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Vol. 6 No. 10

Week of January 3, 2006

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Church moving

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

After 53 years on Yonge Street, Our Lady of Grace Parish in Aurora has announced plans to build a new church on a site donated by Magna International's Frank Stronach.

The seven-acre property is part of 100 acres Mr. Stronach owns on the east side of Bayview, south of Wellington.

The current location, Yonge, between Catherine and Maple, will be sold, with proceeds going towards the new building.

The plans came about when the parish completed a feasibility study on their current Yonge Street location, hoping to add 160 seats.

They soon discovered however, that along with the \$3 million cost of the renovation, parking woes would only be worsened by the plan.

They began to search for a new property without luck.

Soon after, new parishioners Rocco and Jennifer Marcello offered to approach Mr. Stronach,

who is their neighbour.

Father Don McLean then wrote to the auto parts magnate asking if he would consider selling a piece of property to the parish.

In response, Mr. Stronach called a meeting with Mr. Marcello, Father McLean and Magna's Dennis Mills.

He pulled out a map and showed them the proposed site, part of a 100-acre lot that Mr. Stronach has earmarked for a conservation area.

He then drove the men to the site and told them of his plans to donate the seven acres.

He also committed \$500,000 towards the project, an amount that was matched by Mr. Marcello.

The current church property has been appraised at \$2.5 million.

Cost of the project, including an 1,100 seat church, parish hall, rectory and expanded parking, has been estimated at \$5 million.

A fund raising and awareness campaign is underway to "arouse Aurora", increase church attendance and raise money for the new church.

Writers to launch book

A group of people from the Aurora Writers Group has produced a book that will officially launch Saturday, January 21st.

Aurora Storyalis is a collection of poetry, prose, memoirs and commentary by members of the group.

The 64-page compilation is the result of many months work and will be available at selected outlets in Aurora for \$8.

Proceeds of the book's sale will go to writing development activities.

The official launch will take place

at the Aurora Public Library from 1 to 4 p.m.

Featured during the event will be author readings and live jazz.

The book, of course, will be available for sale and purchasers may get authors to autograph it.

Currently, arrangements have been made for the book to be sold at Turners and Pages Books in St. Andrew's Shopping Centre, and R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street.

The Aurora Writers Group meets monthly at the Aurora Town Hall.



Hordes of people showed up New Year's Eve as the Town of Aurora held its annual First Night celebrations at the Leisure Complex. Amid the plethora of activities available for attendees was magician Danny Hamill who kept an audience of children spellbound with his tricks. Among other activities, swimming and skating were free, as was the hot chocolate.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Looking at Aurora's first six months of 2005

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

If the year 2005 was a Year of Frustration for Aurorans and Canadians, Year 2006 has to be a Year of Hope, as it couldn't get much worse.

The second 12 months of the three-year term for Aurora Council was similar to the first, only worse, with continued poor interpersonal relationships, back-biting, nit-picking, and personal attacks.

At the regional level, decisions continue to be made by the regional chairman and staff with regional council usually rubber stamping

what comes before them, as they only meet as a council once a month.

Premier Dalton McGuinty finished the year in a little stronger position than he started and that may be because he didn't have many more election promises to break.

His imposed health premium still haunts him and will continue to do so until the 2007 election.

Like Aurora Council, the minority federal government was a shambles as parties fought for power and Prime Minister Paul Martin tried desperately to hang on, until the

plug was pulled and an election called for January.

The year started off on Aurora Council with a debate over providing relief for the devastated areas of Southern Asia caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster.

Council rejected a \$1,000 donation to the Red Cross on a 5-4 vote on the basis that donations should be of a personal nature and were not within the mandate of municipal government.

The donation of \$500,000 by York Regional Council was challenged by a 7-2 vote on Aurora Council as it had been approved

without a vote of regional council in public session.

The motion included a request to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for an investigation into the legality of the expenditure.

Whether the request was sent or an answer obtained was never made known in public session and no follow-up action was taken.

For a long time officials of St. Andrews College have complained about traffic conditions on Yonge Street at the entry gate to the College for vehicles trying to make a left turn in and out of the College and for students trying to cross

Yonge Street to the bus stop on the east side.

A request was submitted to the region for traffic controls, which regional staff claimed were not warranted.

In spite of claims they were setting a dangerous precedent, regional council agreed to the controls on condition the College pay for them. This must have happened as the traffic lights were later installed.

Aurora Council adopted an interim tax levy for 2005 based on 50 per cent of the previous year's taxes with payments to be made in two

Please see page 14

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Applications for September 2006 are now being accepted for Toddler (18 months), Casa (ages 2.5 - 5 yrs) and Elementary to Grade 8

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps,

boys and girls, ages 12 to 18. Camping, canoeing, target shooting. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

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

JANUARY 3

Registration opens for candidates for the November municipal election. Candidates must complete the prescribed form and submit cash or certified cheque payable to the town for \$200 for the office of Mayor and \$100 for candidates filing for other offices. Candidates must not spend or raise any funds for their election campaign until registration has been filed. Last day for registration is September 29.

JANUARY 4

Aurora Library in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet presents "Child Safety" a free computer workshop in the Magna Room from 7 to 8.30 p.m. Register on-line, at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, Option 4.

JANUARY 10

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" at Dundee Securities Corp., 53 Wellington Street East. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Free.

The slide-illustrated lecture series, Great Galleries of Europe, starts at the Aurora Library and continues every Tuesday in January from 6 to 7.30. For more information contact Lee McTavish at 416-978-7757 or lee.mctavish@utoronto.ca.

JANUARY 11

All-candidates meeting for the upcoming federal election. Aurora Town Hall council chambers, 1 Municipal Drive, 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 18

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Luncheon meeting at the Howard Johnson Hotel with Showcase at 11.45 a.m. and lunch at 12.30 p.m. Guest speaker is Greg Skinner, Manager Corporate Affairs for TPL Group, operators of Tim Horton's. Pre-register by calling the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

JANUARY 19

The Wellington Gallery will hold Class Act II, a

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

JANUARY 20

Blood donor clinic, Town of Aurora Municipal Building lobby, 1 Municipal Drive. 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

JANUARY 26

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the Aurora Sports Dome, 115 Industrial Parkway North, behind the Aurora Legion. 7.30 a.m. Free.

Blood donor clinic, Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 2.30 to 8 p.m.

JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day at the Aurora Public Library, in partnership with The York-Simcoe Literacy Council. Stories and activities for children three to five years of age with parents or caregivers in the Lebovic Room from 2 to 2.30 p.m. Pre-register at the children's information centre or phone 905-727-9493, option 5.

JANUARY 31

Aurora Public Library presents Scrapbooking for Beginners with Tracey Borg. Registration limited to 10 adults. 6.30 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

FEBRUARY 1

Save money, stay warm and reduce greenhouse gases. Learn how at Down Draft, a seminar on home energy conservation. Presented by the Windfall Ecology Centre and the Town of Aurora's environmental advisory committee as part of its Get Eco-Fit series. 7 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. For information, call 905-841-6264.

FEBRUARY 8

Aurora Public Library presents Backyard Astronomy for Beginners with Bryan Sansom. 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Ages 12 and older. Registration limited. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MARCH 1

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents its New Member Trade Show from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Tuscany Banquet Centre on Edward Street.

Several town locations available for viewing as Aurora opens doors

A committee is currently working to bring a "Doors Open" event to Aurora this summer.

Following the success a few years ago of a similar program in Toronto, several municipalities have staged their own event, and now Aurora wants to follow suit.

When complete visitors will be able to tour 12 sites in Aurora during the day-long event.

Already lined up are the Farmers' Market, Hillary House, Royal Woodworking, St. Andrew's College, GO Transit's Aurora railway station, Baldwin's and several downtown walking tours.

Special Events Co-ordinator Shelley Ware is also working on establishing several other locations for tours, including the Masonic Lodge, Aurora Cemetery, Wells Street Public School, Oakland Hall Inn, the new seniors' centre, the old fire hall and the recently designated Wilton Barn.

Once the 12 sites are confirmed, Ms Ware will focus on volunteer recruitment from the Air Cadets and the Girl Guides of Canada.

The event is planned for Saturday, Aug. 12.

Last October Aurora

Council endorsed a recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee that the information regarding "Doors Open Aurora" be received and that staff be authorized to submit the registration fee of \$1,500 to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in order for the town to participate. Named to an approved subcommittee were Councillors Ron Wallace and Nigel Kean together from representatives of the Aurora Historical Society and other volunteers from the community.

In November a draft summary of the proposed activities for Doors Open Aurora was presented to the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Members discussed the merits of the proposed sites and suggested that the Church Street School not be included in the 2006 plan due to construction and renovations currently underway.

The Doors Open event originated in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1990 and spread rapidly under The Scottish Civic Trust. It evolved into European Heritage Days in 1991 by the Council of Europe.

By 1998, 19 million people had visited some 28,000

sites in 44 countries throughout Europe, making it the world's biggest festival of the built environment.

The concept of the event was simple. Buildings of architectural and historic significance, most of which were not normally open to the public, opened their doors for a day or a weekend.

Many provided guided tours, special exhibits, displays and performances, while others just let the visitor enjoy wandering about.

Recognizing the potential for increasing that awareness across Canada, the Heritage Foundation of Canada launched Doors Open Canada and Toronto was the first to plan such an event in 2000.

By 2002 the event had exploded with more than 100 buildings and 130,000 visitors participating.

In 2001 the Ontario Heritage Foundation began organizing a Doors Open Ontario program aimed at widening the celebration of architecture and community.

Aurora now joins other world communities in opening the doors to architectural and significant buildings in the community, not normally seen by the public.



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Resident's bombshell nearly derails budget

Aurora's 2006 Capital and Operational Budgets were scheduled to be adopted at a special council meeting held December 20, but it almost didn't happen.

Aurora resident Rebecca Beaton, a regular watchdog of council, attended the meeting and dropped a bombshell into the capital budget process, which stumped council, until procedural maneuvering broke the deadlock.

She pointed out that she had appeared before council on three occasions during the past two months to seek information regarding the proceeds from the sale of Aurora Hydro and the status of the reserve accounts, which were supposed to be made public prior to the adoption of the capital budget.

She quoted from a resolution adopted in June which stated reserve funds would remain intact until staff had presented a report to council, supposedly in September, and asked where the report was.

She also wanted to know how council could approve more than \$5.1 million in capital projects without the report.

She was supported by Councillor Nigel Kean who suggested the capital budget be delayed until council received the report, while other members said it was necessary to adopt the budget.

Aurora resident Stephen Granger presented a detailed analysis of the proposed budget.

He referred to the reserve accounts and noted none of the figures seemed to balance.

He questioned why council needed a tax increase of 7.9 per cent when there was more than \$34 million sitting in saving accounts, plus \$13.8 million, which is more than double what had been stated as reserves in the past.

He also suggested a number of items that could be deferred such as the \$650,000 astro turf sports field and the \$300,000 baseball facility.

A letter was also received from Tak Kwan complaining about the high taxes in Aurora compared with surrounding municipalities and asked that council cut back on the budget and look for efficiencies before residents started to move out of town due to high taxes.

Prior to the two delegations, Treasurer John Gutteridge provided an update on the 2006 budget of which the municipal portion at \$21.6 million, is up 12 per cent over 2005.

With growth factored in, the budget will increase in the municipal portion by 7.9 per cent, the same increase as last year. The total operating budget was shown as \$40.2 million.

When the regional budget increase of 2.9 per cent and zero increase for the school boards is included, the increase in municipal property taxes is 3.62 per cent after growth or \$85 on a property assessed at \$296,000.

He pointed out that the original outlook for 2006 was for a net tax requirement of \$23.8 million or \$178 on the average assessed home.

The outlook for 2007 is a requirement of \$24.2 million or \$102 on the average home and in 2008 a requirement of \$26.1 million, an increase of \$52.

Inflation accounts for 28 per cent of the 2006 increase, 31 per cent mandatory, 27 per cent annualization for staff hired in 2005, eight per cent for growth, five per cent non-recurring expenses and one per cent for new programs.

Councillor Ron Wallace sought clarification of how an increase of 7.9 per cent for municipal purposes could translate into a tax increase of 3.62 per cent.

The treasurer replied it was a blended increase as the total tax bill included both levies from the region at \$28.1 million and school boards at \$23.8 million.

In response to the presentation made by Granger regarding what appeared to be differences in the reserve accounts, the treasurer explained there are reserve funds which are legislated such as Development Charges and reserves which council has designated for specific purposes and when put together make up the total as shown in the previous report.

Councillor Damir Vrancic referred to a previous report in which it was pointed out that some of the reserves were in a negative position and questioned the current status to which the treasurer replied that certain capital projects had been deleted to prevent reserves from being underfunded.

The treasurer advised against using reserves to lower tax levies claiming it only created more problems in future years.

The total of capital projects included in the 2006 budget is \$10.4 million, but when it came time to discuss it, questions were asked about the June motion brought to council's attention by Ms Beaton,

which had not been fulfilled.

The majority of council wanted to proceed with the passage of the capital budget and suggested as a compromise that although the budget was passed, none of the reserve funds would be spent until the promised report was received.

However others were uncomfortable approving the budget without the report on reserves which had been adopted by council the previous June.

When the vote on the capital budget was called it was adopted on a 5-4 vote with Councillors Wendy Gaertner, Nigel Kean, Phyllis Morris and Damir Vrancic in opposition.

Two items were discussed on the 2006 operating budget, bylaw enforcement and the use of \$920,000 from the interest earned on the Hydro Sales Investment Fund.

When Aurora Hydro was de-regulated the town provided the utility with a promissory note for approximately \$13 million for which the town received \$920,000 in annual interest payments.

With the sale of Aurora Hydro the interest payment was lost and without replacement taxes would increase by an additional 4.5 per cent resulting in the proposal to use interest from the Hydro Investment Fund.

Council held several special general committee meetings to which the public was invited to discuss the budget in detail. For the first time, the budget consisted of three parts, a business plan for each department, a capital budget and an operating budget.

The process started last May when council adopted a recommendation of the Finance Advisory Committee that the CAO and Treasurer draft a report providing a new methodology and philosophy in preparing the 2006 budget.

It was also proposed that a two-stage process be developed with the first stage focusing on the base budget including inflationary and annualization pressures with the second stage dealing with growth and enhancement proposals.

By approving the budget before the end of 2005, departments had a full 12 months to implement their programs and be in a position to call tenders earlier for better results.



60th

Popular Aurora residents for 35 years Jean and Les Shiner celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last week at Aurora's new seniors' centre building. Currently they live in Newmarket. Documents acknowledging the event were presented to the couple by Aurora Mayor Tim Jones.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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Poor Richard

2006: will it be year of hope?

*Laughter is better than tears,
As the events of 2005 pass by;
Year 2006 has to be better,
Or we'll all sit down and cry!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

What will the year 2006 hold in store for Aurorans and Canadians?

Now that the New Year is nicely underway, let's take a look at the past year and polish up the crystal ball for a look at the future, as Poor Richard sees it.

It was a year of dithering in Ottawa as Prime Minister Paul Martin announced great plans for sweeping Ottawa clean, clearing up the democratic deficit, fixing medicare and developing a new vision for Canada, but not following through on any of them.

Locally, the big event of the federal scene was Newmarket/Aurora Conservative MP Belinda Stronach crossing the floor to join the Liberals and help pass the budget and being rewarded with a Cabinet post.

Leader Stephen Harper went from crisis to crisis while his party was falling apart around him, wearing his rose-coloured glasses and eating hamburgers, as he dreamed of living at 22 Sussex Street.

In Ontario, Premier Dalton McGuinty stopped breaking as many election promises, possibly because there weren't that many left unbroken.

He took a strong stand against the federal government over unbalanced transfer payments and ended the year in a stronger position than he started.

Locally, regional council continues to rubber-stamp staff and committee recommendations as they sit in the fancy council chambers once a month while drawing their \$40,963 annual salary.

Aurora Council was so dysfunctional that at times members have difficulty agreeing to the adoption of the agenda or the minutes as they broke almost every rule of parliamentary procedure and their procedural bylaw.

The year 2006 has to be better as it couldn't get much worse.

There will be a federal and a municipal election during the year, with the province not going to the polls until 2007.

Poor electors will have a difficult time trying to decide who to vote for at the federal level, as trust in politicians and political parties has reached a new low and many will decline to vote.

With the poor leadership of Stephen Harper in opposition and Paul Martin having time to bring forward a new budget with lots of election goodies, Canada is in for another minority government, most likely Liberal.

The one bright spot about the election is that it will bring about a leadership race in both the Conservative and Liberal parties, which hopefully will bring in new blood and new ideas.

Locally, although it could be a tough race, look for the re-election of Belinda Stronach as a Liberal MP, due to her hard work in Ottawa and in the constituency and her sincerity, which is rare for a politician.

It could be a three-way election race for Mayor of Aurora and the outcome is always difficult to predict.

Councillor Nigel Kean has already declared that he will be a candidate and it is believed Councillor Phyllis Morris will throw her hat into the ring and no doubt incumbent Tim Jones will seek another term, although neither has made a commitment to run.

While there is a mounting anti-Jones mood among the electors, it will likely be split between Kean and Morris allowing Jones to sneak up through the centre to win.

Due to general dissatisfaction with the current members of council, there will be a lot of newcomers bidding for seats and if they're smart, they'll starting attending council and committee meetings to become familiar with the issues.

Councillor Ron Wallace will not likely seek re-election and with Kean and Morris running for Mayor there will be at least three vacancies.

Councillor Evelyn Buck and John West may have difficulty getting elected if they decide to run as they just barely made it last time and Councillor Bill Hogg shouldn't run unless he can promise better attendance.

That leaves Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Damir Vrancic, so there will be lots of seats available.

If 2005 was a Year of Despair, 2006 has to be a Year of Hope.



Continuing with our series of students from the early days of Aurora Public School (Church Street School) we offer you the Grade 3 class from 1947. Isobel Hayes was the teacher of the class that occupied the southeast corner of the first floor of the building. There were 30 students, including, front row, left to right, Glen Judd, Trevor Yake, Raymond White, Douglas Rose, Robert Higgins, Tommy Duff and Frank Pattenden. In the second row, left to right, are Margaret Dennis, Rosalie Hadfield, Beverly Bird, Penny Grieves, Wanda Ellis, Gail Bunt, Nancy Stocks and Rosalie Rose. Third row, left to right, are Douglas McInnis, Fred Bolsby, Jill Morning, Jane Kincaid, Alice Wells, Dennis Mills and John Offord. In the back row, left to right, are Fred Barwick, Larry Spence, Ross Patrick, Robert Atkinson, Bill Wray, Jimmy Cosgrove, Ronald Holloway and Bruce McRae. The photograph was supplied by Wanda (Ellis) Eveliegh of Cookstown.

Letters to the Editor

Toronto shooting shows racism exists in society

To the editor,

The dramatic gun shootings of several innocent bystanders in downtown Toronto Dec. 27, tell us that something is wrong in our society.

There have also been other cases of shootings in both the west and east suburban parts of Toronto in the past year.

Is this gun violence a sign of the times in Toronto now?

In fact, 52 out of the 78 murders in Toronto, in 2005, have been conducted by gunfire.

It seems that it is now dangerous to even walk in public places in town now. Toronto can no longer be called the "good".

What is the root cause of this violence?

People quickly say

that a disproportional numbers of the murder victims have been Afro-Canadians, shot by Afro-Canadians.

It may be due to cultural and gang warfare.

The police point out that the DVD "Repping Doomstown" by the "Squad", which is a group of black youths from the Jamestown Cripps Crew, baited and dared another group of black youths, the Ardwick Bloods, to fire back at them with guns on the streets.

The images of violence by guns in our media may spark this type of violence.

From video games, TV shows, rock videos to the feature movies in the theatres, many glorify gun violence in our society.

Guns are now part of our

culture.

No political ban on hand guns will stop this violence.

Even though it may sound good to say "ban hand guns" and to advocate harsher jail sentences for gun related types of crime, it may be more important to look at the cultural reasons for this violence.

The poor socio-economic opportunities for the black youth in our city are a reality.

Black youths have significantly higher drop-out rates from high school than white high school students.

Racism exists in our society and we need to deal with this social problem now.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

"Good Samaritan" replaces lost cash

To the editor,

After appealing to the public recently to help in the return of my young son's lost wallet, we were pleasantly surprised by the kindness of a "Good Samaritan" who left a very generous monetary gift at The Auroran newspaper office for my son, to replace what was lost in his wallet and then some.

I would just like to say that the expression on my son's face and the joy he felt, that a stranger could care

so much, was worth more than any amount of money.

I am proud to live in a community that has such a kind-hearted person as Mr. Shant Ghazarian, and if you are reading this, Mr. Ghazarian, I would like you to know that your gesture has made this Christmas very special for my son, and for me as well, and we thank you very much for being the exceptionally kind person that you are.

K. White
Aurora

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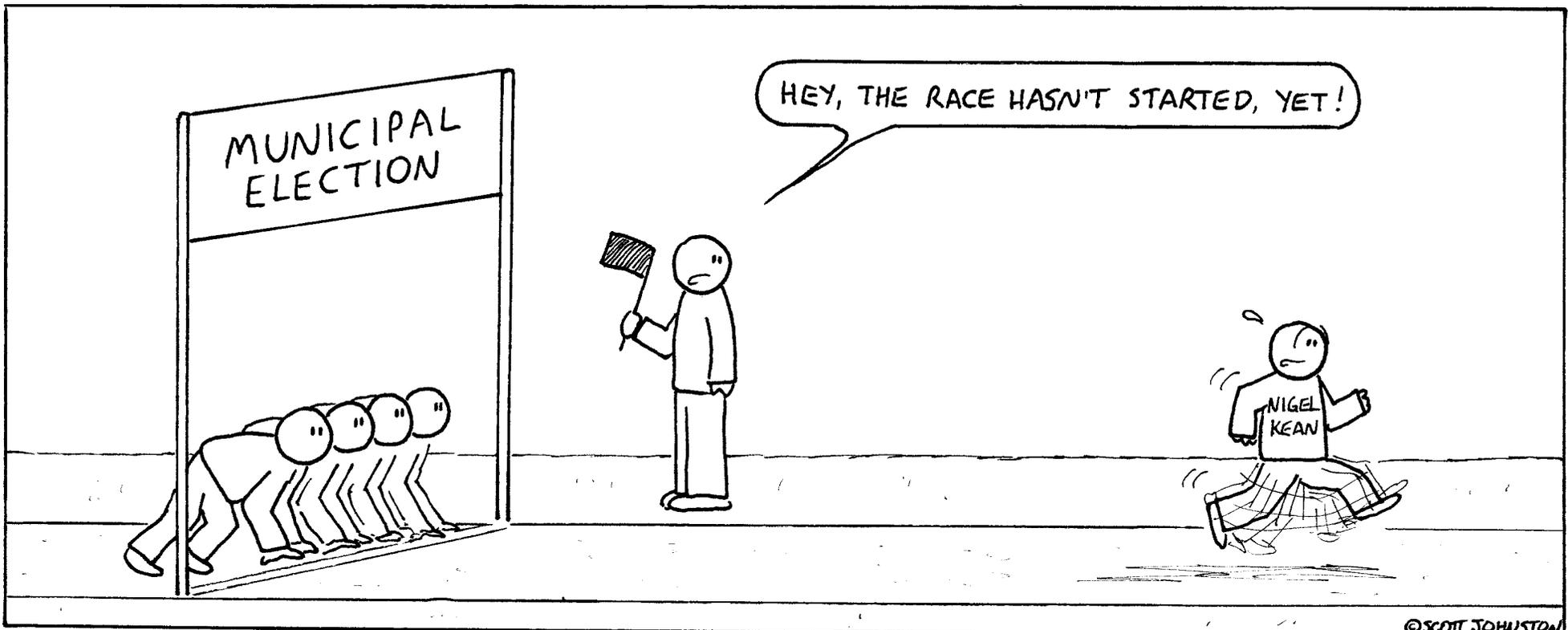
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Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

As Mayor of the Town I chair the Town of Aurora budget deliberations, and as Aurora's Regional representative, I am the Chairperson of the Region's Finance and Administration Committee which oversees the Regional budget.

Both the Town and the Region have been successful in completing their 2006 budgets before year end.

For Aurora residents, the tax dollar is derived from three main sources, the Town, the Region and the Board of Education.

Although we have not yet received official word, it is anticipated that the Board of Education requirement to Aurora will remain the same and thus there will be no budget increase in that area.

On Thursday, December 14th, the Region passed its 2006 budget with a 2.9 per cent increase and, on Tuesday, December 20th, Aurora Council passed the Town budget at a 7.9 per cent increase.

When you fold this all together, it means a 3.27 per cent increase to the residents of the Town, bottom line.

Incorporated in this increase at all levels is the cost of living increase which takes into account such items as salary increases for staff and increases in the resources we need to heat our buildings and run our vehicles.

In addition, also included in this 3.27 per cent increase, we are realizing some significant benefits.

At the Regional level, we will receive a full year's worth of Viva Transit service, the new rapid transit service up and down Yonge Street and, yes, I see riders in these buses using this service.

The major components of the \$1.6 billion 2006 Regional budget includes the following:

- \$214 million for York Region Transit and Viva Rapid Transit.
- \$43 million for public health (including for program enhancements and 21 new staff).
- \$32 million for solid waste management.
- \$35 million for Emergency Medical Services (including for the operation of an additional ambulance, six paramedics and a supervisor).
- \$189 million for York Regional Police (including the addition of 67 officers and 35 civilian members).
- \$220 million for roads.
- \$425 million for water and wastewater.
- \$65 million for Family and Children's Services.

With consideration to the Town budget, Council has held three open budget review meetings and is facing numerous challenges regarding new services to the Town.

We have had to take into account the new staffing, heating and operating expenses for two new ice pads, one new pool, a new fire hall, a new seniors' centre, an increase for road reconstruction to maintain our transportation infrastructure, costs associated with running an election and other internal new staffing requirements in our finance and legal departments.

The overall Region budget for 2006 is in the area of \$1.6 billion and the overall Aurora budget is \$21,610,571.

I would like to recognize the hard work of our staff, in particular our management team including our new treasurer who has only been in the job for three months as well as our Chief Administrative Officer for whom this is his first Aurora budget.

Considering we have advanced our budget timetable from March, 2006, to December, 2005, in order to take advantage of earlier tendering opportunities, as well as coping with a new financial system and new budget preparation expectations which include developing business plans and key performance indicators, I think we will be much better served in the years to come.

For easier understanding, this year our budget influences were categorized into costs that are considered inflationary, as well as those costs that are annualized from the current year and mandatory as per Provincial legislation, and costs that are caused by growth and those services that are enhanced.

For all the Town of Aurora budget information, check the internet at <http://www.town.aurora.on.ca/notice/A-Treasury/BudgetInformation2006.htm>

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@e-aurora.ca



Cathy's Corner



2005: a memorable year

Looking back, 2005 has been a memorable year. In January, exhausted from renovating, I went to Florida to spend some quality time with my mother and my sister. It was hard. Three women, sun, surf, and fine Napa Valley wine...

I did my best and it was...gone. In the meantime, Ron wrote Cathy's Corner and told you all about Fred - one of many inspiring volunteers at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Some people just want to make the world a better place...I say we let them!

In February, we went to Cuba - all inclusive. Yup, we took the in-laws.

It was tense - we almost left them in Castroland.

Turns out that the (critical) piece of paper they give you upon arrival is your ticket out, and trust me, at the end of the week, you want out!

My mother-in-law lost hers, so I suggested that she do something to get herself deported.

Hey, I was just trying to be helpful!

But miracles do happen: she's still speaking to me.

In March, Nadia turned 19, beginning the pattern of milestone birthdays that 2005 would bring to almost every member of our family.

We weren't overly alarmed when Nadia came home from the bar tour looking a little green around the gills. since she is a St. Patrick's Day baby,

April brought my 45th birthday, and Damir asked me: "What do you want for your birthday?"

I was ready.

"I want 45 friends," I said, "and I want to party, party, party!"

"You have 45 friends?" he asked, looking impressed.

Hey, if I had 45 friends, would I be asking for 45 friends for my birthday?

Sometimes I wonder about that man ...

In May, I got my 45 "friends": a pair of ducks, an assortment of chipmunks, squirrels, and raccoons, three dozen rabbits, and a skunk who hates my dog.

I always loved animals, but ever since they cleaned me out of tulips and vegetables, I've been sympathizing with Wiley Coyote!

In June, Tim graduated from high school but we convinced him to stay in Aurora for one more year. Partly because the idea of three tuition bills gave us the willy-nil-lies, but mostly because the "completely empty nest" thing gave us the heebie-jeebies.

In July, Damir and I celebrated 23 years of blissful incarceration in the institution of marriage.

I wrote a warm and fuzzy column that got me feeling nostalgic and romantic and then...everything changed.

My computer crashed, I got a really bad haircut, and Jake met the skunk. It was a bad month.

In August, Nadia went to Southlake to get her tonsils out.

Fred was there. God bless Fred - and all the other volunteers who give so much of themselves to help others.

Nadia found out that "sore throat for about a week" is the medical terminology for "excruciating, debilitating, intolerable pain for about seven days...and then it gets worse".

In early September, Jennifer celebrated her 21st birthday, just before she and Nadia left Aurora to go back to school, giving the house that hollow feeling. I hate that hollow feeling...

It was worse this year.

By September the world had lost two beautiful people: my publisher, Rosemary Schumaker, and my cousin Sana.

The emptiness will never go away, but the memory of loved ones lost in 2005 will last another lifetime in the hearts of those who continue to cherish their lives.

In October, Damir turned 50 and I asked him what he wanted for his birthday.

"Peace on Earth," he said, "but I'll settle for peace in Council Chambers!"

As you can see, he didn't get it.

November brought Tim's 18th birthday, which rendered this house officially childless.

I published "No More Children", and all that week, people asked: "So, where did Tim go?" It gave me the heebie-jeebies.

He's still here - merely converted from boy to young man, which means that Aurora can still look forward to more of my motherly blubbing when Tim flies the coop next fall.

In December I became afflicted with coal-in-my-stock-in-phobia.

The cause was most definitely "Oh Roarora", but when Dick Illingworth gave me a bouquet, I was instantly cured! Dick is my hero!

After that, I got into the Christmas spirit and decked the banisters with boughs of prickly holly, only to awaken to a very harsh reality: Where will we hang our coats now?

As the year comes to an end, I realize that 2005 has been a year of milestones, endings and beginnings - the kind of year whose tears and laughter will touch many years to come.

Happy New Year, Aurora - may 2006 be rewarding, fulfilling and memorable!

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to members of Aurora Council for setting a new record, as for the first time in a long time the minutes of a general committee meeting were adopted without a single item being lifted for further discussion before the TV cameras. Maybe they're learning?

But **BRICKBATS** to the same members for failure to activate desk microphones when a recorded vote is called as the audience in the council chambers and the TV audience are left wondering how the members voted. Just push the button!

BOUQUETS to the York Region Food Network for making the public more aware of hunger in the region's neighbourhoods. During the past year the eight food banks in the region fed more than 44,000 people including 19,000 children. That's approximately the population of Aurora.

BRICKBATS to Town officials for allowing newspaper boxes and trailer signs to be placed in such a position that they block the view of oncoming traffic. It is almost impossible to see southbound traffic in the curb lane exiting Ransom Street at Yonge due to paper vending boxes.

More **BRICKBATS** for the lack of visibility for motorists trying to exit the little plaza on the east side of Yonge Street just north of Mark Street due to a large mobile sign which blocked the visibility of northbound cars on Yonge Street. Action is needed by the town's bylaw enforcement officers!

Belated **BOUQUETS** to the 38 cadets of the Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps on being promoted to the next higher rank at a special parade held recently. Bonita Boston was promoted from Master Warrant Officer to Chief Warrant Officer.

BRICKBATS to a Corrections Canada program that quietly pays convicted murderers to supervise other prisoners on community outings or transfers to half way houses. According to the government department, lifers are paid a salary of \$41,000 a year, much higher than many law-abiding taxpayers earn. It just doesn't make any sense!

BOUQUETS to Nick Raconelli on his appointment to the Committee of Adjustment and to Ms Nadine Raymond on being appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

BRICKBATS to the members of the selection committee for including Todd Bertuzzi on Team Canada to represent Canada in the Olympics after his unprovoked attack on Steve Moore in 2004. He should be banned from hockey for life or at least until Moore is fit to return to the game.

BOUQUETS to Tom Yates, a member of the Aurora Seniors Association, for taking a series of pictures of the new Seniors Centre at various stages of its construction and presenting the pictures to the town as a token of affection for what he termed a "hell of a place".

BRICKBATS to the unknown person or persons responsible for distributing a card criticizing Belinda Stronach for saying she liked 50 Cent music and looked forward to going to his concert and asking "Does Belinda represent You?" but whoever it was didn't have the guts to sign it.

More **BRICKBATS** to whoever planted the story in the National Post that Belinda Stronach had overspent during the 2004 election campaign and was being investigated by Elections Canada which was denied. The timing is suspicious!

Letters to the Editor

Consider ward system now: reader

To the editor,

I would like to congratulate The Auroran for presenting the question to its readers of whether they would be in support of a ward system of local government.

This question has appeared a number of times but has failed to be presented formally to the general Aurora electors. Why is that?

Historically, Aurora had such an issue brought up when the population was around 15-20,000.

The request had gone as far as the OMB but was defeated primarily because the population was not large enough.

Well, the population today in 2005 is around 45,000 with expectations of 60,000 by 2011 according to development plans.

Anyone driving near the Bayview Avenue area can see the huge new developments happening. So when exactly should we "consider" the ward system question?

I say now!

I've lived in Aurora 20 years and consider the Town very friendly in atmosphere. I have served on many community committees and events.

Whether people are new or older residents doesn't matter. We all have special interests as Aurorans and feel a uniqueness as a Character Community!

What I don't agree with is when voter turnout statistics are used to infer that newcomers are "not quite as zealous".

This creates an unfair perception and otherwise nonexistent division within the Town. The simple "us" versus "them" approach clouds this important democratic Town discussion.

To anyone who has researched the ward system and I refer to the Municipal Act, and the Municipal Elections Act, 2001, there are no requirements that a candidate has to actually live in the ward boundaries in order to be considered a potential candidate.

The candidate only has to qualify to be able to run in the municipality. I was given this information directly from the representative for the government Municipal Act department.

So when it is mentioned as a point that "some areas of the Town might not have a candidate," this is not true.

Another important point mentioned, was that cur-

rent councillors who live in a specific ward have to only run in that ward. This is not true. They can choose which ward they wish to run in. Section 256 was mentioned here.

These are two key primary examples of misinformation which can distort the pros and cons of the ward system versus the at-large system.

Under the Municipal Act both systems can be voted in or out with specific criteria being met to assure fairness to all the electors.

There is a lot of mixed emotions on this subject but not enough formal debate.

There is a process in which specific criteria outlining benefits for a ward system can be considered.

One key area would be to allow for the "preservation of community integrity and function, i.e., the historic downtown area of Aurora could be distinctly recognized as having special significance. This is currently done but it could be enhanced. Also note that other areas would be considered in the community. There are currently 13 ratepayer groups alone who have special interests.

Some readers mentioned the need to have

more government accountability, accessibility and communication.

As mentioned, how better a way to accomplish this than through a well thought out ward system.

It was mentioned that poor voter turnout is always a problem and shows a lack of interest by the electors.

Maybe this could be changed through the ward system by having potential candidates campaign more specifically in certain areas thereby generating more interest from the potential voters to participate?

As far as the ward system causing the councillor to lose interest in the whole Town, this doesn't make sense when there would be seven other ward/councillor positions remaining.

There would still be a significant voting public to be concerned with and there are issues which can affect all areas of Town.

All ward councillors would therefore have to look out for all interests and team work would become very important!

The one big difference would be the direct accountability to the ward citizen.

Being unapproachable here would not work.

Neighbourhoods could grow to be more recognizable and distinctly promoted by each individual councillor adding potentially much more value to the community on the whole!

At this point it's too late to have a ward system by the next election. However, it should be the time for the voters be given an opportunity to vote in a fair and formal democratic referendum (on the elector ballot) to say "yes" or "no" for the consideration of implementing a ward system. Here is a real chance to make a difference by asking your present councillors to put the question forward to all Aurorans!

Stephen Granger
Aurora

Unleashed dogs spoil Bush stroll

To the editor,

On Sunday mornings after a big breakfast, my family and I love to head over to Sheppard's Bush for a nice walk along the lovely trails down in the ravine.

Aside from the odd piece of litter I pull out of the stream, it's a great experience for all of us, except for one real problem that we always seem to encounter.

Dogs not on leashes!

My five and seven-year-old boys are a little afraid of dogs and find themselves frozen with fear when a dog comes running down the path towards them, the

owner often nowhere in sight.

My kids do not know whether or not the animal is friendly, and neither do I, so I usually jump in front of my children in a protective stance until I can determine its temperament or until the owner shows up.

These unfortunate incidents seem to happen two or three times per outing, and take away from the peaceful enjoyment of our walk.

There are signs posted all along the trails informing owners that leashes are mandatory, yet I rarely see them being used.

Please, dog owners, use your leash!

You may know that your pet is friendly but others you encounter out for a walk, do not!

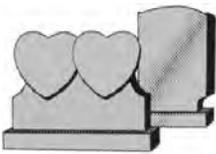
M. Chisholm
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ED. NOTE: And some owners may tell you a dog is friendly when it isn't, as the editor painfully found out a few weeks ago.

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Here's our chance to get the country back on track

To the editor,

The sad and sorry Liberals are defeated in parliament on a vote of non-confidence! Hurrah!

Now they stand disgraced before thinking Canadians and must face the contempt of a Canada which expects the highest standard of conduct from elected representatives and who, I expect, will vote accordingly.

This election is a watershed in Canadian politics with corruption exposed, but not adequately investigated, for which \$40,000,000 is unaccounted, and probably for which an accounting will never be made.

No member of the Liberal party showed enough enthusiasm or sufficient energy to attempt to compel the administration to take the required measures needed to provide an honest closure to the sponsorship scandal. And the scandal remains as a scar corrupting the political scene of Canada!

The Liberals are defeated! Wanton lack of ethics is shown the highway! Now we have a chance to get the country back on course.

The Conservatives have come out of the starting gate with authority, and in a heartbeat they have transformed our perception of Steven Harper, a decent pragmatic man, though uncomfortable in the scrum of political limelight. He will improve in this area.

I am a man supportive of plural political parties that the one in power may be deposed from time to time for cause.

The Liberal time had come, and so they are gone!

If the Tories spent too long in power I would be equally uneasy, and probably search for a viable alternative.

The part of the electorate that votes, determines who will form the next government; we, you and me, are the myriad anonymous citizens of Canada that maintain democracy in Canada.

If we had a great deficiency of voters, we would have a different form of government.

The Liberal record on maintenance of a viable, mobile armed force is laughable, and compelling our young men to fly the 40-year-old, antiquated Sea King helicopters is monstrously shameful.

There is easily enough reason to seek a new government on this issue alone.

Would you willingly allow your man to fly in one of them, or would you accept a ride in one. Would you feel safe being rescued from some disaster at sea in one of them on some dark and stormy night? Their answer is a resounding no, and I warrant there is not a reader of these words in disagreement!

I wonder when the last time was, a member of the Liberal elite elected to fly in a Sea King to some pressing engagement. I bet they would walk before accepting a ride in a Sea King!

After 12 years of Liberal administration, how do you view the state of our health care?

Have you confidence that a hospital bed will be found for you or your loved one if needed?

From my experience I do not have confidence in Canadian health care; it has let me down seriously on two occasions.

The Liberals have had 12 years of administration to put the Canadian house in excellent order, with surpluses of money for many of those years. They failed us.

I view the Liberals as a spent force, with the gift of spending

Canadian taxpayer money to buy votes.

They are masters at dissembling or baffle-gab, whichever word you prefer. Unfortunately, many voters are impressed with the delivery of words and not the content or meaning conveyed.

I find the present Liberal elite seriously maladroit in the administration of Canadian affairs, and wish them gone!

The Conservative Party, led by Steven Harper is a new bright hope, with a reputation for honest, methodical and competent administration.

We can find our entertainment elsewhere, while in the meantime, they promise the honesty and competence that is sadly deficient under the Liberals.

Brian Warburton
Aurora

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Real reason for the letter

To the editor,

I'm replying to Stewart Ivoll's letter in the December 13th Auroran re the "dumbest all-way stop signs" at Murray and Mosaiscs.

I travel that route four or five times a week and find these signs a vast improvement over the previous free-for-all.

Incidentally, the only accident I have had in more than 40 years of driving was at the Murray access to Canadian Tire.

However, the real purpose of this letter is to find out if it will be printed with just "Aurora resident" as the signature - as was the letter stating that "Belinda deserves to be our member".

Aurora resident

Sheppard's field has lights, but it will cost to turn them on

Last March Aurora's Leisure Services Advisory Committee noted there were numerous advantages to installing artificial turf over natural turf, including savings in maintenance costs.

It was estimated there could be a lifetime saving of more than \$600,000.

The issue arose because existing facilities at Fleury Park, Optimist Park and the Legion were overused and showing a steady decline.

With the approval of the Soccer Bubble Agreement last July, staff recommended the relocation of the light standards from the Legion field to Sheppard's Bush at a cost of \$20,000.

In response to council's direction, staff prepared a capital budget submission for consideration to provide an artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush.

During discussions on the 2006 capital budget Councillor Nigel Kean noted the \$650,000 cost for the Sheppard's Bush Sports Field was extrava-

gant in a year when council was looking for ways to cut the budget.

He suggested that the project be postponed.

Staff replied that the facility under its current use was satisfactory but if lit as requested the surface would rapidly deteriorate.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the loss of a lit field after previously approving the removal of the lights to Sheppard's Bush and he was disappointed about receiving an incomplete report.

Staff pointed out that if the field was lit, there would be more playing, especially by adults and for a longer season so that the natural turf would soon become

unplayable.

On a 5-4 vote it was agreed to postpone consideration of the astro turf until 2007.

Councillor Bill Hogg suggested council authorize an expenditure of \$48,000 to activate the lights at Sheppard's Bush and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee work out a system to restrict the use of the field.

It was also requested that staff check with user groups to see if they would be willing to partner with the costs.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said that if the field was lit, it would be almost impossible to control its use and it didn't make sense to activate the lights without installing astro turf.

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Aurora Montessori and Private School students and parents delivered Christmas gifts and turkey dinners with all the trimmings, to 11 less-fortunate families from the Newmarket and Aurora area just prior to Christmas. Turkeys were donated by Peter's Food Shop in Aurora, while gifts came from staff, parents and students from Aurora Montessori. In the top photo, a Grade 1-2 class shows off gifts donated to the Leeder Place Shelter in Newmarket, while parents and students from AMS load gifts and food in preparation for delivery in the bottom photo. They are, left to right, Olivia Clark, Mrs. Mirela Ismanescu, Isabelle Ismanescu, Olivia Railton and Mrs. Joanne Railton.

Collins controversy just won't go away

The controversy over the reconstruction of Collins Crescent has been ongoing since 2003, and is kept alive by resident Wayne Bando, a former regional municipal roads engineer, who appeared at an Aurora committee meeting recently.

He discussed what he claimed to be the failure of the works department to complete the driveways at 38 and 42 Collins Crescent in accordance with tender documents.

He displayed several photographs of places behind the curbs where top soil and sodding had not been completed, and claimed the topsoil delivered in the fall of 2003 was faulty.

During his many appearances since the

reconstruction, he has been critical of the works department for their lack of communication with residents and failure to complete the work.

Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson told committee members staff had dealt with Bando's neighbour regarding his driveway but had been unable to contact Bando.

He said the topsoil and

the sodding would be looked after next spring but asked for council direction regarding what was said to be a hump in the curb at the end of the driveway.

Committee members agreed residents have the right to have property restored when inadequate construction was carried out and directed staff to fix the problems.

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Aurora's still plagued by speeding motorists

Over the years, and last year was no exception, one of the major complaints before Aurora Council has been the lack of control over speeding on residential streets.

Delegation after delegation appeared before council demanding lower speed limits, more stop signs, speed humps or anything to slow motorists. In May, 1990, York Regional Police said speeding was a contributing factor in 42 per cent of traffic accidents.

As a result they launched the "Speeding Slows You Down" campaign and targeted the roads where accidents and fatalities had occurred.

In August, 1990, the province increased fines for speeding offences. The increases were based on the philosophy that if motorists were hit in the pocketbook, they would slow down.

Due to citizens' demands Aurora approved multi-way stops at intersections in an effort to slow down traffic, in spite of a 1991 study that said four-way stops were not effective in slowing traffic in residential neighbourhoods.

In October, 1994, faced with on-going citizen complaints about speeding on residential streets and a demand for more and more stop signs, council directed staff to seek alternative solutions.

Staff reported on traffic calming devices in use in other jurisdictions such as speed humps and obstructions placed on roadways causing traffic to weave around them.

By September, 1995, council was besieged by angry citizens demanding action, even to the extent of closing roads to motor vehicles. Councillors replied lack of law enforcement was the problem.

As a result council approached York Regional Police to hire pay-duty officers to enforce speed limits on various streets and asked that any fines collected be directed to the

municipality to help pay for the cost.

Former Police Chief Bryan Cousineau recommended a one-month trial but the Police Services Board rejected the request.

The request was repeated in October, 1997, and was approved with Aurora designating hot spots.

The pilot test, although considered successful, was short lived.

When Acting Police Chief Peter Scott assumed command, he expressed concerns about the pay-duty officers and said the issue should be the responsibility of the police, not the municipality.

The Board's solicitor advised there was no authority in the Municipal Act to permit a municipality to spend tax dollars to hire off-duty police officers

resulting in the Board rejecting Aurora's request for continued use of the pay-duty officers.

Council received so many requests for lower speed limits that in August, 1996, it petitioned the province to amend the Highway Traffic Act to empower municipalities to enact a 40 km/hr speed limit in residential areas.

The province replied that the legislation authorizes municipalities to establish speed limits within the municipality, other than the standard 50 km/hr, providing signs are posted within specified distances.

About the same time, council approved a Roadwatch program, a community-based initiative in which residents were asked to report speeding and aggressive motorists to police.

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Lasagna

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907 g/2 lb

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8-12 PORTIONS

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Deluxe 920 g/2.03 lb
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Entertainment was the name of the game Sunday afternoon as the Aurora Tigers hosted an all-star hockey team from Russia and narrowly won the game 5-4. The West Siberian Under-20 all-star squad put on a skillful display of hockey, but Aurora was up for the challenge. The visitors, in blue, trailed 5-1 early in the third period, but rallied with an amazing comeback only to fall a goal short at the end of regulation time. About 1,000 fans were at the Aurora Community Centre for the game.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Tigers hang on to edge visitors

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team got the surprise of its life Sunday afternoon after they gave up a third period 5-1 lead but held on to edge a visiting Russian all-star team 5-4 Sunday afternoon.

For 40 minutes, the Tigers controlled the visitors and were well on their way to an easy win until the third period struck.

More than 1,000 people, probably the largest crowd of the year, watched the game at the Aurora Community Centre and saw Aurora open a 3-0 lead before the visitors could get untracked.

Earlier, the Russian squad had been edged in a very physical game in Niagara Falls, and it appeared they wanted no part of that brand of hockey.

Aurora, at every opportunity, slammed their opponents into the boards, forcing numerous puck giveaways.

The visitors were not without speed and power, however, and only the solid goaltending of Jeremie Dupont kept the locals in the game.

He stopped a couple of breakaways and was successful in ending his 30-minute shift with a shutout.

Ryan Dickie, Aurora's other goaltender, was tagged for all four Russian goals, including three in the final 20 minutes, which suddenly made the game very interesting.

The touring hockey team has been in Canada since Christmas and in four games, managed two wins and two losses.

They were scheduled to play two more contests before returning home this week.

Tigers led 2-0 after the first period of play, in which both teams had 10 shots on goal.

Aurora got markers from Doug Henderson and Daniel Michalsky, the only Aurora player on the team.

Michalsky scored his goal with fewer than four seconds remaining in the first period.

Tigers went up 3-1 in the second, then scored two quick goals early in the third, barely enough as the Russians came charging back.

The visitors opted for an

extra attacker late in the game but could not come up with the equalizer.

Prior to the game's start, players exchanged gifts, and MP Belinda Stronach presented the visitors with a Canadian flag.

Aurora was well rested for the match Sunday, since their last league game was at the Community Centre two days before Christmas.

At that time a single goal by Fraser Smith, with help from Chad Kennedy and Mike Martinelli, was enough to give the locals a 1-0 victory over the North York Rangers.

Ryan Dickie posted the shutout with 29 saves.

It was Aurora's third shutout in a row, after they defeated Seguin 6-0 and

Pickering 8-0 in earlier games.

Aurora plays a home game Wednesday night, then will disappear for a lengthy road trip that won't see them back in Aurora until Jan. 20.

Then, to wind up the season, the Tigers will play six home games, just what the doctor ordered, since the club is tough to beat on its own ice.

One away game to watch is scheduled for Jan. 19 when Aurora travels to Newmarket for a match against the Hurricanes.

Aurora and Newmarket councils have agreed that whoever wins the game, the losing council will wear the sweaters of the winners at a subsequent council meeting.

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OMHA tried to curtail boy's hockey career

In December, 1983, in the middle of a Silver Stick Regional Qualifying Tournament, Ontario Minor Hockey Association officials ruled that Quang Ly, a prolific scorer for the Aurora McDonald's Peewees, was no longer eligible to play for his team.

OMHA officials claimed they had received reports that Ly was not 11 years old, the age of the minor peewee level, but was actually 13.

Aurora Minor Hockey Association officials were told that if Ly played in any more games, Coach Frank Jones, Manager Wayne Wheller and Trainer Brian Brown would be suspended for life.

AMHA officials were incensed about the timing and ruling pointing out that

the AMHA had submitted immigration papers and a certificate from the Canadian government to the OMHA two years previous showing that Ly, a landed immigrant from Viet Nam, was born in 1972, and the OMHA approved it.

OMHA officials replied that they had accepted the certificate and immigration papers as temporary proof.

They also pointed out that Ly was a head taller than any other boy on the team, which was unusual for his race as there was a tendency to be small.

Officials also noted they had complaints from other parents about the size and age of Quang, who came to Canada in 1980 as an immigrant.

The Vietnamese Cambodian Laotian

Chinese Services Association took up the case and threatened to take it to the Ontario Hockey Association and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, claiming it was a mistrust of immigrants.

In the meantime, Ly was playing for a minor bantam team where he was the smallest and youngest player, which was a big jump for a boy who had never seen ice before coming to Canada.

Part of the problem was that Ly did not have a birth certificate as it had been lost somewhere and only had the immigration document saying he was

born in 1972.

Then in January, Ly received a belated Christmas gift as the OMHA had a change of heart and reinstated him to the peewee hockey team for 11 year olds.

Due to pressure from Ly's parents, AMHA officials and others, the OMHA conducted a fact finding session including sworn affidavits by the parents stating the information on the immigration documents was true, resulting in the OMHA ruling that Ly was 11 unless proven otherwise.

As a result Ly was able to participate in two tournaments to the delight of his teammates.

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MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY Standings as at Monday, Dec. 19

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Masterclean Contracting	12	2	0	73	39	24
Highland Chev Cadillac	9	4	1	73	50	19
Priestly Demolition	9	4	1	64	30	19
Tom & Jerry's	8	5	1	52	47	17
J.J. Barron Realty	6	6	2	49	44	14
Law Insurance Brokers	4	7	3	48	64	11
FPL Aggregates	2	11	1	38	78	5
Rec Cycle N' Sports	1	12	1	32	71	3

Results, Dec. 19

Tom & Jerry's	4	Priestly Demolition	4
Barron Realty	2	Highland Chev	2
Masteclean	6	Law Insurance	6
FPL Aggregates	2	Rec Sports	3

PLAYER STANDINGS

As at Dec. 19

NAME	TEAM	G	A	TOTAL
John Archibald	Highland	21	20	41
Mark Sedore	Priestly	11	21	32
Steve Robertson	Highland	14	17	31
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	15	12	27
Ken Rumble	Highland	11	16	27
Jason Muise	Priestly	11	16	27
Steve McDonald	Tom & Jerry's	9	14	23
Steve Kavanah	Barron's	8	14	22
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	6	15	21
Gerry Briand	Masterclean	9	11	20
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	8	12	20
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	11	7	18
Pat O'Mahony	Barron's	7	11	18
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	8	9	17
Bruce Ing	Priestly	8	9	17
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	3	14	17
Phil Podstatski	Priestly Demolition	12	3	15
Cam Mitchell	FPL	8	7	15
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	7	8	15
Jerome Flanigan	Masterclean	6	8	14
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	5	9	14
Kevin Brown	Highland	4	10	14
Glen Bince	Law Insurance	5	9	14
Les Nip	Barron's	5	9	14
Ed Kilroy	Rec Cycle	7	6	13
Angelo Nasto	Masterclean	6	7	13
Ed Jackson	Barron's	5	8	13
Bob Ince	Rec Cycle	5	8	13
Bruce Chappell	Highlands	4	9	13
Pat Davies	Priestly	2	11	13
Chris Neal	Priestly	6	6	12
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	6	6	12
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	9	12
Ron Theisson	Barron's	5	6	11
Doug Adair	Rec Cycle	6	4	10
Phil Goodenough	Barron's	4	6	10
John Sibner	Masterclean	5	5	10

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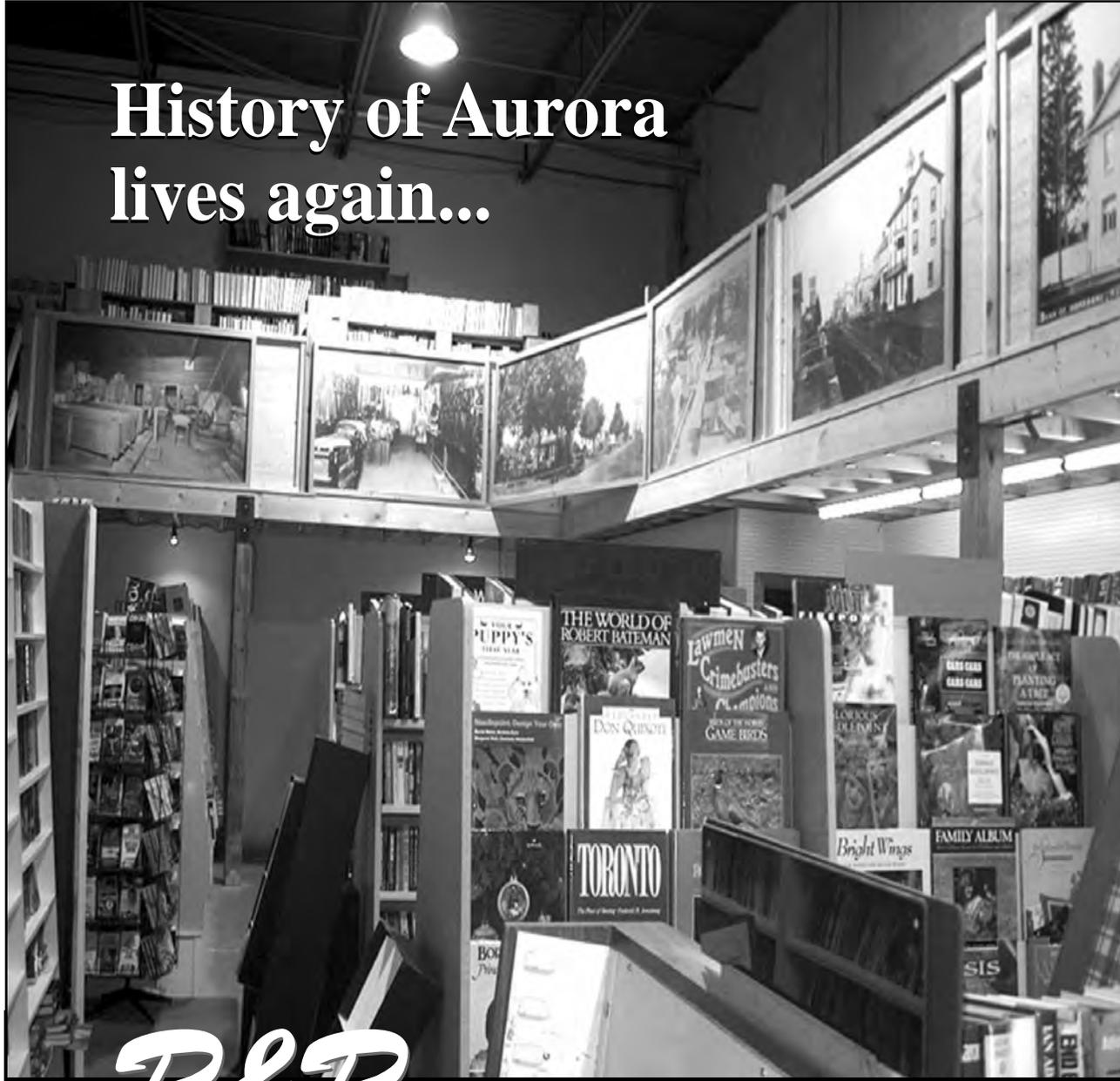
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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



Results to Dec.25 House League

Tyke

104 Tim Horton's Sharks 9 - Bryan Manweiler 3A, Connor Braund 1A, Jared Brown 1G, Mitchell Haak 1A, Michael Montesanti 1A, Anthony Orlandi 3G, Brendin Ramsay 5G, Jared Reeves 1A, Ryan Simmons 1A, Louie Kirkos 1A. **106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 1** - Robert Thomas 1G.

107 Tim Horton's Bruins 12 - Christian Arcuri 2A, Charles Bennett 1G, Shaun Broad 1A, Evan Cherubini 1G 1A, Alistair Johnston 2G 1A, Austin Kiraly 2G 1A, Nicholas Sansalone 2G 1A, Cole Thiessen 4G 2A. **102 Tim Horton's Rangers Tyke HL 0.**

103 Tim Horton's Blackhawks 10 - Andrew Badali 3G 1A, Micheal Dowling 2A, Jacob Fenchak 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1G 2A, Eric Shennan 2G, Brett Diamond 1G, Jacob Hatton 2G. **108 Tim Horton's Blues Tyke HL 8** - Daniel Della Roca 1G, Jamie Finlay 1G, Colin Kostin 3G, Graham Sandford 2G 1A, Connor Tripp 2A, Spencer White 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G.

105 Tim Horton's Flyers Tyke HL 6
101 Tim Horton's Leafs 6

Novice

206 Emilio's Pizza Novice HL 4 - Chris Klinowski 1G, Nolan Smith 2G, Kory Wansborough 1A, Anthony Georgieff 1G 1A. **201 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 2** - John Barber 1G, Joey Hodgson 1A, Johnny Sherwood 1G.

205 HS Financial Services Novice HL 5 - Eddie Duffie 2G, Patrick Bourrie 1A, Ethan Mills 1A, Terrell Cook 2A, Lockart McMann 1A, Michael Walsh 3G. **204 North York Heating & Plumbing 4** - Nick Armour 1G 3A, Peter McKerracher 2A, James Power 3G.

202 Mastermind Toys.Com 6 - Eric Cumiskey 1A, Hunter Jones 1A, Joel Robinson 2G 1A, Liam Joiner 2G, Ryan Ouvroules 2G, Chris Broughton 1A. **203 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Novice HL 1.**

Minor Atom

305 All Pro Source For Sports Minor Atom HL 5 - Morgan Walker 1G, Dakota Stone 1A, Tait Snedden 1G, Kristen Grasse 1A, Lucas Brutto 1A, Brady Harris 2G, Brendan Harris 1G. **304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 1.**

301 ADC Aluminum 4 - Benjamin McGowan 1A, Melissa Verge 1A, Zachary Cowl 2G, Michael De Cesare 1A, Rio Speller-Drews 1A, Declan Johnston 1G, Mitchell Srouji 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A, Oliver Jones 1A, Joseph Veneziano 1A, Ryan McGolrick 1G. **306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Minor Atom HL 1** - Nathan Sinclair 1A, Scott Taylor 1G.

308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Minor Atom HL 4. 302 Laurion Law Office 4 - Mac Cawfield 1A, Alexander Harrison 1A, Jason Glionna 2G, Cameron Staples 1A, Matthew Pelkola 1A, Chris Sanita 2G.

303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 3 - Maxwell

Brown 1G, Andrew Foresi 1A, Nicholas Steiner 1G, Alexander Stewart 1G. **307 Optimist Club of Aurora Minor Atom HL 2** - Matthew Walker 1A, Nicholas Scott 1A, Alex Cicchino 1A, Robin Creighton 2G.

Atom

402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 8 - Andreas Mikkelsen 1G, Drew Bryan 2A, Zachary Ferry 4G, Dylan Lyons 1A, Jesse Borin 2G, Casey Severini 1G. **403 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Atom HL 7** - Stephen Wilkins 1A, Scott Cosentino 1A, Liam Devlin 2G, Ryan Dowling 2G 1A, Cody Mulhern 1A, Paul Louis Steiner 2A, Christopher Tsianos 3G.

406 Continental Custom Ingredients 7 - Ben Bryant 1A, Curtis Fordyce 1G 1A, Kevan Cress 1G, Justin Stevens 1G, Nicolas Bertrand 2G 1A, Trevor Stephens 1G, Joshua Lawlor 1G. **401 Nacora Insurance Brokers Atom HL 1.**

405 Rotary Club of Aurora Atom HL 6 - Andrew Staples 2G 1A, Scott Wheeler 1G, Quinn McGowan 4A, Matthew Roach 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 2G. **404 Optimist Club of Aurora 1** - Sammy Fanone 1G, Dylan Sutton 1A.

Minor Peewee

503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 5
505 Pizza Pizza Minor Peewee HL 2

Minor Bantam

704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 4 - Scott Cunningham 2A, Nick Orsatti 2G, Mattheus Vloet 1G 2A, Marco Santella 1G. **701 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge 148 F.L.T. 3** - Michael Gray 1A, Daniel Crowther 1A, Dylan Teacher 1G 1A, Daniel Sampieri 2A, Julian Biasoni 1A, Chris Blumreisinger 2G.

705 Aurora Canadian Tire Minor Bantam HL 7 - Tyler Friars 1A, Michael Orschel 1G, Ian Stock 1A, Peter Durst 4G, Michael Madigan 1G, James Chappell 1G 2A. **702 Highland Chevrolet Cadillac 3.**

703 Dial Tone Communications Minor Bantam HL 5 - Matt Raponi 1G 1A, Jamie Sutton 1A, Nick Watts 1G, Nick Gundert 2A, Graham Cormack 2G 1A, Michael Moody 1G, Munn Colin 1A. **706 Formtech 3.**

Midget

1008 ASA Alloys Midget HL 5 - Daniel Abram 3A, Iznaur Atiev 2G 3A, Jason Brennan 3G 2A, Robert Danis 1G, James Seymore 2A, Luke Stinson 1A. **1011 4**

Select

Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 3 - Andrew Badali 1G, Cole Thiessen 2G, Robert Thomas 1A. **Clarington 1.**

Rep Games

Markham 3

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 1 - Graeme McDonald 1G.

Redmen 5

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 2 - Jake Appleby 1A, Austin Riswick 1A, Jesse Wiemer 2G.

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 9 - Jake Appleby 1G 1A, Graydon Gardner 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1G 1A, Peter Andreacos 1A, Matthew Caicco 2G, Theodora

Issaris 1A, Graeme McDonald 1G 1A, Austin Riswick 1A, Jesse Wiemer 4G. **Richmond Hill 3.**

Stouffville 4

Aurora Tigers Novice A 2

Aurora Tigers Novice A 2

TNT Tornados 1

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 2 - Kyle Bryden 1A, Jeff Stobo 1G, Joesph Battiston 1A, Garret Wood 1A, Austin Waite 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1G. **Innisfil 0.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 4 - Sean Foxwell 1A, Liam Coll 1A, Branden Fennell 2G, Austin Lane 1G 1A, Matthew Iwai 1G. **Richmond Hill 4.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 10 - Sean Foxwell 1A, Justin Pirie 1A, Liam Coll 3G, Konner McMillan 1A, Kyle Locke 2A, Branden Fennell 1G 3A, John MacDonald 2G, Austin Lane 1A, Matthew Iwai 1G, Spencer Green 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G. **Ajax 1.**

East Gwillimbury 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 2 - Erik Balkovec 1G, Logan Blaser 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 1 - Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G.

Stouffville 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 3 - Paul Neophytou 2A, Logan Blaser 1A, Evan Jackson 1G, Scott Kostin 1G, Ian Dunlop 1G, Brett Thiessen 1A.

Richmond Hill 3.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 6 - Josh Bell 2G 1A, Liam Beresford 1G 2A, Shannon Murray 1G 1A, Alex Perez 1G, Graham Robinson 1G 1A, Nathan Nealon 2A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 4 - Ben Ashton 1G, Josh Bell 1G 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Alex Perez 1G, Graham Robinson 2A, Jordyn Thomson 1A, Blake Wallace 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G 1A. **East Gwillimbury 1.**

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 8

Richmond Hill 1

Barrie 4

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 2

Aurora Tigers Atom A 4 - Liam MacKichan 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Ben Hankins 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G, Stefan Lazzer 1G 1A, Bailey Miller 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G 2A. Shutout: Scott Schmitt. **Stouffville 0.**

Aurora Tigers Atom A 4 - Hayden Trask 1G 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G, Stefan Lazzer 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1A, Daniel Antoniel 1G 1A, Bailey Miller 1G, Eric Damecour 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A. **Bradford 2.**

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 6 - Connor Moody 3G, Sammy Steenhorst 1A, Braden Casselden 1G 1A, Jeffery Lam 2A, Jimmy Brookes 1G, Matthew Pryse 1G 2A, Eric Bulloch 1A. **Stouffville 2.**

Barrie 5

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 2 - Connor Moody 1A, Braden Casselden 1A, Matthew Pryse 1G, Colton Lee 1G, Ryan Baskin 1A.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 6 - Connor Moody 1G 1A, William Allen 1A, Sammy Steenhorst 1G 1A, Braden Casselden

1A, Jeffery Lam 2A, Eric Archibald 1A, Jimmy Brookes 1A, Matthew Pryse 1G, Colton Lee 1A, Jack Straw 1G 1A, Eric Bulloch 1G, Ryan Baskin 1G.

TNT Tornados 0.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 5 - Connor Moody 1G 1A, Eric Archibald 2A, Jimmy Brookes 1G 1A, Colton Lee 1G, Vincent Ruscica 2A, Eric Bulloch 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1G 1A. Shutout: Andrew Stobbe. **Orillia 0.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 3 - Matthew Roy 1A, Dylan Rochon 1G, Andrew Papousek 2A, Brian Puskar 1G, Ryan Hughes 1A, Taylor Butler 1G. **Barrie 3.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 4 - Matthew Roy 1A, Reid Sisson 1A, Tanner Thiessen 1G 1A, Andrew Papousek 1G 1A, Mitchell Harris 1G, Taylor Butler 1G. **Georgina 4.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 4 - Matthew Roy 1G, Tanner Thiessen 1G 2A, Andrew Papousek 2G 1A, Taylor Butler 2A. **The Mitchell Team Redmen 2.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 3

Richmond Hill 2

Orillia 5

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 1

Restored Sports Redmen 2

Aurora Tigers Peewee AA 1
Eleeza Cox 1A Tristan Miller 1G Brett Matthews 1A

NobleKing 4

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 2 - Matt Schmitt 1A, Kyle McCreedy 2A, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Michael Nonnewitz 1G, Kamran Karamchi 1G.

Bradford 7

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 4 - Brett Allen 1G, Spencer George 1A, Sean Halley 1A, Daniel Howie 2G, Tyler Jensen 1A, Michael Takahashi 1A, Aaron Nusbaum 1G, Brendan Strachan 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 8 - Brett Allen 3A, Spencer George 3G, Sean Halley 2G, Tyler Jensen 1G, Adam Reid 1A, Nicholas Silverio 1A, Brendan Strachan 1G, Mark Tanel 3A, Alex Thompson 1G 4A, Brandon Thompson 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1A. Shutout: Zackary Henderson. **Orillia 0.**

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 3 - Brett Allen 1G, Spencer George 1G, Sean Halley 1G 1A, Tyler Jensen 1A, Aaron Nusbaum 1A. **Richmond Hill 2.**

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 6 - Brett Allen 3G 1A, Matthew Bishop 1A, Spencer George 1G 1A, Sean Halley 1G, Daniel Howie 1A, Michael Takahashi 1G, Aaron Nusbaum 2A, Brendan Strachan 1A, Alex Thompson 1A. **TNT Tornados 0.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3 - Jeffrey Sanderson 1G, Anthony Marsillo 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1G 1A, Dylan Cross 2A, Derrick Hamner 1G 1A. **Pickering 3.**

WestMall Lightning 4

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 2 - Justin Brown 2G, Shawn Clark 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1A.

Chatham Maroons 4

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 1 - Oliver Boettcher 1A, Dylan Cross 1G, Derrick Hamner 1A.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3 - Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Justin Brown 1A, Dylan Cross 2G, Derrick Hamner 1A, Shawn Clark 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Taylor Nuttall 1A.
Orangeville Flyers 2.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 7 - Sean Agostino 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1G, Corey Jeffery 1A, Ryan Jones 1G, Aaron Beally 1A, Darcy Eveleigh 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1G, Max Lerner 1G 1A, Dillon Cappell 2G 1A.
Richmond Hill 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 4 - Tyler Tisdale 2A, Shawn MacEachern 1G 2A, Darcy Eveleigh 1G, Max Lerner 1A, Dillon Cappell 2G 1A.
Stouffville 2.

Georgina 3
Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 3
Redmen 1

NobleKing 2
Aurora Tigers Bantam A 0

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 9
Redmen 1

Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Inc.
Redmen 5. Shutout, Joseph Dimech.
Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 3
Markham 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 9 - Robert Lee 3G 1A, Ian Weston 1A, Jesse Coote 1A, Patrick McMurray 1G 1A, Jake Hurlbut 1G, Jeremy Cohen 1G, Greg Gianopoulos 1G 1A, Darcy (Bucky) Pelosse 1A, Joshua (Josh) Meron 1A, Ross Pizzurro 1A, Brendan Hamner 1G.
Richmond Hill 4.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 1
East Gwillimbury 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 7
Orillia 0

Results to Jan.1 House League

Tyke

106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 6 - James Wyndham-West 1G, Joshua Mills 1G 1A, Robert Thomas 4G. **101 Tim Horton's Leafs 1** - Cooper Hewgill 1A, Zoe Webster 1G.

108 Tim Horton's Blues 8 - Jamie Finlay 1G, Colin Kostin 4G, Nat Leontis 1A, Graham Sandford 1G 2A, Cameron Zinner 2G 1A. **102 Tim Horton's Rangers Tyke HL 2.**

104 Tim Horton's Sharks 5 - Connor Braund 1A, Jared Brown 2G, Adam Caicco 1G, Mitchell Haak 1A, Anthony Orlandi 2A, Tyler Wilson 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1G, Ryan Simmons 1A, Louie Kirkos 1A. **105 Tim Horton's Flyers Tyke HL 1** - Michael Dacostas 1G, Maxwell Jones 1A, Kerstin Palmer 1A.

107 Tim Horton's Bruins Tyke HL 8 - Christian Arcuri 1A, Charles Bennett 2A, Shaun Broad 1A, Alex Carter 3A, Evan Cherubini 2G, Mathew Ciancio 1A, Alistair Johnston 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A,

Nicholas Sansalone 2A, Cole Thiessen 6G. **103 Tim Horton's Blackhawks 4.**

Novice

206 Emilio's Pizza Novice HL 5 - Chris Klinowski 3A, Jack Ellison 1G, Andrew Klinowski 2A, Nolan Smith 4G. **204 North York Heating & Plumbing 5** - Evan Nichols 1G, Nick Armour 2A, Michael McKerracher 1G, John Partland 1G 1A, James Power 2G.

203 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 2. 205 HS Financial Services Novice HL 1 - Eddie Duffie 1G.

202 Mastermind Toys.Com Novice HL 8 - Eric Cumiskey 1G, Hunter Jones 1G 1A, Joel Robinson 1G, Liam Joiner 1G 2A, Rory Hamilton 2A, Ryan Batten 1G, Ryan Ouvroules 3G. **201 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 0.**

Minor Atom

306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Minor Atom HL 3 - Luc Gregoris 3A, Alexander Jonasson 2A, Scott Taylor 3G. **303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 3** - Maxwell Brown 1G, Riley O'Brien 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1A, Alexander Stewart 1G.

304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 8 - Neil Duggan 1A, Graham Killby 1G, Russell Johnson 3G 2A, Luc Martineau 2G 1A, Alexander McDonald 1A, Adrian Ramirez 1A, Jonathan Read 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Tyler Abushinov 1A, Gabriel Oulahen 2G. **308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Minor Atom HL 0.**

301 ADC Aluminum 2 - Melissa Verge 1A, Erica Barnes 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A, Oliver Jones 1A, Michael Tanel 1G, Ryan McGolrick 1G. **307 Optimist Club of Aurora Minor Atom HL 1.**

Atom

405 Rotary Club of Aurora 8 - Ryan Byerlay 1G, Kyle Davy-Vass 1A, Scott Wheeler 1A, Quinn McGowan 2G 1A, Matthew Roach 3G 1A, James Hubay 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 1G 1A. **403 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Atom HL 2** - Christopher Cherubini 1A, Cody Mulhern 1G, Christopher Tsianos 1G 1A.

401 Nacora Insurance Brokers Atom HL 2
402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 1 - Casey Severini 1G.

406 Continental Custom Ingredients Atom HL 4 - Curtis Fordyce 1G, Nicolas Bertrand 1G 1A, Trevor Stephens 1G, Joshua Lawlor 1G. **404 Optimist Club of Aurora 3.**

Minor Bantam

703 Dial Tone Communications 3 - Jamie Sutton 1G, Nick Watts 1A, Caleb Gould 1G 1A, Trevor Coll 1G, Michael Moody 2A. **704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 1** - Michael VanBakel 1A, Marco Santella 1G.

705 Aurora Canadian Tire Minor Bantam HL 5. 701 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge 148 F.L.T. 1 - Julian Biasoni 1A, Ryan Bagshaw 1G.

702 Highland Chevrolet Cadillac 5.

706 Formtech Minor Bantam HL 3 - Robert Fiorini 1G 1A, Brandon Hurst 1A, Chris Tillsley 1G, Brendan Beatty 1G.

Select

Barrie Blue 4
Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 3 - Shaun Broad 1A, Michael Da Costa 1G, Robert Thomas 2G.

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 4 - Jake Appleby 1G, Graydon Gardner 1G 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1A, Graeme McDonald 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1G 1A, Austin Riswick 1A, Jesse Wiemer 1G 1A. Shutout, Taylor Lemmon.
Redmen 2.

Aurora Tigers Novice A 4
East Gwillimbury 1

Redmen 3 - Anthony Casey 1A, Justin Paul 1G, Cole Ikeda 2G, Liam Ewing 1A. Shutout: Michael Kleiboer Andrew Robb.
Aurora Tigers Novice AE 0.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 7 - Sean Foxwell 2A, Justin Pirie 1G, Konner McMillan 3G 1A, Branden Fennell 2A, John MacDonald 2A, Austin Lane 1A, Spencer Green 1G 2A, Quentin Campbell 2A, Jack Caldwell 2G 1A .
Georgina 2.

Barrie 3
Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 6 - Justin Pirie 1A, Liam Coll 1G, Kyle Locke 2A, Jerryd Jensen 1A, Branden Fennell 4G, John MacDonald 1A, Quentin Campbell 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G.
Barrie 2.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 3 - Paul Neophytou 1G, Logan Blaser 1G, Evan Jackson 1A, Connor Cowl 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A.
Bradford 3.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 6 - Josh Bell 2G, Liam Beresford 4G, Tyler George 1A, Graham Robinson 4A.
East Gwillimbury 1.

Barrie 4
Aurora Tigers Atom AA 1

TNT Tornados 5
Aurora Tigers Atom A 0

Aurora Tigers Atom A 4 - Hayden Trask 1G 2A, Ben Hankins 1G, Daniel Fiori 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G, Stefan Lazzar 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1G 2A.
Bradford 3.

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 7 - William Brogan 1A, Connor Moody 3G 1A, Sammy Steenhorst 1A, Conner McQuillan 1A, Braden Casselden 1A, Eric Archibald 1A, Matthew Pryse 1G 2A, Colton Lee 1A, Jack Straw 1G, Vincent Ruscica 2G, Eric Bulloch 2A, Ryan Baskin 2A.
East Gwillimbury 2.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 0
The Mitchell Team Redmen 0

Georgina 2
Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 3 - Mark Robertson 1A, Ryan St. Germain 1G, Sean Nishimura 1A, Carmine Bonofiglio 1A, Tyler White 1A, A.J. Killens 1G, Daniel Delbello 1A, Rory MacNeil 1G.
Barrie 3.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 7 - Ryan St. Germain 1G 3A, Sean Nishimura 1A, Alex Woodward 1G 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G, 3A, A.J. Killens 1A, Daniel Whitley 1G 1A, Chris Youtoff 1A, Rory MacNeil 3G 1A.
Innisfil 3.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 4 - Ryan St. Germain 2G, Matthew Skoulikas 1A, A.J. Killens 1A, Daniel Whitley 2G, Daniel Delbello 1A.
Stouffville 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 3 - Matthew Skoulikas 1A, Tyler White 1G, A.J. Killens 2A, Daniel Whitley 1G, Daniel Delbello 1G 1A.
Bradford 1.

Barrie 6
Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 1 - Dylan Woyslaw 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 5 - Jesse Bentolila 1G 2A, Dylan Hussey 1A, Evan Collicot 2G, Kevin Lukezic 1G, Thomas Hagias 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1G.
East Gwillimbury 3.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 2 - Kyle McCreedy 1G, Chris Smith 1G, Denis Casey 1A.
East Gwillimbury 2.

Innisfil 3
Aurora Tigers Peewee A 1 - Gavin Forrest 1G, Denis Casey 1A, Michael Nonnewitz 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 4 - Kyle McCreedy 1G, Ryan Antoniel 2A, Luca Battiston 2A, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Chris Smith 3G 1A, Danny McConnell 1A.
Orillia 2.

Richmond Hill 2
Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 1 - Oliver Boettcher 1A, Dylan Cross 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 8 - Jeffrey Sanderson 1G 1A, Nathan Brown 1G 1A, Oliver Boettcher 3A, Justin Brown 1G, Dylan Cross 2G, Derrick Hamner 1G, Shawn Clark 2A, Louis Lamanna 1G 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1G 1A, Peter Axiotis 1A. Shutout, Wesley O'Beirne.
Georgina 0.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 7 - Tyler Tisdale 2G, Aaron Beally 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G 2A, Matthew Semeredy 1G 1A, Max Lerner 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G 2A, Jesse Cappell 1A. Shutout, Ernesto Spagnuolo.
Markham 0.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 7 - Patrick Che 1A, Miles Curtis 1A, Johnny Haralampopoulos 2G, Patrick Lee 1G, Matthew Pelligrini 1G 2A, Conor Sheridan 1G, Stephen Dinallo 2G 1A.
Markham 2.

Universal Studios Canada Inc. Redmen 4 - Jonathon Harris 1G, George Letterio 1G 1A, Brock Levick 1G 1A, Andrew Nyman 2A, Steve Simone 1G 1A. **Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 2.**

Barrie 7
Aurora Tigers Bantam A 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 6
Markham 2

TNT Tornados 9
Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 0

East Gwillimbury 5
Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 2 - Robert Lee 1G, Joshua (Josh) Meron 1A, Brendan Hamner 1G.
Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 2
East Gwillimbury 0

Reviewing Aurora's first six months

From page 1

installments, February 22 and April 15.

Council advised householders to start separating their garbage into three streams starting in September, 2005, in order to divert more waste from going to landfill. By the end of 2005 householders were still waiting.

Regional transit officials advised council members that construction of the bus bays along Yonge Street in Aurora were scheduled for completion during the year in preparation for the start of Viva rapid transit in the fall of the year. It is now up and running.

Council had their first look at the 2005 capital budget in January amounting to \$11.5 million for road reconstruction, water and sewer projects, administration technology, leisure services and a new fire hall.

The Economical Development Advisory Committee was in the process of developing a new logo and tagline for the town for easy recognition on signs and for marketing and development. The preferred tagline was "Our Town-Your Future".

When it was discovered a neighbouring municipality had a similar tag line, the idea was withdrawn and citizens were invited to submit tag lines with more than 50 received, resulting in council adopting "You're in Good Company" in May.

Council approved a bid by Oracle Poll Research to carry out a community survey to obtain information about the services and programs available in Aurora as part of the budget process at a cost of \$14,000.

By March preliminary results indicated that 626 citizens had responded and 85 per cent rated the quality of life as good or very good with only two per cent rating it as poor or very poor.

Development related themes topped the list of issues the majority of Aurora residents felt were most important, followed by traffic and road congestion, property taxes, more recreation centres and better communication with citizens, especially in regard to new developments.

In February council approved a 12 per cent salary increase for non-union employees to be phased in over a two-year period.

Due to problems in recruiting and retaining staff, council engaged a consultant to carry out a salary review resulting in the increase.

As a result of changes in the Municipal Act, municipalities were required to amend their fees and charges to reflect actual cost recovery resulting in a fee increase of approximately five per cent for Leisure Services to cover increased costs of utilities and staff.

council members became an issue of debate that started in February and lasted off and on during the year.

While some members of council claimed it was a witch hunt, it was finally agreed that the minutes of a committee or council meeting would either show the member as present or absent.

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School teacher Les Kerr and two students appeared before council to inform members that 30 students, five parents and four teachers were using the March Break to visit the graves of Aurora soldiers buried in the cemeteries of Europe.

They later appeared to show pictures and tell about their trip.

Secrecy surrounded the status of a replacement for Chief Administrative Officer Larry Allison who had resigned the previous August to accept a similar position in Innisfil after 22 years with the town including five years as CAO.

Former Vaughan CAO Scott Somerville was engaged on a month-to-month basis not to exceed six months while a search for a new CAO was carried out, which had to be extended due to unexplained delays as all discussions were carried out behind closed doors without a report in public session. Finally John Rogers, CAO of East Gwillimbury, was hired effective April 11.

There was more secrecy as no answers were provided how a developer built 12 apartment units when only 10 were approved by council with a resultant reduction in commercial space. A legal opinion was obtained but that too was kept secret.

The possibility of a merger between Aurora and Newmarket Hydro utilities was still under consideration by both councils in March.

Thomas Brown Architects were engaged in March as the project architects for the new Fire Hall, later named the Fred Bolsby Fire Hall, after the late Deputy Fire Chief, on Wellington Street East at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. Tenders for the new facility were issued in June.

In response to a survey carried out by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as to whether the municipal term of office should be three or four years and if the voting age should be lowered to 16, Aurora council supported the 3-year term and leaving the voting age at 18. It was also suggested the election date be advanced from November to September.

A public meeting was held in March to obtain input on the 2005 capital and operating budgets with three citizens making presentations, with one citizen pointing out that Aurora budgets had increased a total of 40 per cent since 2001.

2005 operating budget was 19 per cent, which council reduced to 14.8 per cent and then to 7.9 per cent or an increase of \$65 on the average assessed home. It was later approved with the 7.9 per cent increase.

The previous May Hydro One announced the capacity of the transmission line through Aurora would be increased with higher towers, which was opposed by citizens and council.

In March, Hydro One cancelled its proposal due to the opposition, although a review was being carried out by the Ontario Power Authority. At year's end, local generation units were being advocated with warnings of power shortages by 2008.

After carrying out negotiations for a potential merger of Aurora and Newmarket Hydro utilities, in March Aurora Council abruptly changed course and agreed to sell Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, which was controlled by Markham and Vaughan for an undisclosed sum, later revealed as \$34.5 million.

Motorists were inconvenienced during the summer months as the region was in the process of constructing a large trunk watermain along Wellington Street from Berzcy Street to Bathurst Street.

The Municipal Act requires the Treasurer of every municipality to submit a report annually of the salary and expenses of council members for the previous year.

Mayor Tim Jones received \$41,764 in remuneration, \$7,200 in travel allowance plus \$2,430 in other expenses plus more than \$40,000 for serving as a regional councillor.

Members of council received \$18,322 plus \$1,000 in travel allowance. In addition, Councillor Phyllis Morris had other expenses of \$1,422, Councillor Wendy Gaertner, \$1,162, Councillor Damir Vrancic, \$225, and Councillor Bill Hogg, \$125. The remaining councillors did not claim other expenses.

An economic update for Aurora was received in April. Aurora had experienced a population increase of 36 per cent since 1991. By 2003 there were 1,100 businesses in Aurora providing approximately 18,000 jobs, representing a 51 per cent increase since 1991.

Since 1998 Aurora had experienced an annual business growth rate of three per cent and an average employ-

ment growth rate of 11.5 per cent, with approximately 30 per cent of the workers living in the municipality.

In April it was learned that the Aurora Hydro Board of Directors refused to sign the offer to purchase, resulting in council meeting in a special in camera session to replace the board and appoint themselves as the new board to complete the sale.

Also in April the Traffic Safety Advisory Board recommended a 40 km/hr speed limit on more streets bringing the total number of streets to 73 plus multi-way stops at three intersections in an attempt to control speeding.

The 142nd St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps celebrated its Centenary in 2005 and council granted the corps the Freedom of the Town permitting them the right to enter the town at all times with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed as long as Aurora means the Dawn.

In May council learned the municipality was going to get a Wal-Mart store in a commercial/office complex at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East.

Aurora has had a hidden population living in illegal basement apartments for many years. Due to the shortage of affordable housing council closed its eyes to the problem unless there was a complaint.

In June it became a controversial issue resulting in council appointing a council/citizen task force to review the issue. At year's end a final report had not been received.

After several attempts, council and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club finally agreed to a partnership with a private developer to construct and operate a soccer bubble behind the Aurora Legion, with the town providing services at an estimated cost of \$49,000. At year's end the bubble was up but an official opening had not been held.

In June, as in other years, the use of outdoor water was restricted in Aurora for watering lawns, garden or the washing of vehicles, sidewalks, driveways, patios or the filling of swimming pools, except under certain conditions.

Animal control continued to be an issue in Aurora resulting in an Ad Hoc Committee of interested municipalities being established to investigate the capital and operating costs associated with operating a

municipal-owned shelter. The contract with Kennel Inn was extended on a month-to-month basis until the committee reported.

As a result of citizen complaints, council directed staff to formally initiate the process to request the CNR to eliminate train whistling at crossings in Aurora and authorized an expenditure of \$15,000 for the required safety audit.

Unable to decide what to

do with the \$34.5 million received by the sale of Aurora Hydro, council agreed to put the money in a Hydro Investment Fund.

Thus ended the first six months of Aurora activity with some issues settled, some still pending and some dealt with in private meetings without disclosure to the public.

Next week, The Auroran will take a look at the last six months of 2005.

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DEATH NOTICES

SPARKS, Lillian Rose (nee Hedhey) - Peacefully on Tuesday, December 20th, 2005. Lillian, beloved wife of the late Charles Lyle. Loving mother of Judy and her husband John Swarbrick and the late Charles Wayne and his surviving wife Debbie. Granny will be lovingly remembered by David Sparks, Paul Sparks, Christopher Swarbrick and seven great-grandchildren. Lillian was a lifelong Aurora resident and lately a resident of the Willows Nursing Home. A heartfelt thanks to the caring staff of the Willows Nursing Home who treated Lillian with respect, dignity and love. A memorial service will be held at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South (north east corner of Yonge and Industrial Parkway, 905-727-5421), Aurora on Saturday, January 14th 2006 at 3 p.m.



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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.

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**Mari McCairns
Nisbet White**
**March 14, 1951 –
December 11, 2005**

It is with great sadness that Dustin
 Rebecca and Jeff announce the passing
 of Mari after a brief but courageous
 battle with cancer. Please know that
 the family is at peace with this dramatic
 change in our lives as we had
 the opportunity to provide for a
 compassionate release of her life.

Mari grew up in the city of Toronto under the helpful guidance of her parents,
 the late Bill and Ruby Nisbet. Mari was predeceased by her sister Betty and was
 in the arms of her brother Bob at the time of her death. She was a graduate of
 Central Commerce and studied Journalism at Humber College.

In the fall of 1973 while traveling by ship to the Balearic Islands, Mari came
 into my life. We enjoyed several months of touring through Spain and arrived back
 in Canada for Christmas. Together we shared a wonderful romance that spanned 32
 fantastic years. As a couple, we were married under an oak tree on a sunny
 Muskoka day in 1978, to the tune of Scottish bagpipes. We were privileged with a
 six week South Pacific honeymoon, travels all over the world; but most precious to
 me, is our creation of two beautiful healthy children that have grown into fine
 young adults.

We were fortunate enough to discover the passion of life. We pursued and built
 our dreams with a sense of excitement that was second to none. We explored the
 world! This is perhaps what makes her passing so peaceful for us, as we remem-
 ber with vivid memories, the great times enjoyed together, but it was just too short!

We wish all, especially at this time of the year, to pause for a moment and
 enjoy what you have. Say thank you, because it can change in a heart beat
 forever.

We want to acknowledge the Cancer Staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre
 in Newmarket for their caring services. We respectfully ask that if there is to be a
 response of charity or generosity, that it be directed to the Southlake Regional
 Health Centre Foundation in Mari's memory.

The celebration of Mari's life will be held on January 28, 2006 between 2:00
 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at King's Riding Golf Club, located at 14700 Bathurst Street,
 Aurora.



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