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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 10

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FREE

Week of January 8, 2008

It may take a year to close Aurora Agricultural Society

The Aurora Agricultural Society drove the final nail into its coffin Saturday night, or did it?

At its final annual general meeting, the Society, due to a lack of funding and volunteers, decided to call it quits after a lifetime that covered 86 years.

The writing was on the wall last summer when the Society cancelled plans to hold its annual horse show and fair in Machell Park.

But, before the meeting ended, the society had elected a seven-person committee and a new executive, both required, apparently, to wrap up the organization's activities.

Andy MacPherson, president of the society, was returned to the executive as first vice-president.

He will join President Debbie Blanchard, Secretary Joanne Blanchard and Treasurer Liz MacPherson on the new board executive.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. MacPherson reviewed the history of the Society that dates back to 1922.

"It is with a heavy heart that I announce that unless something happens tonight, this will be the end of the Agricultural Fair and Horse Show in Aurora," he said.

Earlier, he told The Auroran that youthful volunteers were needed to

keep the organization going.

Government rules about how the group could spend their money didn't help their cause, since much of the money raised at regular bingo games had been funnelled into the fair.

New bingo rules put an end to that last year.

The beneficiary of the group-closing meeting will be Southlake Regional Health Centre's new cancer facility.

More than \$10,000 from the society will be donated to the addition.

As far as closing the doors on the society, it could take six months to a year before everything is finalized, which was the reason for the committee.



This committee needs members

Perhaps the interest isn't there, after all.

King Township resident and interested person in restarting Aurora's Canada Day parade, Sher St. Kitts, told The Auroran last week only five people have applied so far to sit on the parade committee.

"This committee can have, and will need to have, nine committee members to get the job done well," she said. "If you agree with me that the Canada Day Parade is an

important symbol - especially to our children - about our Canadian national pride and that it must be made large in the birthday town of Aurora, then I implore you to please join me on this Committee to Save our Parade in Aurora."

Interested people need to submit an application before Friday, Jan. 11.

They may do so by applying in writing, by mail, fax or hand delivery.

Please see page 11

A motion to appoint a five-member committee to "wind down the affairs of the Society" was changed when seven members expressed interest in serving.

They included David and Maurice Blanchard, Andy and Liz MacPherson, Deborah Campo, Doug Hubley, and Marg Wood, wife of the late Jack Wood, an active participant in the Society for many years.

Society members agreed the committee could consist of seven people.

The general meeting followed a buffet dinner at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Aurora, which was attended by about 70 people.



Now you see it...now you don't. Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer John Rogers opened his mouth recently and it cost him his hair. Rogers said that if 30 Town of Aurora staff members would sign up for United Way payroll deductions he would have his facial and head hair removed. Just before Christmas, the CAO met Albert Tullio who removed the hair while employees watched. All together, town staff raised about \$30,000 for United Way.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Reviewing the year 2007 - part one

The year 2007 was a year of political change, political controversy, no faith in government at all levels, policy flip-flops and difficulty in making decisions.

Aurora Council started the year following the municipal election with a new mayor, five new councillors, one returned councillor and three members from the previous council, so there was a steep learning curve.

This was quite evident in the prepa-

ration of the 2007 budget, which was not approved until mid-April after more than 40 hours of meeting time with a tax levy increase of four per cent after growth, down from the first look of 12.4 per cent, or an increase of \$41.44 on the average assessed home.

When the budget was finally approved, 22 cents of the tax dollar went to the protection of persons and property, 19 cents for administration, 18 cents

for leisure services, 11 cents for capital projects, 11 cents for the library, nine cents for transportation, five cents for environmental services, three cents for planning and development and two cents for council.

Also in January councillors got their first look at proposed amendments to the Municipal Act, which was designed to grant more powers to municipal coun-

Please see page 12




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COMING EVENTS

Continuing until April 15 from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. winter parking restrictions are in effect on Aurora streets.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church, on Bathurst Street, just south of Henderson. Operating from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. it's open to all parents, grandparents and caregivers. For more information, e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing is held every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its third season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., comfort food and a sense of community is available in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

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.

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

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932. Also every third Sunday at 1 p.m.

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers and interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice under the direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5 p.m. at the seniors' centre.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" at Aurora Online Inc., 325 Industrial Parkway South. 5.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Mayor's blood donor clinic at the Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Aurora Film Circuit presents "Once" a 2007 Irish film which caused Steven Spielberg to comment, "a little movie called Once gave me enough inspiration to last the rest of the year." Tickets are \$10 and available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street at Harrison Avenue. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prizes at 6.45 p.m. and film at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

Christmas trees will be collected and this will be the only pickup for the trees. Trees must be at the curb by 7 a.m. and on Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway by 6 a.m. Do not place the trees in plastic bags. For further information call 1-866-421-5625.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

The Watoto Children's Choir, a choir of parentless children from Uganda will present a live concert of hope at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is free but an offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the choir. For further information, call 905-841-8883.

Aurora General Committee meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Aurora Chamber of Commerce new member orientation breakfast at the chamber building at 14483 Yonge Street, corner of Industrial Parkway South. 7.30 a.m.

Amnesty International meets 7.30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Write cards of support to those struggling for human rights. All welcome. For information, call 905-713-6713.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Blood donor clinic at Aurora United Church, Yonge Street from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

On well water and a septic system? Or about to be? Learn about well construction, maintenance,

upgrading and septic maintenance at "Well Aware", presented by Windfall Ecology and hosted by the Town of Aurora's environmental advisory committee at 7 p.m. at the seniors' centre, 5 Municipal Dr., Aurora. Free. For more information visit www.windfallcentre.ca or www.wellaware.ca. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

Aurora Writers Group monthly meeting at Aurora Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. Joan Shaw presents Writing Dialogue for Theatre. Writers 18 years of age and older are welcome. For further information contact Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" at Dentistry in Oak Ridges, 13291 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill. 5.30 p.m.

Aurora Council meets at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Aurora Cable Internet will telecast the meeting at 6.30 p.m. the following night and at noon the following Saturday and Sunday.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion Hall, Industrial Parkway North from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the York Simcoe Literacy Council, invites 3-5 year olds, with parents or caregivers, to a pre-school storytime. 10 a.m., in the Lebovic Room at the library. Pre-register at the Children's Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 5.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Aurora Seniors will visit Medieval Times, on Dufferin Street, south of the Gardiner Expressway in Toronto. Event includes transportation on a school bus, lunch, and a live show performance.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Aurora Seniors will visit the Bata Shoe Museum at 327 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Trip includes motor coach transportation, a visit to the Bata Shoe Museum, a tour and Victorian Tea at the Spadina House and a buffet lunch.

A special Council Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall to adopt the 2008 budget.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

A public planning meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Networking Breakfast" at Wellington House Spa, 38 Wellington Street East, Unit 4. 7.30 a.m.



More than \$1,200 was raised in five weeks by Foodland Aurora cashiers selling \$2 tree tags for the Salvation Army. Foodland Manager David Gemmell and Salvation Army Assistant Kettle Co-ordinator Glennanne Phillips are shown with the collection. Two top selling cashiers were Melissa Dinwoodie and Kortine Snow.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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It's a brand new school but there is a ton of history behind the name as Hartman Public School principal Dr. Lisa Walsh points out during official opening of the building recently. Hartman School is located on River Ridge Boulevard in Aurora's east end, and becomes Aurora's 10th elementary school if you don't count Wells Street Public School, which is closed for an undetermined length of time.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

How's your water?

The Town of Aurora is seeking volunteers to fulfill new provincial legislation which has ordered the municipality to perform additional tests at private residential taps to check lead in drinking water.

On a first-come, first-served basis, homes will become candidates for such testing. The program involves testing tap water twice a year in the volunteer's home. All sampling will be undertaken by identified staff members.

Though town records do not indicate the existence of lead in the town's water services, there may be some privately-owned lead pipes that have yet to be replaced or there may be

lead pipe plumbing within a home.

If you want to volunteer for this project, contact the staff at 905-727-3123, ext. 3442.

This came about as a result of higher than acceptable lead level test results that were found this year in London, Ontario, and later in a number of other municipalities.

The Ministry of the Environment enacted new regulations on testing lead in public and private water supply systems.

Lead was once a common material used for municipal water service connections, being the connection from the watermain to a residence or business and

also for private-side water piping.

Due to the growing knowledge about the detrimental health effects of lead, its use for water piping was banned in the early 1950s and the use of lead in the solder used to join copper pipes and fittings was banned in 1990.

Under previous regulations, Aurora's test results all had a zero reading for lead levels as was expected.

The new tests will be conducted between now and April.

The tests must be conducted every six months and sampling locations will be mainly located at single-family dwellings as well as a selection of multiple-family dwellings and non-residential locations.

Based on the town's current population of approximately 50,000, Aurora will be required to test 80 residential homes, eight non-residential locations and 16 distribution system locations in each six-month period.

The cost of a lead test is currently \$35 and an alkalinity test is \$16 not including staff and equipment costs with the total cost estimated at \$25,000 per year.

Survey seeks your opinions

The town's Communications and Marketing Division needs help and has created a survey to help staff members understand how service can be improved with information about the town's goals, objectives, vision, services, programs, events and other pertinent information.

The survey is available on the internet by visiting www.e-aurora.ca or you can pick up a copy of the survey at Info Aurora on the first floor of the town hall.

Fill it in and drop it off at the town hall prior to the deadline this Friday, Jan. 11.

There are 25 questions divided into three sections and it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete.

In appreciation of completing a valid survey, the town will offer a one-day free pass to the Aurora Leisure Complex Fitness Centre and each valid entry will be included for a prize valued at \$500 with the winner to be

announced at the end of January.

To be eligible for the free pass or the draw, participants must include their return address and be 18 years of age or older.

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Three blood clinics arranged in Aurora

Three blood donor clinics have been set up in Aurora during the month of January, including the popular Mayor's Clinic.

Clinics will be held Friday, Jan. 11 at the town hall; Friday, Jan. 18 at the Aurora United Church, and Thursday, Jan. 24 at the Aurora Legion.

Check The Auroran's coming events on Page 2 for clinic times.

There is an urgency for the Canadian Blood Services to find younger donors, Clinic Recruitment Coordinator Jennifer Mayhew said.

"Many of our most loyal donors between the ages of 45 and 54 are experiencing the increased need for transfusion support themselves through hip and knee surgeries," she said. "At the same time, as a group, they are becoming less available to donate for a variety of reasons."

As a result, Canadian Blood Services is looking for younger Canadians to make blood donation a life-long commitment.

"Youth donors between 17 and 24 make up 20 percent of our active donor base, but when

they approach the ages of 24 to 40 years, they become more involved with careers and families," said Jennifer. "Our main challenge lies in retaining these committed donors well into their twenties and thirties. If these donors stay com-

mitted to life-long blood donations during these years, the blood supply would experience more stability."

To book an appointment or to find out more on blood donation call 1-888-2-DONATE (1-888-236-6283).

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Poor Richard

Richard presents his annual awards

*The year ended with awards,
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-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Rather than let 2007 escape with barely a whimper, the IAFFFA Award has been recreated.

It's the "Illingworth Annual Fickle Finger of Fame Award" which is supposed to be awarded annually.

From time to time there may be a special award known as the ISFFFA or the "Illingworth Special Fickle Finger of Fate Award" for groups or individuals who by some act or omission made a name for themselves in the history of mankind.

One award is the "Erect" category for outstanding and meritorious service above and beyond the call.

Another is the "Pinky" award for an itty-act or omission and then there is the "Thumb" award for, but I'll leave that to your imagination.

A Special Thumb Award goes to Premier Dalton McGuinty for almost unilaterally changing the term of municipal councils from three to four years.

It may work well if you have a council that forgets personal interests and works for the benefit of the municipality but to have a dysfunctional council like Aurora or Toronto is a disaster.

A Special Thumb Award goes to Ontario Conservative Leader John Tory who could have been Ontario's Premier but he blew it for himself and his members with his pledge to fully fund faith-based schools. No doubt under the influence of former Premier Bill Davis who extended the funding for separate schools, he's going to have trouble holding on to his job.

A Special Thumb Award also goes to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his arrogant "my way or the highway" type of leadership and his powerful centralized control of government. If he acts this way with a minority government, how could you trust him with a majority government?

A Thumb Award to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for his mixed messages regarding his relations with Karl Schreiber and the \$300,000 in cash he is reported to have received from Schreiber and the reported \$2.1 million he received from the taxpayers. Put him before the Ethics Committee and make him tell the truth, but can you believe him?

A Thumb Award to the senior brass of the RCMP for their failure in leadership and putting their officers at risk. The recent critical report must be implemented to weed out the bad apples and to establish some form of civilian control. The once-proud RCMP has become a national disgrace.

A Pinky Award to Stephane Dion, Leader of the federal Liberal Party, for trying his best to bring the Liberals back to power but he just doesn't have it and the sooner a federal election is called the better. Then the Liberals can hold a Leadership Convention and select a new leader.

Pinky Awards to Defence Minister Peter McKay for his lack of leadership in controlling the Armed Forces and allowing Chief of Defence Staff Rick Hillier to be the spokesman and a similar award to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day for his mishandling of the RCMP's actions in the death of the Polish immigrant in Vancouver.

A Pinky Award goes to all members of the Aurora Council for their failure to develop a team spirit and work in the interests of all residents of the municipality and not make decisions based on vocal minorities. they also need to stop giving staff reports the third degree.

A Pinky Award goes to members of Aurora's Economic Development Committee for their dog-in-the-manger attitude towards a committee member, who writes a column in The Auroran. If you are jealous, write a Letter to the Editor.

An Erect Award for meritorious service goes to Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach for the way she handled her recent bout with cancer and for establishing a research fund to help others and to Newmarket/ Aurora MPP Frank Klees on winning the seat in the recent election and his hard work representing his constituents.

There were other nominations but the IAFFFA Awards go to the above with congratulations and condolences.



We're not sure why this locomotive arrived at the Aurora station, but it certainly attracted much attention. The photo was one of several found by Town of Aurora staffer Jim Tree. Each photo was dated July 1, 1963, and the picture above was believed to have been taken from the roof of the old Bradford fertilizer building, now Baldwin's Restaurant. Interesting how many tracks are visible in the photo, an indication that railroading was much bigger in Aurora then than it is now. The siding in the foreground crossed Wellington Street and stopped beside the building that is now a restaurant. Tree said he originally found the pictures in the trash when Aurora's Town Hall was temporarily housed on Industrial Parkway North. Was anyone there when the locomotive arrived? We'd like to hear from you.

Letter to the Editor

Yonge-Wellington mess biggest priority in Aurora

To the editor,

To say that 2007 was an interesting year would be an understatement.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading with great interest the local political activities in The Auroran.

In particular, I look forward to what seems as the weekly installment of Evelyn Buck's Letter to the Editor.

I've personally known Ev for a very long time (I went to school with her sons) and always have known Ev to be nothing but honest and truly dedicated to the Town of Aurora.

Kudos, Ev, for being the ONE councillor with the "guts" to speak your mind AND say what everyone else is only thinking.

In a year that was filled with controversial items of interest (the "calming" of northeast Aurora, the "leak" in the Council telling the good people of Aurora what's actually going on, the unauthorized hiring of private investigators, etc.), I think it might be a good time to shed some light on another topic of interest, one that affects far more people in Aurora than the "calming" of a few select streets. Has anyone tried to drive south on Yonge Street (at any time of the day) and found a huge backlog of traffic at the Yonge/Wellington intersection?

Personally, I believe the biggest decision a driver in Aurora has to make is what lane to be in when approaching this intersection.

Prior to the last municipal election, while trying to make up my mind as to who would garner my vote for mayor, I contacted all three candidates

and posed this question: why can there not be a "right hand turn lane" installed for the southbound traffic at the corner of Yonge and Wellington in Aurora, similar to what was constructed for the westbound traffic at the same intersection?

Candidate Nigel Kean responded with "I will look into this when I become mayor." That was rather presumptuous of him.

Candidate Phyllis Morris responded with something like that's a good idea and please send me everything you have on this situation. I didn't want the job of doing all the legwork, I just wanted an answer.

Lastly, candidate Tim Jones (and then Mayor) responded with a full and concise answer of what would be needed and which departments would have to be contacted to alleviate the traffic congestion at this intersection. That was the answer I was looking for.

I now know that the intersection in question falls in the lap of the Regional Municipality of York, and what steps would be needed to make this a reality.

I know that land would need to be expropriated from the Bank of Montreal in order to make this happen, much like what happened across the street at the Toronto Dominion Bank.

I also know that Aurora Town Council does NOT have to waste thousands of taxpayer dollars on doing traffic studies before making a decision on this matter. Bureaucracy is simply standing in the way of something that needs to be addressed immediately, not five or 10 years down the road. (that wasn't intended as a pun).

The Region has already

acknowledged the need for some kind of traffic relief at this corner with the installation of an "advanced green turn signal" for the southbound traffic.

But that is only minor relief, and a more permanent solution is needed.

I would therefore humbly ask (and urge any other residents of Aurora who agree with my request), that Aurora Town Council look into and expeditiously correct the traffic congestion for southbound motorists as early as possible in 2008.

And when (not if) this becomes a reality, I would also like the council to pass a bylaw that would prohibit anyone who lobbied for the "calming" area in the northeast section of Aurora from using this intersection in the Town of Aurora.

That's my nickel's worth, 'cause two cents won't buy you squat anymore!

Thanks for being a great little paper.

All the best in the New Year.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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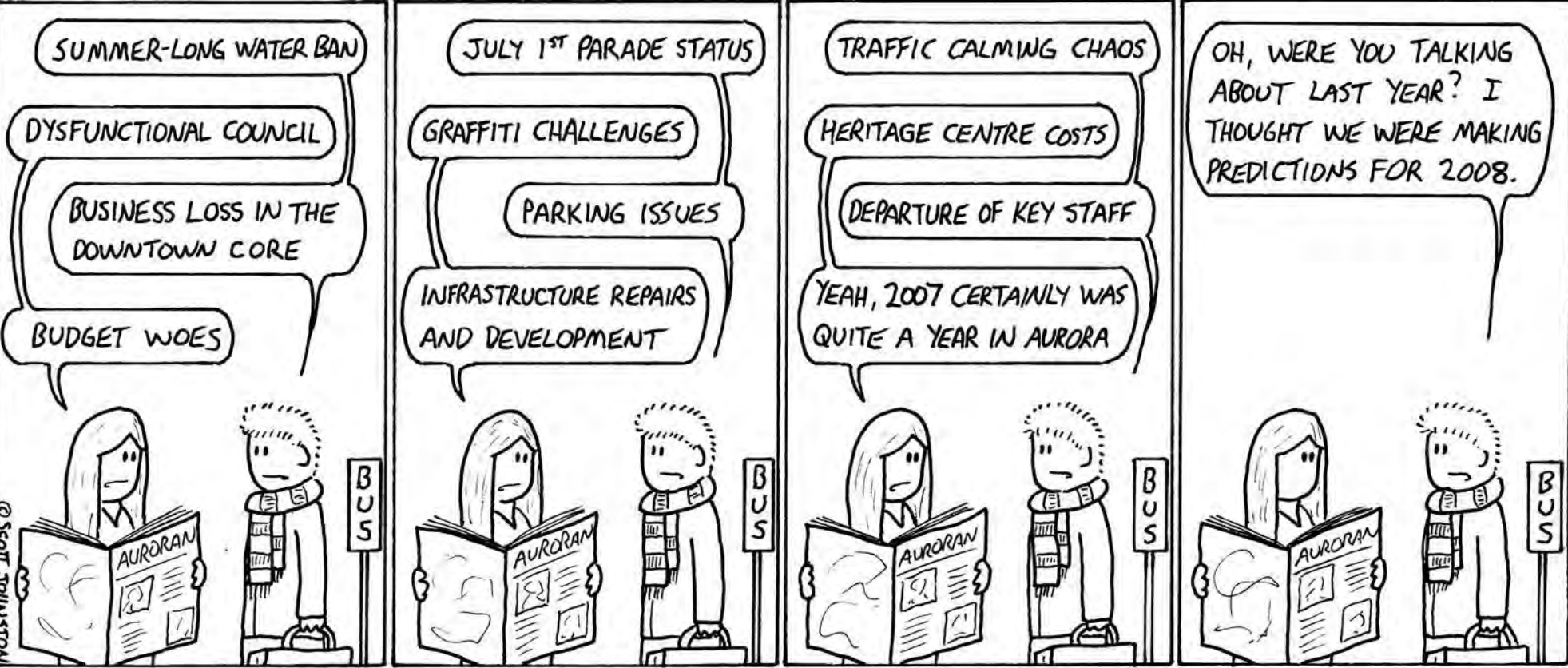
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

An annual tradition at New Year's is for people to make resolutions.

I used to do this and then see how long it would take before I broke one of my personal pledges.

Usually it would happen within a day or two, although I once went almost a week before abandoning the cause.

I stopped making resolutions a number of years ago. That particular year I vowed to curb my sometime use of profanity; not that I spoke like a merchant mariner that frequently, but on occasion, my language had been described as "earthy".

I made the solemn silent pledge to myself at about 11:58 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Within a minute or two of the clock striking midnight, I was walking down the stairs at home and almost slipped on some mitts that were on the stairs (I had left them there).

I let loose with a couple of invectives at said mitts. I then stopped and looked at the time - it read 12.03 - and I let out a big laugh. So much for the better me!

Also at this time of year, you see others who make that most basic of New Year's resolutions - to lose a few pounds and get in some semblance of shape.

As a member of the Aurora Leisure Complex in town, I see this every year.

During the first two weeks of January, the gym is much more crowded than usual and it is difficult to get on some of the gym equipment.

The next few weeks see the extra crowds thin, and by late February, only a few new faces are seen - who become

regulars.

As one who tries to keep the effects of getting older at bay for a little while longer, I offer a couple of suggestions.

First, it will not happen overnight. Keep at it. Don't kill yourself with the first workout. The desired results will come; have some patience.

Second, undertake different activities. Use the treadmill, do the occasional cycle fit and play some hockey. Try some night-time lane swimming as well; you sleep like a baby afterward.

But my biggest piece of advice is to try one of the best-kept secrets in town - sign up for the cycle fit classes that are offered locally. Both the Aurora Leisure Complex and Timberlane have these.

At the Leisure Complex Centre, they have classes seven days a week, either 45 minutes or one hour in duration.

Music is played during the class, and riders go slower or faster, depending on the beat of the music. There is a knob that lets the rider tighten or loosen the tension on each bike.

What is best about the class is that you get the communal "sharing of the pain", as it were, with the added benefit that the workout really is your own.

The person on the bike beside you could be a veteran cycle fit participant who has been doing this class for the past 10 years and although you may be a rookie, you can both enjoy the same class, because you go at your own pace.

I find that after doing the treadmill at a good clip for say a half hour, my legs and lower back may be a little sore, but

Cycle fit

working at the same rate on the bike, and after a shower, leaves me refreshed and nothing aches.

I also find that it really improved my cardio, because of the varying length and tempo of the songs, so you are induced into a higher training zone.

The instructors at the Leisure Complex are collectively very good. They all use different music and bring varying personalities and routines to the class, and they will push you to get the most out of your class.

Heck, I even wonder whether or not one or two of the female instructors are employed full-time as prison wardens!

But without a doubt the best thing about cycle fit is the social aspect.

My wife and I have become very good friends with a number of the other riders. I guess a certain bond develops among fellow cyclers attempting to sweat off the pounds.

Two things about your first couple of cycle fit classes.

Do pace yourself. The first time I did a 45-minute class, I thought my heart was going to come out of my chest. And second and most important, unless you have been riding horses all your life or regularly cycle out doors, your behind will hurt the first few times out.

It seems it takes about four classes for your rump to feel fine.

Good luck, good health and Happy New Year!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

This week, the moment has arrived for a tradition that dates back to 153 BC - the setting of New Year's Resolutions.

Ah, the dreaded things!

Since January (named after Janus, god of new beginnings) replaced March as the first month of the Roman Calendar, people have vowed to mend their errant ways in an effort to become healthier...happier and, of course, thinner.

For most of us, however, change doesn't come easily. According to a paper published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology, 22 per cent of us fall off the wagon after a week, and after three months half of us have given up tormenting ourselves.

Year after year, the most popular resolutions are those related to weight control and physical fitness and this year the valiant battle of the bulge has made my list!

Last year, some Chocolate Santa gave me a pair of love handles for Christmas. I have been trying to exchange them for buns of steel ever since and I have learned a few things along the way.

First of all, it isn't true that anything you eat at Christmas dinner after Christmas dinner nonstop for the last two weeks of December has zero calories! It's a lie!

Let's face it, you can't have a "Body by Nautilus" if you let the aroma of all those yummy homemade goodies sneak in through your nose and give you a "Brain by Mattel".

So this year, I have decided to adopt the policy: If it tastes good, it will give you cellulite! Spit it out!

This goes double for Swiss chocolate truffles because those things jump into your mouth all by themselves! They should come with flashing lights and sirens and a fly-swatter...

Second, getting a gym membership for Christmas doesn't automatically give you abs. You have to go to the gym!

Personally, I find it really hard to drag myself into the midst of people with finely carved bodies feeling like a turkey with stuffing, but I find that the image of a big bellied bird roasting on the beach in a bikini...with my head on it...makes me run a little faster on the treadmill.

Hey...whatever works, right?

Third, there is no need to suffer in silence on the elliptical when you can whimper, whine, and moan in time with the workout music and the grunting coming from the weights section. It's like singing karaoke!

Fourth, it is okay to make faces when lifting weights.

Happy New Year, Aurora!

Remember that the only people who care what you look like on the dance floor are the ones who are watching instead of dancing. And the only people who care what you look like doing squats are the trainers who don't want you to hurt yourself.

Yes, I felt a little embarrassed the first few dozen times my trainer told me to straighten my back and stick my bum out a little farther, but then I realized that this was a compliment!

Funny thing...the whole reason I was there was because I thought my bum was sticking out too far!

So I guess what I'm really trying to say is that when it comes to achieving fitness and weight control goals, it really helps to "lighten up".

Laughter is like internal jogging. Believe it or not, a good belly laugh uses enough calories to burn the head off a chocolate Santa!

Even better, it raises the body's basic metabolism rate by 20 per cent, making it easier to burn off the old boy's jelly belly!

So this year, it's off to the gym! Ha! Three times a week...and laughing all the way!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
ccaurora@rogers.com

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Golden Eagles in winning the championship game of the Score for Diabetes Girls Hockey Tournament by blanking the Keswick Cougars 6-0 recently. Cardinal Carter lost to Sacred Heart in the consolation final 3-2.

BRICKBATS to Aurora councillors for having short memories as they sympathized with a resident who came to a general committee meeting to complain about a hydro pole on Bayview Avenue that spoiled his view of the sunset and questioned why PowerStream was constructing the line when they were advised in September that PowerStream was providing a back-up source of power due to many citizen complaints about blackouts.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Christmas Dream Team and Bistro 171 for raising \$4,000 at the official launch which provided a traditional Christmas dinner for 100 Aurorans who would not have enjoyed Christmas dinner without the generosity of so many.

BRICKBATS to Councillor Al Wilson for wasting time by lifting three items for discussion and then saying he had no comment to make on the reports, which were adopted by the committee without discussion.

BOUQUETS to former councillor Dave Griffith on receiving the Paul Harris Award and to Rotarian Eric Smith on being honoured at a recent Rotary Club meeting for serving with the Aurora Club for more than 40 years.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for interrupting a scheduled public council meeting to go into closed session for what was loosely termed legal reasons with no indication of what was to be discussed and after almost 90 minutes behind closed doors adopted a vague resolution about something to do with telephones when Tim Jones was mayor. This very unusual step was the second time within a month this has happened, and this is supposed to be a transparent and accountable council.

BRICKBATS to whoever leaked the information about the telephone investigation to a citizen. How did the person know about the investigation before it was made public? This is being transparent?

BOUQUETS to the Senior Line Dancers from Aurora, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Bradford who took first place in the Line Dance Competition held at Fallsview Resort and Spa in the Catskill Mountains, New York.

BRICKBATS to the RCMP in British Columbia for their uncontrolled use of the taser gun when they fired and shocked a man twice while sitting in a car because he was double-parked. When told he was getting a ticket, he drove away and when stopped at the end of the street was blasted once in the car and again when he got out. What is wrong with them and their supervision?

BOUQUETS to members of York Regional Police and the Canadian Tire Corporation on the 11th Annual Toys for Tots campaign which collects toys and cash donations for kids who often have to make do with less during the holiday season. The program began in 1996 and so far has raised more than \$185,000 worth of toys.

BRICKBATS to the Harper government for spending \$31.4 million on polling after criticizing the former Liberal government for spending approximately \$25 million a year to obtain information on the popularity of government policies. The new government promised to clean up government polling during the election campaign. The pot calling the kettle black!

BOUQUETS to Premier Dalton McGuinty for speeding up the process for military families moving into Ontario to obtain OHIP and also for introducing legislation to protect the jobs of reservists who volunteer for a period of active duty.

BRICKBATS to those in national defence for allowing the Air Force to run out of propellers for its aging Buffalo

Letters to the Editor

Phone log charges different from wiretapping: reader

To the editor,

In response to Mr. Nigel Kean's recent letter, I would like to note that Mr. Kean is the only person I am aware of to refer to this issue as "wiretapping" which, in fact, is something quite different than what has allegedly occurred in this case, which involved the past Mayor, Tim Jones, requesting the phone logs of his fellow councillors to be provided to him on a monthly basis (which was done without Council's knowledge) for a two-year period leading up to the past municipal election.

I initially found this to be curious given that I was informed that others on staff were responsible for tracking phone logs for accounting purposes.

Furthermore, I am not relying on hearsay as was also suggested, given that the Town Clerk informed me of the facts of this case and based on those facts a few fair and reasonable questions emerged.

If I am at fault, it is because I apparently mistak-

enly assumed that we were all equally interested in protecting our privacy rights as well as the integrity of our local government.

What Mr. Kean's reference to the John West story has to do with the current phone log situation I don't know, but if that was Mr. Kean's (and also apparently Mr. Illingworth's) best attempt at tarring me based on an unrelated case, the public should also be aware that my version of what I will call the "Wild West" situation was validated by a town staff person who was standing beside me at the time when Mr. West and I had strong words after he disrupted and stormed out of a Council meeting and then insulted me in passing as he exited the Chambers.

No one should reasonably expect to witness that kind of behaviour or be treated that way by an elected official, at least in my books.

I also recall that at the next council meeting Mayor Jones and Councillor Buck had to back off from their suggestion that I should be

banned from the council chambers when the facts of that case came to light.

The lesson I should have taken away from that experience was that when residents get too close to the fire they should try to avoid being burned if they dare to stand up for themselves.

Clearly the local media does not see the newsworthiness of the phone log issue for their own reasons; one being quite possibly that most people may not care if phone logs may have been used inappropriately or if privacy rights may have been breached, so unfortunately it has been left to others to pursue the facts of this case and act accordingly.

The good news is that I am told that the Town has taken steps to ensure that what Mr. Jones did never happens again, which I, for one, consider to be a step in the right direction.

Knowing what we know about the past council and what Mr. Kean said in response to Mr. Jones' closing statements in the last municipal election's all-candidates meeting I am a bit surprised that Mr. Kean does not share or appreciate the concern of those people who dare to at least question some of Mr. Jones' past actions or versions of events, but that is completely Mr. Kean's business and I

respect that.

The fact that council recently voted 7-2 (with Councillors Buck and Collins-Mrakas voting against) to request input from the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Office on these matters and to clarify with Mr. Jones what his possible motivations might have been for making such an unusual request in the first place, seems to suggest that I am not alone in my interest in exploring these matters.

For the record, I would also like to confirm that I have not withdrawn my FOI request as previously suggested by Councillor Buck in her recent letter to The Auroran, but have agreed to wait to see the results of the Town's own investigation into these matters.

Given my involvement with the town when the request for the phone logs was made in writing in the fall of 2004 I think I deserve to know how my phone calls to council might have been treated.

That said, at this stage, I am also starting to ask myself if I should care given that so few others appear to.

I expect that we'll get the elected representation we deserve in any event.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

Time to consider getting rid of all level crossings

To the editor,

I caught more than a glimpse of the near future recently on my way home from work when I found myself in a traffic jam on Wellington Street East (Wednesday, Dec 19).

Apparently, there was a problem with the signal lights at the level rail crossings at Wellington and Centre Streets.

Traffic was backed up to beyond Temperance Street.

I call this a "glimpse of the future" because GO Transit is planning to add passing-track sections on the Barrie line (formerly the Bradford line) in order to increase capacity.

In other words more trains that will travel back and forth all through the day, which translates to more times when traffic will be stopped at Centre and

Wellington Streets.

I am all for public transportation (I take the train frequently), but I hope that our town council is looking to the future and working with GO Transit (and the Province) to ultimately eliminate the level crossings on these streets before there is more frequent bi-directional traffic on the rail line.

With all the development occurring in town it has become clear to me that Wellington Street is to Aurora what Major Mackenzie Drive is to Richmond Hill.

It is very likely that 20 years from now Aurora will have hourly rail service.

Peter Drost
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Bet it's sooner than that!!

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora



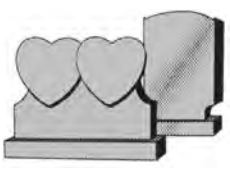
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Leo hunts mice at True Value

Another cat earns keep as a mouser

To the editor,

RE: Cloak the Cat is Back:

After a short leave, the Home Hardware Store's cat, Cloak, is back on the prowl for mice.

Cloak, however, is not the only resident cat assigned with the duties of being the "mouser".

There is Leo, the cat, (seen above) at the True Value hardware store on Yonge Street in Aurora.

Leo seems to have nine lives.

He lived in a store, near the hardware store for some time as their mouser. However, when this store closed for business, the owners could not take him with them.

Leo faced homelessness.

Fortunately, he found a new home at the hardware store.

Shoppers may see Leo at the back of the store, curled up in a ball and

sleeping in his bed; or walking about the store, meowing and surveying the premises. The proprietors of the store, Mike and Lorraine Evans, say Leo is a "good cat" and earns his keep at the store, as a mouser.

It is gratifying to find events like this can still be experienced in Aurora: a "purrfect" home town feeling.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Councillor “self-serving”, reader says

To the editor,

I don't know about the rest of your Auroran readers, but I'm getting sick and tired of Ms Buck's weekly self-serving column.

Take the Dec. 18 edition of The Auroran, where she excessively, through her column, kept patting herself on

the back for positions she's held and where she has been and what she has done.

Ms Buck, no one cares.

I bet the rest of council can hardly wait 'til she's gone.

You're not numero uno anymore, Ms Buck; you're just a councillor.

Eric Stohr
Aurora

ED. NOTE: For everyone's information, Ms Buck is not writing a column for The Auroran. She submits letters to the editor and they are printed. Anyone submitting verifiable letters gets the same treatment.

Clean your driveway right the first time, reader advises

To the editor,

I had read the letter to the paper wishing the town employee a very, very, Merry Christmas because the resident was told to make sure that the snow on the road gets put back on his property.

On Wellington Street, west of Yonge Street, while travelling east on Monday afternoon, after the huge snowfall on Sunday, I noticed that a resident was pushing all his snow from his drive into the south lane.

This was extremely dangerous due to the fact that Wellington was a plowed road, and I noticed every

vehicle behind me travelling in the south lane had to go into the north lane pretty quick to avoid this big pile of snow.

This is a 60 km zone and to hit all the snow in the lane while the resident is pushing it to the road would have been dangerous for the driver and the resident.

I then remembered the letter from the resident wishing the town employee a very, very, Merry Christmas and thought in this case on Wellington Street the resident would not be able to physically move that snow back onto his property. He would have to be physically in the south lane, and maybe in the north lane just to get it back onto his property.

I suspect he had no intentions to move it back, and to leave it on the road.

This incident was a great

example to show Mr. Turner that maybe folks aren't as enlightened as he.

Maybe the Town Employee that was doing his job, might have saved someone from getting into an accident?

Although I don't doubt Mr. Turner would have put his snow back, others might not.

Why spend all the energy pushing it onto the road, then spend all the energy pushing it back?

Why not just do it right the first time, and keep it on your property?

We, too, have a car parked in front of our house on a daily basis (not ours), and in 10 years we have never had to put snow on the road when we do our driveway.

J. Mills
Aurora



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Dr. Craig Dingman



Infantile Colic

Of all the health challenges that seem to plague infants, this is probably the one that causes the most upset with parents. Imagine for a moment feeding your munchkin, when all of a sudden he/she begins screaming at the top of her lungs - arms curling in, legs drawing up - with what seems to be agonizing pain. All the common remedies associated with “over-the-fence,” neighborly, and grand motherly advice seem to be of no avail. Colic and ear infections are the two conditions that tug at mothers’ and fathers’ heart strings more than any other conditions I see at our Centre.

Most parent health textbooks describing colic mention that it usually happens in the evening hours. I have not found that to be the case. I found that it tends to occur at any time of the day and seems to have no rhyme or reason. Colic, it seems, tends to start sometime in infancy, around the first two weeks of life, and can persist for a number of months.

For those who are not familiar with infantile colic, and have never had the pleasure of dealing with a child who is so afflicted, you have no idea how devastating it can be on parents’ nerves. Why? I’ll tell you. It is characterized by constant crying, screaming, whining, pain in the stomach area, and acute irritability. (This is not

cute irritability, this is acute irritability...big difference between the two). The spells of crying can last for hours and parents’ nerves can be shot at the end of such spells. This type of crying leads to aerophagia, which means the swallowing of air. This then causes distention or enlargement of the bowels, which then creates more pain, which creates more crying which creates more air being swallowed, which then becomes a cycle. Colic is also characterized by passing an exorbitant amount of gas and abdominal distension, which simply means the stomach area is enlarged and bloated (this gas thing can be embarrassing when in public - but you can always blame it on the family dog). As well, the infant is gaining weight, has a good appetite, and does not appear to be ill. If either of those is absent, then the incessant crying can be caused by a problem different from colic. In such cases, I would suggest you consult your family chiropractor or health provider to give you some advice.

There have been many theories people have used in the past to attempt to explain what colic really is and why it occurs. Some authorities have blamed lactose intolerance, some feel it is caused by stress of the parents - which a baby can readily pick up on - stress of the

baby, abnormal gallbladder function, higher levels of intestinal hormones, allergic reactions, digestive hormone instability, etc. None of these seem to provide adequate answers.

It is interesting to note that breast fed babies are less frequently affected by this colic thing whereas bottle fed babies have a much higher incidence. The answer here is that mom’s milk is specially designed for that baby - and no other. It’s the perfect food.

It is very easily digested, leaves very little waste, and research shows that breast fed babies have a higher IQ than their formula counterparts. Please contact La Leche League in your area for additional info on the benefits of breast-feeding.

One of the biggest concerns of a child having colic is that there is a potential for possible child abuse. To be very frank, try to imagine a child screaming for hours on end. I find that this will sometimes get on parents’ nerves and on occasion we see a condition which is called “the shaken baby syndrome.” This is a condition whereby the baby is literally shaken by the parents (or a baby sitter) to somehow stop him/her from crying. This only takes place when mom and dad are at the very ends of their wit. But, there is no excuse for this behavior. Shaking an infant can cause irreparable damage to a baby and sometimes even death. I am not suggesting that this is a huge problem, but there is potential for abuse of an infant who happens to be colicky. If you do ever feel that you as a parent are close to “losing it,” remember that there is a reason this takes place.

In my experience in dealing with many children and babies, I have found that a vertebral subluxation in the spine affecting the way the nervous system controls bowel function is usually the cause of colic. Any chiropractor involved in seeing children will attest to this fact. You must understand that the digestive system is essentially a long tube (refer to my column on “Tummy Troubles”) and is made of muscle walls, which are under the direct control of the nervous system. I find that a vertebral subluxation will reduce the amount of

information flowing from the brain to the large intestine in the case of colic - thereby reducing the normal function and motility (movement and function) of the large intestine. This causes food to “stick around” in the large intestine longer than it should and it tends to produce gas. This gas causes distention of the intestinal wall, causing pain and crying. The cry of the baby is really for help.

Children who are affected by colic generally show a wonderful response in the hands of a chiropractor. Most often I find results within the first week of care, but the care must be directed at the correction of the subluxation which is at the root of the problem, not simply giving the child mere relief. If only relief is given, there is a very high possibility of the subluxation becoming chronic and then causing arthritic degeneration, colitis, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, etc., later on in life. Not a desirable situation.

I should mention that I have often been asked if there are any nutritional products parents can give their colicky baby to ease their discomfort. I must tell you that I feel uncomfortable giving such advice when it involves an infant. I don't feel that their physiology is ready to accept outside help. Parents can ease some discomfort by applying warm towels to the abdominal area. This causes reflex relaxation of the muscles of the bowels and will generally ease pain to a degree. If the child is older, mom can try a little slippery elm powder and also test for lactose intolerance which may also produce gas in the bowel. The most important issue here is to find out why your baby has colic. To treat only the pain will provide, generally, short-term relief. I have always felt that this is a most important distinction.

For those of you who have children affected by colic, or know of a new mom who has a child so afflicted, I suggest you call us without delay. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel very welcome to contact me at (905) 841-0400 or www.healinghandsaurora.com.

Christmas not mentioned in “holiday concert”

To the editor,

I recently attended my Grandson's Kindergarten "Holiday Concert" at Regency Acres Public School in Aurora.

It was clear that teachers, students and volunteer parents worked very hard, rehearsing, festively decorating the auditorium, donating and organizing refreshments.

The children were assembled on stage wearing their handmade reindeer hats.

They sang two farm themed songs, followed by Jingle Bells, Dradel Dradel Happy Hanukah, then a Happy Eid song, with a grand finale of We wish you a Happy Holiday to the music of We wish you a Merry Christmas.

Nowhere in the lyrics of any song was the much feared mention of Christmas.

The concert ended with the appearance of Santa Claus ringing his bell and

handing out candy canes.

With my grandson's hand in mine I boldly wished Santa a Merry Christmas. My grandson looked at me, with the "you said a bad word Grandma" look.

I fully understand the removal of the Lord's Prayer in Public School and do believe that a religious education belongs in parochial school.

I further strongly believe that all cultures should be acknowledged, accepted, and respected.

However, this inclusion of all cultures should indeed acknowledge Christianity. Happy Hanukkah, Happy Eid and Merry Christmas wishes should be extended freely.

I confess I am a cultural Christian only; I do not attend church, nor do I subscribe to any particular doctrine.

I simply love the tree, the decorations, the twinkly lights, the turkey, the presents, the carols and the

phrase Merry Christmas.

I want to proudly pass along our family's traditions and joy of the season to my grandchildren, who I fear may become ashamed of celebrating Christmas.

This is truly a case of all or nothing, include every celebration or none, and certainly the latter isn't desirable.

When did it stop being okay to wish someone Merry Christmas?

What's next, no parade and a ban on Christmas lights and Shortbread cookies?

**Carla Crothers
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: A copy of this letter was also sent to Aurora-King School trustee Gord Kerr. His response follows:

Dear Carla Crothers,

Thank you for the e-mail and thank you for attending

the concert at Regency Acres Public School.

Attending these events sends a powerful message to our children about how much we value the school and education.

I am truly sorry that you left Regency feeling disappointed that Christmas was not represented.

Our staff and students work diligently in so many ways to represent the major faiths and cultures within our school communities.

In doing so, they are working to bring our Board Vision and Values to life.

Our Board Vision includes this statement: "We respect and celebrate our differences" and our Values statement includes: "We strive for equity, inclusiveness and diversity in all our programs, practices, facilities and people".

Regency Acres Public School prides itself on recognizing major faiths during the holiday concerts, incorporating Christian, Islamic and Jewish activities.

Songs and other art forms are used to include and educate students and families about a variety of cultural followings.

During this concert, the children sang "We Wish You a Happy Holiday" to the music of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

I support this decision as the children singing were of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths, as were members of the audience.

The wishes were intended to be inclusive within the context of a multicultural environment.

During the evening, staff wished many families and children a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Eid, or Happy Holiday as appropriate to specific individuals and families.

To answer your question specifically, it remains okay within our Board and our system to wish people a Merry Christmas.

It is also okay to wish people a Happy Chanukah, Happy Eid and Happy Holidays.

In this sensitive and important area of inclusiveness, we seek to live our Values and to bring our Vision to life for the benefit of all our students and their families.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

**Gord Kerr
Trustee
Aurora and King
York Region District
School Board**

Teen cleaned my driveway, senior says

To the editor,

The heavy snowfalls we had just prior to Christmas resulted in most of us doing a great deal of walk and driveway shovelling.

I had cleared these areas several times and then the dreaded snowplows passed and left their usual banks that are the most difficult to remove.

I had just started this task when a group of teenaged girls and boys came up on Golf Links Drive and I assumed they were students from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

One of the boys asked if he could help and I said that would be great.

The job was completed in short order and after extending my thanks and wishing him a

Merry Christmas, he went his way.

The reason for writing this letter is that we tend to hear about the bad teens but the vast majority of them are great kids but don't get their due credit.

Thanks again, young man.

**B. Robertson
(an appreciative senior)
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: The editor, also a senior, nearly had a heart attack shovelling out his driveway recently when, minutes after he had finished, the plow came along and filled it in again. Someone with a snowblower came by and made short work of that new snowbank. Whoever it was, thank you.

Took days to clear town's sidewalks

To the editor,

As climate change talks

were wrapping up in Bali, Aurora was being hit with the first major snowstorm

New book provided a trip down memory lane

Open letter to Elizabeth Milner, author of the new book, "Aurora 1945-1965".

What a treat to take a trip down memory lane, as I read your new book...Aurora 1945-1965.

I had never taken the time to realize that I grew up in that wonderful small town, at a special time in history...the period immediately following World War Two. The social history that you researched and recorded took me back to my own early years.

I grew up in a place where

people knew most of the other people around them. We were free to play safely on the streets for hours and hours.

Fields, creeks, and places like Sheppard's Bush were our playgrounds.

No one was wealthy, but we were all enriched by our friends and our surroundings.

This is what you have captured in your book, and I thank you for that.

**Pat (Davis) Beal
Huntsville**

of the season.

And as we dug ourselves out that Sunday, the sound of snowplows could be heard going up and down the streets.

Yet Monday morning as I headed for public transit, I was to discover that the no sidewalks had been cleared, including those on Yonge Street!

As the world struggles to reduce emissions, those of us who support public transit are left to risk our lives in Aurora by walking on the streets in the dark because the sidewalks aren't cleared for days.

Later that morning the situation grew worse as children who were headed

to schools and bus stops were also being forced to walk on the streets.

It wasn't until Wednesday night (the storm stopped Sunday afternoon) that the sidewalk on Batson was cleared between Spruce Street and Yonge Street - with this being the major route that transit riders take to get to one of only four Viva stops in town.

Could it be that the funds that were allocated in previous years for snow removal along sidewalks were used to support the beloved chicanes in our newest gated community?

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Some television advertising is simply not worth watching

To the editor,

I am not a big fan of censorship of any kind but I do firmly believe the general public should be advised that "viewer discretion is advised" when appropriate.

Having had a weekly cable show "Inquiring Minds" on Aurora Cable, I became aware of the use of disclaimers to protect/advice not only the public but the station as well.

The show didn't have any sponsors so we did not have to worry about offending them.

Now, like most people, I watch television on a regular basis, have my favourite shows and try to skip as many commercials as I can.

Did you ever notice the commercials are louder than the program so even if you leave the room they still get you?

Lately, maybe because I am watching too much TV or becoming too critical (but I don't think so) I have become outraged at several commercials, which I try hard not to watch in the first place.

Ad professionals are using violence against animals like the one that shows an old lady back-handing her cat off the table to sell cheese.

What about the WSPA and the OSPCA commercials soliciting funds for homeless/abused animals here or elsewhere in the world utilizing the most horrific, graphic pictures?

I don't know about you, but I can't stand to see any cruelty to anything let alone a defenceless creature.

There is also the myriad of organizations that help children in other countries who use the most heart wrenching visuals of severely dehydrated, fly covered children to compete for their funding using guilt as a solicitation tool.

But the worst, so far that I have seen, is the WSIB who not only show scenes of severe burn victims, etc. but tell a gut turning story about how this happens and that there is no such thing as an accident and that these situations can all be prevented!

Well, tell this to the many firefighters who

come to an inferno, as prepared as they can, not stopping to see if the workplace is accident prevention approved. Is it right to keep drilling these images into those individuals who try to effect the best possible safe workplace but would lose their jobs if they reported deficiencies or complained?

We all know that accidents do happen even when all precautions are taken. According to Darrell Hurst, vice-president of business development at Drafftcb, the agency that created the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario "the campaign is summed up in three words; shocking but effective".

Rather than subjecting all of us to stomach turning images, perhaps these advertising dollars would be better put to use training inspectors, assisting with installation of safety measures and settling claims with on-the-job victims.

The CRTC requires disclaimers, viewers' discretion for content to be shown before returning to

programs.

I find rather this practice impractical.

What if you joined a program already in progress?

There is the technology to show the issue of content at the bottom of screen – why not utilize that area for the entire program?

If you have ever been channel surfing and hit on Showcase you know what I mean.

It should be mandatory and the responsibility of the Ad Council of Canada to require advertisers to notify viewers about the content of the commercials so that the general public can choose to watch.

I know what effect the badly burned face of the chef had on me and am concerned about those who are caught unaware and have a lasting bad effect.

I have taught ethics in the media geared to print, radio and television but never would have imagined the day would come when advertisers would have to be told it could be unethical to air such graphic images possibly resulting in the

opposite effect other than the one they intended.

Personally, I don't buy Armstrong cheese 'cause of the ad with the cat

(oops, did I say that in my out loud voice).

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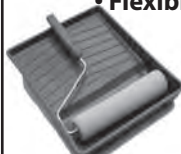
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Mayor's work ethic worthy of comment

To the editor,

I have never been one to write to newspapers but I also have a strong belief that those who do "quiet actions" behind the scenes sometimes deserve the spotlight moreso than those who are constantly trying to hog it.

As background, I am a lifelong conservative.

I believe strongly in personal responsibility and admittedly, have not a lot of sympathy for those who are not prepared to help themselves.

This has always placed

me on the side of Tim Jones in mayoral elections rather than Phyllis Morris.

Simply put, Phyllis Morris appears to be more 'left wing' than I am comfortable with.

However, there are times where politics can be overcome by a good old fashioned work ethic.

Skipping the detail, I had some "issues" with the way I was being treated by Turtle Island recycling and when I had reached my wits end after dealing with them, I wrote to Phyllis Morris on Friday night, Dec. 27.

I received an automated

response from her e-mail telling me she was off until Jan 3, but would be occasionally accessing e-mail and would try to respond.

I heard from her via phone by 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 - I missed her call but she left her home number for me to call.

This is the second time I have written to her and both times she has responded immediately.

During Tim's time, I wrote to him once and never heard back from him and here is Phyllis on her holiday phoning me and leaving me her home number on a

Saturday to deal with my issue.

I am only one resident, so imagine how hard she must work to handle all this kind of stuff that comes her way.

I think that kind of behind the scenes commitment speaks volumes about a person's motives in public service.

**Frank Brown
Aurora**

Bus is usually empty

To the editor,

**Re: York Region Transit
Bus route 32 - Another big waste of money!**

Am I the only one who has noticed how empty the buses on route #32 are most of the times?

I live on Murray Drive.

A few years ago, I started to notice that whether it's early in the morning, middle day, right after office hours or late at night, the buses that pass by my place are pathetically empty.

When it's not, rarely have I seen more than three people on it.

Week days or week ends

don't seem to make any difference either.

I am sure I couldn't fill one single bus to capacity with the total of people I've seen using that route in more than two years!

Doesn't anyone ever survey the usefulness of such

bus routes?

Isn't it time to reevaluate if that service is still needed?

Another perfect example of our tax money at work.

**Lise Boily
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Tigers upset division leaders, whip Seguin

After a long holiday break, forgetting the turkey and stuffing, it was finally time for the Aurora Tigers to shake off the Christmas cobwebs and get back to hockey Friday night in Huntsville.

Would the extra Christmas pounds amount to a sluggish Tigers squad? No way.

Going into the break Aurora was on a 10-3-0 tear through the Northern Division, and forgetting how difficult it is to get back to form after such a long layoff, the Tigers looked like they barely missed a step, blasting through their holiday culinary sins along with the first place Huntsville-Muskoka Otters on the road in front of a near sell out by a score of 4-2.

Four different Tabbies - Mike Bodley, Jeff Harbach, Mike McLaughlin and Sam Yearsley - scored for the surging Tigers, who with the win over the first place Otters have gone a stellar 11-3-0 in their last 14 contests.

One day later, they extended that record with a 9-6 win over the Seguin Bruins.

Goalie Aaron Barton gave a solid last line of defense for the Tigers stopping 38 of 40 shots that came his way, on rout to his 12th win of the season in the Huntsville contest.

Saturday night both teams excited the crowd of more than 300 Bruins faithful as they shot out the lights of the Humphrey Community Centre, scoring a combined 15 goals in what was anything but a goaltender's duel between the two back stops Aaron Barton and Andy Cieslak.

Fortunately for the Tigers, their scoring prowess was too much for the lowly Bruins to handle.

Leading the way for the Tigers was Mike McLaughlin who recorded four points on the night with three goals and an assist, along with Jeff Harbach who matched his teammate with four points with two goals and two helpers.

Following closely behind were Captain Mark Thorburn, Jordan Watts and Mark Mayea who recorded three points each in the Tiger win.

Michael Sardella added a single for the final Tiger tally.

Aaron Barton got his second straight start in picking up his second win in this young New Year stopping 35 of 41 shots.

With the win the Tigers improve to a perfect 2-0 to

start 2008, and have gone an impressive 12-3-0 over their last 15 contests.

The two wins continue to firmly entrench the Tigers in third place in the North Division standings six points behind their second place arch rivals the Newmarket Hurricanes, and nine points behind Huntsville.

Tigers continue to hold a single game in hand on Newmarket and two games in hand on the first place Otters.

The Tigers stay on the road for the next two games before briefly returning to the Community Centre Jan. 18 for a date with the Seguin Bruins, after which they head back out on the road for another two.

Before that the Tabbies travel to Stouffville Thursday night and Collingwood Friday night to take on the Spirit and Blues.

Prior to Christmas, a solid crowd at the Aurora Community Centre was the perfect compliment to a pre-game hoisting of the 2007 Royal Bank of Canada Championship banner.

Nineteen of the 23-man roster for last year's National Championship squad attended the ceremony which was met with boisterous cheers by both former players and fans alike.

Those cheers resonated once again after the current class of Tabbies got to tangle with the visiting Villanova Knights, besting them by a score of 9-3.

Goaltender Matt Beirnes stopped 23 of 26 shots for the victory.

Two days later, the Tigers met the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters in their final game before the Christmas break.

Division leading

Huntsville was waiting for them and came up with a 3-1 win even though Aurora led by a goal into the third period.

Three unanswered Huntsville markers over a short five minute span in the third would be all the Otters needed as they downed Aurora 3-1.

Aaron Barton got the call in net and stopped 28 of 31 shots despite the loss.

Tigers' Jan. 18 home game begins at 7.30 p.m.

AURORA 4 HUNTSVILLE 2	
First Period	
H: Josh Vatri (Carswell, George) 0.42	
H: Daniel Barnett (Moreau) 2.31	
A: Sam Yearsley (Smith, Heaphy) PP 4.16	

Second Period	
A: Mike Bodley (Smith, Yearsley) PP 8.51	
Third Period	
A: Jeff Harbach (Watts, Thorburn) 2.44	
A: Mike McLaughlin (Mayea) 4.53	

AURORA 9 SEGUIN 6	
First Period	
S: Brent Mueller (Marinakos) 7.31	
A: Jeff Harbach (Vanderlugt) 19.35	
Second Period	
A: Mark Thorburn (Harbach, Watts) PP 0.46	
S: Geherett Sargis (Baxter) 9.26	

A: Jordan Watts (Harbach, McLaughlin) 12.27	S: Micael Lamontagne (DeLong, Mueller) 10.32
A: Michael Sardella (unassisted) 17.52	A: Mike McLaughlin (Mayea) 10.47
S: Luke Aitken (unassisted) 18.12	A: Mark Thorburn (Novak, Thomson) 11.27
S: Brent Mueller (Sargis) 19.33	S: Ian DeLong (Lamontagne, Sargis) 15.50

Third Period	
A: Jeff Harbach (Thorburn, Watts) 9.41	A: Mike McLaughlin (Mayea) EN 19.22

Standings					
TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Huntsville	38	32	6	0	64
Newmarket	37	30	6	1	61
Aurora	36	26	7	3	55
Couchiching	38	23	11	4	50
Stouffville	35	21	11	3	45
Orangeville	37	14	22	1	29
Collingwood	37	8	27	2	18
Seguin	37	8	28	1	17
Villanova	36	3	32	1	7

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Instead of the usual gift exchange at Christmas, the Aurora Panthers Pee wee AA hockey team decided to help out their community. They each donated gifts and their time to help less fortunate families in Aurora. Above are some team members helping out with volunteer Carol Rose-Kudelka of Aurora United Church. Welcoming Arms is an Ecumenical outreach project supported by four churches, Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Trinity Anglican and Aurora United. It is located at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

Cliffhanger game brings bronze medal to Aurora

It was a veritable nailbiter of a game as the Aurora Tigers Novice AE team captured the bronze medal against the North London Nationals in the 41st Annual Hespeler Minor Hockey Olympics Tournament held recently.

The Tigers had lost to this team 3-1 in the opening

Committee

From page 1

ered, to the Town Clerk, 1 Municipal Drive.

For more information, call 905-727-3123 ext. 4222.

More information about this opportunity, including a summary of terms of reference, meeting times, duties and functions for the committees and application forms may also be obtained at the Aurora Public Library or the Corporate Services Department on the second floor of Aurora Town Hall.

Go to e-aurora.ca for additional information.

Ms St. Kitts, wife of musician George St. Kitts, said earlier she was appalled when she learned the July First parade - a tradition in Aurora since 1969 - was cancelled.

Several smaller parades involving neighbourhoods took place July First last year, indicating the desire to hold a large parade was still there.

However, only five applications for the committee have left the Snowball resident wondering if it is.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to get on a map showing your support for the event, go to www.clickmycommunity.ca and get yourself a "Support Canada Day Parade" banner.

game of the tournament, but found themselves facing the Nationals again following a thrilling semi-final loss to the Stratford Warriors.

The Warriors had gone 33-2 in goals for/against in their four-game round robin series and only narrowly held off the Tigers by a margin of 4-3.

Stratford ultimately went on to win the tournament.

In the fight for the bronze, the Tigers got off to a slow start against the Nationals

and found themselves trailing 2-0 until Jacob Cann, with Will Morin assisting, put Aurora on the scoreboard late in the second period.

Then, with only 58 seconds left in regulation time, defenceman Chris Pettit fired a wrist shot past the London goalie, tying the game and sending it into sudden-death overtime.

The five-minute overtime solved nothing and the teams proceeded to a best-of-five shootout.

Tigers clinched the shootout 2-0 with goals from Ty Boisseau and Kyle Rice while goalie Tyler Thomas stoned the Nationals in the Aurora net.

The shootout success meant a 3-2, come-from-behind victory for the Tigers and a bronze medal.

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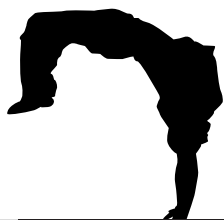
Paper registration forms will be
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First three months of 2007 in Aurora reviewed

From page 1

cils and at first glance appeared to do so.

If nothing else it solved a problem that had rocked the previous council over closed assemblies and workshop meetings as the Act clearly stated that a meeting may be closed for the purpose of educating or training members, but it created a raucous debate on council in March.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested that as the former council had not been able to make decisions on several issues including the fate of the hydro building and Library Square that a training session be held to bring the new members of council up to date and have as full, frank and free discussion in order to make an

informed decision, but her proposal renewed the battles of previous term with Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillor Evelina MacEachern leading the attack resulting in the Buck motion being defeated on a 5-4 vote.

Council also had difficulty deciding whether to interview candidates for appointment to the various statutory and advisory committees and other than appointments to the Committee of Adjustment, decided to interview applicants only if deemed necessary.

A complex planning application for a condominium plan of 75 detached homes and an 18 hole golf course on both sides of Leslie Street north of Bloomington Road which still has to go before the Ontario

Municipal Board was before council in January when council authorized staff to retain outside legal council to represent the town.

At the same time, council asked the region to add the 2C lands to the regional official plan on the completion of certain studies to provide additional employment lands and Aurorans were told they would soon know if a Wal-Mart was coming to town.

An ongoing debate on licensing fees for pets got started in January as staff recommended fee increases for dogs and cats with dogs going from \$20 to \$30 and from \$10 to \$20 for a cat and seniors were to be charged at a reduced rate due to the increasing cost of animal control services which, after considerable debate, was endorsed by the general committee.

But in February after receiving several comments from citizens opposing the fee increases, the enacting bylaw was referred back to staff and direction given to issue licences under the former bylaw.

The previous October York's six northern municipalities agreed to the terms of a partnership agreement with Turtle Island Recycling in a joint contract as a means of reducing collection costs and implementing the three-stream waste program.

The President of the Ontario Waste Management Association appeared before the general committee to request a

delay until the Association could make a presentation as he claimed the evaluation process was flawed. His presentation was received and referred to staff.

In February, council was advised there was a possibility the 2007 Aurora Horse Show and fair may have to be cancelled after 85 years due to the lack of volunteers. Rather than miss a year, the Aurora Agricultural Society made arrangements for the Trillium Hunter/Jumper Association to operate the horse show in Machell Park while the Society regrouped for 2008.

Unfortunately, Machell Park had been made available for the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and an alternate location was suggested for the Horse Show but it was too late and the horse show was cancelled.

Also during February discussions took place for a gateway feature at the intersection of Highway 404 and Wellington Street with \$80,000 donated by Whitwell Developments. The previous November council disagreed with a recommendation of the Economic Development Committee and it was bounced back to council, but there was no agreement.

Finally, an ad hoc committee was appointed to come up with some options. In November, the design and location were approved subject to Ministry of Transportation approval.

Council also had trouble

naming streets in February as members couldn't agree on names submitted by the developer as they wanted names selected from the town's bank of names.

Staff advised that according to town policy developers were supplied with the names in the name bank, but had the option of submitting their own names. The committee finally approved the submitted names but requested a review of the street naming policy.

Aurora hydro users received good news in February as due to rate harmonization by PowerStream Aurora hydro rates would decrease by 7.8 per cent or \$8.34 for the average residential user.

Five residential homes on Wellington Street East were demolished to make way for a new Catholic High School with a public planning meeting scheduled for March.

In recognition of Ontario Heritage Week council honoured six citizens for their contribution to the conversation, education and raising awareness of local heritage and who were recipients of the 2007 Heritage Community Recognition Awards.

They were Dr. Leslie Oliver, Gordon and Marie Barnes, Ken Smith, Jane Staunton and Jacqueline Stuart.

In March Inspector Paul Pedersen of York Regional Police made a presentation to council regarding the sale of

replica guns resulting in council directing staff to prepare a draft bylaw.

The draft bylaw was approved in July and forwarded to police for comments. By August 2007 in response to a query, staff replied that a region-wide bylaw was being prepared and would be presented to council

The ACI controversy over the installation of three wind turbines at their transmitter site on Ridge Road started in March and although staff advised council it met all the town requirements and was an issue between the cable firm and the Ministry of the Environment, council became involved due to the complaints of a few citizens regarding potential noise effects.

In March, negotiations over rent fees between the town and York Region Neighbourhood Services who operated the Crescentbrook Day Care in the Jack Woods farmhouse forced the agency to consider closing.

Later the child care facility was closed and council declared the farmhouse surplus to municipal needs and put it up for sale. At the end of the year the property had not been sold.

Also in March, council agreed in principle to fund the renovations at the Church Street School and for funds to be included in the 2007 capital budget at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million. The tender was recently awarded for \$2.1 million.

Part Two next week.

Monday Night Hockey League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	8	3	2	59	34	18
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6	3	4	58	51	16
Highland Chev-Cad	6	3	4	55	47	16
Tom & Jerry's	5	4	4	47	46	14
FPL Aggregates	5	5	3	48	48	13
Law Insurance Brokers	3	6	4	39	51	10
Masterclean Contracting	3	6	3	46	58	9
Baldwin's	3	8	2	42	52	8

WEEKLY SCORES

Rec Sports	4	Priestly Demolition	4
FPL Aggregates	2	Law Insurance	4
Highland Chev	5	Tom & Jerry's	6
Baldwin's	1	Masterclean	2

SCORING LEADERS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts
John Anderson	Rec Sports	21	11	32
Mark Sedore	Priestly	13	18	31
John Archibauld	Highland's	21	9	30
Scott Crabb	Highland's	10	13	23
John Yaremko	Masterclean	11	11	22
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	8	14	22
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	11	8	19
Jason Muise	Priestly	10	9	19
Steven McDonald	FPL	7	12	19
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	4	14	18
Pat O'Mahony	Baldwins	11	6	17
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	10	7	17
Mark Swirla	Priestly	8	8	16
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	7	9	16
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	10	16
Ron Van Noort	Rec Sports	4	11	15
Dave Caverley	FPL	9	5	14
Paul Klatney	Law Insurance	9	5	14
Ed Jackson	Baldwins	6	8	14
Bruce Ing	Highland's	3	11	14
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	8	5	13
Gerald Briand	FPL	7	6	13
Ron Theson	Tom & Jerry's	0	13	13
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	9	3	12
Craig Donaldson	FPL	5	7	12
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	3	9	12
Darren Yaremko	Masterclean	3	9	12
Les Nip	Rec Sports	6	5	11
Dean Iwai	FPL	6	5	11
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	3	8	11
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	3	8	11
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	3	7	10
Dave McQueston	FPL	3	7	10
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	2	8	10
Vince Rochon	Tom & Jerry's	5	4	9
Sam Speranini	Law Insurance	5	4	9
Mark Lemon	Baldwins	4	5	9
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	6	9
Steve Rizwick	Tom & Jerry's	3	6	9
Dwayne Smith	Baldwins	3	6	9
Steve Robertson	Highland's	2	7	9
Brian McKenzie	Rec Sports	1	8	9
Rob Stroud	Law Insurance	2	7	9
Glen Butler	Baldwins	3	6	9
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	3	6	9
Murray Campbell	Priestly	4	4	8
Peter Briand	FPL	3	5	8
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Mike Kensit	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Ken Rumble	Highland's	3	5	8
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	6	8
Dan Smith	Tom & Jerry's	1	7	8
Gord Lee	Priestly	4	3	7
John Leeder	Law Insurance	4	3	7
Brian McCartney	Law Insurance	4	3	7
Mike O'Conner	Baldwins	4	3	7
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	3	4	7
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	5	7
Doug Hackett	FPL	2	5	7
Jerry Mackrell	Priestly	2	5	7
John Spicer	Priestly	2	5	7
Steve Bromley	Baldwin's	1	6	7
Dave Holden	Rec Sports	1	6	7
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	6	7



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday December 16th



House League Novice

201 Penguins 6 - Cameron Dyer 3G, Andrew Warner 2G, Joshua Fallavollita 1G. **203 Senators 6** - Eric Peras 4G, Alex Middleton 1G, Troy Lane 1G, Johnathon Martin 1A, David Tonelli 1A, Stephen McNeil 1A.

Minor Atom

304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 10 - Will Ashton 2G 2A, Tyler Williams 3G 1A, Devon Hope 1G, Alex Carter 1G 2A, James Eydt 1G 2A, Matthew MacDonald 1G, Jordan Elliott 1G, Matthew Colucci 1A, Matthew Barnett 1A, James Kellet 2A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 4** - Matthew Ciancio 2G, Matthew Carney 1G, Riley Callaghan 1G, Jamie Finlay 2A, Harrison Lambrinos 1A.

306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 9 - Alex Sesto 3G, Ben Kissack 2G 1A, Kyle Hunter 2G 1A, Mitchell Haak 1G 2A, Christopher Aldis 1G. **303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 1** - Vincent Nguyen 1G, Adam Wilson 1A.

302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 7 - Tristan Kuchar 4G 1A, Daniel Della Rocca 1G, Theo Meadows 1G, Alistair Johnston 1G 1A, Ryan D'Antimo 2A Paige Crossley 2A, Lucas Bulmer 2A, Liam Desouza 1A, Bradey Adams 1A, Mark McCombe 1A, Nicholas Hatzitolios 1A, Dustin Crossley 1A, Alex Hoffman 1A. **301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 2** - Jacob Fenchak 1G, Connor Braund 1G, Lucas Paolini 2A, Christian Pearce 1A, Maxwell Jones 1A.

302 Rec Cycle N' Sports Yellow Bruins 4 - Alistair Johnston 2G, Tristan Kuchar 2G, Lucas Bulmer 1A, Bradey Adams 1A. **304 Pharmasave Burgundy Colorado 1** - James Eydt 1G, Jordan Elliott 1A.

306 Optimist Club Pittsburgh Black 7 - Ben Kissack 3G 2A, Alex Sesto 1G 1A, Tarek Koudmani 2G, Max Bruckner 1G, Nat Leontis 1A. **305 HS Financial Blue Leafs 2** - Connor Tripp 1G, Matthew Carney 1G, Austin Hendy 1A.

301 Diamond Groundskeeping Red Flames 5 - Noah Mayerlen 2G, Michael Jollimore 1G 1A, Michael Dowling 1G 1A, Connor Braund 1G, Brett Diamond 1A. **303 McAlpine Ford White Senators 3** - Tyler Wilson 2G 1A, Jake Schachter 1G, Jordi Severini 1A, Cory Brear 1A.

Atom

405 1 - Brendan Ruuskanen 1G. **406 1** - Michael Imesis 1G, Aaron Rival 1A.

Minor Bantam

702 4 - Michael Rodrigues 1G, Michael Foresi 1A, Matthew Hart

1G, Gabriel C-Bauset 1G, Michael Mildon 1A, Matthew MacEachern 1G, Cameron Albert 1A.

707 2 - Brendan Kirsack 1G, 1A, Evan Jones 1A, Cameron Bamford 1G.

Minor Midget

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 3 - Anthony Marsillo 2G, Brandon Rival 1G, Chris Dynes 2A, Marlon Young 1A, Brandon Rival 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 2** - Ian Stock 1G, Wendel Martins 1G, Drew Coley 1A, Wendel Martins 1A.

906 Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 8 - Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Grant Wood 2G, Dylan Lastuk 3G, Jakub Sykora 1G, Paul Duggan 1G, Jakub Sykora 5A, Scott Parry 1A, Brendan Beatty 1A, Matthew Raponi 2A, Ryan Bagshaw 1A. **903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 1** - Dexter Speller-Drews 1G, Nick Orsatti 1A, Julian Biasoni 1A.

901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 4 - Mike Delplavignano 1G, Peter Durst 3G, Mike Gray 2A, Mike Delplavignano 1A, Eric De Roos 1A, Kyle Blazer 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Neil Gaston 1G, Geoff Gianopoulos 1G, Michael Moody 1A.

906 Wood Brother's Drywall Pittsburgh Black 5 - Jakub Sykora 2G, Paul Duggan 2G, Matthew Raponi 1G, Paul Duggan 2A, Scott Parry 1A, Dylan Sutherland 1A, Matthew Raponi 1A, Grant Wood 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 1** - Wendel Martins 1G, Evan Casselden 1A.

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 3 - Anthony Marsillo 2G, Brandon Rival 1G, Anthony Marsillo 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 0.**

903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 3 - Scott Cunningham 2G, Michael Coggin 1G, Nick Orsatti 1A, Dexter Speller-Drews 1A, Devin Scudds 1A. **901 Remax Barb Blaser Calgary Red 2** - Peter Durst 2G.

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 6 - Jack Liotta 2G, Devlin Kauffeldt 1A, Brady Futterer 1G 1A, Morgan Frost 1G, Dimitri Mikrogiannakis 1A, Alexander Simardone 1A, Anthony Issaris 1G 1A, Graydon Belgue 1G. **Newmarket Redmen Novice AA 0.**

Newmarket Redmen Minor Atom AA 6. Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 2 - Graham Sanford 1G, Cameron Morrison 1G 1A, Michael Da Costa 1A.



Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

New Year's dance a huge success

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) knows how to organize and throw a party, a big party and the New Year's Eve dinner dance provided abundant opportunity to dance and sing, enjoy a few social drinks, quaff a few more by those not driving, eat to capacity and generally enjoy the New Year's Eve festivities.

It was a great night and the hall was filled with people, many of whom became acquainted when they joined the Association, and now they fill the West-McKenzie Hall to capacity time and again attracted by events which draw members who spend many profitable hours together pursuing activities at the centre.

The concept of the ASA provides a good recipe for seniors who want to enjoy their years among a close knit group and among many others always ready to stop and socialize.

To be a member of a group of seniors enjoying social life, which is as good as it gets, involves a powerful desire to be part of the group and with an eagerness to participate, and the ASA has a healthy throng

of seniors who fill this bill.

Thus it was when the ASA partied through our last dinner dance of the year 2007, and whooped in the year 2008 with hugs and handshakes all around.

We owe special thanks to all who organized or volunteered in the preparation and to those who actually ran the event.

Many of these members were in attendance, enjoying themselves to the full and keeping an alert mind to anything amiss or future opportunities for improvement.

The new year is now in full swing and the ASA is in full activity mode; the choir sings, the pool players play a variety of games, the card players are deeply into their favourite games and the computer club members compute and wonder how ever did we manage before computers were invented?

And this is the time of year to renew membership and the very best time to join and gain the advantage of a full year of membership which is January to December, year to year.

The advanced years are the

result of a long full lifetime and are characterized by a gradual loss of energy both physical and mental.

The best way to mitigate these effects is by keeping active and being surrounded by others of similar age who are active in their chosen fields of retired pleasure.

Numerous are the activities and programs available at the ASA, and clear to see in the

constant coming and going every hour of every day of seniors participating and reaping the pleasure that involvement with others brings.

I believe the vast majority of seniors would benefit themselves and many others by participating in the ASA.

Each member is a valuable asset, and the more assets we have, the greater the value of the whole to all members.

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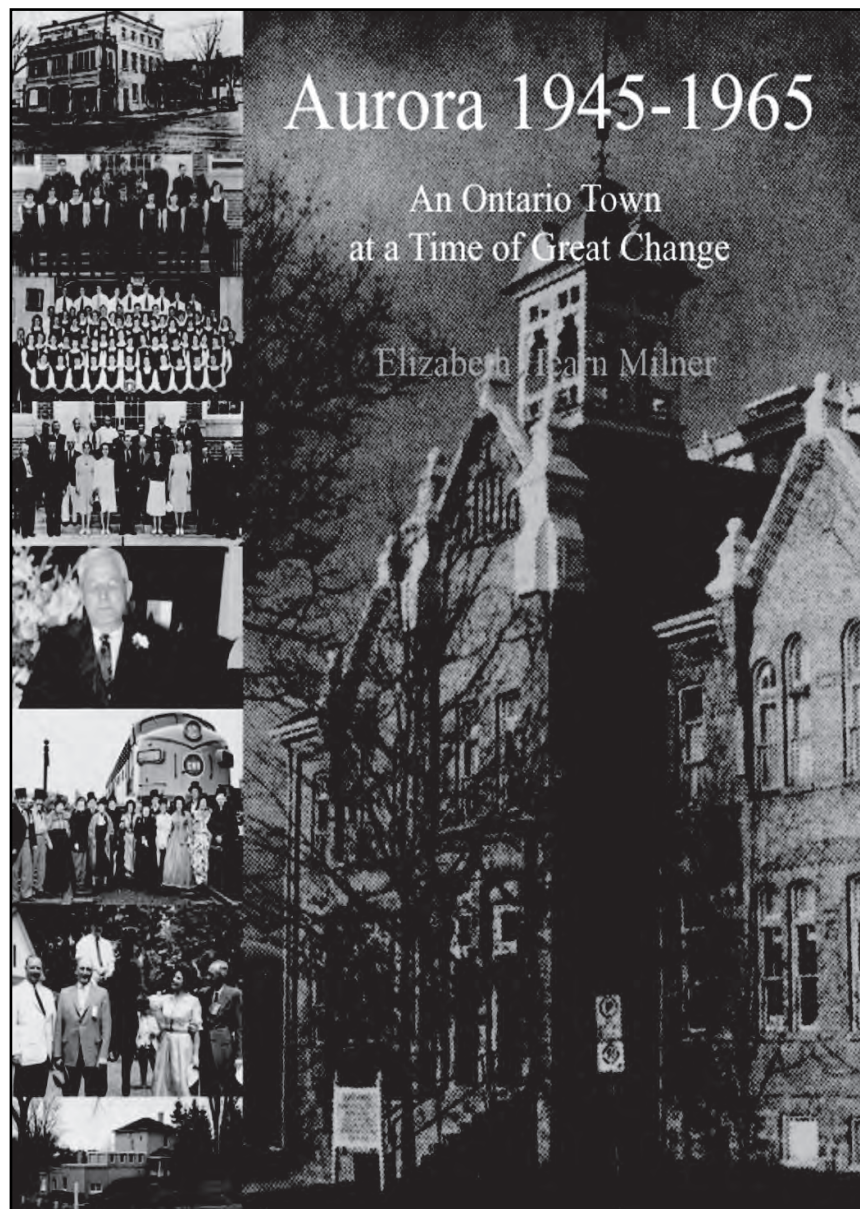
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Aurora in Review through Scott's eyes

By **SCOTT JOHNSTON**

Jan. 1 - A fresh start with a new council has Aurorans hoping they've seen and heard the last of the word "dysfunctional".

Jan. 5 - Discussing two agenda items relating to the intersection of Wellington and Highway 404, council debates and then defers a decision on a new gateway sign, but in record time approves the request for an even bigger Walmart.

Jan. 12 - In case potential new homeowners backing onto the hydro lines can't see the 140 foot structures looming over their houses, the town insists that the proximity to the towers be included in sales agreements. To avoid similar misunderstandings, future agreements must also warn new homeowners that the sky is blue, water is wet, and it's not a good idea to play in traffic.

Jan. 19 - The amount of energy spent by Ridge Road residents to fight Aurora Cable Internet's proposed windmill now exceeds the windmill's potential generating capacity for the next three years.

Jan. 26 - Citing an alarming lack of construction projects in town, council approves development of the 2C lands, the last large remaining undeveloped area of Aurora.

Feb. 2 - The groundhog correctly predicts that Habitat for Humanity will once again be unsuccessful in its attempts to build its first home in Aurora.

Feb. 10 - The Organizing Committee receives an early Valentine's present from Mother Nature when after an unseasonable warm winter, cold and snowy weather arrives just in time for the Aurora Arctic Adventure.

Feb. 22 - Water ban weary Aurorans discover that the region's new water tower to be built in Aurora north of Bloomington will service only Richmond Hill.

Mar. 11 - Daylight savings starts three weeks early - sadly, Spring does not.

Mar. 16 - It's suggested that the Aurora Farmer's Market may close - not due to a lack of popularity, but because all the development in the area means there aren't as many farmers within commuting distance.

Mar. 27 - Evelyn Buck advises residents in a letter to the editor of the Auroran that she will no longer be writing letters to the paper.

Apr. 4 - Evelyn Buck writes a letter to the editor of The Auroran - the first of 17 more that she will send to the paper through the rest of 2007.

Apr. 7 - The use of 14,000 eggs at the town's annual Easter egg hunt prompts officials to consider re-adopting Aurora's old title of Chicken Capital of Canada.

Apr. 17 - Some people never learn - after escaping 28 years in local politics, Tim Jones suggests he'll run for the Federal Newmarket-Aurora Liberal nomination.

Apr. 22 - Arguments continue to rage over the artificial turf playing field installed in Sheppard's Bush, with proponents saying it will allow for a longer playing season than natural grass, and opponents arguing that it's hard to access a field that's permanently fenced in.

Apr. 26 - A study finds that contrary to expectations, there is lots of parking downtown near Library Square, mainly because all of Aurora's shops and services are moving from Yonge Street out to Bayview and Leslie.

May 1 - It's not fair, when the Horse Show is cancelled.

May 6 - Torontonians are outraged by their 3 per cent tax increase. Meanwhile Aurorans are overjoyed with their 4 per cent tax increase - the lowest in years.

May 13 - Two Aurora wildlife success stories are announced: coyotes have returned to Sheppard's Bush, and the Tigers have won the Canadian junior hockey championship.

May 22 - Council holds a closed door session to discuss ways of reducing the increasing number of council closed door sessions.

Jun. 3 - What a difference a

week makes at Yonge & Wellington - more than 500 vendors crowd Yonge Street for the Street Festival, while six days later the Farmer's Market opens with three vendors.

Jun. 9 - "Binney" is chosen as the name for the new green bin mascot over runner-up choices "Stinky", "Yucky" and "Eeeewwww".

Jun. 20 - The aerobic benefit of a longer walk to school for students is noted by the Board as an advantage of the proposed relocation of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to the east end of town.

Jun. 25 - It's suggested that one day Yonge Street through town may see dedicated bus routes...because, after all, why would you want cars to take up a whole lane so that people can work and shop along Yonge Street in Aurora, when you can use that lane to bus them to work and shop in Toronto?

Jun. 27 - The Cenotaph and War Memorial Park undergo a \$100,000 face lift, most of which goes towards the purchase of "No Dogs Allowed" signs.

Jul. 1 - The town's July 1st celebrations go off without a hitch...or a parade.

Jul. 6 - Councillors, worried about even more people looking over their shoulders, deny a developer's request to build high rise condos behind Town Hall.

Jul. 22 - They say you can't take it with you, and Aurora dog owners prove it by leaving their dogs' waste at Canine Commons, instead of disposing of it at home.

Jul. 27 - Council questions the tender for local Aurora Notice Board advertising, when staff suggests it be awarded to a Newmarket-based paper.

Jul. 31 - Both jaws and Hydro rates drop, when Powersteam announces reduced fees.

Aug. 2 - The Auroran closes for a week due to competition for readers from the newly released final book in the Harry Potter series.

Aug. 7 - It's a blooming shame when the town does not enter the Communities in Bloom competition.

Aug. 11 - Local artists on hand to capture on canvas the buildings that are part of Doors Open Aurora complain that the record crowds attending this event are so thick, they can't see the buildings they're supposed to paint.

Aug. 16 - The new Aurora Graffiti Abatement Committee is named - unfortunately, in three-foot high letters spray painted on the fence bordering the GO train line.

Aug. 21 - The Council meeting is delayed 10 minutes to let the laughter subside when it is suggested that this may be the last year the town experiences a water ban.

Aug. 25 - The town looks at proposals to fund the Farmer's Market, but sell the Community Gardens land, which suggests they want people to buy their food, not grow it.

Aug. 30 - Traffic calming in northeast Aurora diverts so many cars onto Yonge and Wellington that residents living on these two streets demand traffic calming measures for them, as well.

Sep. 4 - The relaunched Auroran website results in a dramatic increase in readership amongst residents of New Zealand, Malaysia, and Chile.

Sep. 10 - Council agenda item 23, to address the increasing length of meetings, is once again deferred when by midnight council has only made it through the first seven items.

Sep. 15 - The Terry Fox Run is

held to raise money for cancer research, and marks the one day each year that Aurorans gladly put up with road closures and detours.

Sep. 19 - Cost to connect three streetlights behind Canadian Tire to the town electricity grid: \$210. Cost for 327 hours of council and staff time to research and debate the issue over the previous six months: priceless.

Sep. 26 - Bingo may be Bingo, when it's suggested Aurora Bingo may close.

Sep. 29 - The never-ending road repairs under the railway bridge on Yonge Street continue to annoy everyone, except those whose businesses specialize in car suspension repair, wheel realignment, and tire sales.

Oct. 2 - Dr. G.W. Williams staff, students and alumni, relieved with the news that the school may not relocate to Bayview, are not nearly as delighted as the local fast food business owners.

Oct. 7 - While animals are blamed for the increase in power outages in town, no one is accepting blame for the lost rent on the hydro building, now in its second year of vacancy.

Oct. 10 - Election winners: local Conservative candidate Frank Klees, and the provincial Liberal Party. Election losers: Mixed member proportion, and those with any hope of an increased voter turnout.

Oct. 16 - It's great news, but a little sad, when a lady from a community outside Aurora leads the charge to save Aurora's July 1st parade.

Oct. 23 - Donors compete to see who can spend more for the naming rights for a new Aurora park, while an existing park, Canine Commons, may close due to the lack of volunteers for its board.

Oct. 28 - It's reported that the number of raccoons in Aurora is soaring, but the town's Beaver population decreases by one, with the closing of the popular gas station.

Oct. 31 - Local children find an innovative use for the new green bins; they roll well, have an easy to grab handle, and can hold a ton of Hallowe'en candy.

Nov. 6 - While graffiti, vandalism, and traffic violations run rampant through town, Council defends its decision not to approve the relocation of the York Region Police headquarters to Aurora.

Nov. 10 - A report card on Council's first year in office suggests that one of its biggest successes is that compared to the previous council, it has been the topic of twice as many letters to the editor of The Auroran.

Nov. 13 - The hiring of a high-priced municipal lawyer for an undisclosed sum with no apparent frame of reference to investigate suggested council leaks over an open length of time unites Aurorans with one thought: we all wish we were high-priced municipal lawyers.

Nov. 18 - There's a general lack of horse sense, with the announcement of the permanent cancellation of the Aurora Fair and Horse Show.

Nov. 24 - Santa receives an anonymous offer to move his annual Aurora parade to July 1.

Nov. 29 - With the departure of yet another Aurora senior staff member, it is suggested that to reduce the exodus, locks on office doors at Town Hall should be re-installed to prevent them from being opened from the inside.

Dec. 5 - Wednesday's tree lighting ceremony is delayed due to the lack of politicians available

to pull the switch, as the previous night's council meeting is still underway.

Dec. 8 - The Canadian army conducts an exercise to respond to a mock disaster in Aurora, while the Salvation Army starts work to address a real local disaster; helping the large number of those who need assistance in our community.

Dec. 11 - Suggested locations near Yonge Street for the relocated Farmers' Market do not include the former seniors' centre or library, both of which have buildings and parking lots that remain unused.

Dec. 16 - A record snowfall proves that nature still provides the most effective traffic calming.

Dec. 27 - The new bigger Walmart readies to open its doors. Still no word on that gateway sign.

Dec. 31 - After 12 months of watching council in action, Aurorans realize that the word "dysfunctional" is here to stay - at least, for the next three years.

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ROWE; Fred

Peacefully, after a short illness, at Southlake Regional Health Centre on Thursday, December 20, 2007 in his 83rd year. Fred, beloved husband of the late Eva. Loving father of Becky and her husband Ed, Frances and her husband Brian, and Chuck. Grandpa will be lovingly remembered by Claire, Eddy, Amy, Peter, Jared and great-grandchildren Zoe, Nicole, and Jonathan. Dear brother of the late Edith and Dorothy. Friends called at the THOMPSON FUNERAL HOME, 530 Industrial Pkwy S., Aurora on Sunday December 23, 2007. Funeral services were held on Monday December 24, 2007, 10 am in the chapel. Cremation. In memory of Fred, donations to the Heart & Stroke would be appreciated.

Thompson Funeral Home

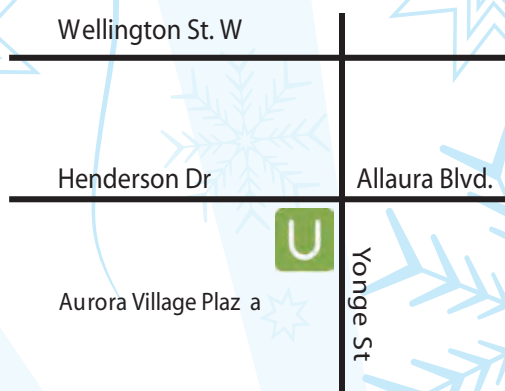


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