

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 7 No. 6

AURORAN, Week of December 5, 2006

905-727-3300

Gateway sign planned for highway interchange

Wellington Street East is considered a primary gateway to Aurora so council Tuesday

Classic gets a reading

Hillary House is the place to be this Saturday evening.

At 7:30 p.m. members of the Aurora Historical Society will present a reading of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol.

The reading will be divided among a number of well-known Aurorans including Mayor Elect Phyllis Morris, Deputy Mayor Elect Bob McRoberts, John McIntyre and Kathi Wake.

They will use the abridged version that Dickens himself used while on tour and include some carol-singing as well. After the reading, Christmas desserts will be served. Because of limited seating, tickets are disappearing quickly but you can reserve a spot by calling 905-727-8991.

Tickets are \$12 each.

The Hillary House Gift Shop is also full of Christmas ideas.

As hours when the house is open can vary during the winter months, it's best to call in advance to 905-727-8991 to confirm operating times.

approved planning standards for the Wellington corridor which include a number of significant urban design principals contained in the Secondary Plan for the area.

A gateway feature was originally identified in early discussions with Whitwell Developments regarding their application for the Aurora Gateway Business Park on the northwest corner of Wellington Street and Highway 404.

The development company was asked to submit proposals for the gateway feature and although a number of proposals were submitted none of the design options were considered suitable.

To expedite the processing of the development application and to allow more time to prepare potential designs for the gateway feature, the applicant and the town agreed to an \$80,000 contribution from Whitwell towards a future gateway feature.

Last December, the Economic Development Advisory Committee asked staff to prepare a report outlining a location and design options for the committee's review with the suggestion that the feature be as close as possible to the intersection, "large in scale, simple and yet visually strong".

In October, town staff met with representatives from the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the proposed gateway feature.

Ministry representatives indicated the appropriate location should be on the east side of Highway 404 insofar as Aurora was attracting investors coming into the region from the south.

They expressed concern about the sign being located in their right-of-way at the northwest corner as had been proposed due to the fact that a stop light is to be installed at that location and the sign might limit visibility.

They recommended a site on the southeast corner within the off-ramps at the interchange.

Staff recommended that the project be undertaken in two steps.

Phase one would include developing various design options for council's approval and submitting an application to MTO while phase two would involve construction to be undertaken next year.

Council adopted the report as presented and agreed that if the total cost was more than the \$80,000 funding additional funds be provided through the 2007 budget process.



Lt. Colonel Bob Moulton, Community Relations representative with the Salvation Army in Newmarket, displays award presented to outgoing Aurora Councillor John West for his efforts over the last two decades in helping the Army collect funds at Christmas. West, too ill to attend last Tuesday's meeting, will receive the award directly from Moulton.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

West is honoured by Salvation Army

message read.

Lt. Col. Moulton said he would personally deliver the award to West after the council meeting.

He also thanked Cooky Ellis, the mayor's secretary, for all the work she did in helping Councillor West behind the scenes, Captain John Adema and the firefighters who collected the money from the kettles and the treasury staff for handling the money.

He said that through John's help the Army had been able to make Christmas a lot happier for many families in the community.

Briefly

Resident hit by car

Long-time Aurora resident Joyce Epworth suffered minor injuries around noon last Tuesday when she was hit by a car at the corner of Yonge and Dunning Avenue.

A Central York Fire Services firefighter at the scene called for ambulance help.

She was taken to Southlake Regional Centre and released after x-rays showed no broken bones.



The Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, presented by the Town of Aurora last week, drew huge crowds to the front of the Town Hall. The ceremony even had a visit from Santa Claus. Many participants were there to exchange Christmas lights during a promotion by PowerStream Inc.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

During the month of December the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall will feature the artwork of Douglas Thiell. Viewing hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The Wellington Gallery on Wellington Street West features the paintings of Olympic Skating star Toller Cranston "The Wonder of Winter" until January 6, 2007.

Until April 15, 2007, winter parking restrictions are in effect and parking is prohibited on all streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 choral singers for an April production of the musical "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz. Singers will not have to memorize music. Performances will take place at Newmarket Theatre. The group is also looking for a baritone for a leading role. Rehearsals begin in January on Sunday afternoons with an occasional Saturday evening. Contact General Director Sarah Kyle at keepings@look.ca if you have any questions or would like to take part.

On the first and third Friday of each month, the Aurora Seniors will hold a +55 dance in the West-McKenzie room of the Seniors' Centre from 8 to 11 p.m., and every Wednesday during the day volunteers prepare a lunch combo served in the Norma Jean Legge room from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 905-726-4767 for further information.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practices under the direction of Tom Rainsford every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre.

York Region Food Network is looking for Aurora community groups interested in supplying volunteers for its Christmas Poinsettia Fundraiser at the Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket. Contact Terry O'Brien for details at 905-252-5729 or by E-mail: terryo@yrfn.ca.

The 3rd Aurora Scouting Group has spaces available in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. For registration information or to volunteer call 905-726-2393 or 905-841-0556.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its second season. Every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided.

Voice is a group of aspiring writers ages 12 to 19 interested in developing writing skills, working on a magazine and embarking on creative adventures with similarly minded people. The group meets in the Marjorie Andrews Room of the Aurora Library on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Call the Library at 905-727-9493 for more information.

Aurora Seniors present a movie night every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for guests, which includes the movie, a frozen treat and a drink.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group meets weekly every Wednesday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7:30 p.m.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the

second Tuesday of every second month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit 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.

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 has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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

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

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in committee room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McCleeny at 905-727-9676.

Queen's York Rangers free camps for boys and girls, 12 to 18. Aurora Squadron runs Friday evenings at the Aurora Armoury. For further information, call 905-726-8600 any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with ACI, presents "Norton Antivirus", the fourth of a 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Register online, at the adult information desk, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

DECEMBER 7-10

Aurora Opera Company presents "Kiss Me Kate" at the Newmarket Theatre. Tickets, at \$20 and \$17 are available by calling 905-953-5122.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Aurora Seniors New Year's Eve Dinner and

Dance from 6:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seniors Centre. Cost is \$55 for members and tickets are available at the reception desk.

Celebrate the New Year at the Town's First Night Party at the Leisure Complex from 6 to 9 p.m. It was in 1994 when Aurora joined with other municipalities across North America to welcome the New Year with a family event.

New Year's Eve gala in the Queen Elizabeth Ballroom, Howard Johnson Aurora, featuring cocktails at 6, buffet dinner at 7, dessert table at 8 and dancing to Fifth Avenue Band until 1 a.m. with complimentary champagne and party favours at midnight. Price \$165 per couple. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

New Year's Eve party at the Aurora Legion, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 905-727-9932 for more details.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

President's levee at the Aurora Legion beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing until 5 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

A limited number of tickets are now on sale for the Aurora Film Circuit's next production of "Volver". They are available at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited on Mary Street. Given the response to previous movies, it is unlikely tickets will be available on the night of the screening at the Cineplex Aurora Cinemas. Tickets are \$10 each.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Roy Meacock Memorial Dart Tournament at the Aurora Legion. Register at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call Tom at 905-841-9188.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Justin Trudeau will be guest speaker at an Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He has a message for students and the Chamber is seeking corporations to sponsor a student for the luncheon at a cost of \$40. To sponsor a student call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Deadline for the Aurora Library's 2nd Annual Poetry Contest for Teenagers to celebrate National Poetry Month. There are two categories, one for youths in Grades 7 to 9 and the other for Grades 10 to 12. For more information call 905-727-9493.

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Residents find out street's spelling

Residents of Weslock Crescent in the Preserve Homes subdivision in the northeast quadrant of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East must have been confused as to whether their street was Weslock or Westlock, with a T.

The street in question was spelled Weslock on the original street naming report approved by council last October, but when the name appeared on the subdivision agreement and registered plan it was spelled Westlock and was registered with the incorrect spelling.

The original intended spelling, named after Canadian golfer Nick Weslock, coincides with the spelling approved by council and on the street signs.

In order to avoid any further confusion, council went through a change of name process in accordance with existing legislation to correct the spelling error and the enacting bylaw was approved at Tuesday's council meeting.

Meanwhile, a street named Delattaye Avenue, also in the northeast quadrant, probably won't be corrected, since it has been in existence for some time.

The street name should be spelled Delahaye.

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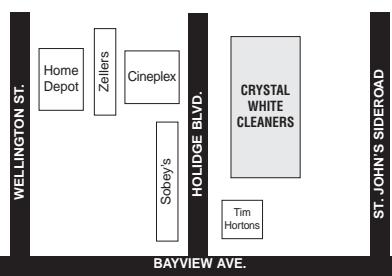
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Poor Richard

A few notes for councillors to consider

*You're now a municipal councillor,
And you must learn your role;
It can be thankless and frustrating,
But don't let it take your soul.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The inaugural meeting of council is over and you are now a member of Aurora Council to face the problems of the municipality and its residents for the next four years.

In your campaign brochure and at all-candidates meetings you made certain commitments of what you hoped to do when elected.

One of the hardest lessons a newly-elected councillor has to learn that as an individual council member, you have little more authority than you did as a citizen, except the opportunity to bring an issue to the council table with the hope that you can convince a majority of council members it has merit.

Much the same applies when dealing with citizens and their complaints or problems.

Don't make a promise to fix the problem as you don't have the authority or power to make decisions or policy changes on your own.

It is only council as a corporate body that has the power to make policy changes or direct staff to carry out decisions of council, and a majority of council rules whether you agree with them or not.

Another thing to watch for is dealing with ratepayer or homeowner groups as some are legitimate and registered with the town, while others have just a few individuals who have a specific beef.

Find out if the group is registered with the town which requires having a certain number of members representing a certain number of homes, so you don't get conned by an unregistered group.

Also remember that you were elected to serve all residents of the municipality, not just special interest, vocal minority groups.

As a member of council, you should be aware that you do not have the authority to speak for the municipality unless so authorized by council or make rash statements that could inadvertently compromise the municipality.

Some years ago in Aurora, there was a serious flooding problem after a heavy rainstorm that caused top soil from a new subdivision under construction to flood down the street causing considerable damage to private property.

A member of council told the press that the flooding was a sign of inefficient engineering on the part of the town staff and the builder.

The reference to inefficient engineering and to the town staff were of concern to other members of council.

A legal opinion was obtained and council was advised that the town could be liable unless the council member retracted his remarks.

The councillor said he had been misquoted but the reporter checked his notes and was adamant that the councillor had made the statement, resulting in a special council meeting disavowing council from the councillor's statement, in the absence of a retraction.

Remember when approached by the media for a statement expect to see your words in print as the reporter isn't making a social call. The reporter wants a story.

Councillors must also be aware of pressure they may get from developers and advocacy groups.

The pressure usually starts in a subtle way such as an invitation to lunch or a golf game usually extended by a mutual acquaintance and you are treated like royalty.

Or there may be a charity dinner or other event and they offer to buy you a table so you can invite some friends. Don't get conned.

They don't want you, they want your vote when their application comes before council for approval.

Under the Municipal Act the role of council is defined as representing the public, to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality and to develop and evaluate the policies and programs and to determine which services the municipality provides.

Government of the people, by the people, for the people is only possible when dedicated people offer themselves in the service of their fellow citizens.

When they forget the reasons they were elected, government falls into contempt and distrust.

Being elected to public office is a trust.



No your eyes are not deceiving you. Yes, this photo ran in last week's edition of The Auroran, but we're doing it again, because now we know who's in it, thanks to Aurora resident Steve Mills...and he should know, since he's one of the cadets. He told us the photo was of the Aurora High School Cadet Chord Band and was taken in the spring of 1951 in front of Wells Street School, the last year the building was a high school. In the photo are, back row, left to right, Lynn Easterbrook, Don Watson, Frank Harrison, John Langdon, Bob Cook, Ross Rawlings, Bruce Wray; fourth row, left to right, John Urquart, John Hodgkinson, Ed Peloquin, Fred Browning, Ted Rodgers; third row, left to right, Jean Underhill, Ron Brooks, Ted McClenney, Ron Geddes, Grant Edwards, Walter Routledge, Grant Snow; second row, left to right, David Harrison, Ted Marston, Keith Kincaid, Bill Case, Steve Mills, Stuart Wilson, Earl Fern, ? Mitchell; front row, left to right, Roger Rawlings, Bill Magirr, Donald Morning, George Katley, Doug Speck, Pat Davies, Bob Acheson, Ron Knowles, Stephen Jarvis and Bob Bull. Thank you, Steve.

Letters to the Editor

There are priorities for our new council

To the editor,

Welcome our new Town Council.

Hurray, Aurora has a new council and new mayor starting this week.

The previous council suffered horribly from in-fighting (both verbal and physical), and lost a lot of respect from the community.

While many good things did get accomplished during their watch like the new library, establishment of an Environmental Advisory committee, a new heritage district, and a new seniors' centre; so many other things either did not get done, or were done poorly.

This new council has some serious challenges ahead of it. If it is lucky,

works hard, and accomplishes a lot, it just might get back some of the huge amount of good will that was lost during the last council's term.

I wish the new councillors a lot of luck.

The list of things which this council needs to address is long, and contentious.

1) First and foremost, get rid of the assembly bylaw! That thing created a lot of hostility within council itself; a lot of criticism from the public and most certainly defied the spirit of the Municipal Act if not the literal meaning of it. More open meetings are definitely in order.

2) Invest in the downtown core. When one citizen suggested to council that the town get some money out of the developers of the new

Wal-Mart centre to help compensate the downtown core for what will inevitably prove to be a devastating hit to the merchants, council wisely pursued the suggestion and got a commitment for \$250,000. Unfortunately the old council never followed up with their own commitment to dedicate this money strictly to the town core as was intended. This council needs to demonstrate its commitment to the core and find good ways of using this money to revive the core.

3) Build a youth centre. The seniors got their centre. Swimmers, hockey players, soccer players, and golfers all got new facilities as well. The kids in our town have been promised facilities for a while now, but they are still waiting. While many are coming to realize that a youth centre will be unavoidable there is a strong influence in town hall to have the centre as part of the new recreation centre out at Leslie. What is the point of putting a facility specifically designed for people under driving age at the maximum distance possible from their residences? It might cost a little more in renovations, but a youth centre has to be at the centre of town. It has to be at library square, where there is better transit and is within walking or cycling distance for most people.

There are a great many more issues such as traffic and parking, intensification developments, water allocations for developments, taxes, our environment, but

this would be a good starting point.

Good luck, councillors.

Darryl Moore
Aurora

AURORAN

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Christmas bazaar a huge success

To the editor,

Our first Christmas Bazaar in our new Seniors' Centre was an unqualified success!

A sincere thank you from the Aurora Seniors Association to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of our first Christmas Bazaar in our new Seniors' Centre.

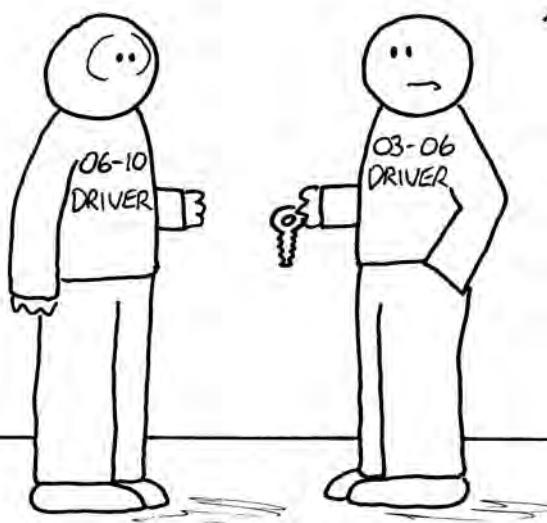
Thanks to our dedicated and indefatigable volunteers who baked, knitted, sewed, crafted, manned tables, served refreshments and made everyone feel welcome; to the enter-

prising and talented vendors who contributed a colourful and interesting mix of goods to our new venture in providing a varied marketplace; and, most importantly, to the Aurora community for visiting, shopping and supporting our annual fundraising event.

Thank you again and best wishes for a happy holiday season and prosperous 2007.

Betty Moore
Chair
Christmas Bazaar Committee

YEAH, IT'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT, BUT IT'S HARDER TO RUN SMOOTHLY THAN YOU'D THINK- ESPECIALLY WITH NINE PEOPLE ALL TRYING TO STEER AT THE SAME TIME.



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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Have you ever been to a party and one person makes such an issue of him/her self that you wonder why they were invited in the first place?

I guess I'm that person.

And truth be noted, it wouldn't be the first time!

With the last faint echoes of a previously fractious town council slowly leaving our collective subconscious, and now that harmony, love and tranquility has returned to Town Hall, I thought it my civic duty to properly seed discontentment among the new councillors.

The team at the Town Hall has already had a full day orientation meeting, including presentations from department heads.

As well, according to Dick Illingworth's column last week, "information was given on several housekeeping items such as the internal telephone system, e-mail system, office accommodation and the allowances and policies for attending training seminars and municipal conferences". Hopefully, all the councillors have located the washrooms by now!

Madame Mayor-elect Phyllis Morris and the eight councillors are barely seated and yet I'm already writing about the 2010 municipal election.

Why, you ask?

It stems from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce municipal campaign event that was held just prior to Election Day. When asked, all three of the mayoralty candidates stated they supported the use of a ward system.

Tim Jones said he was never in favour of this until this term and he thought there should be four wards in Aurora, with two councillors elected per ward.

Ms Morris stated that "there are 18,000 doors to knock on in Aurora" and that it "is too hard for first time candidates to get elected".

Nigel Kean was also in favour of a ward system.

From reading various letters to the editor about this issue over the last few years, I think it will come up again during this term.

Let's assume for a moment that council votes in favour of ward system.

Generally speaking the options would be limited to one of two systems.

Either have Aurora divided up into eight electoral precincts and have one councillor represent each ward or go with four larger wards and then have four "at-large" councillors.

While certainly not as important an issue as the type of ward system that could be utilized, but far more interesting is the impact that a ward system would have on the next municipal election.

The eight councillors who we recently elected reside in various clusters around Aurora.

And whether you go with eight ward seats or four ward seats and four "at-large" seats, there will be some councillors without a chair when the music stops in 2010.

Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner live within a few streets of each other in the area north of Wellington but west of Yonge Street.

Evelina MacEachern, and Stephen Granger are almost neighbours, living south of Henderson Drive, near Bathurst Street.

Bob McRoberts and Grace Marsh live a few streets apart, north of Wellington and just east of Yonge Street.

Evelyn Buck is the only one who doesn't live near any of her fellow councillors - unless you went with four larger wards.

Don't get too comfortable, councillors

In that case, Ms Buck would be grouped with Ms MacEachern and Mr. Granger.

What is also interesting is that we do not have any councillors from the newer residential developments in Aurora - namely from the area above Wellington, east of Industrial Parkway, and out to Leslie Street.

I wish the new mayor and council good luck this term and I can't wait for the ward debate to begin - I will bring the popcorn to the council chamber!

Based upon my record in predicting elections, I won't be headed for Las Vegas, or Casino Rama, any time soon!

Prior to the municipal election I predicted "Mayor Tim Jones wins by about 350 votes over Ms Morris. Voter turnout breaks 45 per cent, a huge increase from the 2003 election." Wrong on both counts!

I did, however, predict the election of six of the eight councillors.

Brash prediction this week - Mr. Rae gives best speech at the Liberal Convention thus helping him win fairly comfortably on the fourth ballot over Mr. Ignatieff.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Letter to the Editor

"Lucky" Auroran says thanks

To the editor,

I was out for a walk on a nice, mild day last week - feeling just great.

Suddenly a vehicle and I collided.

I wondered as I was flying through the air, "on which bone am I going to

land?"

Lying on the asphalt in a daze there immediately appeared angels of mercy at my side.

Thank you so much to:

- the firefighter who calmed me and made me feel safe (you were superb);
- the woman who cov-

ered me with her blanket, and warmed my heart as well;

- the person who placed her scarf under my head in such a caring way;

- the EMS duo, both very efficient and kind. Dave took good care of me.

Much appreciation. All of

you helped to turn a bad ordeal into a good experience for me that I will never forget.

God bless you.

Now, I must get this leg in shape to go walking again.

A grateful Auroran
(and lucky, too)



Cathy's Corner

By RON WALLACE

Okay, so I'm not Cathy Vrancic, but, don't panic, she'll be back.

Seems both of us went on holiday last week, but her trip was far more adventurous than mine.

She and hubby Damir were in Cancun when Damir started complaining of chest pains.

She took him for medical help and, after a wrong diagnosis, the pair returned to Aurora, where the pain continued.

Damir was taken to Southlake Regional Health Centre where doctors found a serious blood clot.

He will get better, Cathy said, but she asked if she could forego her column this week.

Not to make light of Damir's woes but the timing couldn't have been better.

Y'see, for the first time since The Auroran started, back in October, 2000, I left it in the hands of someone else.

Like putting your kid on the bus for his or her first day in Kindergarten.

And, of course, when I returned, no one realized I had gone.

I had called on the services of Bob Cooke - some of you may remember Bob, who worked with me at the Aurora Banner back in the 70s - and I asked him if he would fill in while I was away.

Filling in for Cathy

Bob, now retired from the Ontario Provincial Police and living in Orillia, jumped at the opportunity, and did a wonderful job producing last week's 20-page issue.

It was on Monday, Dec. 24, 1973, when the Aurora Banner produced its first full-colour front page, showing Bob's son, Robbie, and my daughter, Aurora, playing a game in front of a Christmas tree.

Aurora had just turned four.

The colour was terrible. The Christmas tree came out black and other colours just didn't print.

It was embarrassing, but process colour in newspapers has come a long way since then.

For the oldtimers who remember, the back page of the section was a Christmas wish from Sterling Drug, when their factory was alive and well at the corner of Yonge and Murray Drive.

Inside were Christmas wishes from the Newmarket Odeon Theatre, Wilson's Hardware on Aurora's Yonge Street, Baldwin's Pharmacy, Deemac Furniture, Moon Garden Restaurant, the Metropolitan Store in the Aurora Shopping Centre and Thompson's Furniture, among others.

All those ads - in black and white - looked fine.

But I digress.

Bob did such a great job producing last week's paper that I have convinced myself never to go away again.

I'm too easy to replace.

Thanks, Bob.

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A hockey team for winning the Silver Stick qualifying tournament recently in Owen Sound. The team won four of five games in their march to the title and will play in the International Silver Stick Finals in Newmarket in January.

BRICKBATS to the Toronto Star for omitting Aurora in the "Star's picks for York Region" as if the town was unimportant and worse still for columnist Jim Coyle for saying that Phyllis Burton defeated Tim Jones. Who is Phyllis Burton?

BOUQUETS to the members of the Aurora Skating Club who make up the 2006/2007 competitive team and will represent the club at the 2007 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Sectionals Central Ontario Championships.

BRICKBATS to some of the students from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School for their complete disregard of traffic safety on Dunning Avenue and at the Yonge Dunning intersection. They ignore traffic signals and step off the curb without looking, almost daring motorists. It's an accident waiting to happen.

BOUQUETS to the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in York Region for establishing the York Region Government Affairs Committee to act as a watchdog on York Regional government. The Committee will focus on growth/infrastructure, finance and economic development.

BRICKBATS to the McGuinty Liberal government for using guillotine tactics to ram through its controversial overhaul of the province's Human Rights Commission and cutting off debate. Changes are necessary but so is full discussion.

BOUQUETS to Martha Hall Findlay, a candidate for the Liberal leadership, and Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach, chairperson of the Liberal women's caucus, for working together to stage a fundraising event in Ottawa. The funds will be used to help female delegates with their \$1,000 plus convention costs.

BRICKBATS to the Harper government for bragging about its strong stand for human rights in China, while neglecting the rights of the aborigines at home in Canada.

BOUQUETS to Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure on having her painting "Mirror Image" selected in the 2006 Annual York Region Juried Exhibition at the Varley Gallery in Unionville. A total of 225 paintings were submitted of which 33 paintings by 29 artists were selected. The exhibition runs until January 14.

BRICKBATS to the Canada Revenue Agency for slapping a Canadian businessman with a hefty \$287,000 tax penalty for having the audacity to pay his \$2.8 million in taxes a few days early and sending the payment direct to the tax office instead of through a financial institution. What is wrong with the people in Ottawa?

BOUQUETS to the Friends of West Lodge in Toronto for raising a little money from a yard sale, being incorporated so as to obtain party status and tackling a developer at the Ontario Municipal Board and winning. It can be done if an effort is made.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Attorney General for permitting the ongoing practice of police investigating police for alleged infractions, such as the Toronto Police \$8 million internal investigation into a rogue drug squad, which was followed by an RCMP enquiry. It should have been done by an independent, qualified citizen group to get to the bottom of all the issues.

Letters to the Editor

Readers say thank you to two great politicians

To the editor,

We would like to publicly express our sincere thank you to two gentlemen for almost three decades of continuous public service to the citizens of Aurora.

Both these men were elected to their first two year terms in 1978, one was elected in seventh place, the other in eighth. From this humble beginning, dur-

ing their time on council over the next 28 years one or the other would be our mayor for a combined total of 21 years.

When they were first elected Aurora had a population of 15,000.

We are now approaching 50,000.

If you are like us, proud to call Aurora home and feel it is a special and unique place to live, it is largely

because of the tireless leadership, dedication and hard work of these two men.

To oversee a 300 per cent plus increase in population growth in just 28 years and still maintain that unique and special atmosphere Aurora has, is, we believe, due to incredibly good management.

Ironically both individuals ended their unprece-

dented 28 years of continuous public servitude at the same time.

Nobody is indispensable, however, we believe their leaving is definitely a case of "you don't know what you have 'til it's gone".

Both these politicians lived and breathed Aurora for 28 years.

Theirs was a 24 hour a day, seven day a week commitment.

This has shown in their accomplishments and the legacy they leave is a strong, well developed, caring and dynamic community.

Thank you Tim (Jones) and John (West) for 28 years of a job extremely well done.

We will miss your representation at the council table and wish you well in your further endeavours.

Graham & Barbara Wride
Aurora

Property taxes and service rates may cause seniors to leave

To the editor,

The new council will be taking office faced with many challenges.

None is more urgent than tackling our present day property tax system, which is in shambles and full of holes.

For some reason the powers that be seem to think that everyone in York Region, be they from Newmarket, Aurora or King City, are wealthy and can afford whatever this private company MPAC levies on peoples' homes.

That is not so.

There are many seniors, such as myself, who will not be able to stay here in Aurora if water and sewer rates climb, hydro rates soar and property taxes head for the stratosphere.

It seems to me that amalgamation, with all its nasty consequences, was the reason we turfed Harris from office but the Liberal government seems to be clinging to the old conservative checks and balances that are retrogressive and evil.

Recently the Star has been hammering away about the billions Toronto will need to rebuild sewer and water trunk lines, some of them 100 years old.

By a strange coinci-

dence we hear the same noises here in the GTA.

This immense amount of money, along with the \$90 million we cough up for equalization each year, will kill us.

All are a rip off.

So maybe we, the people, will have to impress upon our municipal leaders the need to consider leaving the Region if we fail to get the same consideration Hazel McCallion insists upon and gets.

Our roads are a mess and more than 600 kilometres have to be done over.

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So what about the new sewer lines from east to west?

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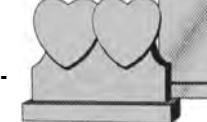
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Theatre Aurora

Murder is prevalent in this play

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Is murder ever justified? That's the question Theatre Aurora is trying to answer in its current production of "Dr. Cook's Garden" written by Ira Levin and directed by Samantha Lynch.

The story takes place in Greenfield, Vermont, during the fall of 1966. The venerable Dr. Leonard Cook is the one and only doctor in the town and knows everyone and everything about them.

The doctor is very proud of his garden which is tended to by Elias Hart, a part-time gardener and also the town constable.

Young Dr. Jim Tennyson returns to Greenfield after graduation from medical school for a visit with his old friend and mentor Dr. Cook. The doctor is out on a house call and he is met by

the doctor's secretary Bea Schmidt and housekeeper Dora Ludlow.

They have a great chat with Dr. Tennyson catching up on all the news about the town and its people.

He asked questions about some of the deaths and health conditions leading up to their deaths as most of them appeared to be rather sudden. After the staff left, he started to look through the doctor's files, especially those who died suddenly.

He also noted that one of the doctor's locked cabinets with glass doors, contained a large number of various poisons, not normally seen in a doctor's office.

When Dr. Cook returned, he was questioned by the young doctor as to the causes of the deaths as the

symptoms appeared to be treatable and some of the symbols on the files, such as the letter "R", were not standard medical terms.

Under persistent questioning, Dr. Cook admitted the town was like a garden that had weeds, and in order to keep the town law-abiding and pure, the weeds, or some people, had to be removed.

He denied he was playing God, but pointed to the town as the best one in the state because of his efforts.

Dr. Tennyson insisted on knowing how many of his patients had been put to death. The doctor became angry and wouldn't tell, resulting in the young doctor leaving to tell the authorities.

Fearing exposure, Dr. Cook called him back and confessed to his many

crimes, handed over the key to the cabinet and made a solemn vow to never do it again if his story wasn't made public.

With the sudden arrival of Elias to answer a question that the young doctor had previously asked about something else, Dr. Cook became suspicious and the story evolved into an evening of suspense and plot twists that you will have to attend and see the play to find the ending.

Dr. Cook is played by Sean Houghton and Dr. Tennyson by Sean Dwyer and both are very strong in their roles and their portrayal of their characters is excellent, especially during the final stages of the play.

Jan Mathews plays Bea Schmidt, the secretary, Kay Valentine plays Dora Ludlow, the housekeeper, and Dave Russell plays Elias Hart, the town constable. Although their appearances on stage are brief, they add to the story.

The set was well done and was designed by Sean Houghton. Kay Valentine was the producer of the production with Karen Park as stage manager.

Opening night audience was rather small, but "Dr. Cook's Garden" continues Dec. 6, 7, 8 and 9 at the Factory Theatre. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

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Belinda acclaimed as Liberal's choice

No surprises here. Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach was acclaimed recently as the Liberal candidate for Newmarket-Aurora in the run-up to a federal election that is widely expected to take place next year.

Newly-elected Newmarket Regional Councillor John Taylor introduced Stronach at the Liberal nomination meeting and described the local MP as a "hands-on" representative "who is getting the

job done."

Stronach, who joked about her new hair colour, told party members she and her colleagues in Ottawa have accomplished much since the last federal election.

"It's been a terrific 10 months," she said, outlining a number of her activities during the past year, including her role as Chair of the Liberal Women's Caucus.

Stronach and fellow female caucus members met in Aurora during the

summer to work on the development of a "Pink Book" containing policies that focus on economic security for women and the increased participation of women in Canadian politics.

Stronach received the loudest applause for her high-profile role in championing a one-member, one-vote leadership election system for the Liberal Party.

"With a one-member, one-vote system, everyone has the chance to elect the

leader directly," she said. "I want to see us become the most open, transparent and democratic party in the world."

She announced she is currently working with a number of Canadian scientists to "harness Canada's agricultural expertise to promote a Green Revolution in Africa".

She also discussed a number of local events that she took part in, including the recent Remembrance Day service at the Yonge Street Cenotaph in Aurora.

Stronach said this year's remembrance service "meant a lot because of what our troops are going through in Afghanistan."

In her concluding remarks, Stronach took aim at the Harper government, criticizing it for failing to live up to campaign promises such as reducing health care wait times and for lacking a national vision.

"A nation is more than just tax cuts," she said. "Where is the investment in health care? Where is the investment in education, and in roads and transportation?"

She also labeled Conservative funding cuts to women's groups and literacy organizations as "very troubling", and

accused the Prime Minister of "muzzling his ministers".

"Canada has always been a beacon of tolerance and compassion," she

added. "But we're going in a different direction now. Most Canadians are not where the Harper government wants to go."

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SEASON'S

GREETINGS



The holiday season has traditionally been a time to strengthen and renew the ties that bind us all. It is a time for family, friends, and loved ones to gather. But the spirit of the season really does not have to end there. Please remember the less fortunate within our Town. Incredible things happen when we reach out to help someone. No matter how small. Of all the gifts you can give this season, nothing is more meaningful — or more deeply satisfying — than giving generously of yourself. There are countless opportunities within Aurora to demonstrate your support through charity and volunteer work.

In our professional lives, there are also relationships worth celebrating. There are colleagues whom we count on every day for their talent, good judgment, and moral support. There are our mentors, the people who have extended their hands to us at important times within our careers. They too, all deserve our thoughts and our thanks.

Lest we forget our armed forces wherever they may be throughout the world; the sacrifices they make daily on our behalf, and their commitment to peace, goodwill and freedom for all Canadians.

Please accept my best wishes to you and those you love for a happy holiday season, and for a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Cheers,

Eric McCartney



This is a first and a last photo. Last week marked the first official ribbon cutting handled by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's new Executive Director Carla Adams and the last ribbon cutting by Aurora's outgoing mayor Tim Jones. They were at the official opening of Aurora Online Inc., whose new offices are located on Industrial Parkway South. Aurora Online Inc. was founded by Rob Schuetze, a 16-year Aurora resident. The company provides web design and IT services and is an active member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. In the photo are, left to right, Mayor Tim Jones, Rob Schuetze, Carla Adams and Chamber president Stephen Forsey.

Aurora Rotary throws support to Air Cadets

Aurora's Rotary Club has agreed to partner with 140 Aurora Air Cadet Squadron.

Kevin Lalonde, Rotary's Community Service Chairperson, said the club's commitment will assist in funding the development of a squadron marching band - the new Aurora Rotary/Air Cadet Band.

The band will be made up of male and female cadets, aged 12 to 18, and provide opportunities for more youth involvement in music.

The Air Cadet program aims to develop leadership and citizenship in today's youth through community involvement and training.

Air Cadets and Rotary share a belief that music plays an important role in our community, he said, and are working towards more opportunities for our youth to participate in community music projects.

The band will play at local events and parades and hopes to represent Aurora in province-wide events in future.

Through a five-year mutual commitment the Aurora Rotary Club will fund the purchase of musical instruments and equipment, music and related services.

The funds will allow 140 Aurora Air Cadets to equip its fledgling band and attract new cadets.

In addition, Rotary has established an annual scholarship program to recognize contributing band members.

"This is a great opportunity for 140 Aurora Squadron," said Murray Charlton, Chair of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee. "This generous support from Aurora Rotary will not only make music an important part of the Squadron but will help rejuvenate youth interest in Air Cadets and help us serve our youth and our community at a higher level."

Air Cadets is a national program for youth aged 12 to 18.

It offers valuable life and work experience, and promotes skills like teamwork, leadership, and citizenship.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Aurora's millennium projects

In April, 2000, the Aurora Millennium Committee and council endorsed two Legacy Projects for Aurora and for June 4-11 to be Millennium Week in Aurora.

One project was the Aurora Millennium Gardens to be located in the Holland River Valley between Lambert Willson Park and the Town Hall to include a gazebo, walkways and park benches along the creek, several theme gardens and a Millennium Tree.

Two ponds located in the area were to be opened up visually and enhanced to provide an opportunity for interaction with the waters edge and it was hoped the remnants of an old farm windmill located on the property could be restored. It was estimated the cost of the gardens would be \$250,000.

The second Legacy Project was Gateways to Aurora which would see large stone markers located at the north and south boundaries of Aurora on Yonge Street and the east and west boundaries on Wellington Street.

June 7, 2000, was Diary Day in Aurora and the curator of Aurora Museum asked residents to keep a journal of peoples' thoughts and activities on that day.

What happened?

AURORA IN 1965

-Aurora Council waived its 11 p.m. curfew for 10 minutes for a snap debate and vote on a ward system for municipal elections, which was defeated by an 8-1 vote.

-The town's finance committee recommended that the Aurora Legion be exempt from general taxation for the 1960 addition to their Yonge Street clubhouse as a continuation of previous exemptions.

-The Aurora Board of Trade urged council not to rebuild the new arena on the Yonge Street site of the former arena which had been destroyed by fire earlier in the year but in a more suitable site. The Aurora Community Centre is the result.

-E.A. "Mac" McGregor was appointed Aurora Work Superintendent at an annual salary of \$6,250. R.E. Brill was hired as canine control officer for the town at a salary of \$2,800 per annum.

-Council approved purchase of a new triple booster pumper fire truck for the Aurora Fire Department for \$26,086.

-Councillor Jim Murray objected to the proposed 60-foot height restriction for buildings in Aurora, claiming Aurora was on the fringe of Toronto and high rise development would be an asset to the municipality.

TOWN HALL DROPS NIGHT HOURS

In September, 1988, after a year's experiment of opening the Aurora Town Hall to the public on Wednesday nights to accommodate public enquiries, council agreed to cancel the experiment,

It was a failure.

As many residents worked in Toronto or outside Aurora, they were unable to get to the Town Hall during regular hours.

The idea was proposed by Mayor John West in February, 1987, and supported by several councillors as a means of making town officials accessible to residents.

Other members of council opposed the idea on the basis it would disrupt the town's normal hours since staff would need to be given time off during the day as compensation or paid overtime.

Finally in September, 1987, it was agreed to implement the night opening every Wednesday night for a trial period.

A year later it was reported that only one resident had requested an after hours meeting.

"All I can say is I told you so," Councillor Evelyn Buck said.

She was one of the councillors who had initially opposed the idea.

Although council eliminated the policy, staff noted that citizens still had an opportunity to get after hours service from town officials by requesting an appointment.

WEATHER DIDN'T HELP FUNDRAISER

In March, 1989, members of the 2nd Aurora Pathfinders were trying to raise \$1,000 each for a trip to Mexico in December to join with other Pathfinders from around the world at "Our Cabana" but the weatherman refused to cooperate.

Their winter carnival attracted only a small crowd amid extremely cold temperatures, so cold that even the fish pond froze.

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Then later in the month they held an outdoor hot dog sale but once again the weatherman played tricks with cold blustery weather and the girls raised only \$42.

In addition, they held a bottle drive on the second Saturday of every month and provided a baby sitting service, and they were assisted by their parents' group in raising funds.

Pathfinders are Girl Guides from age 12 to 16.

At the time there were three units of Pathfinders in Aurora with a total membership of about 40.

Guiding came to Aurora in 1928 when the first Guide unit north of Toronto was started.

LITTLE NOTICE MEANT END OF AN ERA

It was just a little notice to advise that he was no longer able to hold a Skate Sharpening Day for the Arthritis Society but for Vic Paraninfo, Aurora's Little Shoemaker, it was the end of an era that had lasted 14 years.

Health, pressure of work and the lack of helpers paid its toll and Skate Sharpening Day slid into history but the man will never be forgotten.

Employees can stay longer

Bill 211, the Ending Mandatory Retirement Statute Law Amendment Act, comes into force next month necessitating a change in Aurora's administrative procedure regarding retirement age.

Legislation amends the definition of age in the Human Rights Code meaning employees can work beyond the age of 65.

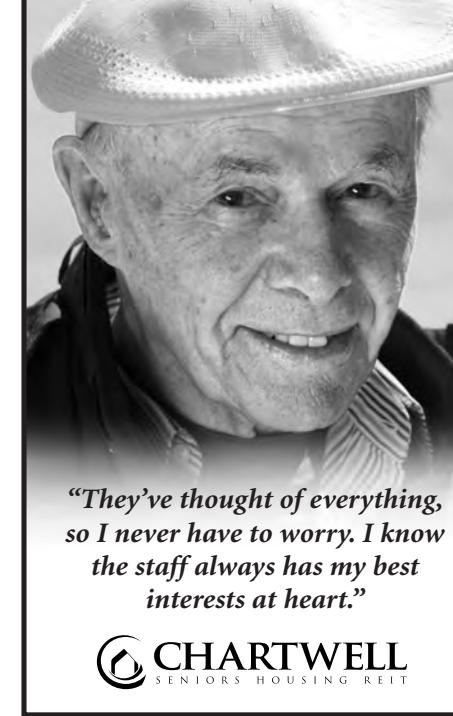
The new Act does not amend the legislation governing pensions therefore age 65 remains the normal retirement age, however OMERS pension plan allows members to contribute to the plan up to age 69.

The amendment includes full-time, non-union employees who have attained age 65 or older to continue employment on a full-time basis with the town.

They will not, however, receive group benefits such as life insurance, long term disability, extended health plan and dental

plan.

Participation in OMERS requires the employer and the employee to contribute equally towards the employee's pension and this will remain in place until age 69.



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AURORAN SPORTS



Page 15

AURORAN, Week of December 5, 2006

Horrors - another loss for the Tigers

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team will get another crack at the high-flying Stouffville Spirit Friday night, after the Spirit handed Aurora its second defeat of the season last Thursday.

Undaunted, however, Aurora posted two more victories Friday and Sunday to increase its record to 27 wins, a pair of losses and a tie.

Thursday, Stouffville

scored twice in the third period to secure the 3-2 victory over the Tiger squad.

Aurora scored one in the first and added a second goal in the third period, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Spirit, playing in front of their hometown crowd.

Stouffville will be in town this Friday night, Dec. 8, for a rematch at the Aurora Community Centre.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. Newcomer forward Brett Connolly and Andrew Favot scored for Aurora in a losing cause.

Sunday afternoon, at the Community Centre, Aurora needed overtime to secure another 3-2 score over the Collingwood Blues.

This time, Aurora was on the right side of the score-sheet.

Mike Dahlinger's goal three minutes into the first

overtime frame capped a three goal comeback that was started by Favot at the 22-second mark of the 3rd period.

With fewer than three minutes remaining in regulation time Doug Henderson tied the game, after Collingwood had opened a 2-0 lead before the end of the first period.

The second period was scoreless.

Nathaniel Brooks, arguably the best Tiger on the ice, added a pair of assists.

"It's hard to beat good teams when you go through the motions for two periods but fortunately in the third we picked it up," said Tiger Coach Jerome Dupont.

Dupont was less than thrilled with a good part of the game.

It was a different story Friday, when Aurora handed the Newmarket Hurricanes a 7-4 thrashing

hockey, Favot and Andrew Eastman.

Doug Henderson and Quinn Waller added three assists each.

Tigers have now won 14 games at home and lost only one, while they have 13 wins on the road, with a loss and a tie.

Favot is barely holding onto the scoring lead with 20 goals and 27 assists for 47 points.

He is closely followed by Joey Martin, who has 20 goals and 26 assists.

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Disallowed goal keeps East away from Gold

A trio of Aurora Tiger hockey players, including forward Paul Zanette and defensemen Mike Ward and Alain Goulet, plus Tigers' Coach Jerome Dupont did their country proud playing for Team Canada East (TCE) and capturing a silver medal at the inaugural World Junior Challenge that took place recently in Yorkton and Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

Through the three-game exhibition games leading up to the tournament, TCE went undefeated.

They repeated that performance in the round robin portion of the tournament

where TCE beat both Slovakia and Germany by scores of 4-0 and 4-1 respectively.

Because the team was undefeated in the first segment of the tournament they were granted a bye into the semi-finals.

In the semis they met the mighty Russians who, despite all their skill, were humbled by superior team play and strong specialty team work.

The result was a 5-1 victory for Canada.

The gold medal game pitted two Canadian teams, one from the East, the other from

the West, who advanced to the final with a win over Slovakia.

Despite a poor start Team Canada East battled back from a 4-0 deficit to get within one goal with about five minutes remaining in the game.

With four minutes remaining, it appeared the East had evened the score but the goal was disallowed on a controversial call and in the end the West held on to win Gold by a score of 4-3.

Coach Dupont and the three Aurora Tiger players made a big contribution to the tournament.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The elder views the years of youth as receding ever further, while the great unknown eternity looms constantly.

The world evolves for everybody; it develops and matures in complexity, and with age seems to change with greater rapidity.

The contemporary world evolves now in periods measured in decades or less, confounding those who cannot embrace it quickly or well enough, or even embrace it at all.

The elder lingers in the form in which as a youth, society modeled him, often to deal now with a world changed dramatically from the way it was, while the world which was familiar, has developed in part, to something formerly known only from fiction, particularly, science fiction.

As a child from the 1930's, I can say television was unheard of among children, even telephones were of the public variety, and the horse and cart was still ubiquitous but declining, while the automobile was developing spectacularly to today's familiar spectacle.

My father made the transition from horse and cart to truck, and I witnessed this at his side as his son and helper.

Computers were represented by calculators at best, and today's powerful computers, including digital cameras were baby projects, conceived but unborn, in the minds of a few powerful inventors.

Change was becoming furiously rapid, and continues apace; how can the senior keep up with this pace of evolving change where nothing is new for long and becomes obsolete while still in working order?

I have discarded a functioning computer CPU, and a 15 inch monitor each in working order because at the time nobody had a use for either.

And many others had abandoned functioning equipment, judging by the quantity already abandoned at the dump site.

Good used equipment could be offered to the seniors as an alternative to the dump!

We will make use of equipment if we can, or donate it or sell it as appropriate.

I am in process of equipping a lady with a computer, who is determined to upgrade her skills.

The idea of space travel was ludicrous a few decades ago, until the Russians unexpectedly launched Sputnik, and

Donate your unwanted computers to seniors

yet, we all knew manned space travel would follow quickly, and indeed, the moon was visited, not many years later.

And space telescopes such as the Hubble, which was a wonder of the most recent technology when launched, is now functioning but bordering on obsolescence even with benefit of expensive maintenance and upgrades; and serves to illustrate the complexity of our rapidly changing modern world.

Change is too rapid, too high speed for many who would prefer the comfort and security of old and familiar ways of living our lives, particularly in the declining years.

Stimulating fundamental knowledge of deep outer space is also acquired constantly, but this has an attraction for the inquisitive intellect, and is no longer an attractive novelty in a world inundated and confused with too much change.

And yet, through this technological change and turmoil, humanity remains unchanged; we are as we were created. Humanity has not undergone any fundamental technological change.

We still need our food and shelter and our families, the proof lies in starving sub-Saharan Africa.

Mothers still get impatient with their adult offspring if they fail to produce grandchildren, and as an elderly father, I would be disappointed if absent of grandchildren.

With the ancient necessities of family life remaining as a constant prior condition, a prerequisite, the incessant desire for companionship also continues without change; we need our familiar friends with whom to share leisure time hours.

Much of the change has been beneficial; we have more and better food and medicine, and homes.

The changes that impact on us mostly are the electronic computer driven devices, which have to be accessed, learned and become accustomed to, only to change again in the next wave of technological advancement.

My relief or remedy to this turmoil of change is to accept as much of it as I can, and to tolerate as best I can that which I cannot change.

But everyone is different, and we each must adjust our manner of tolerance the best we can.

As I have written many times, everyone should find and join with others in similar situations and deal with the world around you in the company of others.



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EDAC report shuffled

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) met last September and submitted a number of recommendations to last week's council meeting.

All were approved except for a section on the Yonge Street Commercial Area Sub-Committee, but the report, for some unexplained reason, was referred to a general committee meeting.

The committee recommended congratulatory letters be sent to Mac Fleming, Bacon Basketware and Mary's Flowers plus a congratulatory letter to George Condyannis, owner of the Larter Building for the exterior renovations to buildings.

The report also recommended that should a Business Improvement Area be established in the downtown core, the funds from Whitwell - developers of land at Wellington and the 404 - once received, be considered as seed money for the BIA initiatives.

The advisory committee also recommended the Yonge Street Commercial Area Sub-Committee be disbanded and letters of

thanks be sent to the members.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner pointed out that the minutes of the meeting were not cor-

rect and without explanation asked that the report be referred to a general committee meeting.

Council agreed.

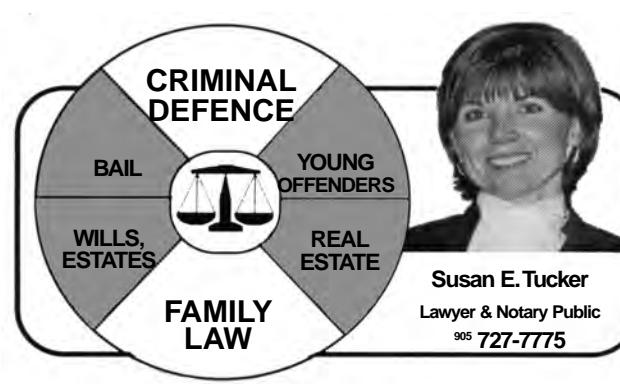


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Arthritis Swim project could happen in April

Four million Canadians are affected by some form of arthritis and that number is expected to increase in the next few years with an estimated 5,000 cases in Aurora, it was revealed last week.

Davis Prowten of The Arthritis Society appeared before Aurora Council Tuesday night with his eight-year-old daughter who suffers from arthritis to outline the Swim for Arthritis project being planned for next April.

He said the Foresters BIG Swim for Arthritis is coming to pools across the country and invited council

to host the event at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and the Aurora Recreation Centre for their members and the local community.

Foresters BIG Swim is now in its second year and has gone through some improvements based on feedback from participants who were involved in 2006.

It is an event the whole family can participate in and includes four lane challenges; 5,000 metres, 2,500 metres, 1,000 metres and a 30-minute swim.

It also includes a special Aquafit class designed by certified instructors.

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB Results for week of Nov. 19

Tuesday, Nov. 21: N-S 1. Olly Smolak, Dan MacNeil 2. Don Jackson, Linda Lord 3. Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane.

Wednesday, Nov. 22: N-S 1. Shirley Hulbig, Paul Graves 2. Nan McLean, Richard Beetham 3. Libby McWilliams, Susan Scot. E-W 1. Don Jackson, Lena Jackson 2. Ross Jenkinson, Jane Demers 3. George Jordan, Paul Standbury.

Friday, Nov. 24: N-S 1. Ron Smith, Hans Jacobs 2. Don Jackson, Lena Jackson 3. Shirley Hulbig, Paul Graves. E-W 1. Gerald Heath, Margaret Farmer 2. Ross Jenkinson, George Payment 3. George Jordan, Irma Field.

Finally, the independent Log Your Laps program allows swimmers to design their own challenge and keep track of their individual swimming online.

The Arthritis Society is Canada's only not-for profit organization devoted solely to funding and promoting arthritis research, programs and patient care.

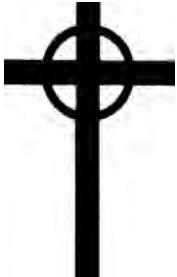
Supporting and provid-

ing research, patient care and public education programs that benefit the millions of Canadians with arthritis is no small task, but through the tens of thousands of volunteers, participants and donors across the country help the Society to achieve this task.

His presentation was received by councillors and referred to staff for a report.

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Advent II—Food Gift Sunday

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House League Tyke

104 Tim Hortons Flyers Tyke House League 3 - Jack O'Keefe 1G, Christian Ramirez 1A, Thomas Wilson 1G 1A, Shamus Quinn 1A, Patrick Cruickshank 2A, Anthony Issaris 1G 1A. **101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 1** - Jack Dion 1G.

106 Tim Hortons Penguins Tyke House League 5 - Reid Carpenter 2G, Filip Ekstrom 1A, Jack Campin 1G 1A, Andrew Currie 1A, Quest Rodin 2G, Aidan Glassey 2A, Andrew Sergejewich 1A, Mark Carpenter 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Bruins 1**.

103 Tim Hortons Senators 6. 110 Tim Hortons Thrashers Tyke House League 6 - Rhys Perry 1G, David Tonelli 1A, Leo Branigan 1A, Gordon Scott 2G, Ethan Brooks 2A, John Powell 1G 1A, Brennan Young 2G, Andrew Warner 1A, Jacob LeBlanc 1A.

109 Tim Hortons Wild Tyke House League 3 - Tyler Thomas 1A, James Samson 1A, Ben Langlois 2G, Joel Woodcock 1A, Jackson Clements 1A, Cameron Dyer 1G. **105 Tim Hortons Leafs 2** - Ryan Jamieson 1G, Ty Boisseau 1G.

108 Tim Hortons Sharks Tyke House League 8 - Chris Pettit 1A, Ryan Lewis 2A, Matthew Minchella 3G 1A, Jayson Perkins 2A, Kyle Wulle 3A, Jordan Torres 1G 1A, Clayton Allen 1A, Alexander Simardone 1A, Cameron Bourne 1A, Sam Speranini 4G, Brianna Nocon-Willatts 2A, Adam Medeiros 1A. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 3**.

Novice

201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 5 - Jordi Severini 1A, Adam Caicco 2G 2A, Blake Holtby 1A, Brett Diamond 1A, Ryan Simmons 1A, Connor Braund 2G 2A, Riley Callaghan 1A, Ryan D'Antimo 1A, Colin Dyer 1G. **204 Hit Novice House League 2** - Riley Walsh 1G, Connor Gonsalves 1G.

203 McAlpine Ford 5 - Lucas Bulmer 3A, Tristian Kouchar 2G 1A, Allistair Johnston 1G 1A, Christian Arcuri 1G, Adam Wilson 1A, Jordon Reeves 1G 1A, Alec Bolduc 1A. **205 Mastermind Toys Novice House League 3** - Max Bruckner 1A, Connor Tripp 1G 1A, Tyler Williams 2A, Anthony Loduca 1G, Lucas Ackerman 1A, Connor Reilly 1G, Will Ashton 1A.

Minor Atom

306 Danny's Boys Minor Atom House League 4. 302 Rec Cycle N' Sports 2 - Michael Imseis 1G, Michael Fisher 1G.

303 Tilemaster 5 - Riley Weller 2G, Adam Hofmann 1G, Trevor Coughlin 1A, Nathan Romanchych 2G, Mark Bonofoglio 1A. **305 Aurora Canadian Tire Minor Atom House League 5.**

Atom

404 All Pro Source For Sports Atom House League 6 - Chris Sanita 2G, Victor Chadarov 1G, Lucas Marek 1A, Nicolas Marrelli 1A, Cory McGoldrick 1A, Grant Mulholland 1A, Samantha Sanita 1G, Adam deRoos 1G 1A, Kevin Siery 1G, Michael Acuri 1A. **401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 3.**

403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Atom House League 4 - Brayden Beswick 2G, Luke Gregoris 1A, Max Brown 2G. **402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 3** - Graham

Killby 1G 1A, Nicholas Romano 1A, Morgan Walker 1A, Russell Johnson 2G 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A.

407 Dr. Steiners Drillers Atom House League 6. 405 Laurion Law Office 3 - Scotty Barker 1A, Alexander Harrison 1G 1A, Jason Glionna 1G 1A, Michael Liscio 1G, Owen Nisbet 1A.

406 Ab Cox Pontiac Buick GMC 8 - Terrence Lepore 1A, Riley O'Brien 2G, Scott Taylor 1G 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 3G 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A. **408 Greenpoint Laser Products Atom House League 7.**

Minor Peewee

503 Continental Ingredients Canada Minor Peewee House League 3. 501 Millennium Devils 2.

501 Millennium Devils 7 - David Roberts 1A, Liam Devlin 1G, Stephen Wilkins 1A, Joshua Lawlor 3G, Jamie Pountney 1A, Daniel Bunder 1G, Matthew Reeves 1G, Kyle Davy-Vass 1G, Andrew Staples 1A. **504 Rotary Club of Aurora Minor Peewee House League 6.**

Peewee

602 Chevalier Chrysler 2 - Sam Straw 2A, James Taverna 1G, Andrew Curci 1G. **606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company Peewee House League 2.**

602 Chevalier Chrysler 3 - Andrew Curci 2G, Matthew MacEachern 1A, Evan Foxwell 1G. **604 Fresh Water Industries Peewee House League 1.**

Bantam

801 Supreme Collision Centre 2. 805 Barb Blaser - Re/Max Bantam House League 0.

Minor Midget

905 Skaters First Minor Midget House League 3. 901 Emilio's Pizza 1 - Trevor McCartney 1G, Geoff Knaack 1A, Derek Isidoro 1A.

904 Pizza Pizza Minor Midget House League 3 - Ethan Shore 1G, Jason Nadeau 1A, Jacob Peart 1A, Kevin Nandall 1A, Michael Shoesmith 1A, Daniel Filippi 1A, Eric Shoesmith 1G, Graeme Smart 1G 1A. **901 Emilio's Pizza 1 - A.J. Ciccarelli 1G.**

902 7 - Kelsey Darcy 1A, Daniel Korolnek 1G, David Yates 1A, Steven Foss 2G, Jay Lamont 1A, Scott Quagliarini 1G 2A, Taylor Buxton 1A, John Cardella 1A, John Magill 1A, Andrew Wilkins 3G. **906 Omars Shoes Minor Midget House League 0.**

904 Pizza Pizza 3 - Ethan Shore 1A, Jason Nadeau 1G 1A, Jacob Peart 1A, Kevin Nandall 1G, Michael Shoesmith 1A, Eric Shoesmith 1A, Graeme Smart 1G. **906 Omars Shoes Minor Midget House League 1.**

Rep games Novice

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 3 - Connor Downs 1G, Brady Futterer 1A, Jake Schachter 1G, Morgan Frost 2A, Jonathan Malowney 1G.

TNT Novice AE Novice AE 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 2 - Kory Wansbrough 1G, Eddie Duffy 1G, Steven Tsianos 2A.

Newmarket Redmen Minor Atom AE 0.

TNT Minor PW Minor Peewee A 3. Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 0.

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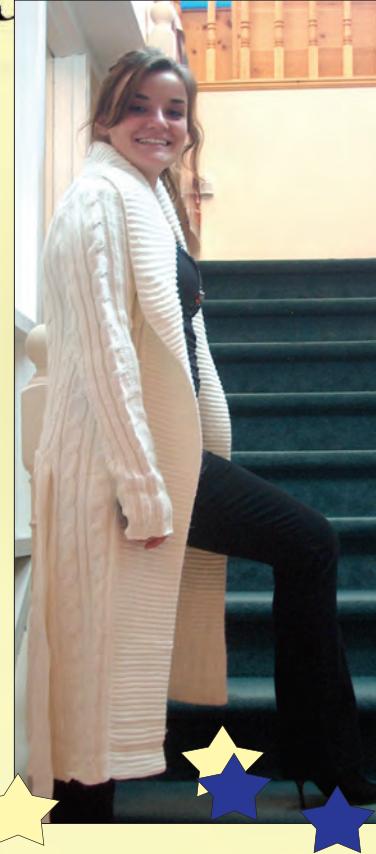
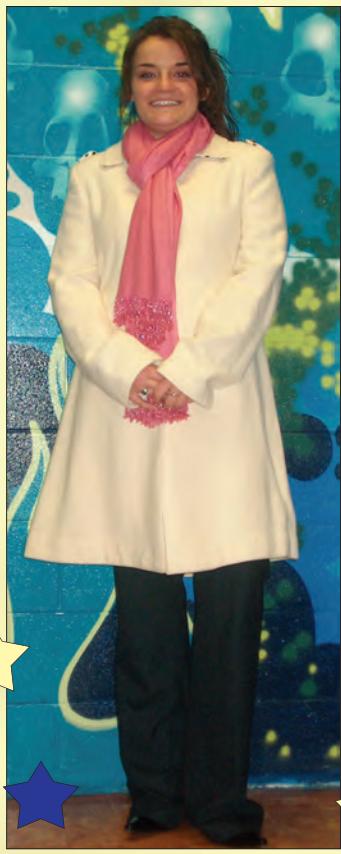
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Officially called 5 Below Jeans and More, the store, located in the popular Aurora Shopping Centre at Yonge and Murray Drive, is the best place north of the city for purchasing jeans.

The store, part of the Omar's Shoes empire, is run by Mae Khamissa, whose husband, Raz, owns Omar's.

Raz is the son of Omar Khamissa, who owned and operated the shoe business for 36 years, right up until his recent death following a brief illness.

Mae recognized the need for a clothing store in Aurora that specialized in jeans, and while paying close attention to the latest clothing trends, she soon developed a committed clientele of men and women wanting a variety of fashions for different occasions.

Now, 5 Below has everything in stock... dresses, skirts, jackets, pants, shoes and all the accessories.

Plus, the clothes cover sizes from 24 to 40, as well as with inseams for 30 to 36 inches.

Included in the inventory are such labels as I Jeans, Manager, Delicious, David Bitton, Buffalo, Miss Me, Mavi Jeans and Nicky Hilton and UGGS.

Skinny jeans seem to be popular at the moment and are available at 5 Below in most colours.

A new label - Foxy Jeans - also has casual and dressy tops and dresses in its repertoire.

And, that more formal look is also available with a variety of cocktail dresses in the inventory.

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