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Vol. 5 No. 13

Week of January 18, 2005

905-727-3300

Briefly

Arctic Adventure

Aurora's annual Arctic Adventure - where you can spend a whole day outside - has been set for Saturday, Feb. 5, in and around the Aurora Community Centre.

Special Events Co-ordinator Julie Geering has a single message: "Dress warmly".

Activities run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and include dog sled rides, sleigh rides, tobogganing, skating, snow sculpting and other chilly events.

Speaking of chilly, Dale and Frank, who live in Chilly Beach, the CBC animated television series, will be on hand.

There will be face painting inside the community centre, a winter craft sale, and, if the weather co-operates, snowball target shooting.

Activities will take place in the community centre and at the two neighbouring parks, Machell and Fleury.

When you're thin

So, you finally sign up for a weight-loss program, it works, you lose all kinds of pounds, and suddenly, you have a closet full of clothes that don't fit.

What to do, what to do?

Well, if you were part of a Herbal Magic program in Aurora, you gave all those clothes to owner Michelle Dusang who had some ideas of her own.

Apparently, Michelle's clients bought into the idea and donated a total of 33 large garbage bags full of clothing, all of which were donated to the Yellow Brick House just prior to Christmas.

Speaking of donations

Remember that food drive organized by Councillor Nigel Kean just before Christmas?

Well, the final donation has been weighed and when all was said and done, nearly a ton and a half of food (2,751 pounds to be exact) was donated to his campaign.

In addition, a group of Town employees known as TOAST (Town of Aurora Staff Together) and an anonymous donor, added two large cheques to the fund.

The food was shared between the Aurora Food Pantry and the York Region Centre for Women.

Winner of the guessing contest was Brian Hodgson of Aurora.

Auditions

Theatre Aurora will hold auditions for "Out Of Order", a Ray Cooney farce, slated to be performed at Factory Theatre in April.

If you wish to try out, prepare a comedic monologue and show up at the Henderson Drive theatre Jan. 30 or 31 at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 905-713-6481 or 705-434-4915.

Tim Baker-Pearce

The husband of former Aurora Banner publisher Jean Baker-Pearce died at home Friday night.

Tim Baker-Pearce was 77.

Tim, Jean, and their three daughters were long-time residents on Temperance Street in Aurora.

They moved to Alliston when Jean purchased the community newspaper, Alliston Herald.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker-Pearce were active members of Theatre Aurora.

Services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. in Alliston. Further information on Page 15.



Part of the nearly \$80,000 donated during Saturday's Aurora Cable Internet telethon came from Aurora's senior swim team, the Master Ducks. Receiving the cheque from ACI are Angie Dawson and Linda Morrison, right, while presenters included, left to right, Heather Birchall, Tara Matys, Nancy Black and Brian Black.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetz

Telethon nets \$77,900...

Led by a \$40,000 donation from its own sponsor, the Aurora Cable Internet telethon to raise money for the tsunami victims Saturday night was declared a huge success.

While participation from the public seemed slow at times, the three-hour cable show attracted thousands of dollars from groups, businesses and retailers.

Aurora Cable set the pace with its huge donation, and at the end of the show, a total of \$77,885 had been collected.

Officials expected that number to top the \$80,000 mark this week as donations continued to trickle in.

All this came about in spite of a television card that announced the wrong telephone number to call in donations.

Master of Ceremonies Anthony Regan continually pointed out the error to the audience and officials believed his message got through.

The show featured appearances by CHUM's Gord James, CFTO's Lance Brown, former Toronto Maple Leafs, Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach and Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara.

Magna International, having already donated \$100,000 earlier to the same cause, added another

\$5,000 to the ACI pot.

ACI teamed up with the Town of Aurora to pull off the hastily organized telethon, and used facilities at the municipal building to handle phone calls.

Meanwhile, the Aurora Seniors' Association is planning a dinner this week to raise funds for the same victims. The event will be held at their Victoria Street centre Sunday, Jan. 23.

A \$10 donation gets you a seat at the table.

And the Aurora Minor Hockey Association has plans to help as well. See Page 12.

...without thousand from town

The debate over whether local governments have the right to donate taxpayer money to relief funds slammed into Aurora last week.

And when the dust had settled Aurora Council had decided the Region of York had no right to donate \$500,000 to flood victims in Asia, and the Town of Aurora would not donate \$1,000 to the same cause.

Shortly after the Boxing Day disaster on the other side of the world, which has now claimed more than 150,000 lives, Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean sent an e-mail to members of council suggesting Aurora meet a challenge from another

municipality and donate \$1,000 to the Red Cross prior to the next meeting of council.

The request was included on last Tuesday night's agenda and the debate was started by Councillor Damir Vrancic who referred to the "great human tragedy" and said it pained him to disagree with the proposal.

He said it was a federal issue and did not fall within the mandate of municipal government as council's mandate was municipal performance in Aurora.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out that the town, in co-operation with Aurora Cable Internet was

sponsoring a telethon and asking people to donate, while at the same time putting their hands in the taxpayers' pockets to take money.

She added that people have the right to make their own decisions and governments were taking away that right.

She also mentioned the funds pledged by the federal government, the province and the region, so that taxpayers were being hit by all levels of government, and being asked to donate at the same time.

Councillor Kean responded that his request had nothing to do with the other levels of government and

Please see page 14



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

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

Independent Order of Odd Fellow Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-0205.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overnight parking restrictions in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. on all town streets.

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

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

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

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

JANUARY 21

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

5. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

JANUARY 22

White Heather Pipes & Drums and Branch 385 Aurora Legion presents their Annual Robbie Burns Dinner at the Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, beginning at 6.30 p.m. Tickets at \$25 per person are available from the Legion 905-727-9932 or from any band member. Reservations accepted for parties of eight. Call 905-841-3700.

JANUARY 23

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

JANUARY 25

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

JANUARY 26

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

JANUARY 27

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

JANUARY 29

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

FEBRUARY 2

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

FEBRUARY 5

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

FEBRUARY 6

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

FEBRUARY 12

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

FEBRUARY 15

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

FEBRUARY 19

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

FEBRUARY 21-25

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

MARCH 5

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



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Aurora defers Town request

The Town of Georgina Council believes Lake Simcoe is an asset to all York municipalities and it wants Aurora to endorse it.

Georgina, in a report to Aurora Council, says it needs the help of all levels of government and the participation of all York municipalities.

The Town pointed out the Conservation Authority

had done an excellent job with limited resources, but there was much more to be done and timing was important.

Georgina is petitioning the province to establish a liaison group with a mandate to work on the long-term sustained health of the lake, with representation from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Ministries of

Natural Resources and Environment and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

However, instead of endorsing the petition as requested by Georgina, Councillor John West, Aurora's representative on the conservation authority, asked that action be deferred until more information was available.

Council agreed.

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MP Belinda Stronach returns to her roots

Newmarket/Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach was the guest speaker at the January meeting of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and a full-house audience was there to welcome her.

She thanked the Chamber for inviting her, as "it's great to be home."

She was born in Newmarket and calls Aurora home.

She said it was hard to believe it has been nearly four months since being elected for Newmarket/Aurora and outlined some of the challenges faced during that time, including balancing her commitment to her riding, her trade critic portfolio, requests from her caucus colleagues and her family.

In her former business life, she was used to being busy and it was difficult to adjust to the time it takes to get things done in Ottawa.

"If commuters thought that Highway 404 moved slowly during rush hour, they should spend a day in Ottawa," she said.

When asked what it's like to be in Ottawa, she said it's a lot like being at war.

"Most of day is spent in the trenches with moments of great confusion and moments of boredom and you never know when you are going to get shot at," she said.

While the business of government was somewhat new to her, her role as trade critic for the official opposition was not, as the former head of Magna International trading with more than 20 countries around the world, she knew the impact that trade has on jobs and the standard of living Canadians enjoy.

Among the G-8 countries, Canada is the country most dependent on international trade for its national wealth, she said.

More than 42 per cent of the Canadian economy comes from exports, of which about 80 per cent

goes to the United States, while only 10 per cent of the American economy is linked to foreign trade.

She stressed the importance of trade and the impact it has in York Region because it's central to the prosperity that residents enjoy, and that, no doubt, members of the Chamber buy and sell goods and services across national borders.

In order to safeguard and build prosperity, she said Canada needs to become

more engaged in global trade and to become more productive and competitive.

Canada needs a "competitive agenda" and doesn't have one and is in danger of falling behind, she warned.

She was critical of the Paul Martin Liberal government for letting Canada's relationship with the United States decline over the past decade.

She added that China was becoming increasingly important to Canada as the

Chinese market represents enormous opportunities for Canadian business.

However, she warned that while Canada has been the largest trading partner of the U.S. for as long as anyone can remember, a recent study predicted China will likely surpass Canada as the major trading partner of the U.S. within the next five years.

In business, a company would react, but there is no sign of the government facing up to the issue and no action plan, and she is afraid the people of Newmarket and Aurora and the country will pay a huge price in the decline of their quality of life.

She promised that as International Trade Critic, she would continue to hold the Liberals accountable for their track record in an area that is vital to the country's economic health and living standards.

She also spoke about other issues affecting the local communities and business such as transportation, the delay in getting the cancer clinic at Southlake Regional Health Centre, crime and community safety.

She stressed the need to get a better return from taxes from both the federal and provincial governments and promised to continue to work hard on the issues that matter most to the residents of Newmarket and Aurora.

Hike approved

Aurora Council last week adopted a Leisure Services committee report and recommendation pertaining to the pricing policy.

The committee was authorized to raise program fees by an average of five per cent in 2005 and that field fees, with the exception of ice users, be subject to a five per cent increase in 2005.

Costs such as union wages, hydro and gas had increased and the cost increases must be reflected in program and user fees.

As the ice users had recently received a significant increase in fees, they were exempt from another

increase.

As requested by council, the committee reviewed the Green Roof technology and recommended that the technology not be pursued for current construction projects.

It was also recommended that the report on Green Roof technology be submitted to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for comments regarding the reduction of storm water management pond requirements.

When the committee report came to council, members supported a motion by Councillor John West that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

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Poor Richard

New year provides plenty of opportunity for councillors

The New Year provides opportunities, A look to the future as well as the past; It's a time to create a plan and a vision, Plus the political will to make them last.

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Entering a New Year provides an opportunity to look to the past as well as the future.

It's an opportunity to review the actions taken for good or for bad and learn from our mistakes.

There have been many highlights in the history of Aurora from the coming of the first steam train in Upper Canada in 1853, incorporation as a village in 1863 and a town in 1888.

In more modern times, Aurora is well known for its annual July First festivities, the annual Street Festival, the colourful Santa Claus Parade and so many other community events.

But we shouldn't be dazzled by the past, dismayed by the present or afraid of the future.

As someone once said; "Hats off to the past, coats off for the future".

There is a tendency of human nature to hold on to the familiar and to resist change, but that must not be permitted to restrict and hold back progress if it is in the best interests of the municipality.

Local government developed originally in the history of society to fill a need.

A need to accomplish some purpose or project, which could better be achieved by the action of a group, rather than by an individual.

As society became more complex, the number of such needs increased and the functions of local government expanded as the population continued to grow.

Even with growth, the purpose for which local government came into being, to meet a need, still exists and that is to maintain the close relationship which normally exists between the local governing body and the life and happiness of its citizens.

There are many definitions of democracy, but basically it means the conduct of government in accordance with the wishes of the governed, and at no other level of government is this more possible to attain than at the local level.

Most important, there is the need to develop a team spirit, within council and between council and the citizens.

Members of council must be willing to accept informed opinion from every qualified source, to accept constructive criticism and to look at all aspects of an issue and be willing to compromise individual feelings for the benefit of the majority.

There is bound to be disagreement between people with strong points of view.

It is natural and is to be expected, but disagreement over an issue need not bring disorder.

When all the arguments have been heard and all the facts weighed the vote is taken.

Regardless of personal feelings or opinions, the majority rules and all council members must have the political will and the courage to act in accordance with the majority decision of council.

Back in December, 1972, when Evelyn Buck was writing a column called Crossfire for the local paper, she wrote that the press had a definite role to play as the official opposition.

Whatever decisions are made by council, the press must examine and comment thereon and whatever local battles that may be fought should be discussed by an independent press.

She also wrote that no member of council should have the advantage of press space denied his or her colleagues to argue his or her views in the press, especially after council had made a decision.

There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree. You can climb it or you can sit on an acorn and wait for it to grow.

What Aurora needs during the next two years of this term of office is a climbing council to represent the best interests of the citizens, not personal agendas.

To achieve the former requires team work.



Two interesting facts about this photograph...the name of the newspaper and the location where the picture was taken. First things first. Who knew there was an Aurora Era at one time? In the forties, such a newspaper existed, being displayed by these three carriers, Lorne Graham, left, son of Ernie and Jessie Graham, and the Knowles brothers, Ron and Bob, sons of Doug and Irene Knowles, the name behind Knowles Butchers, once located on Wellington Street. The photo was taken in front of Vic Albert's barber shop on Centre Street. To our knowledge, today there is no business in the downtown area that fronts on Centre Street. This photo was supplied by Ron Knowles, currently a resident of Orleans, Ontario.

Letters to the Editor

Region decision violates Municipal Act, Buck says

To the editor,

We live in a participatory democracy. Nowhere is that more true than at the municipal level of government.

The Municipal Act is designed to ensure our right to be aware at all times of action being contemplated by our local council and so that we may have our input.

We have a law that states an elected official may not take a seat at the council table until he or she has taken the oath of office.

We are therefore legally bound to abide by the laws that govern us and we shall break faith with the people who elected us at our peril.

The municipal act requires the following:

-at the beginning of a term of office, council shall choose

the time and day meetings will be held. The public therefore is always aware of when council meets.

- there will be an agenda circulated at least three days prior to the meeting. The public therefore is always aware of what will be deliberated and decided.

- there will be notice of all motions to be presented by councillors. The motion shall be in writing and will appear on the agenda. The public therefore will always know what is expected to be discussed and decided by council.

- there will be a procedural bylaw to govern the proceedings of council. The public therefore can be as familiar as any councillor as to how the council functions and will know if council is not following

legal procedure.

- if there is an emergency which calls for a special meeting, 48 hours notice must be given to all media outlets of the time of the meeting and the issue to be discussed. That way the public always has an opportunity to convey to their council what they think of the issue to be discussed.

- no decisions can be made except at a properly constituted meeting open to the public.

- a municipality cannot have a surplus. Money raised through taxation for a specific purpose in a given year and not spent in that year does not belong to the municipality. It is not available to be spent for an unbudgeted expenditure. It belongs to the people who paid the taxes. It must be applied to meet the costs for municipal services of the next year within a legitimate budget process.

Canvassing by e-mail for support of individual regional councillors for a particular action by the region spending half a million dollars not included in the budget process, and proposing to ratify the decision at a subsequent meeting of council does not in any sense meet the requirements of the Municipal Act...a law that governs them as it does the Town of Aurora. The funds should be recovered. The region should be called to account.

Reader appreciated councillors' efforts

Councillor Nigel Kean:

I feel compelled to thank you for your stance at the January 11th town council meeting (along with Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Ron Wallace).

Your motion for the Town of Aurora to contribute \$1,000 to the devastation facing Asia seemed totally within reason and to see council use its lame logic to vote this simple act of charity down baffles me; frankly I thought we could have

afforded to do more.

Furthermore, after watching my council in action, I do not agree with Councillors Bill Hogg and Evelyn Buck that we should only fight battles that we can win; in my opinion we should only fight battles that are morally grounded and otherwise considered as just.

Nigel, thank you again for your efforts in this regard.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

AURORAN

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Editorial
Ron Wallace
Dick Illingworth

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Bob Ince
Diane Buchanan

Production
Cynthia Proctor
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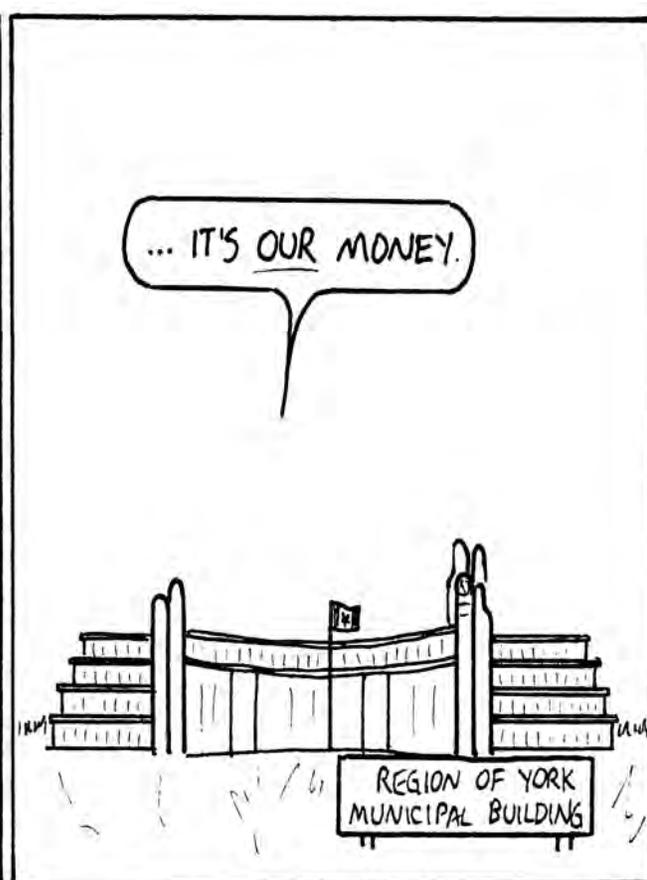
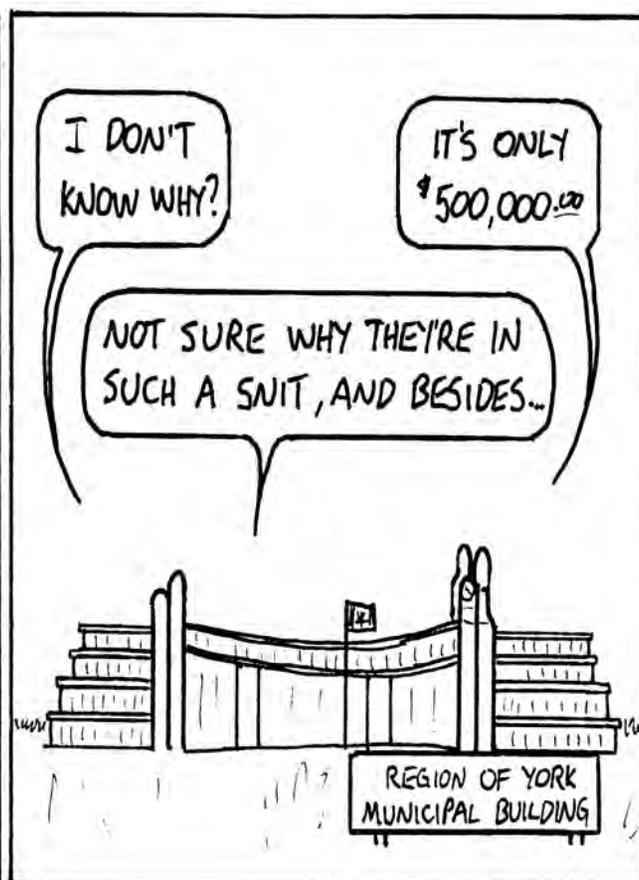
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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

"Road to Inclusivity" booklet published

Recently, the Human Services Planning Coalition of the Region of York published a booklet entitled "The Road to Inclusivity".

This Coalition was established in 2001 to address long term, sustainable integrated planning and funding for human services.

The Coalition is co-chaired by Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio and the Director of Education of the York Region District School Board Bill Hogarth and is made up of representatives from government, service provider agencies and corporations, the non-profit sector and human service consumers.

Their goal is to achieve effective long term human services planning in York Region.

The Coalition is proposing an action plan that includes improving communication between service providers and users by establishing a welcome and resource centre to have information about human services available in different languages for newcomers.

It would also include increasing English as a second language and English language development programs.

They also advocate launching a region-wide education campaign about the needs and contributions of ethno-cultural communities in York Region and providing learning opportunities for children by promoting diversity, teaching about different cultures and instilling the value of being an inclusive community.

And finally, the coalition wants to build volunteer and leadership development within ethno-cultural communities and enhance organizational development within mainstream provider agencies.

These proposed action steps will be presented at an Inclusivity Summit planned to take place Thursday at the Richmond Green High School from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of this summit is to achieve endorsement for a York Region Inclusivity Action Plan, to set priorities and begin implementation of this plan, to provide human service agencies with tools to help implement the plan, to share resources and information and to establish new partnerships and collaborations.

I note with interest the following statistics that relate to Aurora in this context:

* Aurora has the highest percentage in the Region for multiple ethnic origins at 50.5 per cent. The Regional average is 30.5 per cent.

* Aurora's breakdown in this area (2001) is: Canadian 13.3 per cent; Italian 4.8 per cent; Chinese 0.9 per cent; English 8.1 per cent; East Indian 0.9 per cent; Jewish 0.6 per cent; Other Single 20.9 per cent.

In 2001, York Region's population could speak more than 65 languages other than English or French.

Approximately 23,600 or 3.2 per cent of the Region's population had no knowledge of either English or French.

In 2001, the number of foreign born individuals living in York Region was almost three times greater than in 1986.

As well, the number of immigrants in the Region was 283,800, or 39 per cent of the total population.

In Aurora as of 2001, 82.1 per cent of our residents were non-immigrant with 17.9 per cent as immigrants.

For more information of this report, you can visit: www.region.york.on.ca/Departments/Planning+and+De

velopment/Human+Services/RoadtoInclusivity.htm on the Region of York website.

If you see something in this column that you wish

to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca



Cathy's Corner



Getting organized

According to an informal poll, the number one New Year's resolution in Aurora is "getting organized".

A brand new calendar can get us cranking up the stereo and declaring war on clutter, vengefully attacking cupboards, drawers and closets.

Out with the old! In with the new!

My weapon of choice is the vacuum cleaner, but I always have to pack several primitive heavy-duty garbage bags for the things the vacuum cleaner is too meek to digest.

Things like toasters that don't do bagels, vacuum cleaners that don't have the guts to swallow them, and cell phone chargers that belong to phones that perished in the technology revolution of...um...last month.

They say the average time elapsed between throwing out an item and wishing you hadn't is about two weeks.

"Mom, have you seen my cell phone charger?" Make it two hours.

Or, more accurately, one hour after frantically flagging down the sanitation engineer who has lately been strangely jumping into the bin and shouting, "Drive!" whenever he sees me.

I turn up the volume on the radio that I will likely feed to a Neanderthal hefty bag next January.

That way, I can pretend we don't have to journey into temptation, colloquially known as "the mall".

Everybody knows you can't go to the mall and simply buy a new charger. Not in January.

Not when you can get a brand new, deluxe, tiny, state-of-the-art communications device that takes pictures, manages your finances, and will call your mother on her birthday all by itself!

And, of course, you can't go to the mall and simply buy a phone.

You have to buy all the gizmos and gadgets that enable the phone to edit pictures, access your bank account, and let the telemarketers know where they can reach your mother at dinnertime.

Neither can you go to the mall and just walk on by all the other new and improved "mega", "ultra" and "smart" gizmos and gadgets that promise ultimate salvation to the organizationally desperate.

It's January! They're 50 per cent off!

So, we come home and unload the truck, assemble the organizational impairment rescue equipment (a.k.a. "space savers"), and install six gigabytes of software on the computer, making it smart enough to do the grocery shopping, file our tax returns, and administer CPR to the dog if he happens to choke on one of the wires.

While the new gizmos and gadgets are challenging, educating and fascinating my son, I pack up the packaging debris.

I am now officially committed to once again accosting the sanitation engineer who has lately been strangely jumping into the bin and shouting, "Drive!" whenever he sees me.

And, since Tim figures things out faster than I can find the English version of the instruction manuals, I have time to test my new "ultra" laundry detergent for "high efficiency" machines by throwing in a load of stylish new duds from which I just finished clipping the red clearance tags.

Not surprisingly, there is a wet load in the washer that I psychically intuit has been there for three days.

Being a female in a house full of males, the laundry room is hot spot for not only hot flashes, but flashbacks as well.

It was exactly three days ago that Damir and Tim came home tired, hungry and dusty after moving files, boxes and furniture all day...and stuffed their clothes into the washing machine.

That would include two pairs of pants, two shirts, three socks, a pen, a dryer sheet and two coats...none of which went through the crucial pre-wash pocket inspection cycle.

That would explain the cell phone.

The obscenely obsolete cell phone that doesn't take pictures, book dental appointments on-line, or toast bagels.

But...amazingly, still makes phone calls.

Maybe getting organized isn't a resolution after all. Maybe it's a revolution.

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the member of council who will introduce a motion to add the names of Aurora's Citizen of the Year to the street name bank. The naming was originally suggested by the late Jack Moore in May, 1985, and while council supported the idea, nothing happened. Still a good idea!

BRICKBATS to the vandals who performed scratch art work on the side of a brand new Mazda truck parked in the driveway of a residence on Royal Road just before Christmas. The vandalism was carried out within 12 hours of the owner taking possession of the new vehicle.

BOUQUETS to members of the Aurora Seniors' Association for their Christmas food drive for the Aurora Food Pantry. The seniors collected more than two van loads of food. They are organizing a Saturday dinner, January 23rd to raise funds for the south-east Asia victims.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Nigel Kean for initiating The Red Cross Asian Earthquake and Tsunamis Relief Appeal at the Aurora branch of the Bank of Montreal and for pledging \$100 to get the fund started.

BRICKBATS to Defence Minister Bill Graham and the brass in Ottawa for not taking immediate action to send the well-trained 200-member DART team to the areas devastated by the earthquake and tidal waves. They are scrambling to charter large transport planes to get the team to South Asia, as Canada's smaller Hercules planes would take too long and few are available.

BOUQUETS to the Air Cadets in Aurora and Newmarket and the Army Cadets of the Queen's York Rangers and St. Andrew's College for their excellent performance in acting as casualty victims in a recent St. John Ambulance exercise in Newmarket.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Health Ministry for hanging on to the dispatch function of the ambulance service after the service itself had been downloaded to regional governments. A recent regional study indicates a better response time was possible if the region was responsible for its own dispatch service. Why is the province holding on to the dispatch service?

BOUQUETS to the Ontario Liberal government for increasing the general minimum wage by 30 cents to \$7.45 per hour effective February 1. Last February the government increased it from \$6.85 to \$7.15 per hour, the first increase since 1995 when the previous Progressive Conservative government froze it.

BRICKBATS to Canada's generous MPs for putting Canadian taxpayers on the hook for almost a million dollars in the past two years when Heritage Canada gave the money to the Montreal-based National Circus School to train jugglers, acrobats and clowns. If they want clowns, look in the mirror!

BOUQUETS to former St. Andrew's College student Billy Burke for being selected to play both football and hockey at Queen's University. He excelled in both sports while at St. Andrew's and although it's unusual to play in two major sports at a university, Burke was selected to do so.

BOUQUETS to the York Regional Police RIDE program and the region's motorists for finally getting the message not to drink and drive. Final figures for the holiday season indicate the police stopped 70,342 drivers compared with 63,821 in 2003 and charged 61 with impaired driving compared with 64 the previous year.

Letters to the Editor

Town address was fine whine

To the editor,

I read Cathy's Corner January 12th and thought to myself the fine whine being referred to sounded familiar.

Upon re-reading it, I narrowed it down to a 1949 vintage coming from of all places that bastion of whine making, England.

A third reading confirmed--- c'est vrai! C'est moi! (That poor old dead horse was the clincher.)

Now I wasn't sure if I should be angry, amused, hurt or flattered.

A quick check of the Oxford: whine "complain in a feeble or undignified way" quickly ruled out the "flattered" option.

After the dressing down I received at the council meeting of December 14th, 2004 from a certain council-

lor I realize I am being tag teamed.

Regular readers of The Auroran or followers of the antics of our council will no doubt grasp that the issue at hand is that popular and intriguing 15-year-old whine "chateau de 100 John West Way" and why it was yanked unceremoniously from the shelves.

Anyway, to answer some points from your Whining 101 curriculum.

First, "you need to have a point to whine about."

Changing an address that has served us well for 15 years for no reason was and is the point! Fortunately I have not been alone in my "point" of view.

Each time one makes a point and is ignored it is necessary to keep sharpening the point so hopefully the

pointee will finally get the point.

Second, "the best before date."

The Town Hall address was decided 15 years ago and voted on unanimously making it a wine of sweet grapes not the present version made with the sour grapes of a split and divided council and town.

Third, "a good whine needs to breathe."

At the council meeting of December 14th, I conceded my latest batch of whine had been completed for the season and I was looking forward to catching my breath.

Unfortunately a certain councillor and a certain scribe has pushed me back into the whine vat and so here we are once again treading sour grapes.

Fourth, "corking councillors."

Let's make all our future whines with screw off tops instead of corks, this will give us easier access to the source of our whine as we

were promised during our last election.

Fifth, "no live audience necessary."

When opening a bottle of whine you should share it with as many people as possible and if the whine was made with sour grapes as this was then everybody should know about it.

I'm convinced that the majority of Aurorans having the good taste and fine palates that they have, will request that their banished vintage of 1990 chateau de 100 John West Way as mentioned earlier will be returned to its rightful place in the historical wine cellars of our town.

I'm not into whine or wine; however I will raise a cup of tea in a toast to Cathy and her corner even though I can't agree with your course outline of Whining 101.

Let the smiles continue.

Graham Wride
Aurora

Great response to Women's Centre

To the editor,

On behalf of Women's Centre of York Region, I would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts to provide Holiday Hampers to families in our community.

Without local support from community partners, we would have been unable to assist the families who came to us in search of help.

The efforts of many individuals and businesses that supported the food drive organized by Councillors Nigel Kean and Ron Wallace, thankfully, kept our food stocks from being com-

Two letters impress this reader

To the editor,

Best letters yet.

Jan.11th letters to the editor provided superb writing by both Dierdre Tomlinson and Ian J. Turnbull.

Both dealt with the tsunami disaster, which has touched us all deeply, from two very different viewpoints.

Bill Hack
Aurora

pletely depleted.

And as it became apparent that we would be unable to provide for all families seeking help, we turned to our community for support.

The response was overwhelming.

An extra special thank you to Nikki Pett of Sigma Promotions who rallied support and gave unreservedly to all our endeavours.

With the extra efforts of Belinda Stronach Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament, and her dynamic team, we were able to support all who came to us for assistance.

Our volunteers also put in extra time over the season and we wouldn't have been able to manage so successfully without them.

We are indeed grateful to be part of a community where people matter; a community that cares about helping those less fortunate.

Thank you to all who support our continued efforts to help families strengthen their futures.

Together we build a stronger community.

Shelley Lundquist
Fundraising Director
Women's Centre
of York Region



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Tsunami Relief Effort

Local residents wishing to contribute to the tsunami relief efforts may drop off contributions at M.P. Belinda Stronach's constituency office. All contributions will be forwarded to CARE Canada.

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04/02

Letters to the Editor

Ink Spots entertain small but appreciative crowd

To the editor,

It all started as a Christmas present.

Tickets to an evening with "The Ink Spots" at the Newmarket Theatre Saturday night.

Granted, from Christmas until Saturday meant I had to wait almost a month, but, guess what?

It was worth it.

What a beautiful evening of music, performed by five guys, four from the United States and a bass player from Trinidad.

They weren't, of course, the real Ink Spots, but certainly they sounded like the Ink Spots.

The original four Ink Spots - billed as the group most like-

ly to be impersonated - have been gone for some time, but these "impersonators" had the audience clapping, singing, crying and laughing.

Too bad the place wasn't sold out.

The group did two performances Saturday, matinee and evening, and neither drew a full house.

Imagine listening to music

with words you could actually understand, played by people who didn't blast you out of the room.

We heard "If I Didn't Care", "I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire" and "To Each His Own".

In addition, this group did their own rendition of music by the Mills Brothers and the Platters, just to mention a

couple.

Then they met members of the audience in an impromptu gathering out in the lobby after they had sung for two hours.

Yessir, it was a great

evening of nostalgia; a great evening of entertainment.

Too bad so many people missed it.

**Ross Walters
Aurora**

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Cabbie letter irks this reader

To the editor,

I felt absolutely compelled to write to you and express my sincere shock and disgust at your choice to print Hugo Kroon's letter, "The Reasons Why Out-of-town Cab drivers Seek Aurora fares" in the January 11 issue.

Perhaps someone at your paper thought the letter was amusing, or that it was

intended not to be taken seriously; however, it is extremely clear that the letter is nothing more than a caustic and classist attack by Mr. Kroon at those less fortunate than he himself might be.

In this one letter, he sarcastically and brutally

attacks not only the entire area of Whitchurch-Stouffville but also many of its residents, and he also makes some grave and baseless assumptions with respect to welfare recipients and the manner in which they spend their support monies.

I am truly appalled that you chose to print this offensive and hateful piece.

Karen McLennan Coll

Rotary seeks former members

To the editor,

Are you a former Aurora Rotarian?

If so, you are invited to Rotary's 100th Anniversary party.

The Aurora Rotary Club is hosting a wine and cheese evening in the Skylight Gallery at the Town Hall Monday, February 21st.

We would love to see you again.

Please call 905-841-1352 for your invitation.

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Facilitator: Rosemarie McGuire, Human Capital Solution Services
Registration & Hot Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.
Seminar: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Program Cost: \$40.00 Member
\$45.00 Potential member
Place: Howard Johnson Hotel Aurora
15520 Yonge Street, Aurora

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2005
NEW MEMBERS' TRADE SHOW
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Place: Alutron Modules Inc.
420 Industrial Pkwy. South, Aurora

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2005
NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
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Tigers home Friday

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team is coming home.

Aurora's juniors have been on the road since January 2, but will return to the confines of the Aurora Community Centre this Friday night when they host the Couchiching Terriers. Game time is 8 p.m.

While the Tigers have been away, they have not been idle, and today, trail the front-running Newmarket Hurricanes by only a single point in the league's north division.

Aurora got there with an impressive 6-0 victory over Huntsville while Newmarket was dropping a 5-2 decision

to the Stouffville Spirit Saturday night.

Spectacular in the shutout victory was Aurora goaltender Ryan Dickie, who recorded his 10th victory this season, and has a goals-against record of 3.14.

Sean Thompson and Michael Tuomi set the pace for the winners with three points each while Josh Diamond and Daniel Michalski added a pair of points.

Earlier, Aurora spent the entire game outplaying Couchiching but was forced to come from behind to secure a 2-1 victory in that

northern arena Friday night.

Diamond and Michalski scored for the winners in the third period, after Couchiching went ahead with a single marker in the second.

Jeremie Dupont was in goal to record his 13th victory of the campaign and boast a goals-against average of 2.32.

Following Friday night's home appearance, the Tigers will hit the road again, meeting Ajax Sunday afternoon, then visiting arch-rival Newmarket in that town next Thursday.

That should be a corker of a game.

AMBA registration starts February 19

Plunged into the centre of winter, with no apparent hope in sight, you might gather some strength from this.

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association's 2005 season will occur February 19 and March 5 at the Aurora Community Centre, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Can summer be far

behind?

The AMBA will introduce new reduced rates for TBall players this season. Registration starts at \$25.

If players can't wait until the summer they are invited to take part in winter clinics now underway.

More information can be found on www.auroraminorball.ca or from Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR A HOCKEY LEAGUE

EAST CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
PORT HOPE	30	5	3	3	182	101	66
WELLINGTON	30	10	2	1	196	136	63
BOWMANVILLE	28	10	3	0	129	86	59
COBOURG	25	13	2	2	166	107	54
KINGSTON	22	15	4	2	136	137	50
TRENTON	19	17	4	1	162	131	43
LINDSAY	12	23	2	4	109	146	30
PETERBORO	12	23	3	2	135	178	29
SYRACUSE	7	27	3	3	133	218	20
BANCROFT	6	29	2	3	105	213	17

NORTH CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
NEWMARKET	29	12	0	0	176	133	58
AURORA	27	11	2	1	190	116	57
STOUFFVILLE	21	17	2	1	150	130	45
HUNTSVILLE	19	19	2	1	144	165	41
COLLINGWOOD	9	28	3	0	128	184	21
COUCHICHING	8	29	2	2	111	193	20

SOUTH CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
WEXFORD	31	4	4	1	171	83	67
ST. MICHAEL'S	29	7	3	2	213	115	63
NORTH YORK	27	13	4	0	205	154	58
MARKHAM	26	13	2	0	169	134	54
PICKERING	24	13	2	2	179	146	52
VAUGHAN	17	16	3	4	125	142	41
THORNHILL	14	23	1	2	120	160	31
OSHAWA	7	31	1	3	89	225	18
AJAX	2	34	1	2	94	196	7

WEST CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
GEORGETOWN	36	5	0	1	259	96	73
OAKVILLE	33	5	1	2	237	97	69
HAMILTON	27	10	2	3	167	127	59
BURLINGTON	25	14	0	4	181	141	54
MILTON	23	17	1	1	191	116	48
BRAMPTON	20	16	4	1	164	140	45
BUFFALO	15	25	2	1	139	211	33
STREETSVILLE	11	26	2	2	123	211	26
MISSISSAUGA	10	28	2	1	152	225	23
BRAMALEA	3	36	0	1	77	307	7

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Little NHL here in 1969 and returned twice

In March, 1967, the Aurora Lions Bantam Hockey Team defeated Newmarket to qualify for a place in the Little NHL all-Ontario finals in Cobourg.

Previously the Aurora Novices had defeated the Newmarket team to gain a birth in the Little NHL tournament.

As a result, the Aurora teams won three trophies at the tournament.

In 1968, the Little NHL was held in the Niagara peninsula and once again the Aurora teams brought home trophies.

This resulted in an invitation for Aurora to host the 1969 tournament.

Little NHL was founded by Gordon Alcott of Weston and born in Georgetown in 1936 and soon became a pacesetter for minor hockey in Canada.

Through hockey, the program taught the art of cooperation and sportsmanship.

Its motto was "Citizenship,

Education and Sportsmanship".

By October, 1968, the local Little NHL Mothers' Association was busy soliciting billets in Aurora homes to provide bed and breakfast for more than 600 young hockey players from across Canada.

Aurora Council approved an expenditure of \$1,500 for the Aurora Minor Hockey Association to host the closing banquet of the tournament.

In March, 1969, by bus and car, more than 600 boys aged 8 to 14 years arrived in Aurora from 18 towns across Ontario to play approximately 45 games of hockey.

About 350 Aurora families opened their homes to accommodate the visiting hockey players.

The tournament was one of the biggest sporting events ever held in the municipality and was only possible through the dedicated efforts of many volunteers and the Minor Hockey Association. Visiting parents, officials

and players from other municipalities repeated over and over again about the warm hospitality of the citizens, the smooth-running, split-second timing of the tournament and the beauty of Aurora's new community centre.

Then Mayor Dick Ilingworth said at the time that the Little NHL tournament was instrumental in bringing citizens of the town together like no other event.

At that time Aurora was divided into three towns, the Old Town, the South Town of Regency Acres and the North Town of Aurora Heights.

The host teams played outstanding hockey and won two championships. The Aurora Lions Bantams won

the Grand Consolation, while the Legion Peewees won the Grand Championship Trophy.

The closing banquet was held during the noon hour of the last day of the tournament in the auditorium of the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School. An estimated 700 players, coaches and officials were fed within an hour with plenty of time for speeches.

A chicken banquet was made possible under the direction of Councillor Norm Stewart, chief chef at St. Andrew's College and Sgt. Major of the Queen's York Rangers.

The food was cooked at the college, rushed to the school by the Rangers in their army trucks and served by volunteer mothers.

After the very successful

little NHL Tournament in 1969, the hockey tournament for young hockey players returned to Aurora in March, 1974.

The 1974 tournament didn't generate as much citizen involvement, interest or excitement as the 1969 tournament.

A volunteer committee worked behind the scenes arranging accommodation for the young players and organizing a 66-game schedule for the more than 900 players.

An estimated 5,000 people visited the community centre for the event and the large crowds caught the community centre staff off guard.

During the five days of the tournament, the hungry fans consumed more than 2,300 hot dogs along with 3,000 milkshakes resulting in Sold Out signs being posted.

Once again Aurora Council agreed to host the

closing banquet, except this time, due to the increased numbers of participants, both Dr. G. W. Williams and Aurora High School had to be used.

The Town of Aurora and the Aurora Minor Hockey Association with the help of the community of Sharon hosted the 1977 tournament, involving 48 Pee wee and Bantam teams from all over Ontario.

Thirty-two teams were billeted in Aurora and 16 teams in Sharon.

It was not a successful tournament for the Aurora teams, as Sharon, Newmarket and Bolton were the major winners.

That was the last time Aurora hosted a Little NHL Tournament but on the three occasions it did, Aurora was praised as being a friendly town with excellent facilities and a well-organized tournament.

Dinner theatre lots of laughs

If you want to escape the snow and cold of winter, forget the many tragedies in the world, and start the New Year on a positive note with lots of laughs, visit the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Aurora and see "The Housekeeper".

It's a comedy by James Prideau, directed by Kay Valentine, produced by Stellar Productions and Howard Johnson Aurora.

The two characters in the play are Lise Boily as Annie Dankworth, the housekeeper, and Dave Sansom as Manley Carstairs.

He lives alone in the large family house, professes to be a writer, is very self-centred and very much a spoiled mother's boy, even though mother is dead.

He decides to hire a live-in housekeeper and Annie Dankworth appears for the position, claiming she had been sent by the recruiting agency. She is dressed very dowdily but has glowing references, is offered and accepts the job.

She moves in pushing a shopping cart with her worldly belongings packed in garbage bags.

There is conflict between the two of them right from the start as he tries to concentrate on his writing and she constantly interrupts him with her chatter.

She never seems to be around when he wants her.

Their conflicting personalities are strengthened with the rapid-fire, snappy dia-

logue of the playwright, providing a great comedic vehicle for two strong performers, who use every opportunity to make the most of the clever lines and situations.

Manley threatens to fire Annie several times and on one occasion chases her around the room and is so enraged he throws her on the couch and starts to strangle her, but ends up kissing her.

She retires to her room and soon returns, not as the dowdy housekeeper, but as a completely different woman.

The second act starts with a candlelight dinner, cooked and served by Manley. He even dresses for the occasion.

The roles start to change as Annie brings him out of his shell and makes him realize there is more to life than being a recluse in his mother's home with her memory and image still following him.

They start to work together as a team and there is a surprise ending to the play, which you have to see to appreciate.

It's a fun play from beginning to end, and both performers are perfect for their roles.

"The Housekeeper" continues on selected dates until March 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and buffet beginning at 6.30. Curtain is at 8.30 p.m.

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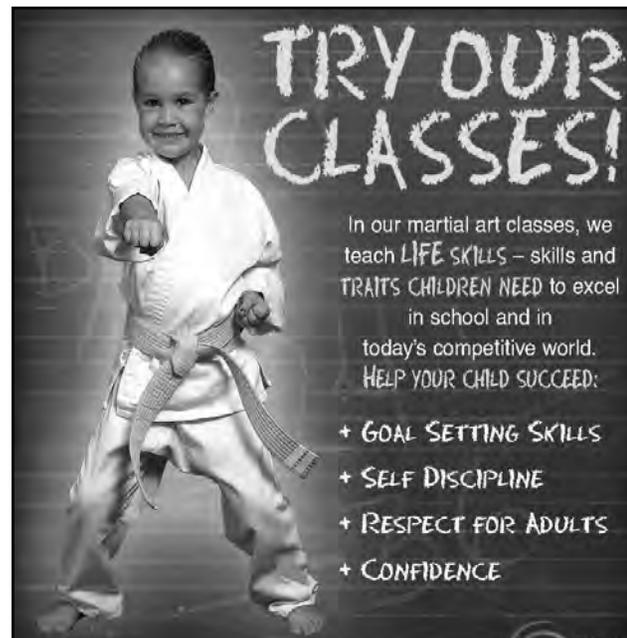
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MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY STANDINGS AS OF JAN. 10

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	13	1	2	72	38	28
Priestly Demolition	8	6	2	67	60	18
FPL Aggregates	8	6	2	59	48	18
Tom & Jerry's	7	8	1	52	54	15
Highland Chev Cadillac	6	9	1	59	72	13
Masterclean Contracting	6	9	1	53	57	13
J.J. Barron Realty	5	8	3	50	64	13
Rec Cycle & Sports	5	9	2	48	64	12

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS JAN. 10

FPL Aggregates	4	Priestly Demolition	5
Barron Realty	2	Tom & Jerry's	2
Masterclean	7	Law Insurance	7
Rec Sports	3	Highland Chev	4

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY PLAYER STANDINGS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
Mark Sedore	Priestly Demolition	21	11	32
Pat O'Mahoney	FPL Aggregates	20	11	31
Jason Muise	Priestly Demolition	20	10	30
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	15	14	29
Gerald Briand	Law Insurance	12	16	28
Ed Jackson	Barron's Realty	14	13	27
Steven MacDonald	FPL Aggregates	13	13	26
Bruce Chappell	Highlands Chev	6	20	26
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	8	17	25
Steve Kavanaugh	Barron's Realty	7	18	25
Steve Robertson	Highlands Chev	11	12	23
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	11	11	22
Peter Briand	Law Insurance	9	13	22
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	8	12	20
Mark Lemmon	Tom & Jerry's	9	10	19
Ken Rumble	Highlands Chev	10	8	18
Jerome Flanagan	Tom & Jerry's	7	10	17
Paul Fujiwawa	Highlands Chev	12	5	17
Brad Wilson	Priestly Demolition	8	8	16
Kevin Brown	Highlands Chev	8	8	16
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	7	9	16
Bruce Ing	Masterclean	5	11	16
RJ Farnsworth	Masterclean	9	5	14
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	8	6	14
Steve Reswick	Masterclean	5	9	14
Pat Davies	Priestly Demolition	5	9	14
Raz Khamissa	Barron's Realty	7	6	13
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	7	6	13
Dan Smith	FPL Aggregates	3	10	13
Mike Nisbet	FPL Aggregates	2	11	13
Chris Neal	Rec Sports	6	6	12
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	5	7	12
Doug King	Rec Sports	3	8	11
Mike Caicco	Barron's Realty	2	9	11
Kerry Heintzman	Priestly Demolition	1	10	11
Bob Ince	Rec Sports	6	4	10
Jerry Mackrell	Rec Sports	3	7	10

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Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



Rep Results January 16

Tyke Select 4 Georgina 1

Ajax White Knights 6 Tyke Select 4

Tyke Select 3 Newmarket 1

Georgina 2 Novice AA 0

Clarington 4 Novice A 2

Erik Balkovec 1G, Lucas Pozzebun 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Logan Blaser 1A.

Novice A 3 TNT 0

Brett Thiessen 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G, Liam Beresford 1A, Erik Balkovec 1A, Austin Persaud 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G.

Markham 3 Novice AE 1

Nicholas Papousek 1G, Eric Middleton 1A.

Oak Ridges 3 Novice AE 1

Justin Pirie 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1G.

Minor Atom AA 4 Georgina 0

Jody Nonnewitz 1G, Mackenzie Lemmon 1G 1A, Burke White 2A, Brooke Webster 1G, Cameron Nuttall 1A, Stefan Lazzar 1G, Eric Ludwig 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1A, Liam Mackichan 1A.

Minor Atom AA 5 Timmins 0

Kiefer McIntosh 1G, Eric Ludwig 1G 1A, William Reid 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 1G 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 2G 1A, Burke White 1A, Liam Mackichan 1A, Stefan Lazzar 1A, Cameron Nuttall 1A.

Minor Atom AA 4 London 3

Kiefer McIntosh 2G, Jody Nonnewitz 2G, Eric Ludwig 1A, Burke White 1A, Graeme Allison 1A, Stefan Lazzar 1A.

Canton 4 Minor Atom AA 1

Kevin Casey 1A, Trevor George 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1G.

Flint 3 Minor Atom AA 1

Jody Nonnewitz 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 1A, Burke White 1G.

Orillia 4 Minor Atom A 2

Conor Fennell 2G, Andrew McDonald 1A, Eric Damecour 1A, Daniel Jones 1A.

Minor Atom A 3 Orillia 1

Conor Fennell 1G 1A, Jonathon McConnell 1G, Andrew McDonald 1G, Peter Sandwell 2A, Daniel Jones 1A, Quincy Ing 1A.

Orillia 3 Minor Atom A 2

Conor Fennell 1G, Peter Sandwell 1G 1A, Andrew McDonald 2A.

Atom AA 2 Oshawa 1

Marco Ghegin 1G 1A, Trevor Best 1G 1A, Andrew Papousek 2A.

Atom A 3 East Gwillimbury 0

Josh Klinowski 1G, Kyle Spicer 1G, Taylor Butler 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1A, A. J. Killens 1A, Matthew Skoulikas 1A, Chris Youtoff 1A, Cooper Catt 1A.

Atom A 3 East Gwillimbury 2

Cooper Riswick 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G, Ryan St. Germain 1G 1A, Rory MacNeil 1G.

Minor Pee wee AA 2 Richmond Hill 1

Kamran Karamchi 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1G, Steadman Dinning 1G.

Minor Pee wee AE 6 Markham 2

Josh Beaton 2G 1A, Brandon Thompson 1G 1A, Daniel Howie 2G, Mitchell Sziraky 2A, Patrick Jones 3A, Adam Reid 1G, Brendan Strachan 1A.

Whitby 2 Minor Pee wee AE 1

Scott Kimmerer 1G, Brendan Strachan 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE 11 Stouffville 0

Brandon Thompson 1G 1A, Mitchell Sziraky 2G, Josh Beaton 2G 1A, Nicholas Silverio 2G, Dylan Skelton 2G 2A, Daniel Howie 1G 2A, Brendan Strachan 1G, Adam Reid 2A, Patrick Jones 1A, Luca Battiston 1A, Chris Venditelli 1A, Matthew Schmitt 1A.

Pee wee AA 4 Ajax 3

Andrew Whitley 1G, Luke Stadnyk 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1G 2A, Tyler Sikura 3A, Jesse Cappell 1G.

Pee wee AE 2 Newmarket 1

Sean Agostino 1G, Michael McGorlick 1G, Matthew Semeredy 1A.

Pee wee AE 6 Orillia 1

Patrick Lee 2A, Sean Agostino 1G, Jakub Sykora 1A, Andrew McKay 1G, Tyler Tisdale 2G 1A, Shawn MacEachern 1G, Aaron Beally 1G, Matthew Pellegrini 1A, Geoff Gianopoulos 1A, Evan Jones 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A.

Richmond Hill 3 Pee wee AE 2

Patrick Lee 1G, Corey Jefferey 1G, Evan Jones 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 4 Newmarket 2

Adrian Dirosa 1G, Tyler Persaud 1A, Brandon Galante 1G, Tyler Hanlon 2A, Matthew Mikhaili 1G, David Roper 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 1 Georgina 0

Tyler Sikura 1G.

Stouffville 6 Minor Bantam A 2

Quenton Hunt 1G, Darrel Evans 1A, Matthew Joynt 1G.

Stouffville 9 Minor Bantam A 1

Adam Bloom 1A, Brett Dutchyshen 1A, Gregory Buchner 1G.

Minor Bantam AE 4 Pickering 0

Braun Hause 1G, Nicholas Di Nallo 1G 1A, Ethan Shore 2G 1A, Brendon Stenzol 1A, Chris Burns 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 6 Richmond Hill 2

Ethan Shore 1G, Braun Hause 2G, Brendon Stenzol 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Curtis Hough 1G 1A, Nicholas Di Nallo 1A, Zacharie Roitner 2A, Chris Burns 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 4 East Gwillimbury 3

Braun Hause 1G, Andrew Mangialardi 1G, Nicholas Di Nallo 1G, Brendon Stenzol 1G, Zacharie Roitner 1A, Chris Burns 1A.

Bantam AA 2 Semi-Final 0

Jordan Koen 2G, Karl Pelan 1A, Taylor Postill 1A, Kyle Scott 1A,

Bantam AA 3 Finals 0

Jordan Koen 1G, Karl Pelan 1G, Steven Keane 1G, Kevin Kryshka 1A, Steven Donches 1A, Eric Sarracini 1A, Johnathan Meikle 1A, Ben Sherritt 1A, Jeremy Ellison 1A.

Bantam A 3 East Gwillimbury 2

Jeremy Cohen 1G, Josh Meron 1G 1A, Colton Horner 1G, Chris Finlay 1A, Jesse Coote 1A, Jake Hurlbut 2A, Jamie Tuck 1A.

Bantam A 2 East Gwillimbury 1

Fraser Kegel 1G, Jeremy Cohen 1G, Spencer McCartney 1A, Chris Finlay 1A.

Bantam A 2 East Gwillimbury 1

Colton Horner 1A, Chris Finlay 1G, Fraser Kegel 1A, Spencer McCartney 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1A.

Bantam AE 4 Markham 2

Ethan Davenport 1G, Brandon Wellsbury 1G 1A, Robert Lee 1G, Patrick McMurray 1A, Keegan O'leary 1A, Kevin Wheeler 1A, Ian Weston 1A, Jonathan Bince 1A, Derek Sweeting 1G.

Minor Midget AA 0 Ajax 2

Minor Midget A 5 Orillia 0

Chad Roberts 1G, Ryan Kesteris 1A, Jonathan Adams 2G, Connor O'Grady 2G, Ryan Fennell 2A, Alex Rabindranath 2A, Adam Jakovina 1A, Iznaur Atiev 1A, Bryan Sturges 1A, Neil Kileeg 1A.

Minor Midget A 3 Orillia 2

Drew Jenkins 1A, Neil Kileeg 1G, Anthony D'agostino 1G, Ryan Fennell 1G, Damian McGovern 1A, Chad Roberts 1A, Bryan Sturges 1A, Jonathan Adams 1A.

Midget AA 7 Georgina 3

Vinnie Davenport 3G, Peter McNeil 1G 2A, Kyle Robinson 1G 1A, Daryl Osborne 2G, Tom Keane 1A, Michael Jack 1A, Sean Mulroy 1A, Adam Hankins 2A.

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Aurora woman challenges federal employment policy

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

Put yourself in Margaret Sussman's shoes.

You've been diagnosed with a serious illness and, as a substitute teacher, do not qualify for disability benefits.

You look to Employment Insurance (EI) and find that the disability pay ends abruptly after 15 weeks, while your treatments last much longer than that, and prevent you from working.

What do you do?

Margaret did what she has always done when faced with a challenge - she wrote letters, asked questions and fought for change.

It's the same inner strength that she calls upon in her fight with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, which she contracted last year and which came years after a struggle with breast cancer.

After emailing every politician she could think of, Margaret saw a notice about the opening of MP Belinda Stronach's constituency office last October.

It encouraged citizens to bring their issues and questions.

Margaret and her husband attended and asked about the EI disability policy. The response was very hopeful.

"Belinda told us if she couldn't get the benefits extended, then they'd find the money somehow," Margaret remembers.

They left with a promise that someone would get back to them within the week.

After hearing nothing, Margaret left numerous messages.

Finally, she spoke to a secretary who said they could do nothing for her. "She was rude and the message was, 'we have nothing for you'," she recalls.

So where does that leave Margaret Sussman?

She still has the same questions she's had since the beginning of this ordeal.

Is the 15-week limit a law? Is this issue just too insignificant to warrant the time and energy of govern-

ment officials?

Margaret thinks it's a problem many may face.

"So many people have part time positions because they are care givers to family members or have other family responsibilities," she observes. "This is a huge issue."

In the meantime, Margaret is grateful for generous friends who have pitched in with meals and gifts.

"People have been wonderful, but I want to be able to help support my family," she says.

And, as someone who

has contributed to the public and separate school boards for many years, and who contributes to community issues like pesticide use, she certainly deserves any help coming to her, even if it is simply learning the truth.

As for the future, her doctors recommend that she stay away from the classroom for the entire school year, to guard against germs and viruses, but Margaret knows she can't afford to do that.

"I'll be back as soon as I can. I need to earn money. And, I was born a fighter and intend to stay that way."



The fourth annual Elementary Science Olympics, held for Grade 6 students, produced a plethora of projects last week at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. In the top photo, Jane Stark, Sam McDonald and Sonya Kelly, display their marshmallow tower, while below, Monica Milosecskr, Carley Nacadam-Thompson and Carlee Ramsay, from the winning Aurora Grove Public School, show their "bouncy balls". The event is run by the 35-member Williams Science Club, and includes a series of 10 events combining three fields of science - chemistry, biology and physics. Twelve classes from Aurora elementary schools participated in the activity.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Legal wrangle starts council

Even before the agenda of the first council meeting of 2005 was adopted, there was a procedural question about the minutes of a previous meeting.

Councillor Evelyn Buck quoted from a section of the Municipal Act which states that the minutes of a meeting are designed to reflect the actions taken at a meeting and are to include notes.

She pointed out that a note had been included in the previous minutes to the effect that a member of council was absent and the minutes included the note that the member "was away on business", which Buck said was contrary to the Municipal Act.

Mayor Tim Jones replied that a legal opinion would be obtained.

At a previous meeting Buck suggested the arrival and departure times should be included in the minutes of the meeting.

In a memo to members of council the director of corporate services said

the town's procedural bylaw states the clerk shall record the attendance of members, but that it had not been the practice to include the arrival and departure

times of members.

He asked for direction.

That resulted in Buck asking that the item be deleted from the agenda. It was.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Wrong numbers created headaches

Back in 1983, an enterprising out-of-town firm designed a plastic cover for phone books and sold advertising to local businesses.

The cover also listed emergency phone numbers and it was distributed free to Aurora residents.

But the cover created problems as the phone number for the Aurora Fire Department was incorrect, and discussions took place as to ways of correcting the error.

In the search for answers it was found the CTCRC had previously ruled that no person could use any binder, holder or auxiliary cover unless it was supplied by the organization responsible for the directory.

As the covers were illegal, citizens were advised to get rid of them and for the merchants who had paid for the advertising to try and get their money back.

Anything you get for nothing is worth about that much! (ED. NOTE: Oh oh, The Auroran is free)

IT'S YOUR MONEY

The federal Industry Ministry recently spent \$86 million on some pretty strange research projects including \$94,616 for a study called "Developing a theory-based leisure-time walking program" or \$90,806 to a group of Ottawa professors to study "Sex work and intimacy: escorts and their clients".

The Gomery inquiry looking into the sponsorship scandal is uncovering examples of your tax dollars at work, including 300 white and red golf umbrellas at \$78 each, more than 800 golf shirts worth more than \$75,000 and more than 800 embossed pens worth more than \$40,000.

Then there is this gem.

The federal government paid six private companies \$570,000 to help design a logo for the national unity office.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The Royal Bank contributed \$2,500 towards the construction and maintenance of the Town of Aurora activity sign at Yonge Street and Aurora Heights.

The town was having problems changing the message on the old sign, especially in poor weather, and the Royal Bank came to the rescue.

Many years ago Aurora had a Town Band.

Soctiabank notified the town that they were carrying a bank account in the name of the Town Band, which had been inactive since February 1974.

No members of the band could be located.

What happened to the money?

MILLENNIUM COMPUTER BUG

Following an audit of the town's computer system in August, 1998, several areas of concern were identified as not being 2000

compliant.

As a result council authorized a request for proposals for the replacement of 25 desktop computers and upgrading computer programs in preparation for 2000.

The estimated cost of the replacement was \$100,000 to be taken from the municipal capital reserve and staff was directed to identify any additional items in readiness for 2000.

METER ERROR

Image having a meter error of \$214,546?

Back in 1992, Aurora Hydro carried out verification audits on their billing meters at the Aurora well site and found an error of approximately 50 per cent in metered energy use in favour of the region.

The Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Affairs verified the error and allowed for recovery costs dating back to 1989, resulting in a bill of \$214,546 with the region charging the amount back to the town's water account resulting in a deficit for 1993.

CAUSED BY A SPARK

It's almost one for Ripley's Believe it or Not, but it happened right here in Aurora.

Back in April, 1982, a grass fire advanced to the front yards of the large homes in the Elderberry Hills subdivision.

The fire was set off by a spark from a passing freight train.

By the time it was brought under control, the two-hour blaze had eaten its way through more than 100 acres of grass, shrubs, bush and trees to threaten the homes.

Firefighters from Aurora and Richmond Hill responded with pumpers, tankers, men and equipment, but were hard pressed to contain the blaze, fed by a strong wind.

Ponds, streams and even a swimming pool were used to keep the tankers full.

The firefighters attacked the flames from Henderson Drive, Ridge Road, Elderberry Trail and the Bloomington Sideroad, but with the wind, the fires would re-ignite as soon as they were snuffed out.

AURORA MAN HONOURED

William Trimble of Aurora served with the Royal Canadian Navy as a Lieutenant on the HMS Campania escorting aircraft carriers in the Russian port of Murmansk in 1944.

In March, 1989, he was among several Canadians honoured by the Soviet government with the presentation of the Soviet Jubilee Medal at a ceremony at the Kitchener-Waterloo Naval Association by Igor Liakin-Frolov, first secretary of the USSR Embassy in Ottawa.

The ceremony was held to honour the Canadians for their contribution to the struggle against fascism.

Town rejects \$1,000 donation

From page 1

\$1,000 was not a lot to give.

He said he had hoped for a 9-0 vote of support and was disappointed at the reaction.

Mayor Tim Jones said he supported the donation as it worked out to be about two cents for every Aurora citizen and it showed leadership.

Councillor Phyllis Morris asked for a legal opinion as to whether council could make such a donation.

The town solicitor said there was nothing in the legislation to prevent council from taking such action.

Councillor Ron Wallace suggested a good way to start the telethon would be the town's \$1,000 donation.

"It's a way of putting our money where our mouth is," he said.

Councillor Bill Hogg said such a donation was outside a municipality's role and suggested a policy be developed for international, national and municipal disasters for the future.

He noted that council had not shown any concern or desire to help when hurricanes devastated several Caribbean islands with loss of life and property nor did it react to the AIDS crisis in Africa taking thousands of lives.

When the debate ended,

the Kean motion to donate \$1,000 was defeated by a 5-4 vote.

Then Councillor Buck questioned the legality of the \$500,000 donation made by the region, from the 2004 surplus, to the Red Cross for disaster relief.

According to a statement by Regional Chairman Bill Fisch the money had already been sent, she said.

She wanted to know how the finance committee had the authority to authorize the expenditure without the approval of regional council.

Mayor Jones, vice-chairman of the region's finance committee, replied that the

chairman had canvassed all members of council before the money was sent.

Buck said it was outrageous that there was not a public council meeting and an opportunity for public input.

She suggested a legal opinion be obtained from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Councillor Vrancic also expressed concern that a \$500,000 donation had been made without any public consultation or contact with area municipalities who share in the funding.

A motion was made to advise the region that Aurora Council was opposed to the way the issue was handled by

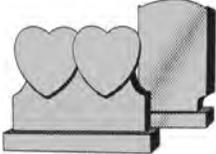
the region and to obtain a legal opinion if a canvass of members of council could take the place of a public council meeting.

On a recorded vote the motion was adopted 7-2 with Mayor Jones and Councillor Kean in opposition.

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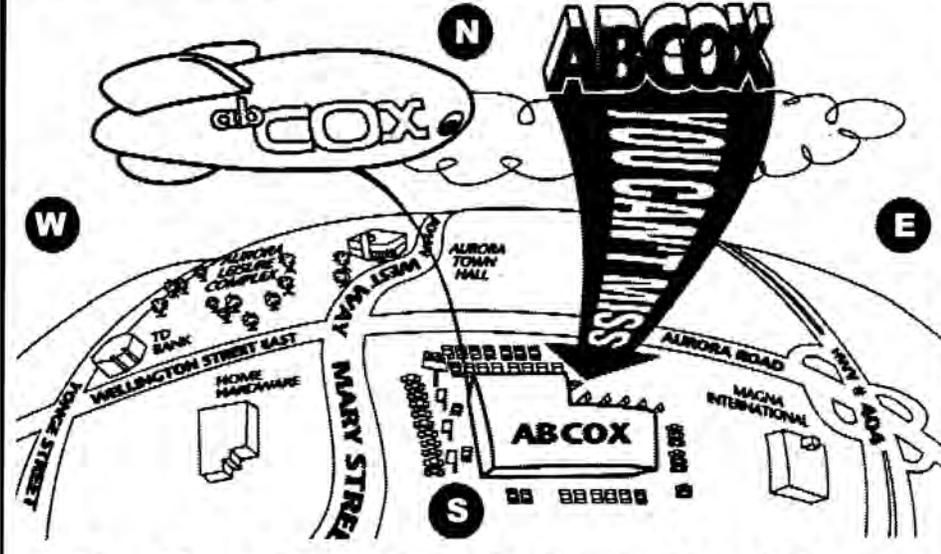
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DEATH NOTICE

BENJAMIN (TIM) BAKER-PEARCE

Former Owner of the Alliston Herald, Past President Rotary Club of Alliston, Member of Alliston Legion Branch #171, Past President of Alliston Probus Club, Active Community Volunteer.

Passed away peacefully at his home after a brief illness on Saturday, January 15, 2005, in his 78th year.

Beloved husband of Jean Livingston of Alliston. Dear father of Janet and her husband Thomas McKavanagh of Reno, Nevada, Judith and her husband John Day of Newmarket, Ont., Kathryn and her husband John Gallagher of Wampsville, New York. Loved Grandad of Keenan McKavanagh, Jacqueline, Mackenzie and Cameron Day, Brendan and Alison Gallagher. Dear brother of Michael and Dearthie Baker Pearce of Fergus, Ont., Millicent Bloxwich of Scotland, Mary and Richard Shallcross of England and predeceased by Cordelia, Gerald (Dan), William and Joan. Tim will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and many friends.

Resting at the W. John Thomas Funeral Home, 211 Victoria Street, E., Alliston. Visiting hours from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. on Thursday. Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Friday, January 21, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. followed by cremation.

If so desired, memorial donations to the Parkinson Society of Canada would be appreciated.

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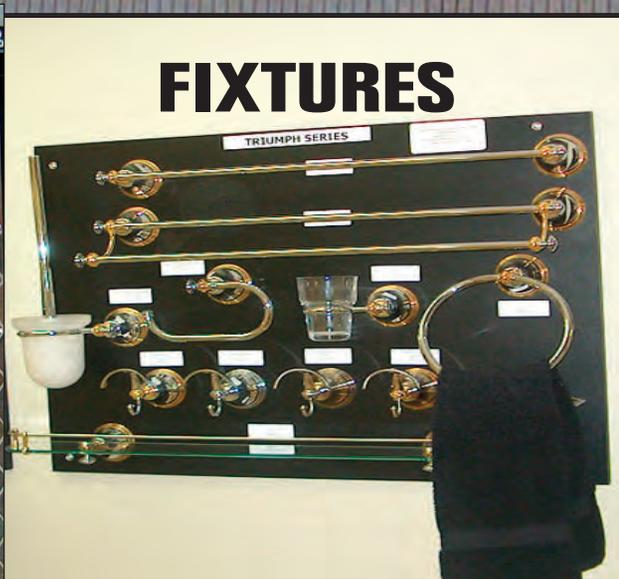
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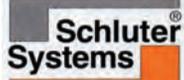
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