bring activities of Aurorans to the TV screen.

At that time Marg Mason, very active with Theatre Aurora, was in charge of community programming. Aurora Cable did not have a studio but had two black and white cameras, video tape recorder, etc, and programming was done on location.

In 1974, Aurora Cable moved into an old home on Yonge Street, just north of Cousins Drive. The general offices were located on the

first floor and a small studio with one camera was on the second floor.

In 1980, Aurora Cable, for the first time, provided live coverage of the Aurora municipal election with Dick Illingworth and Ron Wallace as hosts.

Election coverage has been provided ever since.

In 1989 with more than 9,500 subscribers in Aurora and Oak Ridges, Aurora Cable had outgrown its Yonge Street location and moved to more spacious accommodation on Industrial Parkway South, where they are currently located.

With the larger building, a large studio was provided and new equipment acquired to provide more community programming.

Steve Mitchell, who started with Aurora Cable as a volunteer, has been Director of Community Programming since 1982.

Today, 40 years later, Aurora Cable with more than 80 channels, brings the world into the living room, and its community programming keeps locals abreast of what's happening in Aurora.

## Transit gets ready to start

Ever since May, 2002, York Region has been working on a public/private partnership for the design, building and operation of a rapid transit system for the region.

It's close to becoming a reality.

The proposed system, known as Quick Start, was designed to include connections with the TTC and public transit in Peel and Durham Regions and be coordinated with GO Transit.

Four corridors were selected for the Quick Start project including Yonge Street from Newmarket to the Finch Avenue subway station.

The official launch of the rapid transit system was last month with the name VIVA. The name was selected after considerable research and focus testing, and is the flag bearer of the region's 20 year rapid transit plan.

The \$150 million first phase begins in the fall of 2005 when a \$54 million fleet of 77 state-of-the-art buses (including articulated or "bendable" buses) begins serving the transportation corridors and is expected to take 7,000 cars off the road.

A representative of York Region Rapid Transit appeared before last week's Aurora general committee to update the progress of the system.

David Roberts said the Aurora construction program includes platforms and receiving bays to be completed this year.

There will be bus stops at Orchard Heights, Wellington, Golf Links, Henderson and Bloomington.

There will be 10 minute service during peak periods and 15 minute service at other times Monday to Friday from 5.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. with a slightly reduced service on Saturday and Sundays.

There will be an integrated fare system and some shared stops with York Region Transit, resulting in some realignment of routes for York Region Transit.

Councillor Ron Wallace expressed concern about the lack of stops at Aurora Heights and Murray Drive and also about what appeared to be competition with GO Transit.

Roberts said the regional service would complement

GO Transit but the regional service would be better integrated within the region. He said the stops at Aurora Heights and Murray Drive would be served by local transit.

Councillor Damir Vrancic asked about fares and was told there would be a two-fare system with the standardized fare of \$2.25 for one zone and a total of \$3 to \$3.50 for two zones.

Roberts' presentation was received as information.

At the same meeting, the committee received a staff report regarding some of the technical issues of the project.

The Transit Signal Priority System (TSPS) is designed to make transit run more efficiently by allowing a bus to communicate with traffic signals.

If the bus is ahead or on schedule nothing will happen, but if the bus is behind schedule the TSPS would ensure the signal stayed green or turned green in order that the bus can get through the intersection.

The town's portion of Yonge Street stretches from the GO rail bridge to just north of Orchard Heights and includes seven sets of signals. Modifications and upgrades would be required.

Staff recommended and the committee endorsed in principle that the region would assume the operation and maintenance of the town's traffic signals.

Under the proposed agreement the town would be responsible for the costs to operate and maintain the signals to the same extent as is currently paid, but for the region to be responsible for all additional costs.

With respect to the operational review of Yonge Street, staff recommended and the committee endorsed that Aurora had no concerns with the proposed criteria, but the town does not support transferring ownership of the section of Yonge Street in Aurora to the region and is not interested in discussing it further.

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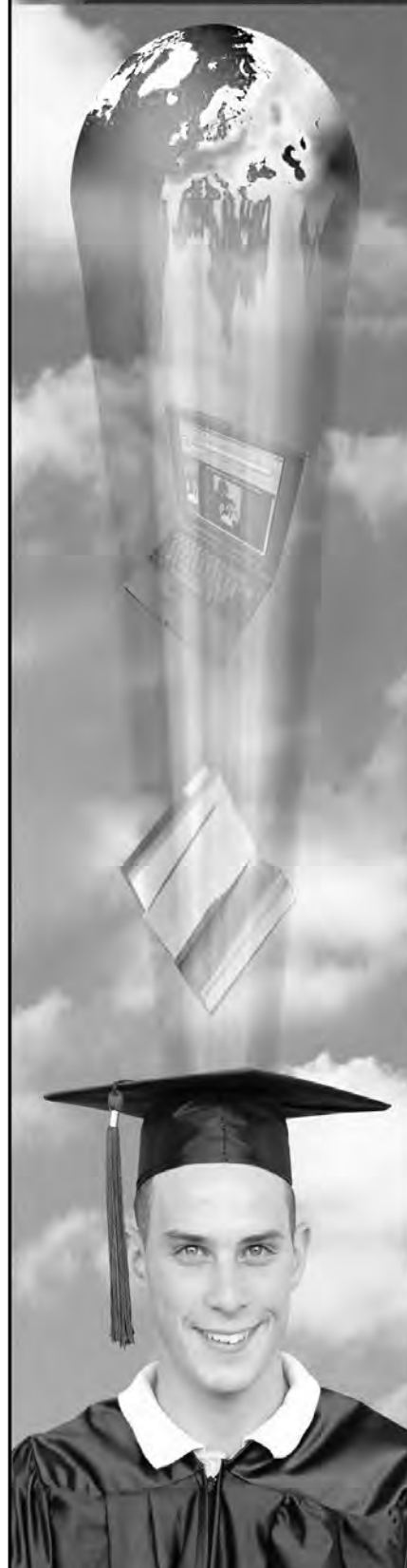
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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# Bank manager's image goes belly-up

It was in October, 1981, when the staid stereotype of stuffy, tie-wearing bank managers went belly-up.

After the Toronto Dominion Bank at Yonge and Wellington closed for the day, manager David Fleischman emerged from his office to be confronted by two laughing, jigging belly dancers.

Sahirnee and Dia, clad only in a few bits of cloth and veil, wiggled and danced for about 20 minutes to help him celebrate his birthday and his 25th anniversary with the bank.

As the dancers' veils came off one by one and landed in his lap, the staff, all women, wiped away tears of laughter.

### A UNIQUE SUMMER JOB

Aurora's John McIntyre, a local historian and a sixth generation of McIntyres to live in Aurora, had a unique summer job in 1970.

Just 18 years old, he was the curator of the Temple of Peace at Sharon, operated by the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

John was taking a major in History and English at the University of Toronto.

At the time he had an interesting personal collection of Aurora artifacts including the pistol and handcuffs of Aurora's first constable, his great-great-grandfather and what he believes to be the first map of Aurora.

### CONTROVERSIAL SIGN BYLAW

It is doubtful if any bylaw has created more problems for Aurora Council over the years than the controversial sign bylaw, or had more exemptions granted.

Back in October, 1985, Aurora's building inspector was directed to clarify the town's sign bylaw after he had been overruled by council regarding a sign proposal for the new façade in front of Thompson's Furniture.

Owner Jamie Thompson appealed to council after his application to place the store's name on front of the new façade using individual letters was rejected.

A technicality with the sign bylaw would have forced the store to either squeeze the full name into the space occupied by the building's second floor or leave off a few letters.

When Thompson erected the new façade, the south end of it was constructed over a single storey structure and that kicked the bylaw into effect, as some of the letters would be above the roof line.

Thompson appeared at council carrying the letter "T" to show council members how big the sign would be and how it wouldn't fit if the bylaw was imposed.

"Just call me Mr. T", he said.

Council approved his request.

### FROM APPLES TO HOUSES

Sometime before the 1920s most of the 200-acre farm now developed as the Orchard Heights subdivision was planted by the Fleury family in apple trees and a few acres of cherry trees.

Apples harvested included Spy, Wealthy, Baxter, McIntosh, Waggoner and Ben Davis.

Markets were local and in Toronto.

The farm employed five men year-round but in the picking season as many as 65 men were employed.

The farm remained in the Fleury family until the 1950s when

it was sold to a developer.

It sat idle for awhile and in the late 1960s Wimpey Homes started to clear the trees to build homes, but the orchards are remembered with the name Orchard Heights.

### VIDEO GAMES BANNED

Violent video games are common today but back in 1985 a video game called "Dungeons and Dragons" was banned by the York Region Board of Education in regional schools.

The ban was lifted in June, 1985, on a 12-4 vote by trustees in spite of a staff recommendation to maintain the ban due to the violent deeds in the video.

The majority of trustees could see nothing immoral about the game and wanted to get out of banning business, while other trustees argued that they knew of cases where D and D had brought out different behaviour patterns in a child.

### DETECTIVE'S CAR TORCHED

Arson was suspected in an early morning fire at a Temperance Street apartment building which destroyed a 1972 Corvette Stingray owned by York Regional Police Detective Bill Davis.

Aurora firefighters were called out at 2.30 a.m. and one of the first firefighters on the scene was Firefighter Jim Davis, a brother of the detective.


Detective Davis began his police career with the Aurora Police Department in 1969 and was visibly shaken as he watched his vintage sports car burn.

### STAR SALESMAN MEETS STAR

It was in November, 1979, when Bob Montgomery, Family Trust Aurora branch manager, won a Superstar Award for reaching the \$2 million mark in sales volume during the year.

The award was presented in London, England, during a week-long sales incentive trip, which included a festive theatre night at the famous Theatre Royal.

Carol Channing was starring in "Hello Dolly" and at a Family Trust reception following the performance made the Superstar Award to Montgomery.



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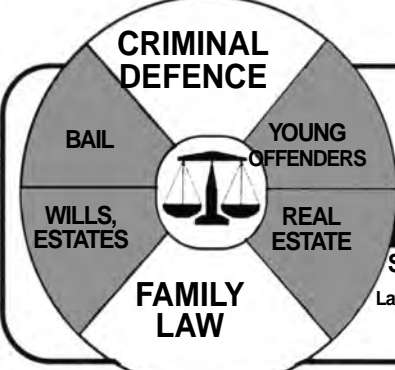
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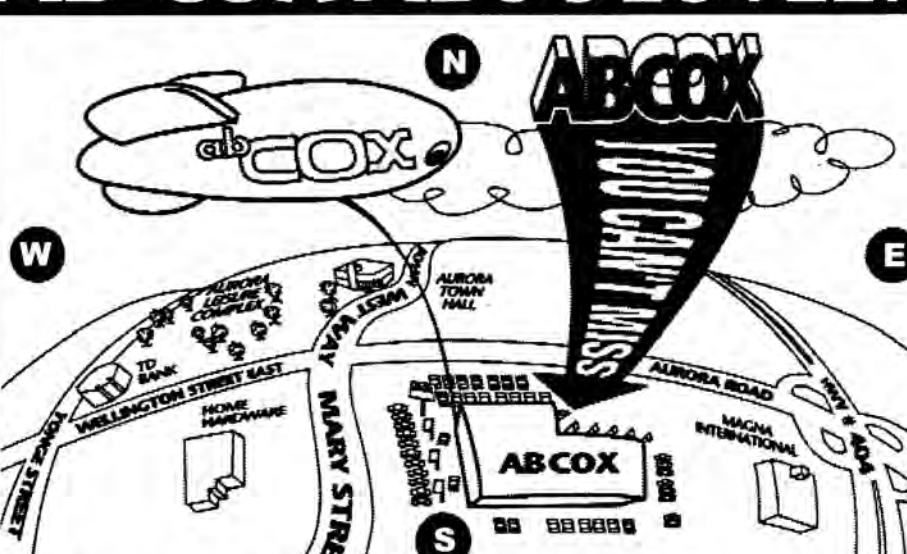
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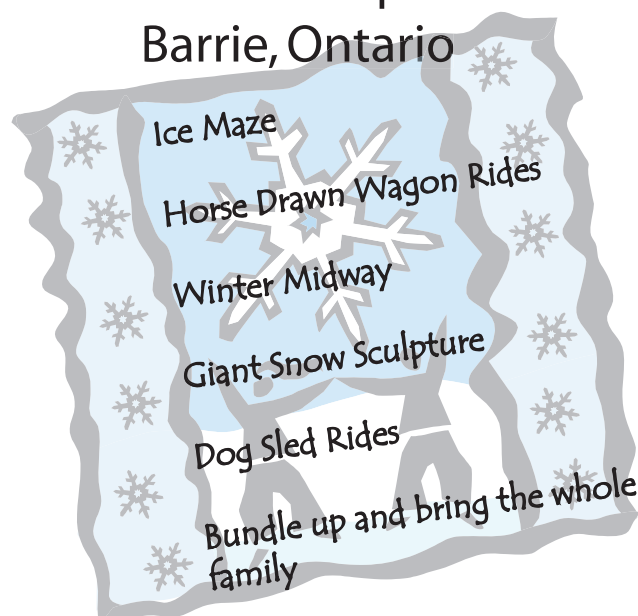


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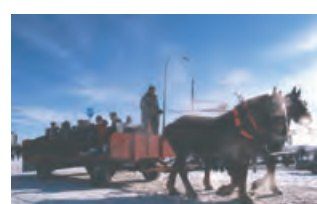


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