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AURORAN

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Vol. 6 No. 6

Week of November 29, 2005

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Briefly

He shoots, he gleans

There's more to some Aurora hockey teams than simply playing hockey.

The Aurora Tiger Minor Pee wee 'A' hockey team gleaned more than 40 bushels of carrots, potatoes, beets, cauliflower and broccoli at the Round the Bend Farm in King Township recently.

York Region Food Network arranged for distribution of the fresh produce to the Aurora Food Pantry and Yellow Brick House.

Music

If you like music, you'll want to be at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Thursday, Dec. 15.

Bands, choirs and ensembles from that school, as well as Aurora Grove and Highview Public Schools will perform in a community concert beginning at 7 p.m.

This event sells out, so early attendance is advised.

It'll cost \$5 to get in, unless you're under 12 or a senior citizen. Then it's \$3.

Proceeds are shared by the participating schools for the benefit of their music programs.



The big guy in red was back in Aurora Saturday night and he was welcomed by crowds estimated at more than 30,000. Aurora's annual "Under The Stars" Santa Claus Parade went off on schedule with more than 70 floats and a plethora of music. For more parade pictures and a history of Aurora's Santa Claus Parades, please see Page 6. For this week only, Bouquets and Brickbats and a smattering of Letters to the Editor have been moved to Page 8.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Council rejects child-care centre

Aurora Council has rejected a plan by Councillor Evelyn Buck to house a child-care centre for

employees at the Town Hall.

The concept would have cost councillors their second floor offices.

Council voted 6-2 last week to oppose the idea.

Earlier, Councillor Buck indicated she wanted to establish a child-care centre in the building for pre-school children of town employees.

She said a sensible employer will always have regard for the well-being of the workforce.

She added Aurora was located in a highly competitive area for municipal employees and as it was a relatively small municipality it was not always possible to compete with larger municipalities financially, so other ways had to be considered to retain employees.

As the town's workforce was young, energetic and ambitious with many having young children and as there was a "suite of

rooms" which were under-utilized, she suggested a childcare facility be investigated.

Councillors questioned if childcare was a municipal responsibility as it was covered by provincial legislation, and asked about cost and the number of employees who were residents of Aurora as taxpayers shouldn't be asked to subsidize children of employees from other areas.

Buck said day care was a local or regional responsibility and the centre would operate at cost so no subsidy would be required.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted the proposal was Buck's opinion as there had never been a request from staff seeking such a facility.

He added that it put staff into a conflict of interest situation as they were being asked to report on an issue from which they might gain a benefit.

Councillor Phyllis Morris asked what "suite of rooms" in the Town Hall were under-utilized.

Buck replied the three rooms set aside for councillors' use with desks and telephones, as they weren't really needed.

She said she seldom used the rooms and the intent of the centre was to retain employees and she was looking at it from a mother's perspective.

Councillor Nigel Kean pointed out the rooms are well used by some members of council to receive e-mail and reply to phone calls from citizens on town business.

It was also noted that few employers want a child-care centre for employees in the same facility because it affects their work habits.

The Buck proposal was defeated with support coming from Councillor John West.

Bayview bus route reinstated by GO

Complaints from passengers who lost GO Bus service on Bayview Avenue in Aurora recently have been solved, at least temporarily.

Citing a breakdown in communications between GO and newly-formed York Region Transit, GO's Gary McNeil, Managing Director, said "we will continue to route the 5.25 a.m. GO bus out of the Newmarket terminal down Bayview Avenue to Wellington. Passengers along Bayview will continue to be picked up along the way."

McNeil said that route was originally started "partly because of the lack of local transit services".

"More close consultation should have occurred between GO and YRT staff," he said. "We are taking measures to correct these issues so they do not occur again and we apologize for the inconvenience that has occurred, but will use it as valuable insight to the way we plan future service changes and communicate them to the community."

Bayview area passengers suddenly found themselves without transportation to the city recently, when GO shut down the route.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Winter parking restrictions are now in effect until next April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. for snowplowing activities.

"Martha's Table" offers comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Available are hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert in the hall. Church-sponsored initiative runs every Thursday.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 7 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. Next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006. For more information, call 905-713-6773 or info@aurorafair.ca, or see our website at www.aurorafair.ca.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the councillors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

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.

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

LEGION News

By CLIFF DAVIES

This week there are no special events but we can recap our regular events for the week.

Thursday, we have progressive euchre at 7 p.m. or snooker if you're so inclined. Friday it's shuffleboard at 7 p.m. and a dance at 8 p.m. with DeeJay Martin Woodbridge. Saturday euchre is scheduled at 1 p.m. and at 8 p.m. we have dances every Saturday over the winter months. DeeJay for this event will be Jeff Gilroy.

On Monday, the league teams play darts and Tuesday our Ladies Auxiliary holds its monthly general meeting.

On Thursday the ladies have their dart night at 7 p.m. and the monthly zone meeting this month is at the Richmond Hill branch.

Most of these events are members and guests only but we are open to the general public, Tuesdays to Fridays from 11.30 a.m. until 2 p.m. for lunch.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, the Showtime Entertainers Concert Party from Markham presents its Christmas Follies at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the bar or call 905-727-2244.

Tickets for The New Year's dinner and dance are now available at the bar. Members pay \$65 and guests are \$75.

DeeJay in the banquet hall (dinner and dance) will be Martin Woodbridge and in the lounge that night will be Doug Anderson.

During the holiday, the branch will close Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. and remain closed until Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Wednesday, Dec. 28 when it closes at 7 p.m.

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Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps, boys and girls, ages 12 to 18. Camping, canoeing, target shooting. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

Towns of York Toastmasters Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Park Place Manor, 15055 Yonge St. in Aurora. For more information see the club web site at www.townsofyork.org or phone Elena Silaev at 905-726-9750.

Meditation classes every Wednesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m., at Needles & Knit Wool Shop, 15040 Yonge Street.

Stellar Productions and Howard Johnson presents "The Paisley Sisters", a Christmas Special at the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre December 2, 3, 9, 16 and 17 with buffet dinner starting at 6.30 and showtime 8.15 p.m. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

NOVEMBER 30

Tree Lighting Ceremony in the front courtyard of the Town Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. with caroling, hot chocolate and the official lighting of the tree. Call Shelley Ware at 905-726-4762 for details.

DECEMBER 3

The York Chamber Ensemble celebrates the season with "Winter Noel," an orchestral concert featuring the Trinity Festival Chorus. Concert will take place at Trinity Anglican Church at 7.30 p.m. Tickets: \$15 and \$10 for students and seniors.

Three homes in Aurora will be featured in the inaugural Pickering College Holiday Home Tour between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information call 905-895-1700, extension 334.

DECEMBER 3-4

The Optimist Club of Aurora hosts its annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street on Saturday, December 3, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

A Hillary House Christmas between 2 and 4 p.m. Decorations, gift shop, refreshments and carol singing. Adults \$5, children 12 and under \$3.

DECEMBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with York Region Health Services presents Keeping YorKids Safe, a free home safety workshop for parents or caregivers of children, newborn to age 2. Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

DECEMBER 7

Aurora Public Library in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet presents the fourth in a series of free computer workshops. Tonight: File Transfers (and how to send photos). Magna Room, 7 to 8.30 p.m. Register on-line, or the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

DECEMBER 8

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five gathering from

5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at the Sunrise Senior Living building, 3 Golf Links Drive. Event is free. Call 905-727-7262 to register.

Amnesty International is holding a Write-a-Thon at Trinity Anglican Church from 7 to 9 p.m. Drop in and send letters or cards to comfort those who are unjustly imprisoned or face/experience torture.

DECEMBER 10

Join the Hillary House Players at 7.30 p.m. for an evening of readings, music and Christmas treats. As seating is limited, purchase tickets in advance by calling 905-727-4015. Cost is \$10 person.

From 10 a.m. until noon, Hillary House will host the Aurora Museum's Christmas Workshop for children. Advance registration is necessary by calling 905-727-8991.

DECEMBER 14

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Ontario Pharmacists Association, presents a free seminar for seniors "Safe Medication Use for Heart Health". 10 to 11.30 a.m., Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

JANUARY 19

The Wellington Gallery will hold Class Act II, a juried exhibition of student works until February 28. One hundred pieces will be accepted for consideration and there will be feedback from one of the three jurors. Prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be provided plus a \$500 donation to the art department of the first place winner's school. Entry fee is \$90. For more information call 905-751-0066.

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Author of the book "Rich Is A State Of Mind" and former Aurora resident Robert Gignac, left, is interviewed by local financial planner John Royce of Marshall Capital who is host of "On The Money", an Aurora Cable Internet program that focuses on personal finance. The interview will be aired Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7 and 10.30 p.m, Thursday, the 8th, at 9.30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, the 10th and 11th at 11.30 a.m. Copies of Gignac's book are available at R & R Revisited.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Old school to get sprinkler system

Last July Aurora Council approved the establishment of an Aurora Historical Society Capital Works Committee to deal with renovations to the Church Street School.

At a meeting last month the committee agreed to present a report to council prior to the consideration of the 2006 budget to include a capital item for a sprinkler system estimated at \$109,900 with money to come from the reserve fund. Currently, the fund has \$174,790.

It was pointed out the installation of the sprinkler system is a requirement and represents an initial

phase of reconstruction to the historic building.

Council, last week, endorsed the installation of the system in the school and a cost of \$109,900 from the reserve fund as requested.

Speed humps are approved

Aurora Council recently approved three speed humps for Heathwood Heights Drive following a request from residents that occurred after a public meeting was held.

Last week, Council approved the enacting bylaw.

Robert Manley, a resident of Heathwood Heights Drive, appeared before council Tuesday night to assure the bylaw was adopted.

When the bylaw approval came before the group, Councillor Damir Vrancic was opposed to the Heathwood Heights Drive speed humps.

He based his opposition on concerns expressed by emergency services but in spite of his opposition

the bylaw was adopted.

Meanwhile, residents of Golf Links Drive, where the humps have been in place for some time, are complaining they're not working.

Residents note the traffic has not slowed for the humps but town officials have agreed to keep them in place.

Speed humps are also located on Kennedy Street West and residents there say they have had a considerable impact on slowing traffic on that street.

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Poor Richard

Council action is a disgrace to town citizens

*Council is getting worse and worse,
As the next election draws near;
There's more yelling and shouting,
Causing citizens to shed a tear.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

In more than 40 years of involvement in municipal affairs as a school trustee, councillor, mayor, regional councillor, provincial bureaucrat and a part-time journalist and broadcaster, I thought I had seen everything, but nothing compared to last week's Aurora Council meeting.

It was a disgrace and an embarrassment to citizens of Aurora.

Other council meetings have been bad, but there was more yelling and shouting, points of order, personal attacks and a complete lack of parliamentary procedure and respect than at any previous council or committee meeting.

Members of council are required to sign a Code of Ethics at the start of each new term, but it would appear it has little meaning.

The Code states members of council will accurately and adequately communicate the attitudes and decisions of Aurora Council, even if they disagree with a majority decision of council so there is respect for the decision-making processes of council.

On several occasions, even though a majority of council has made a decision at a legally constituted council or general committee meeting, the issue is rehashed at a subsequent meeting, as a member tries once again to change the decision made.

A good example was the action taken by Councillor Evelyn Buck at the last week's council meeting.

At an earlier general committee meeting, Councillor Phyllis Morris sought an additional \$300 in expenses to attend a board meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as she serves on three standing committees.

Councillor Buck argued that each member of council has an expense allowance of \$2,000 and further expenses should not be authorized, but the other committee members thought otherwise and approved the request.

Granted committee recommendations must be ratified before they become official.

When the committee report came to council, without offering any new information, she launched into the same attack with the same results.

In 1986, Councillor Buck created an uproar when she was the subject of a debate, when council agreed to reimburse her for convention overspending after she spent a total of \$3,039 for trips to Vancouver and New Orleans.

At the time she argued taxpayers were getting their money's worth from convention spending because councillors learn what's happening in municipal affairs outside Aurora.

Meanwhile, it was hard to understand the reasoning behind Councillor Wendy Gaertner's move to lift three items from the general committee report for further discussion.

Councillor Gaertner was in attendance at the general committee meeting when the three items were received as information.

At the council meeting she moved that the items be approved "as is" then proceeded to rehash the same arguments to the frustration of her colleagues.

Previously the Chief Administrative Officer had suggested the rules of procedure be amended so that when a council member wanted to lift an issue from a committee report a reason must be given but his suggestion was shot down by council for some reason.

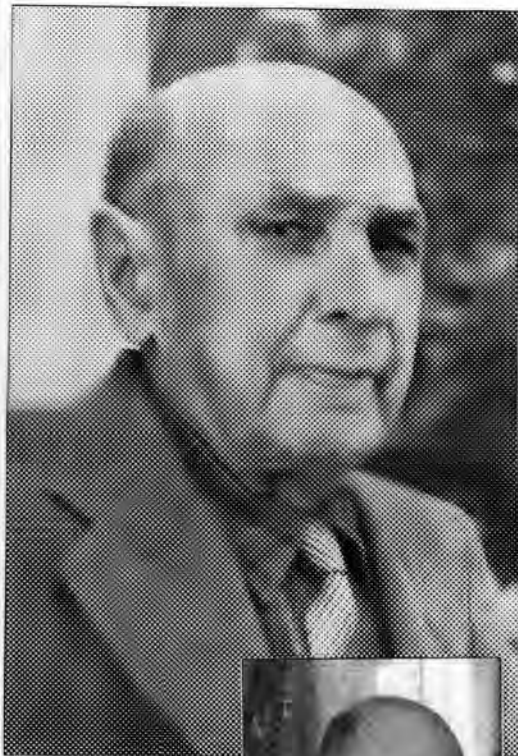
Section 4.4 of the procedural bylaw states that no member of council shall use offensive words or unparliamentary language in or against the council or against any member, speak on any subject other than the subject in debate or criticize any decision of the council except for reconsideration.

The procedural bylaw has been an issue with this council since the start of the term over the legality of an off-site retreat and the dispute has continued to the detriment of town business.

In September, 2004, a workshop was convened to discuss the procedural bylaw but it was soon found out that it wasn't the procedural bylaw that was at fault but the interpersonal relationships between members of council.

What a sad commentary.

Attridge Lumber, 70 years in the Business



VICTOR ATTRIDGE (above) the pioneer developer of Attridge Lumber reached the age of 88. He was well known for his hobby of beautiful flowers which he grew at his Mosley Street home. Howard Earl (right), took over the business in 1949 to become the second generation operator.

Photos supplied by Attridge



VICTOR ATTRIDGE purchased the company some 70 years ago, when he moved from Schomberg to Aurora. The company had already been in operation for 60 years prior by Sam Hill George. While Attridge Lumber may be most familiar to Aurora homeowners as a retail store, its customers also include contractors, architects, picture frame companies and shutter companies. One of Aurora's oldest firms, Attridge Lumber has built a reputation for top quality lumber and mouldings.

Through four generations since, Attridge's products have gone from Timmins, Ontario, to Florida and from Vancouver to Saudi Arabia and other parts of Europe. Earl Attridge took over from his father Victor in January of 1949, to become the second generation to own and operate the company. Due to Earl's ill health in the 1960's William Attridge became the third generation operator of the retail store and millwork shop.

Expansions have been constant at Attridge Lumber, due to the ever growing demand for residential housing and custom mouldings. In 1963, Bill Attridge purchased land from Davis & Barwick to increase storage space and six years later a new warehouse was built. By 1970, the mill had expanded to the point that a new moulding business was started under the name Aurora Custom Mouldings. It has since supplied products to Skydome, Osgoode

Hall renovations, First Canadian Place, the Scotia Tower, the executive offices of the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal and others too numerous to mention. New equipment purchased in 1972 allowed the company to run dowel rod, and in 1975 dry kilns were installed and an 8000 sq. ft. pole type storage shed was built.

In 1979, Attridge purchased the old Sisman property on the south side of Mosley Street to create additional yard space. Sophisticated new equipment was installed during the 1980's, and a third warehouse of 7200 sq. ft. was added. Both the warehouse and mill are heated by an environmentally sound waste fired boiler. *Bill Attridge, an avid outdoorsman, was one of the communities earliest leaders in employing extensive use of environmentally preservative devices.

Bill Attridge turned over the reins to his son Douglas in 1989. The fourth generation of Attridge's has worked in the business since his early teens, and Doug was largely responsible for the improvements made in the past few years. Attridge Lumber now has 25 employees, of whom two thirds operate the mill, with the rest in the retail operation. As it has been for over 70 years, Attridge Lumber still remains committed to satisfying present and future customers as the need for quality lumber and mouldings continues to grow.



WILLIAM ATTRIDGE (above) was one of Aurora's earliest leaders to utilize environmental devices which are still being used and constantly upgraded by his son Douglas (below), the fourth generation.



When the Attridge family constructed the above profile of the four generations of Attridges behind the famous Attridge Lumber Company at the corner of Berczy and Metcalfe Streets, fifth generation Jamie Attridge, left, wasn't part of it. He is now. Currently known as Aurora Custom Mouldings, the Attridge connection has grown in Aurora for nearly 100 years, although the business was 60 years old when Victor Attridge first purchased it.

Letters to the Editor

Two-hour parking "short-sighted", this reader says

To the editor,

I would like to express my concern about the impending two-hour limit for GO train commuter parking.

This bill is extremely short-sighted.

I believe that despite the town's attempt to provide commuters with "some" street parking on restricted streets at certain hours, the use of mass transit will be largely discouraged.

In your article, it was stated that staff pointed out that the area around the Town Park is close to gridlock "as commuters all try to leave at the same

time".

What do they think rush hour will look like once more people are forced to take their cars all the way downtown and back?

I suspect that the area of gridlock will extend well beyond the Town Park.

The local council and citizens need to remember that this is largely a bedroom community for municipalities to the south.

My family moved to this lovely community this past summer from London, Ontario.

We were looking for a smallish town in which to raise our children that was within commuting distance

to Toronto.

We chose Aurora thinking that we would be able to commute to Toronto by the GO train.

Perhaps, we should have thought twice before buying here.

My initial impression was that this city supported commuters and particularly, those who choose to commute in an environmentally conscious way.

Perhaps this is not the case.

I will be very disappointed if council chooses to endorse this concept.

Jennifer Steeves
Aurora

Reader thinks tree fell after choking

To the editor,

On my walk out to McLelland and Bathurst, I noticed a tree down at the edge of the greenbelt area, a 25-foot plus blue spruce I think.

It looked like it had been cut down about five

feet from the base.

A closer look showed that a hose/wire clamp used to support it on planting had not been removed, so the tree grew right over it, skin bark and all.

The recent high winds must have toppled it at

this weak spot where it was choked.

What a shame.

Maybe contracts to plant such trees should include returning to remove these things.

Bill Hack
Aurora

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Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com
Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Night parade thrills thousands



Even after dark, the floats in this year's Aurora Santa Claus Parade were full of colour, lights and life. Prior to the start of the parade, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones selected floats that won awards in various categories and plaques were presented by Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach. The float that won the mayor's trophy was done by Balloonacy, bottom right, and it was an attention-getter along the distance of the parade. Aurora Farmers' Market, the two-year-old summertime Saturday sensation, above, also entered a colourful float.

Auroran photos by Rob Schuetze



The history of Aurora's Santa parade

It was in November, 1993, when Aurora held its first nighttime parade and it was an overwhelming success. The huge procession included some 70 floats and they were dazzling in their after-dark splendour.

Thousands of people lined the parade route, four and five deep in places, and it was said to be the largest crowd ever to have watched a Santa Claus parade in Aurora.

At the conclusion of the parade there was a huge bonfire and fireworks to finish off the evening.

The late Councillor Herb McKenzie, chairman of the special events committee, and committee members watched an evening parade in Cambridge in 1992 and decided to try it in Aurora.

One of the reasons for the change was the difficulty in booking bands during the day due to the demand.

The parade started at 6 p.m. at the Aurora Shopping Centre and headed north on Yonge Street to St. Andrew's Village, where there was a fireworks display. Now the route is reversed with the parade starting in the north and proceeding south.

But that wasn't the first Santa Claus parade in Aurora.

Back in the late 1950s the Aurora Jaycees organ-

ized Aurora's early Santa Claus parades and did an excellent job in putting on a good show for kids of all ages.

After the parade there were bags of candy and apples for the young folk as they visited Santa Claus and if they were fortunate, some got a handshake or a kiss from Santa.

When it appeared there wouldn't be a parade in 1966, the Queen's York Rangers took on the challenge of organizing the parade as a community service, which they repeated in 1967.

There were bands, clowns, majorettes and floats as the parade travelled along Yonge Street to finish at the Aurora Armouries, where Santa (Major Bert Graves) greeted the young ones.

In 1967, Santa arrived from the North Pole in the CFRB traffic helicopter and landed at the Aurora Shopping Centre to be met by Mayor Clarence Davis and Colonel Malcolm Montgomery, Commanding Officer of the Queen's York Rangers.

Santa almost didn't have a float to ride in. Just two days before Christmas, the sleigh and reindeer were badly burned in a warehouse fire they had been

stored.

The Rangers and volunteers came to the rescue.

The burned float was taken to the Armouries and the volunteers rebuilt the frame, repainted and decorated it, but didn't have time to replace the missing two reindeer, so Santa travelled with six that Christmas.

The Rangers were unable to organize the 1968 parade so a volunteer council/citizen committee took up the task with Councillor Pete Miller and Ken Fines as co-chairmen. Fines raised funds to cover the cost of the parade.

In 1969, both Aurora and Newmarket scheduled parades for the same date, so the two town committees joined forces and arranged for bands and floats to appear in both parades with the Newmarket parade in the morning and the Aurora parade in the afternoon.

In 1971, Councillor Illyd Harris donated a trophy for the homeowner with the best Christmas lighting decorations, to be judged by a panel of civilian judges. The competition carried on for several years.

There were two Santa Claus parades in Aurora in 1971 with a special, unscheduled parade in August. Residents on Wells and

Harrison were surprised to hear Christmas carols coming from the big house on the corner, which was ablaze with Christmas tree lights.

They were even more surprised to see the arrival of Santa Claus dressed in red shorts perched on top of the fire department's historic 1926 pumper with a police escort.

Bob Buchanan, the late, great publisher and editor of the local paper always held a Christmas party for his staff, members of council and his many friends.

As he was moving to Ottawa to assume the position of director of communications for the federal NDP, Santa Claus came in August. He loved Aurora and his big house on Wells Street and wanted to take something to Ottawa to remind him of his days in Aurora.

Much to his surprise, he received a "Wells Street" sign, which two members of council stripped from the signpost in front of his house for him to take to Ottawa as an unofficial gift from the town.

In 1974, a new trophy was donated for presentation to the storekeeper with the best-decorated store window. In 1975, Aurora Cable telecast the parade

live for the first time from their Yonge Street studio with the late Jack Moore as commentator.

The home lighting contest was abandoned in 1976, due to Ontario Hydro's request for restraint in the use of power.

The competition returned in 1977 but in a different format, with the trophy presented to the homeowner with the most creative Christmas decorations.

In 1976 when committee members went to the storage area in the town's works yard to get Santa's float ready for the parade, they found that someone had been using the float as a home as they found clothing and other articles including a 1974 newspaper.

In 1986, the Aurora parade committee considered severing the relationship with Newmarket and planned to hold a separate parade in Aurora. Some of the bands and floats that had appeared in the morning Newmarket parade didn't live up to the expectations of the Aurora committee in the afternoon.

In 1987, Aurora had the largest Santa Claus parade in the region with 95 floats and 14 bands.

At the conclusion of the parade everyone was invited to the new Family

Leisure Complex for a return of the town's winter carnival.

For almost 50 years, Santa Claus has arrived in Aurora by means of a Santa Claus parade organized by a volunteer committee of citizens and council members.

Many residents who watched the parade as young people in those early days now bring their children and grandchildren to greet Santa Claus.

Since Aurora started holding the parade after dark in 1993, the beauty and excitement of the parade has increased as residents enjoy the beauty of an early winter evening under the stars with brightly coloured lights on the floats.

The 2000 parade was one of the largest in Aurora's history. It stretched over two kilometres and took more than an hour-and-a-half to pass by the Aurora Cable TV stand.

There were 84 entries, eight marching bands, choirs, marching groups, clowns and horse-drawn wagons.

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and there always will be as long as there are willing volunteers who give of themselves so that children of all ages can believe in the magic of Christmas.

Letter to the Editor

Dart tourney here Dec. 4

To the editor,

On Sunday, Dec. 4, my brother, Alan, and I are hosting the second annual Bachelor of Darts dart tournament at the Aurora Legion.

It is an invitation only event and boasts the largest purse of any darts individual competition in the GTA with more than \$1,400 cash to be paid out in prize money.

Last year Aurora resident, Tom Stevenson, made it all the way to the semi-finals and will be competing again this year.

Other Aurora players registered include Dave Marshall, Bill Davis, and Jason Muir.

Twenty-four players will be battling this year, up from 16 in 2004.

Next year we will likely increase to 32 players as the interest from local darters has grown quickly in the tourney's short life.

The quality of players is a solid "A - Level" and not intended for the beginner. The contestants are a who's-who of the top players in the GTA and they are here to win.

If darts was as popular as golf in this country, I believe that several of them would be on the NIKE pro tour or the Canadian tour and a few would even be on the PGA tour.

Alan and I aren't shy to admit that one of the reasons we hold this event is to increase our market exposure as we both run our own business. Alan is a licensed plumber and I am a professional realtor with Royal LePage in Aurora.

But, the other reasons for the Bachelor of Darts tournament are to give skilful players some respectable prize money - the winner pockets \$600 this year with the runner-up receiving \$240 - and to give back (although indirectly) to the war veterans who fought for our country.

Therefore, we are holding the tournament at the Legion, a venue where a lot of veterans go to socialize. I've had the privilege of meeting several vets.

This way the Aurora Legion will receive the proceeds for food and drink during the day-long competition.

When all is said and done, Alan and I will lose money this year as we did last year but in

2006 we expect to turn a profit and we can begin donating actual cheques.

Also, in 2006, we will afford local businesses the opportunity to have their company name associated with this event.

There are some interesting and exciting rivalries within the 24 players. There are three real-life sharp-shooters (ex-police officers) in Peter Scott, David Marshall and Bill Davis.

Marshall and Davis have travelled to Australia and won the gold medal in darts against police officers all over the world.

For decades, Peter Scott has played -and won- at some of the biggest dart tournaments in North America and hasn't slowed down one bit.

To this day, when he walks into a competition he automatically becomes a solid favourite to win the whole thing regardless of who else may be playing.

Shayne Stevenson, from Newmarket, played professional hockey for the Boston Bruins and Tampa Bay Lightning.

Now he has decided to become great at a new sport where the travel is obviously much less which works well for a family man with two children. In three years Shayne has elevated his game to an elite level which has earned him the right to compete for a spot on Team Ontario which is held in St.

Catharines each April.

It's really the best players in Ontario trying to make an eight-player team which will then square off against the rest of Canada's province's best in June. In 2006 it is to be held in Nova Scotia.

We have five Newmarket players in total and the locals know that Aurora and Newmarket seem to have a special rivalry in any competition known to man.

There are four reps from Georgina and Durham Region; two from East Gwillimbury, two from Woodbridge, one from Markham, one from Bradford-West Gwillimbury, and one from Innisfil.

Twenty-four players looking to capture a coveted title that has already become somewhat famous among local dart fanatics.

This tournament is strictly head-to-head competition. In other words there are no teams, no partnerships, just strictly singles which is what most of the top guys want.

It's a pure sport in which there is nowhere to hide, no substitutions, no team-mates to rely on, no tape-delay, and no conceding games when getting soundly thrashed.

It takes a courageous and confident person to step up in front of his peers and compare his skill with another's.

The winner will be able to handle the volatile nature of playing others who are of

equal ability and accepting the wins and losses in stride.

Also, the stereotypical idea of a dart player preoccupied with drinking alcohol won't be seen Dec. 4.

The top players might take a drink once in a while but there won't be one "inebriated" player to be found. The great players know better. Too much alcohol will harm their accuracy.

This year about 120 invitations went out to top players and the first 24 who registered were accepted.

Garry Glidden
Aurora



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The Hillary House players
Saturday, December 10, 7:30 pm. Join our Players for readings, music, and especially tasty Christmas treats! Advance purchase of tickets ~ \$10.00 per person ~ is suggested. Call (905) 727-4015 for ticket information.

Children's Christmas Workshop
Saturday, December 17, 10:00 am until noon. Children ages 6 through 10 can make a last-minute, old-fashioned gift or two and enjoy a game at Hillary House. The fee of \$5.00 covers all supplies and a light snack. Advance registration is necessary: please call the Aurora Museum at (905) 727-8991.

For more information call (905) 727-8991, or visit our website.

Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street in Aurora (905) 727-4015 (west side of Yonge Street and north of Wellington Street)

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BOUQUETS to Spencer Lewis, Karen Bonham and Paolina Allan, members of the Aurora Master Ducks Tri-Team, for their participation in the 7th Annual Ford Ironman in Florida recently. More than 2,000 competitors from 35 countries competed in the 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26-mile run.

BRICKBATS to the town's work staff and/or the contractor on the Vandorf Road reconstruction project for failing to provide a flagman. After the roadway was open to traffic, a long section in the valley was restricted to one lane while construction was underway with absolutely no control. It was an accident waiting to happen. Traffic controls were finally installed.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Wendy Gaertner for asking a question about fundraising for the new recreational complex that should have been asked months ago. The ice is in and is being used and the pool will open in the New Year without a single known fundraising event by the ice and aquatic users who were given a target of \$2 million over five years.

BRICKBATS to the irresponsible members of Toronto Council for claiming they didn't know that they had granted themselves a hefty salary increase and allowing their welfare department to throw a \$50,000 bash for welfare workers, no doubt partially funded by York Region taxpayers through pooling.

BOUQUETS to the York Region Abuse Program on being nominated among Canada's top 31 non-profit organizations as a finalist for the 8th Annual Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services. It was selected from 842 national applicants.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for stripping as many as 3,200 surviving war veterans of their service records and benefits because they didn't complete proper paperwork, by a cabinet order in 1946 that declared some 14,000 veterans as deemed not to have served, and not taking action during the Year of the Veteran to reverse the order.

BOUQUETS to the 70-member Voices of Joy Choir on being awarded a Gold Medal at the recent Newmarket Voice Festival at which time the adjudicator had glowing words for musical director Linda Middlebrook.

BRICKBATS to those at York Region for failing to get the building lights under control, as they burn during the night when it is doubtful any staff is working. It was a problem when the building opened in November, 1993, when it was known as the "Crystal Place" as the lights were on all night. It had been constructed without light switches.

BOUQUETS to the 33 volunteer models, including Mayor Tim Jones, who participated in the Aurora Seniors' Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea to open the new Seniors' Centre, organizer Rozlin Laber and choreographer Deborah Campo.

BRICKBATS to the Paul Martin Liberal government for promising the Quebec wing of the Liberal Party that the province will receive \$500 million more next year in federal transfer payments. It's vote buying at its worst!

BOUQUETS to Sean Herbinson, the man who "has Aurora in his briefcase", for taking out the centre spread in The Auroran to welcome the 32 new members to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for continually rehashing decisions made by a majority of council at a general committee meeting using the same arguments. The issue should only be rehashed if new information is available, otherwise the decision should stand.

Letters to the Editor

Reader supports a ward system

To the editor, I appreciate that you decide if ward system needed

Re: Let the people

Reader wants four or six wards

I enjoy reading Dick Illingworth in the paper. I thought I would write my responses to the ward system survey that was in last week's issue.

Should Aurora have a ward system? I think it is time now so YES.

How many wards should there be? This question is a little harder to answer.

As a resident of south-west Aurora, I have been getting the feeling that all of the attention is being placed in the eastern part of the town and we are being somewhat neglected (i.e., the new rec complex).

Also given that there are currently eight members of council plus the mayor, I am not sure if that is too many.

So, my first kick at this, I came up with four wards with two members from each.

The ward boundaries would be simple in that Yonge and Wellington would be the demarcation point. Ward 1 would be north and east of the intersection; Ward 2 would be south and east of the intersection; Ward 3 would be south and west of it; and finally Ward 4 would be north and west of it.

If you were to look at this on a map, however, the ward representation will not be balanced - at least geographically at first and possibly by population.

So, I looked at it again and thought about six wards.

I see the boundaries as this: Ward 1 would be bounded by Bloomington, Bathurst, Yonge and Wellington; Ward 2 would be Wellington, Bathurst, Yonge and St. John's Sideroad; Ward 3 would be Yonge, Wellington, Bayview, St. John's Sideroad; Ward 4 would be Bloomington, Yonge, Wellington, Bayview; Ward 5 would be Bloomington, Bayview, 404 and Wellington; and Ward 6 would be Wellington, Bayview, 404 and St. John's Sideroad.

Each ward would elect one member to council.

The problem with this system means that council would be reduced by two members, although I'm not sure if that is a bad thing.

To counter-act that, I would

decide if ward system needed

I appreciate that you

suggest that the position of deputy-mayor would be an elected position in that the person who finishes in second in the mayor's race, would be elected as the deputy mayor.

I feel that this would encourage more people to run for mayor knowing that another position is available.

My other idea for a ward system is that in order to run for council in a ward, you MUST be a resident of that ward.

I do not want prospective councillors parachuting into a ward when they are not a resident of that same ward.

Of course, these are just ideas.

I look forward to seeing what the public wants.

Bruce Orrell
Aurora

Four wards

To the editor,

Should Aurora have a ward system?

YES - it will provide clear-cut representation and residents will know who to call regarding their local ward issues.

How many wards?
Four - SE, SW, NE and NW. Or divide current population by four and try to fit it into geographical boundaries. Two councillors per ward. Something like that.

Doesn't matter all that much, how many wards as long as it is a manageable number for councillors to handle.

Will this system stop all the in-fighting, bickering and name-calling at council meetings? NO.

When will this happen?
In about two decades - based on the speed at which our council makes decisions and implements them, this timeframe would seem to be about the norm.

I realize the last two questions weren't on the survey, but I just couldn't resist...our council and their on-going antics continue to disappoint.

Frank Fries
NW ward

have raised the issue of a ward system. I particularly appreciate that the issue has been raised by a long-time member of the community. Let me explain.

In the past, when the issue of a ward system has been raised (and I don't have any old newspaper clippings to support this, unfortunately) it has been my feeling that those opposed to a ward system immediately try to turn this into an issue of "new community members who don't understand Aurora" versus "established community members who know what is best."

It has also been my feeling that the sitting council members at the time are the first to defend the present system.

This is hardly surprising as it was within the parameters of that system that they were elected.

Unfortunately, I do not have much hope at this time that the majority of the present members of council would champion a change to a ward system.

In an election, the present system is strongly biased towards incumbents. With the apathy traditionally shown by voters combined with a ballot that allows each citizen to vote for several members, an incumbent, through name recognition alone, has a fairly good chance of retaining a seat. When you combine that with, from my point of view, only one candidate is truly the winner while seven other candidates still manage to become members (and, when you get down to number eight, that mandate is not particularly overwhelming), the incentive to actually attempt to get out and meet the voters and listen to their concerns is sadly lacking.

Those in support of the status quo will argue that, under the present system, each citizen of Aurora is represented by eight council-

lors. I feel, on the other hand, there is no councillor who represents my interests.

I would like to see a candidate who wants to know about me and my concerns.

In a ward system, the candidates would have a greater opportunity to get to know those who would vote for them and vice versa.

With a smaller population to canvas, the costs of campaigning would be less prohibitive (especially for new candidates) while the opportunity for more face-to-face time would be increased.

Rather than attempting to fill up the ballot, voters would go into their polling station with a clear idea of the candidates who they wish to represent them.

There will be concerns raised that councillors elected through a ward system will only represent their ward and its needs.

But that argument would assume that the voters also are incapable of seeing any larger issues that impact the entire town.

As a citizen, I have concerns that are of a local nature and concerns that affect my entire town.

For a ward councillor to be effective (and elected/re-elected), that councillor would need to demonstrate the ability to bring local ward issues forward to the council table while being able to consider issues in other wards and in the entire town.

Aurora is now of a size that a ward system should not just be considered but implemented.

Thanks for listening. This letter got somewhat longer than I had planned but it is an issue of which I have strong feelings.

In the next election I will be specifically looking for candidates who would support a ward system.

Gord Killer
Aurora

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Aurora Tigers split a pair of games

Penalties were blamed for the Aurora Tigers losing only its fourth game of the season Saturday night as they dropped a 4-3 decision to the South Division leading Markham Waxers in Markham.

No fewer than five five on three situations loomed in front of the Tigers which resulted in two third period goals, help Markham overcome a 3-2 deficit to eke out the win.

Every Markham goal

was scored while that team was on the power play.

Team captain Jeric Agosta led Aurora with a pair of goals while Daniel Michalsky fired the other.

Aurora trailed 2-1 after 20 minutes, but scored a pair of unanswered markers in the second period, before hitting another penalty skid.

Aurora's Brandon Roshko added three assists, and goaltender

Ryan Dickie was solid in the Tigers cage, facing a total of 39 shots.

Things were a little brighter Friday night in front of a hometown crowd as Aurora defeated the powerful Stouffville Spirit 3-1.

Hard work on the penalty kill late in the third period by Brandon Walker along the wall in the defensive zone led to an Agosta goal thanks to Walker who created a two on one, fed the puck to

Agosta before driving the net hard to create a diversion.

Agosta then put the puck past the opposing goaltender as Walker entered the net.

Some nice passing and a good shot that created a rebound enabled Fraser Smith to pound the puck into the Stouffville's goal on a power play to give Aurora the early lead half way through the first period.

Josh McNair scored Aurora's second goal on a feed from Tigers's defenseman Frank Soscia just as a Stouffville penalty had expired.

Three goals were all that was required as Jeremie Dupont gave up only one goal after 25 shots to ensure the victory.

Andrew Knobel added a

pair of assists for the Tigers.

Aurora plays two home games this weekend.

Friday night they host the Couchiching Terriers at the Aurora Community Centre in a contest that gets underway at 7.30 p.m.

Then Sunday afternoon, same location, Aurora hosts the Markham Waxers at 2.30 p.m.

Skating results

The following skaters from the Aurora Skating Club attended the Keswick Invitational Skate recently.

Following is a list of results.

FREESKATE

Introductory Ladies A - Sabrina Brochu (Flight 1) 2nd.

Introductory Ladies B - Mackenzie Maunder (Flight 1) 4th.

Pre-Preliminary I Ladies A - Alessia Chiovitti (Flight 1) 8th.

Pre-Preliminary I Ladies B - Molly Oulahan (Flight 1) 2nd; Marilena Perri (Flight 2) 7th; Carley Steiner (Flight 3) 7th; Julia Ciovitti (Flight 8) 5th; Savannah Hendy (Flight 9) 4th.

Preliminary I Ladies A - Jacqueline Relke (Flight 1) 6th; Hailey Riggs (Flight 2) 2nd; Tayler Sim (Flight 3) 2nd; Nicole Relke (Flight 4) 2nd; Kate Sutton (Flight 4) 8th.

Preliminary I Ladies B - Samantha Galati (Flight 1) 1st.

Junior Bronze Ladies A - Allie Sutton (Flight 1) 4th; Emma Slimkowich (Flight 6) 2nd.

Junior Silver Ladies - Meaghan Jones (Flight 2) 9th.

ELEMENTS

Preliminary A Ladies - Hailey Riggs (Flight 1) 4th.

Meanwhile, the following skaters from the Aurora Skating Club attended the Amherst Invitational Skate last weekend and here's how they did.

FREESKATE

Pre-Preliminary A Ladies - Shannon Lacombe (Group C) 4th; Samantha Duncan (Group C) 7th.

Preliminary A Ladies - Kendall Manella (Group A) 5th; Taylor McDowall (Group B) 5th; Alana Fabbicino (Group C) 2nd.

Preliminary B Ladies - Jihyun Cha 9th.

COMPULSORY SPINS

Pre-Preliminary - Shannon Lacombe (Group B) 3rd.

Preliminary - Jihyun Cha (Group B) 2nd.

COMPULSORY MOVES

Pre-Preliminary - Samantha Duncan (Group C) 5th.

Preliminary - Kendall Manella (Group A) 6th; Jihyun Cha (Group B) 4th; Taylor McDowall (Group B) 5th.

SHOWCASE

Preliminary - Samantha Duncan 5th; Alana Fabbicino 2nd; Kendall Manella 4th; Taylor McDowall 3rd.

Swim program finds a pool

At a recent meeting, Aurora Council received a communication from the York Region District School Board regarding a Swim to Survive Program that asked the pool fee be waived.

The "Swim to Survive" program was developed by the Lifesaving Society to provide Grade 3 students with basic skills required to survive an unexpected fall into water.

Last August the Region of York facilitated a forum to discuss the feasibility of piloting the program in the region.

Regional officials requested the District School Boards to identify a list of specific schools located in lower income areas and school populations with a concentration of immigrants.

The York Region District School Board identified Wells Street Public School in Aurora as a target school.

The York Catholic District School Board did not identify a target school.

The Swim to Survive program is based on three, 45 minute lessons and Wells Street School has

identified 34 students.

Council agreed to waive the pool fees.

Currently the only hour of pool space available is from 1 to 2 p.m. on Monday afternoons and this has

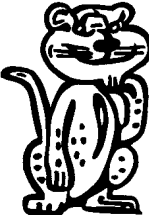
been booked for Wells Street School.

York Region will reimburse the town for instructional costs associated with the program in the amount of \$146.25.


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As part of their first anniversary celebrations Jackryn France of Aurora offered a donation to Aurora's Foundations Private School recently. Foundations hopes to use the donations to construct a sports field. In the photo, Rita Thiel, right, and her son, Jack, make the presentation to Meredith Deasley of Foundations.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY

Standings as at Monday, Nov. 21

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Masterclean Contracting	8	2	0	54	31	16
Highland Chev Cadillac	7	2	1	57	36	15
Priestly Demolition	6	3	1	43	21	13
J.J. Barron Realty	5	3	2	38	32	12
Tom & Jerry's	5	4	1	39	36	11
Law Insurance Brokers	1	6	3	29	50	5
FPL Aggregates	2	7	1	31	55	5
Rec Cycle N' Sports	1	8	1	26	52	3

Results, Nov. 21

Tom & Jerry's	4	Priestly Demolition	5
Law Insurance	3	Masterclean	1
Barron Realty	4	FPL Aggregates	4
Highland Chev	1	Rec Cycle	0

PLAYER STANDINGS

As at Nov. 21

NAME	TEAM	G	A	TOTAL
John Archibald	Highland	15	20	35
Steve Robertson	Highland	1	13	24
Ken Rumble	Highland	10	12	22
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	10	10	20
Jason Muise	Priestly	8	12	20
Mark Sedore	Priestly	7	12	19
Steve McDonald	Tom & Jerry's	7	11	18
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	7	9	16
Steve Kavanah	Barron's	5	10	15
Pat O'Mahony	Barron's	5	10	15
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	5	9	14
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	10	3	13
Gerry Briand	Masterclean	7	6	13
Bruce Ing	Priestly	6	7	13
Ed Jackson	Barron's	5	8	13
Bob Ince	Rec Cycle	5	8	13
Ed Kilroy	Rec Cycle	7	5	12
Cam Mitchell	FPL	7	5	12
Kevin Brown	Highland	4	8	12
Chris Neal	Priestly	5	6	11
Ron Theisson	Barron's	5	6	11
Doug Adair	Rec Cycle	6	4	10
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	5	5	10
Angelo Nasto	Masterclean	5	5	10
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	4	6	10

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TA handles tough play

The current production by Theatre Aurora at the Factory Theatre is a play with a difference and the title "An Experiment with an Air Pump" may seem more like a Canadian Tire TV commercial.

It's a challenging type of play written by Shelagh Stephenson and directed by Sean Houghton; challenging for the audience and cast and is a play that members of the audience will like and dislike.

The story takes place in a country home in Northern England in 1799 and in the same house 200 years later.

In both centuries the characters explore the consequences of the search for knowledge without regard for moral or ethical considerations.

While the story may be hard to follow, the acting is superb, the period costumes in 1799 realistic and the set with its revolving centre is at the professional level.

Some of the performers play two roles, one in each century.

Victoria Curran plays wife Susannah in 1799 and has to suffer the lack of consideration and affection of her husband due to his infatuation with his experiments.

In 1999 she is wife Ellen, but this time she is the research scientist with an unemployed husband and they are in the process of selling their home so she can accept a job 200 miles away with a large corporation.

This is her first performance for Theatre Aurora but has several credits with other theatrical groups.

Well-known local performer Peter Shipston plays the scientist husband Fenwick in 1799 and the unemployed husband in 1999, a complete

reversal of roles.

They have two daughters, Harriet and Maria. Harriet is played by Jessica Schmidt and also Kate in 1999. In the earlier role, she is an emotional, domineering sister to Maria and to the house servant Isobel.

In 1999 she is the rather domineering head of a large scientific corporation who wants to hire Ellen and her research projects. She previously appeared in Theatre Aurora's "Moon Over Buffalo".

Younger Maria is played by Victoria Clowater, a student at Aurora High School but with 16 theatrical performances behind her mostly in New Brunswick.

Julia Roza plays the Scottish house servant Isobel who is at everyone's beck and call. She attracts the attention of Roget, a younger scientist assisting Fenwick in his experiments, who makes a play for her with fancy words and gifts until she responds to his attention.

But he is merely using her as an experiment as he relates to his colleague Armstrong, which is overheard by Isobel. Roget is played by David Kennet and was his first time on stage, although he has performed and toured as a singer with the Starscape Singers and is booked for two full length films.

All in all it is a play with a difference and in spite of what may be difficult in following the story line, Director Houghton has assembled a very strong cast and the special effects by Steve Wolfer and costumes by Joan Koury make it worth seeing.

It continues November 30 and December 1 to 4 and 7 to 10. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

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House League Tyke

106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 6 - Jack Bishenden 1A, James Wyndham-West 1G, Matthew Liscio 2G, Patrick Servideo 3G 1A. **105 Tim Horton's Flyers 6**

107 Tim Horton's Bruins 9 - Christian Arcuri 1G, Evan Cherubini 1G 1A, Alistair Johnston 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Nicholas Sansalone 2G, Cole Thiessen 4G. **108 Tim Horton's Blues Tyke HL 2** - Colin Kostin 1G, Cameron Zinner 1G.

104 Tim Horton's Sharks Tyke HL 5 103 Tim Horton's Blackhawks 5 - Andrew Badali 2G, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1G 1A, Jeffrey McKay 1G 2A, Matthew Barnett 2A, Eric Shennan 1A, Devlin Kauffeldt 1G, Daniel Mettel 2A.

Novice

205 HS Financial Services 6 - Eddie Duffie 2G, Patrick Bourrie 1A, Jessica Ash 1G, Michael Walsh 3G. **206 Emilio's Pizza Novice HL 2** - Ryan Donovan 1A, Bowen Reid 1G, Krisztian Fockter 1G.

204 North York Heating & Plumbing Novice HL 6 - John Partland 2G 2A, Justin Laird 1G, James Power 3G. **202 Mastermind Toys.Com 3** - Eric Cumiskey 1A, Liam Joiner 2G, Ryan Ouwroules 1G.

Minor Atom

306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 1 - Thomas Finlay 1G, Michael Liscio 1A. **305 All Pro Source For Sports Minor Atom HL 0**.

307 Optimist Club of Aurora 5 - Adam Deroos 1A, Landon Kirby 1A, Mitchell Arnold 2A, Kevin Siery 2G, Robin Creighton 3G. **308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Minor Atom HL 2**.

304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 4 - Russell Johnson 1G, Joey Stel 1G 1A, Gabriel Oulahen 1G, Robert Ruscica 1A. **303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Minor Atom HL 2** - Maxwell Brown 2G, Nicholas Steiner 1A.

301 ADC Aluminum 4 302 Laurion Law Office Minor Atom HL 3 - Matt Sanita 2G, Matthew Pelkola 1A, Chris Sanita 1G.

Atom

403 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Atom HL 6 - Kieran Cullen 1A, Ryan Dowling 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 1G, Paul Louis Steiner 2A, , Christopher Tsianos 5G. **401 Nacora Insurance Brokers 3** - Andrew Boehmer 1G, Garth McBride 1G, Luke Pizzurro 1A, Jamie Pountney 1G, Alexander Seto 1A.

406 Continental Custom Ingredients Atom HL 4 405 Rotary Club of Aurora 2 - Andrew Staples 1A, Quinn McGowan 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 1G.

404 Optimist Club of Aurora 5 402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln Atom HL 3 - Andreas Mikkelsen 1G, Drew Bryan 1A, Quinn Harris 1A, Braden Gerace 1A, Casey Severini 2G, Austin Boudreau 1A.

Minor Peewee

502 Supreme Collision Centre Minor Peewee HL 5 - Marty Wood 1G, Arun Patridge 1G, Evan Foxell 1A, Liam Judges 1A, Kyle Duvall 1A, John Lee 1A, Kurtis Lindner 1A, Kasey Piper 1G 1A, Ward Benn 1G, Wade McFarlane 1A, Joey Romano 1G 1A, Geoffrey Ash 2A. **504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 2**.

501 Chevalier Chrysler Minor Peewee HL 3 - Sam Straw 1G, Eamon Reilly 1G, John Dinicolantonio 1A, Nick Reinholdt 2A, Ryan Rival 1G. **503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 1**.

505 Pizza Pizza 7 - Kyle Coughlin 1A, Joey Detoro 1A, Andrew Gibbs 1G, Daniel Laflamme 1G 1A, Jake Langford 2G 2A, Andrew Luck 1G 3A, Gregory Olejnik 1A, Nicholas Theodoropolous 1G, Brian Tree 1G 3A, Taylor Cooke 1A. **506 Diamond Groundskeeping Services Minor Peewee**

HL 3

Minor Bantam

704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 1 - Nick Orsatti 1A, Mattheus Vloet 1G. **701 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge 148 F.L.T. 1** - Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Devin Scudds 1A.

704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 4 - Scott Cunningham 2A, Nick Orsatti 2G, Michael VanBakel 1A, Marco Santella 2G, Robert Horton 1A. **703 Dial Tone Communications 1**.

701 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge 148 F.L.T. 9 - Michael Gray 1G, Daniel Crowther 1A, Scott Parry 1A, Dylan Teacher 4G 1A, Daniel Sampieri 1G 1A, David Naccarato 1A, Julian Biasoni 3A, Marcel Lamanna 3A, Ryan Bagshaw 2A, Chris Blumreisinger 3A, Devin Scudds 1A, Colin Bennett 3G 1A. **705 Aurora Canadian Tire Minor Bantam HL 4**.

703 Dial Tone Communications Minor Bantam HL 2 706 Formtech 2 - Chris Tillsley 1G 1A. Mike Machin 1G.

706 Formtech Minor Bantam HL 8 - Robert Fiorini 1A, Chris McGill 1G, Brandon Hurst 1G, Mike Delplavgnano 1G, Chris Tillsley 1G 2A, Grant Wood 2A, Brendan Beatty 1A, Paul Duggan 3G, Mike Machin 1G. **702 Highland Chevrolet Cadillac 4**

Midget

1008 ASA Alloys 4 - Iznaur Atiev 1G 2A, Jason Brennan 1A, James Seymore 3G 1A. **1009 Ice Pix Midget HL 1**.

1004 Aurora Legion Midget HL 8 - Zack Andrews 1A, Alex Cancelli 1G 1A, Alex DiSera 2A, Drew Jenkins 4G 1A, Daniel Kupraty 1G 1A, Liam McNeely 1G 1A, Steve Pitts 1G, Ryan Jones 1A, Matthew Read 1A, Mike White 1A. **1002 Tw!st Marketing 6**.

1004 Aurora Legion Midget HL 7 - Zack Andrews 4A, Alex Cancelli 2G, Daniel Kupraty 2G 1A, Brenden McNeely 1G 1A, Liam McNeely 2G, Chad Roberts 1A, Mike White 1A. **1005 Barb Blaser Re/Max 4**.

Rep Games

Georgina 3 Aurora Tigers Novice AA 0.

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 3 Redmen 1 - Nicholas Baxter 1G, Peter Andreakos 1A, Theodora Issaris 1G, Braeden Kublick 1G, Nicholas Papousek 1A, Austin Riswick 1A.

Aurora Tigers Novice A 4 Oak Ridges 1

Markham 1 Aurora Tigers Novice A 0

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 4 Georgina 3

Georgina 3 Aurora Tigers Novice AE 0

Richmond Hill 4 Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 2 - Sean Foxwell 1A, Branden Fennell 1A, Austin Lane 1G, Quentin Campbell 1G, Jack Caldwell 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 1 Century 21 Redmen 0 - Jerryd Jensen 1A, Spencer Green 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G. Shutout: Cody ChildRyan Manson.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 3 Georgina 0 - Liam Coll 1A, Austin Lane 1A, Matthew Iwai 1G, Spencer Green 1G 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G. Shutout: Cody ChildRyan Manson.

Stouffville 1 Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 5 McCain Redmen 2 - Erik Balkovec 2G 2A, Austin Persaud 1G, Logan Blaser 1A, Evan Jackson 1G 3A, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Nick Del Zotto 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 4 Barrie 1 - Erik Balkovec 2A, Paul Neophytou 2A, Evan Jackson 1G, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G, Nick Del Zotto 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 2 Georgina 2 - Liam Beresford 1G 1A, Alex Perez 1A, Graham Robinson 1G.

Redmen 2 Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 1 - Graham Robinson 1G, Harrison Smith 1A,

Blake Wallace 1A.

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 5 Markham 3

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 4 Markham 2

Schomberg 4 Aurora Tigers Atom A 1 - Daniel Antoniel 1G, Eric Damecour 1A.

Aurora Tigers Atom A 3 NobleKing 0 - Hayden Trask 1G, Quincy Ing 1A, Stefan Lazzer 1G, Daniel Jones 1A, Bailey Miller 1A, Eric Damecour 1G. Shutout: Scott Schmitt.

Aurora Tigers Atom A 8 Oak Ridges 1 - Liam MacKichan 2A, Hayden Trask 1A, Graeme Allison 3A, Quincy Ing 1A, Peter Sandwell 2G, Stefan Lazzer 3G, Kiefer McIntosh 5A, Daniel Jones 1A, Daniel Antoniel 1A, Bailey Miller 2G 1A, Eric Damecour 1G.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 8 Orillia 4 - Connor Moody 1A, Sammy Steenhorst 1G, Jeffery Lam 1A, Eric Archibald 4A, Jimmy Brookes 1A, Matthew Pryse 1G, Colton Lee 1G, Vincent Ruscica 5G, Ryan Baskin 2A.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 7 Markham 1 - Connor Moody 3G, Sammy Steenhorst 1G 1A, Conner McQuillan 1A, Eric Archibald 1A, Jimmy Brookes 2A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Colton Lee 1G, Jack Straw 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G 1A, Eric Bulloch 1A.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 5 TNT Tornados 0 - Connor Moody 1G, Sammy Steenhorst 1A, Jeffery Lam 2A, Eric Archibald 1A, Jimmy Brookes 2G, Vincent Ruscica 1A, Eric Bulloch 1G, Ryan Baskin 1G, Liam Devlin 2A. Shutout: Andrew Stobbe.

Uxbridge 4 Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 3 - Tanner Thiessen 2G, Jonathan Knowles 1A, Andrew Papousek 1A, Mitchell Harris 1A, Nick Heintzman 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 4 Markham 1 - Tanner Thiessen 2G 1A, Trevor Best 1G, Andrew Papousek 1G 2A, Mitchell Harris 1A, Ryan Hughes 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 3 Barrie 2 - Jesse Bentolila 1G 1A, Dylan Hussey 2A, Anthony Selski 1G, Evan Collict 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Brett Wilson 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 4 Brampton I/C Bullets 1 - Cooper Catt 1A, Lucas Leslie 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1G, Dylan Hussey 2A, Anthony Selski 1G, Evan Collict 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 1G 1A, Andrew Buchanon 1A, Ty Brochu 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 4 Caledon Lightning 1 - Jesse Bentolila 1G 1A, Dylan Hussey 1G, Anthony Selski 1G, Evan Collict 2A, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1G, Ty Brochu 1A, Kevin Langdon 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 4 Cambridge Hawks 0 - Cooper Catt 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Dylan Hussey 2G, Anthony Selski 1G, Evan Collict 1A, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Thomas Hagias 1G, Brett Wilson 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 3 Whitby Solar Bears 2 - Mackenzie Wooder 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Anthony Selski 2G 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Brett Wilson 1G.

Richmond Hill 3 Aurora Tigers Peewee AA 1 - Brandon Pedersen 1A, Tristan Miller 1A, James Harkin 1G.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AA 4 Markham 2 - Eleeza Cox 1G, Josh Beaton 1A, Blair Cuthbert 1A, Cody Weese 1A, Chris Venditelli 1G, Matthew Mears 1G, Jack Steffan 1A, James Harkin 1G 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AA 2 Richmond Hill 1 - Josh Beaton 1G 1A. Cody Weese 1G 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 1 Markham 1 - Jamie Hawkins 1A, Chris Smith 1A, Danny Mcconnell 1G.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 5 Bradford 0 - Matt Schmitt 2A, Luca Battiston 1G, Jordan Figueiredo 1A, Scott Kimmerer 2G, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Chris Smith 1G, Denis Casey 1A, Michael Nonnewitz 1A, Danny Mcconnell 1G. Shutout: Cary Byron.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 3 Barrie 2 - Patrick Jones 1A, Luca Battiston 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1G, Chris Smith 2G 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 4 TNT Tornados 1 - Brett Allen 1A, Sean Halley 2G 1A, Daniel Howie 1A, Tyler Jensen 1G 1A, Adam Reid 1A, Brendan Strachan 1G, Michael Di Vincenzo 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 7 Markham 5 Brett Allen 2G 1A, Spencer George 1G 3A, Daniel Howie 1G 1A, Tyler Jensen 1G, Nicholas Silverio 1A, Brendan Strachan 1G 1A, Mark Tanel 1G 1A, Alex Thompson 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 10 Richmond Hill 0 - Jeffrey Sanderson 2G, Anthony Marsillo 1A, Nathan Brown 1A, Oliver Boettcher 3G 2A, Dylan Cross 3G 4A, Derrick Hamner 2G 2A, Sean Ellison 2A, Louis Lamanna 1A. Shutout: Wesley O'Beirne.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3 Georgina 0 - Anthony Marsillo 1A, Nathan Brown 2A, Oliver Boettcher 1G, Dylan Cross 1A, Derrick Hamner 1G, John-Caleb Ross 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G. Shutout: Scott. Smyth.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 4 Markham 4 - Jeffrey Sanderson 2A, Anthony Marsillo 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1G, Justin Brown 1G 1A, Dylan Cross 1G, Shawn Clark 1G 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 4 Markham 0 - Sean Agostino 1G, Tyler Tisdale 1G, Aaron Beally 1G 1A, Spencer Arkell 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Michael McGolrick 1G 1A. Shutout: Peter Abels.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 1 Belleville 0 - Tyler Tisdale 1G, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Dillon Cappell 1A. Shutout: Ernesto Spagnuolo

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 4 Carleton Place 1 - Tyler Tisdale 2A, Jakub Sykora 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G, Matthew Semeredy 1G 1A, Max Lerner 1G, Dillon Cappell 1G 2A, Jesse Cappell 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 10 North Toronto 0 - Sean Agostino 2A, Tyler Tisdale 1G 1A, Corey Jeffery 1G 1A, Aaron Beally 2G, Jakub Sykora 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1G 1A, Max Lerner 2G, Michael McGolrick 2G 3A, Dillon Cappell 1A. Shutout: Peter Abels.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 4 Cobourg 2 - Evan Jones 1A, Sean Agostino 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1G, Aaron Beally 2A, Jakub Sykora 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G, Max Lerner 2A, Michael McGolrick 1G, Dillon Cappell 1A, Jesse Cappell 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 4 Belleville 3 - Sean Agostino 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1A, Corey Jeffery 1A, Ryan Jones 1A, Darcy Eveleigh 3A, Max Lerner 2G, Michael McGolrick 2G, Dillon Cappell 1A.

Stouffville 4 Aurora Tigers Bantam A 3 - Blom Cory 1G, Ryan Finlay 1G, Carter Hassard 1A, David Iwai 1G, Matthew Scrimess 1A.

TNT Tornados 7 Aurora Tigers Bantam A 1 - Luca Ghegin 1A, Matthew Joynt 1G.

Aurora Tigers Bantam A 4 Barrie 4 - David Bar 3A, Di Nallo Nicholas 1G, Matthew Joynt 1A, Andrew McDonald 2G 1A, Michael Morson 1A, Ben Mulholland 1A, Conor McQueston 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 4 Richmond Hill 3 - Steven Keane 2A, Kevin Kryshka 1G 1A, Kyle Scott 1A, Steven Donches 1A, Jeremy Ellison 2G 1A, Ben Sherritt 1A, Taylor Postill 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 2 PricewaterhouseCoopers Redmen 2 - Michael Doherty 1A, Ian Weston 1G, Travis Hooper 1G, Spencer McCartney 1A, Cody Bastarache 1A.

NobleKing 6 Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 2 - Jesse Coote 1A, Patrick McMurray 1A, Jeremy Cohen 1G, Spencer McCartney 1G.

Georgina 3 Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 2

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Your hydro cheque is in the mail

With the supply and the price of electricity uncertain in the months ahead, it's hard to believe that back in December, 2002, many families and small business owners across Ontario received a \$75 refund cheque.

The provincial government adopted the Electricity Supply Pricing and Conservation Act designed to protect energy consumers from increases in their energy bills. The Act froze the electricity rate at 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour until 2006.

In addition the Act provided for a \$75 rebate cheque to be mailed to many families and small business owners across Ontario who paid more than the set rate of 4.3 cents.

The cheques arrived in time for the Christmas holidays, and the poor downtrodden taxpayer would welcome any relief this year as a Christmas gift.

A FORGOTTEN OPPORTUNITY

In May, 1995, Aurora Council tried to interest the York Region Board of Education into jointly acquiring an abandoned building on Industrial Parkway North, previously occupied by Precision Small Parts.

As the building was adjacent to the Holland River Park and the Family Leisure Complex, it was seen as a perfect location for a seniors' centre and library as it was located on 11 acres of land with parking for 110 cars.

The building was built in two phases and had a corridor joining the two sections.

The school board's standing committee recommended that staff be authorized to consider uses for the building.

It never happened and the building was eventually sold to an industrial enterprise and is currently being expanded.

AURORA TEACHER DANCES IN NEW YORK

It was back in July, 1986, when Aurora Jazzercise teacher Joan Texeira was selected to go to New York with other Jazzercise instructors to participate in the Statute of Liberty extravaganza. She was the only Canadian invited to take part in the dance ceremony.

The 300 dancers in the show were selected from more than 3,200 certified instructors and joined the 3,000 member cast during the ceremony to honour the 100th anniversary of the Statute.

DEBATING AT ST. ANDREW'S

At one time St. Andrew's College used to host a debating competition for the Fulford Trophy. Members of the community were invited to the day-long event as judges.

The debates may still be going on but if so, they are not publicized.

In April, 1975, the resolution to be debated was "It is resolved that a MacKenzie Valley Gas Pipeline will prove beneficial to Canada's future" with 16 teams, mostly from private schools participating.

In the final debate, the team from Michael Power High School squeezed through to win as the top Government team on a split decision of the judges and members of the audience representing the House of Commons.

St. Andrew's College was the top Opposition team.

WINNING A MASTERS MEDAL

In August, 1985, Aurora's Joyce Jones participated in the world's first Masters Games held in Etobicoke.

She and her Canadian partner won the second place medal in doubles table tennis after only a few hours practice.

In the single table tennis event she lost out to the eventual winner from Australia. She said she would have practiced all winter if she had known the Master Games were coming up.

In the tennis event, she was knocked out of the singles but with her partner from Taiwan, who couldn't speak English, they made it to the semi-finals and were defeated by a team from British Columbia, the eventual winners.

YORK COUNTY COUNCIL

The last meeting of York County Council was held in December, 1970, after more than 100 years of linking the people of York.

King Township Reeve Gordon Cook, the last warden, removed the Chain of Office from around his neck and placed it around the neck of the first Regional Chairman, Garfield Wright.

During the final minutes of the meeting, North Gwillimbury Deputy Reeve Wallace Donnell introduced a resolution on "Immortality" which indicated that County council stood ready to take over from the new regional government if necessary.

The resolution was adopted with one dissenter.

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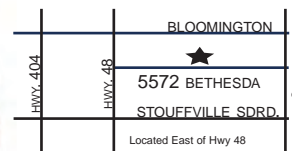
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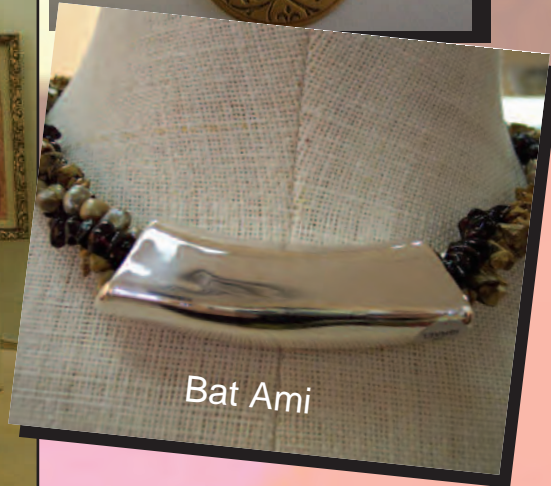
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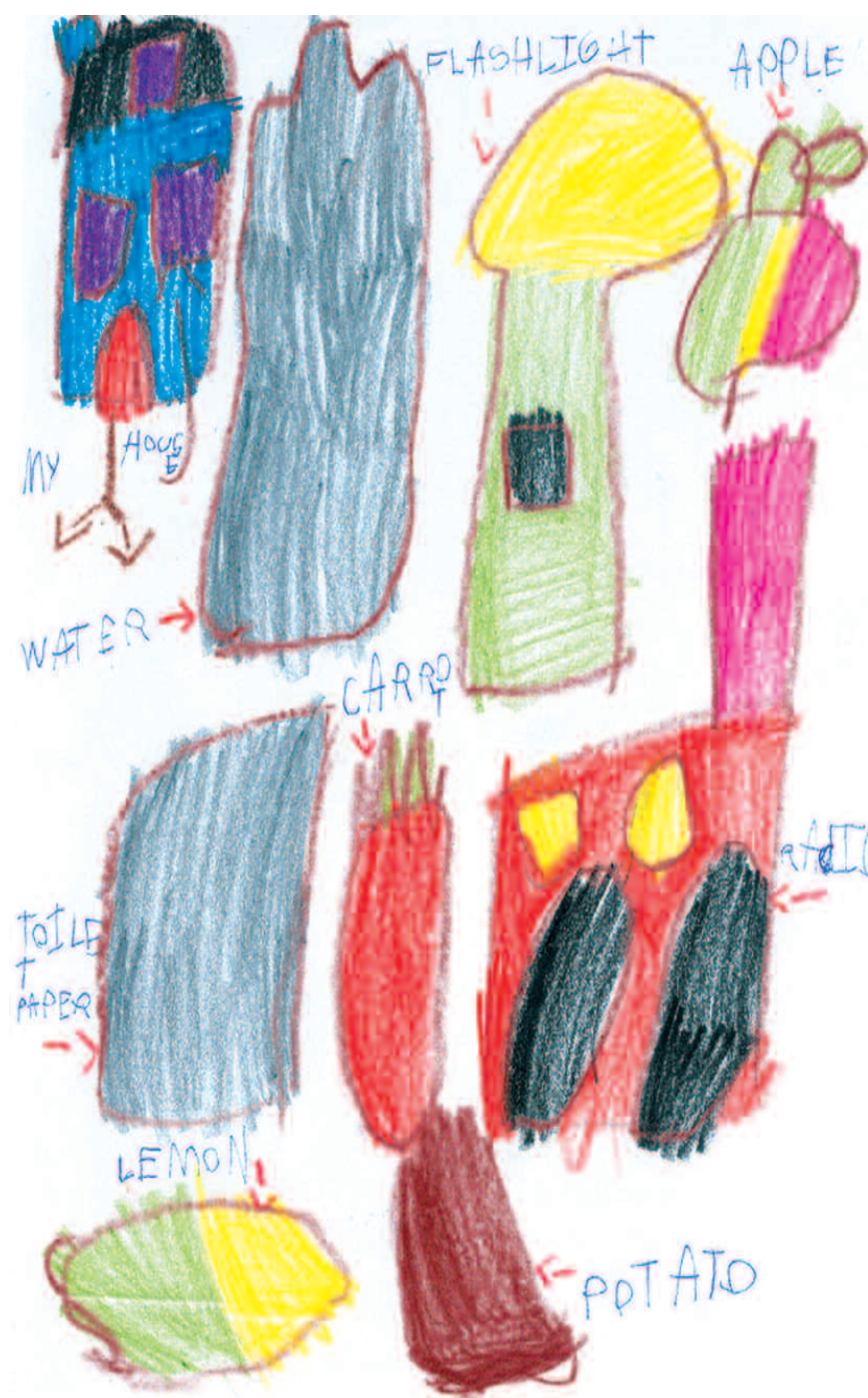

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- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Sheets
- ☐ Sewing Kit

General Supplies

- ☐ Plastic bags
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Candles
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Eating utensils
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Battery powered radio
- ☐ Playing cards
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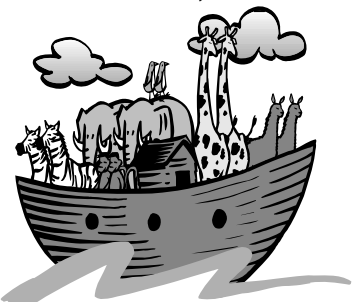
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