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THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper
Vol. 8 No. 14 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of February 5, 2008

Global gets contract for town concessions

For some reason or other the canteen concessions at Aurora's recreational facilities have been controversial.

But at a special council meeting held after a private session last week, the consolidated facility concession and vending contract was awarded to Global Food Services at all town facilities for a five-year term with an option to extend the contract for an additional five years.

In June, 2007, the existing concession contracts with Recreation Leisure Services and Coca Cola Bottling expired at the various town facilities.

As a result, staff members issued a Request for Proposals in October.

Three firms submitted proposals: Global Food Services, Naccarato Enterprises and Recreation Leisure Services.

Based on an evaluation and criteria approved by council, staff recommended the contract be awarded to Global.

In October, council rejected the recommendation due to what they claimed was a lack of information.

President of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association Joe Bentollina told councillors at the time about the many services provided by Recreation Leisure Services and

Please see page 10

It was party time at Aurora's Bank of Montreal branch last week, as it celebrated 120 years in the community. Here, Jenny Capone, assistant branch manager, left, points out bank's first building at Yonge and Wellington. Looking on are, left to right, Kelly Garganis, Steven Reiss and Nancy Hilts. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

BRIEFLY

Finally, a Stick title

It has been 23 years since an Aurora minor hockey Peewee A team has brought a Silver Stick title back to Aurora.

The Aurora Peewee A Tigers did just that last week when they won the 46th International Silver Stick Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan.

The tournament involved more than 100 teams from across North America, competing through regional qualifying tournaments for the right to be one of the final 16 teams vying for the championship.

Aurora qualified in December in Sudbury.

In the tourney, Aurora lost only one game it played as it swept several opposing teams aside. The story appears on Page 11.

Mardi Gras

Probably the highlight of the February social season in Aurora is the annual Mardi Gras party, and this year is no exception.

The one-night, adult-only, party will be hosted by the Aurora Aerials Parents Committee Saturday, Feb. 16, at DiNardo's Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South.

Included in the $150 a person ticket is an authentic Louisiana-style dinner.

The evening will begin around 5.30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

A brief demonstration by the Aurora Aerials will occur just before dinner at 7 p.m.

Following dinner, participants will dance to the music of Aurora's own Thursday Night Jam Band.

Beads, prizes and authentic feather masks will add to the ambience of the party.

Dress is semi-formal but Mardi Gras costumes are encouraged.

Tickets are available by secure Internet purchase at www.auroramardigras.com; or by cash or cheque at Front Row Centre, 15 Furbacher Lane.

Proceeds from the event will be directed to the Regional Cancer Program at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Town's budget unsettled

Aurora Council is having trouble adopting the 2008 capital and operating budgets as two deadlines have been set, but neither one has been met.

Even the date of the next meeting is uncertain, although it is hoped to have it Feb. 28 if a quorum of members can meet.

Councils normally try to approve the annual budget as early in the year as possible to provide a better cash flow and more efficient administration.

Most important in approving an early budget is to take advantage of lower tender prices.

Due to the 2006 municipal election, council didn't get started on the 2007 budget until they had assumed office and with five new councillors there was a learning curve and it was mid-April before the budget was approved with a four per cent tax increase.

In order to get an earlier start for the 2008 budget, last July council set an aggressive budget schedule with special committee meetings in September to review the department business plans, review the capital budget in September, October and November and the operating budget in October and November.

It was hoped budgets would be approved by mid-December.

It didn't work out as planned and after a series of budget meetings in January a special council meeting was scheduled last week to adopt the budgets but that was changed to a special general committee budget meeting to continue a review of the second budget draft with at least one more meeting before adoption.

In his presentation, Treasurer John Gutteridge noted that the approved town budget was $21,610,571 and the first draft of the 2008 budget $22,939,069, or an 8.4 per cent increase.

Please see page 9

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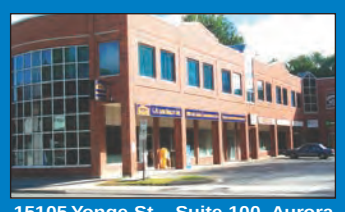
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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

* * * *

On Friday evenings Grade 4 students and every second Friday, students in Grades 5 to 8 can gather at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, Industrial Parkway South from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information call 905-841-8883 or e-mail jonathanturtle@gmail.com

* * * *

Continuing until April 15 from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Winter parking restrictions will be in effect.

* * * *

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson 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 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 will be available at the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 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 are 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.

* * * *

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30 p.m.

* * * *

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

* * * *

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street at 7:30 p.m.

* * * *

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7:30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

* * * *

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

* * * *

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors Centre, every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. under the direction of Tom Rainsford.

TO FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a Winter Auroralicious promotion of local restaurants including Aw Shucks, Bistro 171, Graystones, Jonathan's and Oakland Hall. The participating restaurants will offer a three-course lunch from $15 to $20 and a three-course dinner from $25 to $30. Make reservations with the restaurants of your choice. Further information on the Chamber of Commerce website.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Internet Safety For Kids is presenting a free seminar at 7.15 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall in the Council Chambers. Internet security expert Ross Chevalier will speak openly about the realities and hyperbole of maintaining the safety of children as they explore the power of the Internet. If you do not know what ASL means, then this seminar is for you. For more information contact Bryan Moir at moir@aci.on.ca or visit www.internetsafety4kids.ca. Seminar is for parents, grandparents, care-givers and teachers. Material covered is not suitable for children.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

As part of the Aurora Arctic Adventure, the first ever Aurora Women's Pond Hockey Tournament will be held at Machell Park with 20 teams participating in two divisions on four ponds. For more information call Lynne Booth at 416-801-2456.

* * * *

Registration for baseball and softball in Aurora takes place at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Online registration is underway at www.auroraminorball.ca For information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day at Osler Bluffs in Collingwood. Call 905-727-7262 for more information.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Reduce water use in your garden by going native. Learn about wildflower gardening from the experts, Ruth Zaugg of the North American Native Plant Society and Aileen Barclay of York Region's Water for Tomorrow program. Activity takes place at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Register at Info Aurora 905-727-8214. Admission is free.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of York Region Bowl for Kids Sake 2008 will take place in Aurora with Aurora Community Day at the Gateway Café and Lanes. Call 905-895-0289 for more information.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The York Regional Police Male Chorus will perform at St. Andrew's Church in Aurora to help raise funds for Afghan relief. Proceeds from the 3 p.m. concert in the sanctuary at the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets will go to Presbyterian World Services and Development. Call 905-727-5011 or 905-727-8773 for more information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

First installment of interim tax payment due.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Featherlite Industries Ltd., 100 Engelhard Drive, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Featherlite will provide a facility tour.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Registration for baseball and softball in Aurora takes place at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Online registration is underway at www.auroraminorball.ca For information, e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Blood donor clinic at Our Lady of Grace Church, 16 Catherine Avenue, from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Women's Centre of York Region, located in Aurora, day of celebration and inspiration for all enterprising women, at Cardinal Golf Club. Event will feature speakers, workshops, showcase tables and plenty of time for networking. For more information, contact Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837, extension 107 or e-mail at slundquist@wcyr.ca.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

A local World Day of Prayer will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 7 Lacey Court at 7.30 p.m. Learn more about Guyana and its unique culture and heritage by joining Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 across Canada who will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Guyana. Call Erica Lamm at 905-727-5395 for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Join David Tomlinson and other members of the Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee for the third annual Birdbox Build. Bring a hammer and help put together prefabricated birdboxes for placement around town. Takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion. This is a special Good Friday clinic. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Second installment of interim tax payment due.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 6 & 7

Canadian Cancer Society 2008 Relay for Life at Lambert Willson Park and the Leisure Complex. Call 905-830-0447 for further information and to register a team.

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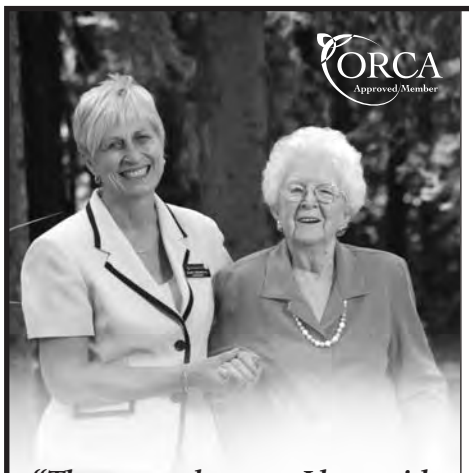

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Town to close doors to celebrate holiday

Family Day will be celebrated in Aurora as a public holiday and business will cease at the Town Hall for the day.

The holiday was proclaimed into law in Ontario last December after Premier Dalton McGuinty promised it as Ontario's ninth annual statutory holiday during last fall's election campaign.

Family Day will be celebrated on the third Monday in February and this year it falls on Monday, Feb. 18.

There has been considerable criticism of the holiday by employers and cash-strapped municipalities and critics claim it was cooked up by the Liberals without any thought or planning in order to win votes.

Premier McGuinty admits there are some problems to be ironed out and says the government will find a way to iron out some of the wrinkles that develop as a result of the first Family Day.

Following a closed session prior to a special council meeting, Aurora Council announced that Feb. 18 would be a public holiday for all non-union staff.

In response to a question regarding union staff, it was learned negotiations are under way regarding the labour contract and an announcement will be made in near future.

It was learned that the price tag for the day will be in the $50,000 range and the only other issue to be worked out is what happens in the event of a snow storm.

While production will cease for the day and the Town Hall closed for the day, it is believed that the mid-winter break will increase production in the long run.

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Poor Richard

Drive-thru rules must be made

Urgent action is badly needed,
To stop the drive-thru curse;
A new town policy is a must,
Before the situation gets worse!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

A recent letter to The Auroran by Jim Jackson referred to the three drive-thru coffee shops on Yonge Street between Dunning Avenue and Kennedy Street.

He expressed concern about traffic grinding to a halt on Yonge Street.

He also pointed out the littering problem caused by coffee cups thrown out of car windows, the late night hours and the noxious pollution emitted by the cars driving in and out of these centres and idling their cars as they wait for service. He questioned whether Aurora now has the highest per capital ratio of drive-thru coffee shops in Canada.

His letter brought back memories of the previous discussions at council regarding residents' complaints about the drive-thru at Yonge Street and Ransom Street and the problems with traffic flow and stacking at the drive-thru at Golf Links Drive and Yonge Street and the two drive-thru locations on John West Way at Wellington Street East.

There was considerable opposition by residents adjacent to the drive-thru in the commercial strip plaza at Bayview Avenue and Hollidge Boulevard.

After extensive consultation, a compromise of a 10-metre separation between the drive-thru and the residential area was approved.

I have a personal interest in the location of drive-thru facilities as I have one for a neighbour at Cousins Drive and Yonge Street.

In the absence of a town policy, I insisted on the same 10 metre separation as that granted the residents adjacent to the Bayview and Hollidge drive-thru.

I was under the impression there would be a 10 metre separation between the drive-thru line and the residential property line, but was disappointed to find out after construction started that the 10 metre separation was from the building to the property line, so that the drive-thru lane and the idling cars are much closer.

Currently, the town's official plan prohibits drive-thru restaurants in the historic core as they are not considered compatible with the pedestrian orientated setting.

It was suggested that this restriction be extended to include all of Yonge Street, but no action was taken at that time.

In June, 2007, a Public Planning Meeting was held to receive comments on drive-thru facilities and a draft proposal for an official plan and zoning bylaw amendments including location, appropriate distance separation requirements from residential properties, mitigation measures, design and stacking.

It was proposed that where a property in any zone that permits a drive-thru facility abuts a residential zone, a minimum of 30 metres shall separate all points of the drive-thru facility or stacking lanes.

There were no members of the public in attendance at the public meeting in support or opposition to the proposed amendments and staff advised that no comments had been received from the Chamber of Commerce or its members.

Maurice Luchich, representing Tim Horton's, told council members that a 30 metre separation would in effect be a prohibition and drive-thru facilities were in response to customer demand.

There was a difference among council members as to the proposed 30 metre separation with some claiming it was prohibitive and others arguing it was a necessity in residential areas.

Finally, a motion was adopted for staff to review prohibition on Yonge Street, the 30-metre setback and to request comments from the Chamber of Commerce and to continue to work with Tim Horton's.

At the November, 2007, meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, members supported the proposed amendments, which were endorsed by the general committee, but there it sits as no further action has been taken by council to expedite action.

The 30-metre separation in the Toronto bylaw followed a hearing by the Ontario Municipal Board which ruled that there was sufficient justification to provide for a minimum 30 metre separation.

So, let's get some action in Aurora.

If you stood in the centre of the Yonge and Wellington intersection (who'd have the nerve these days?) and looked east, this is what you would have seen in 1935. Some of the buidlings on the south side of Wellington are still there. This postcard showed up on e-bay recently, and postcard collector Councillor Bob McRoberts bid on it but didn't get it. So, he sent us a picture of the one that got away.

Letters to the editor

Reader wants to shop at a farmers' market

To the editor,

A farmers' market is where you go to ask the seller/grower/maker about what you're buying, where you make your conscientious purchasing decisions, where you exercise your environmental muscle.

I would rather buy my food from local growers than Sobey's or Superstore, but if I have to create a carbon footprint an inch deep to get to the nearest market, I will NOT shop for local produce.

(Stouffville, Uxbridge, and Barrie are the nearest farmers' markets I've heard about and/or shopped; Peterborough's and St. Catharine's historical and giant markets are at the outer limit of "local" by the "100-mile Diet" standard, but I've visited them upon occasion while visiting friends in the area, and was stricken with awe at their size and ant-like busyness.)

Local growers have a very difficult time getting their stuff in big chain groceries, which is all we have left in Aurora - our climate does not let them be steady, year-round suppliers.

I thought the local government was supposed to govern the people, break even, and support the wishes of the community as a whole, not solely look to turn a profit for itself.

From a vendor, however, with a "vested interest" in retaining the farmers' market in Aurora.

Note that if the market fees go up too much, it will present a barrier to any micro-businesses in the area, struggling to gain a physical presence for their often unique and ingenious merchandise.

Barb Taylor
Aurora

Reader can't believe church rejected offer

To the editor,

Re: Church offer refused, The Auroran, Jan. 29.

I cannot believe how the church representatives feel justified in telling the parishioners that there were too many conditions to Frank Stronach's offer for a new Catholic church on Bayview Avenue.

Being from Austria, you would think Mr. Stronach knows first-hand how to oversee all construction of the building, including interior and exterior.

I presume it would be something quite spectacular and something in Aurora to be proud of.

Some of the most beautiful churches are in Austria, including St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

A far cry from what was resurrected on Yonge Street in Aurora years ago.

Get a grip, not to mention the traffic lined up on Yonge Street, and the poor visiblity pulling out of our side streets.

Take this donation with open arms as a gift from God, or should I say Frank Stronach.

Janis Weilinger
Aurora

Here's how to help Nick, the goaltender

To the editor,

Regarding the story and picture of Nick Skillins (Auroran, Jan. 28), the 14 year old Bantam AE player, fund raising for breast cancer through FUND THE FIGHT. FIND A CURE, donations can be dropped off at Rec Sports, Ward & Patch or the AMHA office in ACC1 in Aurora.

Also, if the community is interested, Nick's story is now on letsgochevrolet.ca website under written stories and once logged on you can vote for Nick's story as a winner (one puck is low - five pucks is high).

Thanks again for all your support and encouragement at The Auroran.

Nick and his family very much appreciate it!

Eric Skillins
Aurora

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
At 95 Edward Street,
Aurora, L4G 1W1

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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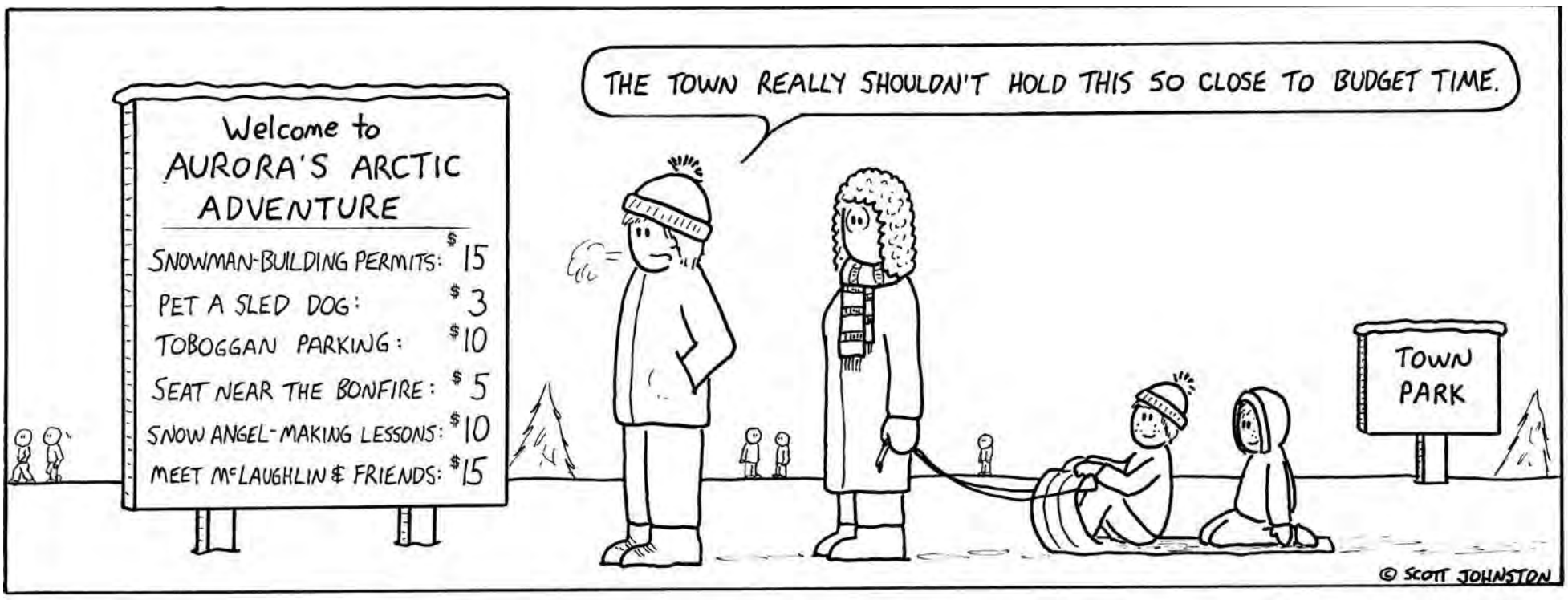
Machell's Corners

by Scott Johnston



Front Porch Perspective

Street signs

By Stephen Somerville

It is extremely important that we preserve and protect our local institutions and our heritage.

It is equally important that we both honour and remember those who have gone before us.

And in many cases this has been done in Aurora.

Through areas like Sheppard's Bush and the McKenzie Marsh we have sought to protect our green spaces.

By designating some of this town's oldest homes as "heritage houses" we have sought to preserve our history.

We have also tried to remember those who have gone before us.

Probably most every school in Aurora does something to commemorate Remembrance Day and any idea, be it display cases, or slide shows, or plays, or bringing in Veterans to address the students, is a tremendous way of engaging students by trying to bring history to life.

Every modest step that we take - like giving the cenotaph's two edifices much-needed face-lifts last summer and also keeping the area clean of garbage - shows that, collectively, we care.

I add another small suggestion to honour our past.

It is one that the young children of our community, the Aurora Historical Society and Town Hall may be able to get behind.

It's about street signs. Street signs?

Yes, street signs.

We all live on streets that are named, for the most part, for either a particular individual or for some special event.

But I'll bet that most of us don't know the reason why our own street was named the way it is.

Or even if we did, what happens in 50 years when new people are living on the street?

I submit that it would be a good idea to affix a small sign on top of these signs signifying who the person or event was.

I'm not sure about how this would square with current municipal bylaws but this has been done elsewhere.

Look at downtown Toronto; there are small signs that sit on top of the street signs signifying the fashion district, little Italy and, if memory serves, the Greek culture of the Danforth.

We could do the same here.

For instance, Timpson Drive is named after a friend of mine, George Timpson, who was, until he moved away a short time ago, a long time resident of Aurora. The sign could say - "Aurora Councillor from 1973-76,1986-94,2001-03; Mayor of Aurora 1977-1982".

Or how about the following for the Chadburn Crescent street sign named after Aurora's Lloyd Chadburn: "WWII Fighter Ace - 14 enemy airplanes destroyed -DSO, DFC, CdeG avec Palme, Legion d'Honneur".

With such a small sign in place, every time we would walk past these streets we would be reminded of their particular accomplishment.

This is where the kids' participation comes in.

I think this would be a great project for the little tykes to learn something about Aurora and the folks who contributed to making this the great place it is to live. In fact I kindly challenge the elementary schools in town to take this project on.

I don't think such a project would be that big of an undertaking. Just start with a few streets every year.

The Grade 2 or Grade 3 children could team up in pairs and prepare a small research project on a street name and then present their findings to their classmates.

Then copy the presentation and go around to the homes on the street and solict say $1 or $2 from each household as a contribution to the sign.

Some business in town could sponsor the project and make the signs at a reasonable cost.

The Town hall types could ensure that all the signs look nice and are based on the same template while the Aurora Historical Society and the teachers could ensure that the brief facts on the signs are right.

Then the individuals living on the street could have a little ceremony - or what have you - and affix the sign above the respective street sign.

This is a small and simple way of bringing history to life and remembering our past.

Inside Aurora

Musical Mayhem

By Scott Johnston

"Hello, everyone. And congratulations on being named to the cast of this year's Theatre Aurora production of 'Aurora Council - The Musical'."

The people seated around the large table on the main stage exchanged smiles, as the director continued.

"As you know, this play will depict a typical meeting of Aurora Council. Did everyone watch the meeting last night on TV? Good."

"Since this is our first read-through together, we won't do the musical numbers. Now, before we get going, are there any questions?"

A lady near the end of the table held up her hand.

"Does it matter if we look like the people we're portraying? I may need a lot of make-up!"

"No, a slight resemblance is all that's required. We expect that if you project the correct personality, and with appropriate clothing, people will know who you supposed to be.

"Besides, the stage will be set up like the council chamber. You will all be sitting in the seat normally occupied by the council member you are representing, with their name plate in front of you. So it should be pretty clear."

"I know this is just a read-through, but maybe we could sit that way now?" suggested one of the more established actors.

"Good idea. It'll set the tone nicely," agreed the director.

There was some shuffling and shifting, but eventually everyone was in their assigned place, and ready to start.

"Okay", said the director, pointing to a lady near the end of the table. "Act one. Scene one. Action!"

"It's seven o'clock, and I'd like to call the council meeting to order. The first item is Open Forum, so …"

The 'mayor' was interrupted by another actor.

"Excuse me, but I'm not sure I should play a councillor."

"Why not?" asked the director.

"Well, I'm not sure what my motivation is."

"Oh, for…it's just council!"

"But what motivates an Aurora politician?" she persisted.

"Being on TV?" came a voice.

"An annual salary that works out to about 67 cents an hour?"

"Free food at grand openings?"

"Spending every Tuesday evening till midnight in meetings at Town Hall?"

"Enough! Enough!" interjected the director, with exasperation. "Let's just keep…"

"Microphone!" yelled a man from the side.

"Wait, you're early. Dick Illingworth doesn't say that until the next page of the script."

"Sorry. I thought we were still going."

"I want to get through this today."

"Ruth, pick it up after Open Forum."

"Are there any items of peculiar interest …"

"That's 'pecuniary'".

"… pecuniary - whatever that means - interest …"

"Why does Ruth get so many lines?"

"She doesn't. It just seems that way because the mayor is the Chair. You actually have more lines", the director pointed out. "And that's despite the fact that you leave the meeting in protest after only the sixth agenda item."

"Well, most of the rest are deferred, anyway."

Suddenly, a lady in a floral dress started singing;

"We can cut this meeting's time in half,
Let's refer these items back to staff.
We'll discuss them all another day
And repeat all that we've had to say."

"Hey, why does she get to sing?"

"Shirley, we're not doing the musical numbers."

"Sorry, but I heard my cue - 'deferred' - and couldn't help myself."

"Microphone! Oops, sorry. I thought we were going again."

The rehearsal continued along these lines for another hour. Finally, the director had had enough.

"I know we're not done", he interjected, "but that's it for tonight. We'll pick this up next time, where we left off."

As the people packed up their things and shuffled out, the director sighed.

Interruptions, confusion, repetitive arguments, people generally going off topic…he'd never seen anything like it.

Or maybe he had.

He smiled. He couldn't have chosen a group better suited to portraying Aurora Council.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to 10-year-old Lindsay Corrick of Aurora for doing something for homeless pets by holding a blanket drive for the dogs and cats at the Kennel Inn shelter. Old blankets can be dropped off at the Lester B. Pearson Public School where she is a Grade 5 student.

BRICKBATS to the dog owners who let their pets run off-leash in the Aurora Senior Public School playgrounds and do not pick up after them so that students can't use the playgrounds. Use the leash-free park!

BOUQUETS to Vanessa Crone of Aurora and Paul Poirier of Unionville for an impressive fourth-place finish in the free dance program in their senior debut at the BMO Canadian National Skating Championships in Vancouver. They were the 2007 Canadian Junior Champions.

BRICKBATS to those in the City of Toronto for purchasing vanity license plates for the three vehicles used by the Public Health Department needle exchange program so that people in their target population would know what the van was for. What a waste of money!

BOUQUETS to the management and the staff of the area BMO Financial Group, including Aurora, for their generous donation of $750,000 to the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

BRICKBATS to pet owners who fail to purchase a licence fee for their pets. In Aurora over the past several years the number of licensed pets and associated revenue has decreased from $56,089 in 2001 to $14,833 in 2007, yet there seems to be just as many dogs and cats around. Better enforcement is required!

BOUQUETS to the wag who wrote to a Toronto paper pointing out that the letters TTC means "Take the Car!"

BRICKBATS to the federal government for not sending a delegate to the United Nations conference on Racism held recently. Attendance might have restored a bit of Canada's anti-racist luster.

BOUQUETS to the federal government for finally getting around to recognizing Canadian veterans exposed to radiation in the Nevada desert 50 years ago during atomic weapon testing. The possibility of compensation is still a big question.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for downplaying the stinging remarks made U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates on NATO, including Canada's military might in Afghanistan. He'll do anything to curry favour with President George Bush.

BOUQUETS to the federal Liberals for calling for an independent review of the firing of Linda Keen, Nuclear Regulatory Chief at Chalk River, who was dumped by the Harper government the night before she was to appear before a Parliamentary Committee. Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn should have been fired instead.

BRICKBATS to the Special Investigation Unit for clearing a Toronto Police Officer after hitting a woman and a girl with a police cruiser with the overhead lights flashing at a crosswalk, on the basis there was no reasonable grounds to support a dangerous driving causing bodily harm charge. Would the same have applied if it was a civilian driver?

BRICKBATS to a justice system which allows a Mississauga man to be held 19 months in jail without a trial, as American-type justice invades Canada. Charge him or release him!

BRICKBATS to the Victoria B.C. Police Department for their mistreatment of a 15-year-old girl charged with being drunk, caught on video, as they bound her up like an animal and locked her up alone in a small padded cell. Is there no oversight of police actions?

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Letters to the Editor

Segregation starting again: reader

To the editor,

I am almost at a loss for words (not quite, sorry) over Tuesday night's vote by Toronto School Board to open "an alternative Afrocentric school" to address a 40 per cent dropout rate in black teens.

What a travesty and giant step backwards in the fight to stop prejudice and racism.

Yes, I am a 60s' "ban the bomb, stop Vietnam and pro integrated schools white woman" who still believes in non-violence, peace and racial equality and am deeply offended and shocked that, in this day and age of enlightenment, this segregation is starting all over again.

Looking at the pictures of the trustees it occurred to me that some of them could remember the hard fought war on segregation here and in the United States. Some of you may recall that in the last Provincial election one of the hottest contested items was the subsidizing of separate religious schools and the resulting defeat of the party that suggested same (except for you in Aurora/Newmarket who rose above this issue and elected Frank Klees).

So, now is it okay for all of us (funding will come out of our Provincial tax $s) to pay for racially specific schools?

Back in the dinosaur age when I went to school, in Willowdale, if you were not Roman Catholic you went to public school.

Some of my friends had to go to Hebrew school on the weekends that was not paid for by public monies and as far as I am aware this is true today.

I can understand, particularly as a parent, the concerns about the black teen dropout rate.

Were there any studies done on all teen dropout rates?

I would bet dollars to donuts that there is a serious problem with teen dropout rates, as there has always been, but not necessarily concentrated in the black community.

Maybe someone should talk to some Special Education teachers about Dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

There is also the "fear factor" at some schools with respect to gun violence that does not encourage students to learn at their peak potential, but that is the subject of another letter.

It is this woman's opinion that Tuesday's vote has started a slippery slope into total segregation and I do not believe that is what this country's forefathers had in mind for their fellow countrymen.

Can we not learn from history and move closer to a respect and understanding for all man/womankind?

If this madness continues, I am going to the York Region Board to suggest that a separate school be started for the study of Scottish heritage.

The students can concentrate on speaking Gaelic in the classroom and they won't be subjected to bullying from other kids for wearing kilts and playing bagpipes at lunchtime.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Bus 32 needed, parent believes

To the editor,

My teenagers, who are high school students, use Bus 32 EVERY DAY and need the route to get to and home from school.

We moved to Aurora quite recently and my kids go to the French Immersion program at Aurora High.

No school bus is available.

Without Bus 32, I am not sure what we would do as I work and am not available to drive them to school.

They also often use the bus to connect to Yonge Street buses to go to Upper Canada Mall and into Toronto and to get to other parts of Aurora.

This bus route is very much needed and offers people without cars the mobility needed.

Bus 32 would most likely have more riders if it was somewhat more reliable and on time.

We have found that it can be both early and late…in today's times of increased environmental awareness and promotion of usage of public transport, it would send a rather negative message to the community.

This bus route is needed!

Kristina Osterman
Aurora

Diefenbaker, yes; Pearson, no way

To the editor,

My father, Simon Bootsma, was employed at the Aurora station at the time of the train's stop in Aurora.

He took me to the station to see John Diefenbaker.

I was eight years old at the time.

He held me on his shoulders so that I could see the goings on.

It gave me the opportunity to shake Mr. Diefenbaker's hand.

My father was (and still is) a supporter of the Conservative Party, and said he would not have gone to see Mr. Pearson.

I live in Strathroy, Ontario, but my dad updates me every week.

Clarence Bootsma
Strathroy

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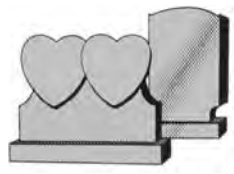

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Letter to the Editor

This "issue" a non-issue, reader says

To the editor,

Well, by popular demand, but against my better judgement, I suppose, I'm back.

You know I had really hoped that this would not be necessary.

I had had great hope for you folks over there in Aurora.

I had believed that it was possible that you could move on from all the fractiousness and other tomfoolery that you citizens and those elected representatives who purport to lead you continually find yourselves mired in.

But now I see that sadly, I grossly overestimated your abilities to stay on the narrow path without going headlong over the abyss and falling face first into a massive pile of ... well exactly what kind of a pile will become painfully evident shortly, due to the particular story which precipitated my having to renew my educating and enlightening you good inhabitants of this, my next favourite town (not next to Stouffville, that would make you number two, but next to Glazkov, Russia, which makes you number..., well perhaps I'd better not say).

I received a copy of the January 22 edition of this lilliputian tabloid in the post the other day. I'm not entirely sure who continues to dispatch them to me, but it is proof that the person in question either has a major disdain on for me, Aurora, or has a really contorted sense of humour.

At any rate I noticed the headline suggesting that your council, which apparently has little better to do, what with having solved all the other problems in Aurora ("what do you mean we've finished screwing up all the neighbourhoods possible with multi-million dollar traffic calming measures already?") is contemplating a bylaw to "protect" tethered dogs.

Now here I thought that tethered dogs are the ones who are supposed to be the ones doing the "protecting".

Isn't that the reason responsible dog owners securely restrain their dogs on their private property for?

So that they can look aggressive and menacing to any trespassers who foolishly decide to trespass on private property where they are not supposed to be in the first place?

Now I concede that dog owners who barbarically abuse their animals need to be dealt with (and rightly so), but you Auroragainianites, like every other municipality, already have bylaws dealing with animal cruelty, as required by provincial laws.

But what is being proposed by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas is just plain wrong on so many counts, it's difficult to know where to begin.

First of all she suggests that it should improve on the Markham by-law by proposing "it shouldn't be complaint driven as suggested in a staff report".

And if you are so desperate for inspiration you are looking to Markham when creating bylaws, what with their history concerning sustainable growth, sprawl control and individual property rights, perhaps you may want to consider a more suitable role model, like perhaps Buffalo, or Los Angeles or perhaps maybe Zimbabwe!

(Audible sigh)

Ms. Collins-Mrakas, you must be a council rookie. It shows.

If you are not, my sincerest apologies, not to you, but the people who elected you.

There's a reason why most bylaws are enforced on a "complaint driven" basis. Learn it. Soon. Please.

Secondly, have you and your benefactor, the overly ardent but not particularly astute Ms. Nicole Simone considered what would happen if you are successful in delivering a bylaw like this?

All those dogs who are now tied up outside their homes, in the fresh air and sunlight will now be bound up in a dark and dirty garage or basement, becoming more aggressive and sliding in to a greater "state of decline", but now out of the eyes of the observant and observing public who otherwise might be able to report cases of neglect if they were able to see these animals in the first place.

If you think these owners are going to come home from work, or whereever else they find themselves to "interact" with their pets "in order to maintain their physical and mental well being", I believe you, in fact, may be the ones with the "serious issue".

I suppose I could go on, but really what's the point?

But I will say this.

It is really unfortunate that elected officials who really should know better feel that issues such as this are worthy of far too many of the all too scarce time and resources of an already overburdened and in many cases overbearing municipal bureaucracy.

All of which, of course, operates at the expense of and on the backs of the beleaguered taxpayer.

But Ms. Collins-Mrakas and Simone are symptomatic of far too many interferring and intrusive busybodies who believe that government's mandate is to reach into every aspect of every citizen's life and attempt to control everything they own, everything they do, and everything they do, say or think.

It's time that kind of thinking stops.

It's time that big government, and the small people who make it up, along with the spectacularly unspecial members of special interest groups realize that their mandate is one of support for the people they serve, not control.

And certainly not absolute control.

In the case of this issue the Town of Aurora's own staff points out that this issue is "not a major concern" for the town's residents.

I am sure that there are lots of other issues that are "major concerns" that are very much in need of the undivided attention of Ms. Collins-Mrakas and her like-minded compatriots.

Let's all hope that they are able to recognize what the priorities of government are and get to them, and realize that this issue ain't one of them.

Before somebody steps in it. Again.

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda

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Kids First

Baby Talk – Part I

So you just found out you're pregnant. Congratulations! That is wonderful! What is even more amazing is that your baby already has a spine, most of the body organs, arms and legs are beginning to form, and it has its own nervous system. And, it's only 5 weeks old! Miraculous! In order for your baby to develop normally, it has two basic needs: One is proper nutrition and the other is a normal operating nervous system.

Let's cover nutrition first.

At the risk of insulting my readers, some people operate under the impression that as long as they are not hungry, they eat well. Not true! As a mom, you must be aware of the fact that everything you eat and drink affects your baby. Everything! Generally the baby will take from the mother whatever it needs in terms of nutrition and I have met many mothers in my practice who are literally undernourished as a result. As a mom, you must remember that you are eating for two. Simply "filling up" is not the answer. Your baby has very specific needs as it is growing and developing. Its rate of growth is seven times faster than its three-year-old brother. Much like feeding a baby elephant some may say!

The baby will take as much as it can from mom so it is important that mother provides proper fuel for all that rapid growth. So the following are essential for normal development of your baby:

1. Iron. Mom requires at least 800 mg daily. This is crucial for the development of red blood cells in your baby and is contained in most dark leafy veggies. If you must, you can obtain a liquid iron supplement from a health food store. The nicest way of getting iron is from a tablespoon of dark molasses in a glass of milk three times a day. What a way to treat your baby! Taking Vitamin C will help in the absorption of Iron from your digestive tract.

2. Folic Acid. This is very important in the normal development of the nervous system and cannot be omitted. You are lucky though, Folic Acid is contained in most foods which contain iron so it's a cinch to get. If you really want to get fancy, oysters are loaded with Folic Acid. They are also a known aphrodisiac and that may be why you are reading this, but that is another topic!

3. Calcium. Our friend! Mom and baby need at least 1200 mg daily. The molasses treat is a good way, or you may try raw almonds if you are not into dairy. Vitamin D helps in the absorption of Calcium from the digestive tract. This can be tricky because Vitamin D can also cause nausea and "morning sickness". I have found that the easiest way of getting Vitamin D is from a careful suntan. Even in the winter you can get adequate sun exposure from regular short walks. It is not necessary to be golden brown, but getting some regular sun is critical.

I would also like to caution moms on taking Vitamin B6 when pregnant. It tends to reduce the amount of breast milk available for feeding; not a good thing! I'll continue in two weeks. See you then!

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.

Letters to the Editor

To Market, to Market - to dance a little jig

To the editor,

Research by some of Aurora's fine Marketeers has brought forward statistics as real as the population of the Town of Aurora (now 50,000) - that having a farmer's market in the Town core is good for building community spirit.

How much is that worth?

How much would you spend for community spirit?

What if you could get it by actually charging someone $3-$5 to come out every Saturday morning by 7.30 a.m., set up a stall, pack up and carry in truckload(s) of goods, put up a tent in rain, wind or shine, move around heavy picnic tables and decorate a parking lot.

You can charge them $3 to do all of this!

What a bargain…hmm, there's more - they also give you 3-5 hours of their day to 'be there' and create a 'market'.

How much do you think it would cost to have a Jazz Duo or Trio in your back yard for two or three hours on a Saturday?

The usual cost is about $150 per musician per hour - do the math.

The Town of Aurora got that and more this summer for free on at least 12 Saturdays.

How many musicians do you think might like to get up at 7 or 8 a.m. after doing a gig until 3 a.m. the night before and then not get paid?

Is there any real value here…think about it. Perhaps no one in the Town appreciates a little laid back live jazz at a market setting.

How much would any of you charge to haul goods from your home to an uncovered parking lot, hidden behind buildings early every Saturday, often freezing, melting or being buffeted by the wind without shelter for three to five hours?

You might sell stuff and you might not.

You made a commitment to be part of a market so, rain or shine, you show up and 'create' a market.

People might attend and they might not. It's the curiosity of all outdoor markets around this world.

Most communities love them and help them grow large because they represent a community spirit one cannot share in a Big-box store or even in a strip plaza. It is the essence of a 'market' that makes it important in the community.

A watering hole for all to come out and meet and greet one another on a weekly basis and catch up on each other's lives.

No one stops the other stores and vendors in the area of the market from joining in!

A market like this is a community-based effort: meaning of the community, for the community, largely done by the community. It is a good thing - not a cash cow or prized pig.

How much is it worth to bring a community together over a coffee in the summer to enjoy our town?

Do we have to travel to Newmarket or Toronto to experience this?

What happens when people in the community get a chance to meet one another in a friendly atmosphere?

How much would that be worth to help the community work together?

I think the idea of charging only $3 for it and then complaining about it is truly asinine.

Because of the Community Spirit and communication born out of the Aurora Farmers' Market this past summer - The Aurora Christmas Dream was planned. On Christmas Day 2007 the Aurora Christmas Dream fed more than 70 of the Town's persons in need a fabulous Bistro 171 gourmet dinner, Hearsts desserts, Starbucks coffee, Fraktals chocolates, gifts of music/coffee, toys, and song. Fifty volunteers came out on Christmas Day to be a part of the Dream and create the spirit of community at Christmas.

Further The Aurora Dream Team handed out three cheques last week -one each in the amount of $3,750 payable to the Salvation Army, the Welcoming Arms Ministry and the Aurora Food Pantry to continue their daily efforts helping those in need in Aurora.

What was provided was community support and good cheer for families in the Town. I wonder, Aurora, how much is that worth?

And…how much did that cost the Town of Aurora?

So, what do the citizens of Aurora think about having a Farmers' Market? Is it worth having? Is it something you would like to grow? Is it costing you too much or is it a good thing in your town?

I write this letter to the Editor to ask the ever silent majority to speak up or lose your market.

Those of you who applauded the Aurora Christmas Dream and those who enjoy the market on a Saturday morning in our Town: please write in to the editor your thoughts on the value of a Farmers' Market in Aurora.

This way the Town might know how its citizens feel and act accordingly.

Then, too, those dedicated Marketeers can know if they are wanted in this Town of Aurora.

It's about a lot more than how many dollars, yada, yada. It's about people and community.

I've given my voice - and now you have to speak up.

Sher St. Kitts
King Township

Reader identifies car in photograph

To the editor,

You were wondering when the picture in the January 15th Auroran was taken.

It appears to be 1946.

I base this on the cars.

The car in the foreground is a post-war Chrysler, while all others appear to be pre-war models.

1942 was the last model year produced by Detroit.

From then to 1945 they made only military vehicles. They converted back to civilian cars in late 1945.

The first post-war models were 1946.

Unfortunately, I can't remember if they started rolling off the production lines in late 1945 or early 1946.

However, the trees in the background were in full leaf, so this appears to write-off 1945.

Chryslers for the model years 1946, '47, and '48 all looked the same, so it could have been as late as 1949, but the lack of any other post-war cars in the picture tells me it was probably no later than 1946.

I put many enjoyable miles on our family's 1946 Chrysler.

William Hastings
Aurora

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Three cheques were presented last week as a result of a very successful Aurora Christmas Dream, held at Bistro 171 Christmas Day. More than 70 people from the Aurora area were recipients of a Christmas Dinner. The event, brainchild of Sher St. Kitts, front left, raised more than $14,000 and cheques were presented to the Aurora Food Pantry, Welcoming Arms Ministry and the Salvation Army. Each group got a cheque for $3,750. Enjoying the cake last week besides Sher is Aurora Councillor Stephen Grainger. On hand for the event were, back row, left to right, Brian Bishop of the Salvation Army; Lorna Rummenie of Aurora Food Pantry; Susan Doyle and Beverly Wood of Welcoming Arms Ministry; Jack Laurion of the Aurora Rotary Club and Richard Allardyce - Bistro 171 Chef.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

2008 budget still not settled

From page 1

cent increase.

A second draft showed a six per cent increase.

As council had given direction that the increase in the operating budget was not to be beyond 3.5 per cent and the capital budget was to remain at the 2007 level, staff proposed several changes to achieve that target.

Proposed changes included increasing the revenue from supplementary taxes to the operating budget to $350,000 and decreasing the rate of weaning off the town's dependence on Hydro funds from $220,000 to $100,000 per year.

Staff also recommended several departmental savings.

With the proposed changes adopted the tax increase would decease from six to 3.4 per cent and when blended with an assumed regional increase of 4.25 per cent and a zero education tax rate the tax increase is 2.65 per cent.

However, until the budgets are adopted the dollar increase for average assessed home cannot be estimated.

It was pointed out that all the capital projects identified to 2011 total $102 million and with reserve funds totalling $60 million, there is about a $42 million shortfall, which would create a burden for future taxpayers.

As a result Councillor Grace Marsh proposed that approximately $460,000, equivalent to a two per cent tax increase be added to the town's portion of the tax bill making the town portion 5.46 per cent for a blended rate of 3.22, which was adopted on a 5-4 vote.

Several of the staff recommendations were adopted and others were sent back for more information to be presented at the next budget meeting.

Taxpayers are going to have to wait awhile yet before they know what living in Aurora will cost them in 2008.

In 2009, it is predicted taxpayers will face an increase of around 11 per cent.

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Aurora wins a pair

Very few Tigers could say they played well in the team's Friday night victory over the Orangeville Crushers, however Paul Dupont was the lone bright light in a miserable Tiger effort at home.

Before a lively crowd Dupont scored three goals, two on the power play along with the game winner, as he led the Tigers to a 4-2 victory.

"There weren't too many positives tonight but Paul Dupont was an exception playing his usual full out in your face game but tonight was rewarded for his efforts," said Coach Jerome Dupont.

The additional Tiger score came from Michael Sardella.

Saturday night was also a less than stellar effort even though Captain Mark Thornburn scored twice and added an assist, Tigers dropped a 6-4 decision to the lowly Seguin Bruins.

Jeff Vanderlugt and Micheal Sardella also added goals in the loss.

Sunday afternoon the Tigers returned home to face the Collingwood Blues at the Community Centre in hopes of putting their weekend behind them, and get back on track from a near disastrous string of weekend games.

Fortunately they were able to do that as they rolled over the Blues 8-1.

Jeff Vanderlugt led the way with three goals, while Jeff Harbach followed closely with two goals of his own in the victory.

Other Tiger markers came from Mike Bodley, Mike McLaughlin and Micheal Sardella.

Kyle Newton, recently called up to replace the injured Aaron Barton recorded his third win in as many starts.

With the win the Tigers end the weekend on a high note on what was otherwise a dismal showing over the three game week, and will look to continue that trend Thursday as they roll into Newmarket to meet the Hurricanes.

Tigers next home game is Friday at the Community Centre, when they meet the Villanova Knights at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday afternoon, they host the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters at 2.30 p.m.

Global gets contract

From page 1

referred to its good track record.

Some councillors had concerns about the proposal and referred to a confidential memo and it was agreed to discuss the proposal and memo at a closed meeting.

At the special council meeting, Councillor Wendy Gaertner was critical of staff for their handling of the issue.

She claimed council had referred the report back to staff for more information, but staff had issued a new Request for Proposals and she wanted an explanation.

The CAO replied that he would take the comments under advisement in following the direction of council, but staff had to consider the integrity of the procurement process and took all steps necessary.

Without further discussion the staff report recommending the award of the concession and vending contract go to Global.

Prior to 1991 the snack bars at the Community Centre and the Leisure Complex were operated by the town and vending machines were operated by a private vendor with the town receiving a commission on sales.

An analysis was carried out at that time which indicated customer service would be improved in the snack bar areas if a private vendor was to operate them and there has been controversy over the years regarding the contract and the service.

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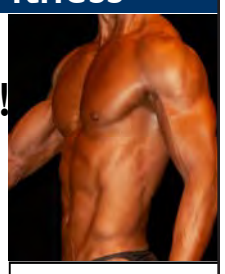
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The Aurora Tigers Peewee A team, shown here, won the International Silver Stick tournament in Port Huron, Michigan, recently, for the first time in 23 years that a Peewee A team has won this tournament, and apparently, is only the second Aurora team to ever win it. Making up the team are, back row, left to right, Trainer Randy Romano, Asst. Coach Mike Nisbet, Eric Damecour, Kyle Fedec, Vincent Ruscica, Matthew Pryse, Eric Archibald, Daniel Fiori, Manager Fab Fiori, Evan Romano, Colton Lee, Asst. Coach Bruce Ing and Coach John Archibald. Front row, from left to right, are, Ryan Baskin, Peter Sandwell, Hayden Trask, Quincy Ing, Ethan Slimkowich, Doug Nisbet, Liam MacKichan, Braden Casselden and Daniel Jones. Absent is Ben Hankins.

Peewee A Tigers bring home the Silver Stick after 23 years

By LARRY FEDEC

The Aurora Peewee A Tigers have laid claim to being one of the top North American hockey teams in their division with a championship victory at the 46th International Silver Stick Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan.

An Aurora team last won the Silver Stick in this division 23 years ago.

The tournament involved omore than 100 teams from across North America, competing through regional qualifying tournaments for the right to be one of the final 16 teams vying for the championship.

Aurora qualified in December in Sudbury,

The run to hockey supremacy started with a convincing 5-1 victory over the New Jersey Bandits.

Aurora opened the scoring after only 10 seconds of play and the shell shocked Bandits never recovered.

Next up were the Chicago Blues who came out trying to skate with the Tigers. Playing on a larger ice surface, the Tigers speed simply overmatched the Blues and finished with another dominating 5-1 win.

The final game of round robin play had Aurora up against last year's OMHA champions, the Woolwich Wildcats.

The Wildcats jumped to an early commanding lead and then held on as the injury plagued Tigers fought back.

While the Tigers suffered a 4-2 defeat, this game would prove to be the last bit of motivation the team would need as they moved on to the quarter finals.

The round of eight placed Aurora against the Hamilton Phantoms, an absolutely physically intimidating team that dwarfed the Tigers.

As it turned out size did not matter in this game.

Using the large rink to their advantage, the fearless Tigers took the play to the Phantoms.

Again Aurora caught their opponent off guard by scoring in the first minute of play.

In this match the Tigers' speed combined with outstanding goaltending simply overcame Hamilton 3-0.

With the excitement of the semi-finals settling in, the team's confidence began to rise but their nerves were combating any thoughts of destiny.

Next up was the Phoenix Jr. Coyotes, who had travelled the greatest distance to attend the tournament.

For the third time in the tourney, the Tigers got the quick start by netting a goal with the game less than a minute old.

Going into the second period with a two-goal lead the Tigers looked confident. The Coyotes were every bit the challenger as they hung on and rallied to even the score early in the third period.

Aurora responded quickly and were back in the lead less than a minute later.

Please see page 12

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Aurora Skating Club results from Tottenham

The following skaters represented the Aurora Skating Club at the 2008 'Frolics on Ice' Competition held recently in Tottenham.

Canskate Freeskate Red-Mixed: Flt. 1 - Carson Klein, 4th.

Canskate Freeskate Orange-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Brittany Erickson, 3rd.

Canskate Freeskate Blue-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Hailey Fauchere, 2nd.

Canskate Freeskate Purple-Mixed: Flt. 1 - Karlee Mannella, 1st; Adrianna Benoit Meschino, 2nd; Madisyn Lamoure 5th.

Canskate Freeskate Green-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Anastasia Severinets, 4th; Flt. 2 - Victoria Wilce, 2nd; Cassandra Tremblay, 3rd; Lily Biasi, 4th; Flt. 3 - Marni Galin, 6th.

Canskate Freeskate Burgundy-Ladies: Flt 1 - Amanda Roy, 1st; Flt. 2 - Haven Moulds, 1st.

Freeskate-Introductory A-Men's: Flt. 1 - Matthew Rainsford, 1st.

Freeskate-Introductory A-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Annabelle Alberton, 4th; Flt. 3 - Megan Bailey, 3rd; Jennifer Scott, 6th; Caroline Kewley, 7th; Flt. 4 - Megan Howe, 2nd; Gaenor Laverty, 4th; Flt. 5 - Eliana Neophytou, 1st; Brianna Gibbons, 5th; Flt, 6 - Alana Wise, 3rd; Jacqueline Lavergne, 4th; Charlotte Pearson 7th; Erin Curtis 8th; Flt. 7 - Julie Briscoe 3rd; Katie Pearson 5th; Rachel Kennedy 6th.

Freeskate-Introductory B-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Molly Brenzel, 3rd; Flt. 2 - Madison Jakubas, 2nd; Sarah Kim, 5th; Nicole Marshall, 6th.

Freeskate-Pre-Preliminary A-Ladies: Flt. 2 - Erin Forster, 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary B Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 2 - Rachel Glynn, 2nd; Flt. 3 - Ashleigh Calvert, 1st; Emma Smith, 2nd; Sarah Blois, 6th; Flt. 4 - Alicia Alberton, 3rd; Marianne Irish, 3rd; Rebecca Cunha, 7th; Flt. 5 - Monica Churchill, 3rd; Nicole McCausland, 6th.

Pre-Preliminary Starskate Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Nicole Marino, 1st; Taylor Piotrowski, 2nd; Jasmine Biasi 3rd; Flt. 2 - Alexandrea Johnston, 4th; Flt 3 - Julia Steiner, 2nd; Courtney McGrath 3rd; Flt. 6 - Dylann Miller, 5th.

Preliminary A Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Tejia RomColthoff, 1st; Sabrina Brochu, 2nd; Flt 2 - Shauna O'Connor, 2nd; Stephanie Morawietz, 3rd; MacKenzie Maunder 5th; Flt 5 - Alicia Saunders, 3rd.

Preliminary B Freeskate-Men's: Flt. 1 - Matthew Warner. 3rd.

Preliminary B Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Jacqueline Relke, 2nd; Alessia Chiouitti 3rd; Alyssa Simon, 5th; Flt. 2 - Molly Oulahen, 2nd; Samantha Duncan, 3rd; Shannon Lacombe, 5th; Julia Chiouitti, 5th; Flt. 3 - Kaitlin Van Winckle, 5th; Becky O'Malley, 6th.

Preliminary Starskate Freeskate-Mixed: Flt. 1 - Savannah Hendy, 6th; Flt. 2 - Marilena Perri 4th; Kendall Mannella, 7th; Flt. 3 - Kailee O'Connor, 2nd; Carley Steiner, 3rd; Hailey McGrath, 5th; Alana Fabbricino 7th.

Junior Bronze A Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Katherine Morawietz, 2nd.

Junior Bronze Starskate Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Raquel Burges, 3rd; Tayler Sim. 6th; Flt. 2 - Samantha Galati, 1st; Hailey Riggs, 2nd; Jihyun Cha, 5th.

Senior Bronze Starskate Freeskate-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Elyse Glen, 1st.

Preliminary Solo Dance-Ladies: Flt. 2 - Emma Smith, 1st.

Senior Bronze Solo Dance-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Samantha Duncan, 1st.

Junior Silver Solo Dance-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Jihyun Cha, 1st Jacqueline Relke, 5th; Raque Burges, 8th.

Senior Silver Solo Dance-Ladies: Flt. 1 - Sierra Chovanec 1st.

Pre-Introductory Interpretive-Ladies: Flt. 2 - Emma Laverty, 4th; Jackianne Abbey, 5th.

Team wins Silver Stick

From page 11

Phoenix continued to press hard but could not beat a superb Aurora goalie in the final minutes.

The Tigers held on to gain a 3-2 victory, and advance to the Silver Stick championship.

The build up to the championship game was unlike anything else the team had experienced this year.

With nervous tension and excitement already in the air and a large crowd supporting both teams, the tournament organizers staged an impressive pregame and player introduction ceremony.

The final game to achieve supremacy matched Aurora with the local Sarnia Jr. Sting team.

The Sting had an impressive tournament to this point going undefeated, including a convincing victory over the strong Woolwich team in the semi finals.

Pressure on the teams was evident early as the Tigers scored on their first two shots of the game.

With a goaltending change Sarnia settled themselves down and stepped up the pressure on Aurora.

The Sting responded with two goals of their own in under two minutes, ending the first period in a tie.

Aurora scored again quickly in the second period before the game became a defensive struggle.

The end to end battle shifted to the Tigers zone in the final moments with the Sarnia net empty.

The determined Tigers rose to the defensive challenge with the horn sounding a 3-2 victory and a Silver Stick championship!

Two of the Tiger players were awarded spots on the tournament all star team. Selected as all stars for their outstanding play were goaltender Ethan Slimkowich and forward Hayden Trask.

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Team 107 Tim Hortons Sharks 9 - Andrew Jorgenson 8G 1A, Dillon Verone 1G 3A, Ethan Cohen 1A, Jacob Turriff 2A, Raffaele Parente 1A, Cole Sheremeta 1A. **Team 106 Tim Hortons Bruins 1** - Michael Fodero 1G, Jacob Cowl 1A.

Team 102 Tim Hortons Leafs 8 - Nate Legros 3G 1A, Ben Spittle 2G, Michael Thibeault 2G 1A, Chris Sands 1G, Trevor Smith 1A, Quinn Bruckner 3A, Peter Leontis 1A, Julia Kavanaugh 1A. **Team 104 Tim Hortons Penguins 3** - Brandon Vaughan 3G, Matheus Roest 1A.

Team 103 Tim Hortons Senators 8 - Cameron Harbaruk 4G 1A, Jason Langdon 2G, Benjamin Godber 1G 1A, Conner Pike 1A, Adam DiPiero 2A, Braden Reid. 1A **Team 108 Tim Hortons Wild 5** - Jaedon Jackson 2G 1A, Ryan Jamieson 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Will Fisher 1G, Christopher Walsh 1A, Teigan Avery 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A.

Team 101 Tim Hortons Flames 6 - Logan Hoover 4G, Steven Silverio 1G, Keegan Hoover 1G, Mark Batulis 3A, Wayne Freeman 1A, Dane Kerkkamp 1A. **Team 105 Tim Hortons Avalanche 2** - Jack Snedden 1G, Maya Koudmani 1G, Finlay Reeves 1A.

Minor Bantam

Team 702 4 - Gabriel C-Bauset 3G, Michael Mildon 1A, Kyle Coughlin 1A, Zachery Waldeck-Sabourin 1A, Wesley Howe 1A, Jordan Caruso 1A, Matthew MacEachern 1G. **Team 703 1** - Drew Bryan 1G, Braedon MacKenzie 1A.

Team 702 2 - Gabriel C-Bauset 1G, Kyle McCouglin 1G, Matthew Hart 1A. **Team 705 2** - Cole Roffey 1G, Brian Tree 1A, Evan Foxwell 1A, Shane Laverty 1G, Justin Pontarini 1A.

Minor Midget

906 Wood Brothers Drywall Pittsburgh Black 2 - Matthew Raponi 1G, Paul Duggan 1G, Carter Schaefer 1A. **903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 2** - Robert Fiorini 1G, Robert Horton 1G, Scott Cunningham 1A, Jordan Adams 1A, Devin Scudds 1A.

901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 4 - Kyle Marren 1G, Peter Durst 2G, Kyle Blazer 1G, Kyle Marre 1A, Matt Volkman 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 2** - Wendel Martins 1G, Evan Casselden 1G, Curtis Rose 1A, Sean Elison 1A.

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 5 - Anthony Marsillo 3G, Chris Dynes 1G, Chris Tilsley 1G, JT Siery 1A, Brandon Rival 1A, Julian Savosardaro 1A. **902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 2** - Neil Gaston 1G, J.J. Lam 1G, Christopher McGill 1A, Evan Jones 1A, Liam Braithwaite 1A.

901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 2 - Mike Delplavignano 1G, Andrew Osmond 1G, Peter Durst 1A, Matt Volkman 1A, Michael Gray 1A. **905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 1** - Evan Casselden 1G.

904 Optimist Club of Aurora Colorado Burgundy 2 - Chris Tilsley 1G, Trevor Coll 1G, Brandon Rival 1A. **906 Wood Brothers Drywall Pittsburgh Black 1** - Grant Wood 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1A.

902 Aurora Cable Boston Gold 4 - Liam Braithwaite 1G, Geoff Gianopoulos 2G, J.J. Lam 1G, Evan Jones 2A, Eric Seguin 1A, Michael Moody 1A, Matthew De Sousa 1A. **903 Manhattan Trophies Ottawa White 4** - Marco Santella 2G, Robert Fiorini 2G 1A, Jordan Adams 2A, Michael VanBakel 1A, Keenan Van Rooyen 1A .

Town staff turned out last week to see the benefits of car pools and mass transit presented by Smart Commute Central York. Above Laura Sheardown looks at the "Revolution of One: Carpool" campaign material from Sandra McEleney and Pat Lusink from SCCY as Aurora's Karen Ewart looks on. Information about the energy and money saving tip is available at www.smartcommutecentralyork.ca.

Senior Scape

Chess players plan tournament

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The finest attraction at the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is the membership, without whom the ASA would not exist, and no amount of fine architecture or excellent equipment could bring life to empty halls and corridors.

Not that the halls and corridors are empty, please understand; they are in fact populated by a great and gregarious group of active, articulate and interested seniors who are intent on enjoying life.

They pursue their interests and pleasures vigorously; intent on winning when playing games or focusing in depth while producing fine work such as sewing, crafting or woodworking; pride in completed work is evident even when they try hard not to appear overly proud of their excellent work.

Many seniors join the ASA with the intention of merging with the crowd and joining a group they feel comfortable with, while the choice of activity is not of any great consequence.

Others, including myself, are or were attracted by a particular activity; mine was to learn to compute, which I have done and find the world of computing interesting and compelling.

The social side of the ASA is enormously important and cannot be overstated in providing a large and ever changing circle of friendly faces, some of whom become very close friends.

We are always alert to activities old or new, which offer possibilities and I answered a call early last year, to start a chess club, which is presently composed of a small but solid core of interested players.

The chess club is well equipped to satisfy chess players and we would like to stimulate more interest; therefore, we are organizing a round robin chess tournament, or tournaments.

A round robin can vary in number of players and I expect to organize more than one round robin to accommodate players and perhaps enter the novice players in a novice group and the stronger players in another.

If a group of eight players, for example, is organized into a round robin, each player is assured of seven games, which is easily enough to meet others of similar interest and playing strength, and provide plenty of chess games.

Tuesday is the chess club evening and the time is from 6 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. Please drop in at your convenience as we maintain an easy going club atmosphere.

We plan to commence the tournament in March which will allow players to start working on their game now.

The chess club needs players of all calibre including raw beginners.

I will be happy to show how the game is played, which is mind stimulating, and novice players do require players of similar strength to play with.

We need strong players also and the present players each played as young men then ceased to play for up to 50 years in my case, and have now found new enthusiasm.

For any senior who has not yet visited the centre including those still employed, Tuesday evening provides a wonderful opportunity to visit and see what is going on.

In the past, new members have played chess then continued their visit by playing snooker or carpet bowling, etc.

Plenty of other attractions are available for male and female, and everybody tries their hand at whatever takes their fancy.

Aurora Seniors Bridge Results

January 28 - N/S - Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Pat Clark and Kay Hack; Jodie Bagan and Ed Smereka. E/W - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Bill and Bonnie Scheel; Rose White and Gloria Smith.

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Stuck with laneway maintenance

In December, 1996, council of the day discussed the issue of private versus public ownership in regard to the rear yard laneways in a Bayview-Wellington development in terms of ongoing maintenance and capital replacement.

Various options were discussed including making the laneways private, accepting as public, accepting as public with a surcharge, or a one-time cash payment.

The developer pointed out that leaving the laneways private affected the sale of the homes.

Staff recommended a one-time cash payment as the preferred option but this was defeated by council on a 5-3 vote.

As a result council assumed the rear laneways to maintain at pubic expense.

YONGE/WELLINGTON INTERSECTION

Once again Aurora Council is requesting a study in hopes of improving the traffic flow through the Yonge/Wellington intersection.

The mayor has requested copies of everything that has been done and what has been suggested to be done to improve the intersection.

In April, 1998, following a three-month experimental ban of motorists making left-hand turns from Yonge Street on to Wellington Street during rush hour, the ban was lifted.

Council had tried prohibiting the left turns in an attempt to reduce bottlenecks at the intersection.

Even though proper signage had been erected many drivers neglected the signs but even with the high non-compliance rate, it was reported that through traffic had improved by 35 per cent.

Regional traffic engineers recommended that the left-turn restriction remain in effect.

Aurora councillors voted to return to the status quo following expiry of the experiment and convene a public meeting for further discussion.

THE BLOOMINGTON LANDFILL SITE

The landfill operation on the north side of Bloomington Road between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street has been a problem for Aurora Council and adjacent residents since the early 1990s.

In early 2003, the landowner sued the town for $5.8 million claiming municipal officials abused their authority and interferred with his ability to carry on his business.

The landfill site became inactive and in 2004 an application was received for a permit for the dumping of fill and alteration of grades on the site.

In July, 2004, the applicant launched an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board on the basis that the municipality failed to make a decision on the application with the 45 day limit.

Council authorized staff to retain outside counsel and experts to represent the town before the OMB in support of the town's position.

Later the town solicitor reported that the OMB hearing which had been scheduled to start in May, 2005, had been adjourned indefinitely until such time as the court proceedings had either been heard and judgment rendered or otherwise disposed of.

At the November, 2007, council meeting Councillor Evelina MacEachern asked when staff would be providing a report on the landfill operation with the town solicitor replying the report should be presented within two weeks.

With the town solicitor moving on to another position will there be a report or will it be necessary to go back to square one when a new solicitor takes over? Answers please.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Last August, there was an article in The Auroran about the need to find a home for the bell believed to come from the steam engine, "Toronto" used to haul the first train to Aurora in 1853.

The article pointed out that the bell was not in good shape as it had been neglected over the years.

A letter addressed to Mayor Phyllis Morris from Gary McNeil, Managing Director and CEO of GO Transit, advised that GO Transit would welcome the opportunity to house the bell at the GO Station at GO's expense.

The plaque referenced in the article would also complement the site.

It was an offer too good to miss but it has never appeared on a public agenda or been discussed in council.

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"Night Must Fall"

A mystery with a twist

Theatre Aurora's current production "Night Must Fall" is a play with a difference. Normally, in a mystery drama, you try to determine who committed the murder, but in this play, by Emlyn Williams, you know the murderer.

Night Must Fall is a psychological drama.

It is the shiver-inducing tale of a serial killer, a tyrant invalid, a young woman who prefers independence to marriage, a sassy housekeeper and a timid maid.

The scene is set in the sitting room of Forest Corner, Mrs. Bramson's bungalow in Essex in 1935.

Before the curtain, the voice of the Lord Chief Justice is heard terminating a speech to the Court of Criminal Appeal in which he supports the ruling of the Lower Court that murders were committed and the sentence of hanging be carried out.

So, it's no secret that Danny, a bellhop who arrives at the Bramson bungalow, has already murdered one woman and there's not much doubt that he will murder another.

He is summoned to the bungalow by Mrs. Bramson who has learned her maid Dora is pregnant and Danny is responsible.

She wants to know his intentions.

Danny arrives at the bungalow on a Sunday afternoon and with his smooth talk and manner skillfully insinuates himself with Mrs. Bramson, while her niece, Olivia has suspicions about him.

But he is invited to join the household as a type of nursemaid to Mrs. Bransom, who gets her medicine, her shawl when she's cold and takes her for an outing in her wheelchair and very soon she is calling him "dear".

A few days later, while out for a walk on the property, Dora sees a hand sticking out of a rubbish pile and Inspector Belsize from Scotland Yard arrives to investigate.

A dismembered body is found and the tension starts to rise, culminating in a dramatic conclusion to the play as darkness falls a few days later.

Diana Ryan, the director of Night Must Fall, is a relative newcomer to Theatre Aurora as this is her first production for the local group, but had considerable experience directing in the United States before moving to Aurora two years ago.

She has assembled a very strong cast, as they create and build on the drama of the events as they happen.

The producer is Anne Currie O'Brien and the Stage Manager Christine Randl.

Bill White, a veteran of local community theatre, is Inspector Belsize of Scotland Yard.

Brian Farrar is Hubert Laurie, a young man on crutches and a neighbour who is in love with Olivia but she ignores his advances.

Dora, the maid, is played by Nadia Paliga, who sees her so-called lover making advances to Olivia.

Zara Stuart-Jones, another veteran of local theatre, is Mrs. Terence, the sassy housekeeper who adds laughter to the play with her actions and quick remarks. Lori Moritz is the visiting nurse who makes weekly visits to see Mrs. Bramson.

The more challenging roles are those of Danny, Mrs. Bramson and Olivia. Beverly Sotropa plays Olivia, the dutiful niece who looks after her aunt but is troubled and suspicious of Danny.

Kay Valentine is well known to local theatergoers and as always provides a strong performance in her role of the tyrant, Mrs. Bransom.

Paul Howley, as Danny, gives an outstanding performance as the psychological killer who is charming one moment, in tears another and evil at the same time.

As always the set by Peter Kelly is a highlight and the lighting and sound effects add to the drama.

Night Must Fall is well worth seeing.

It continues February 6, 7, 8 and 9. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

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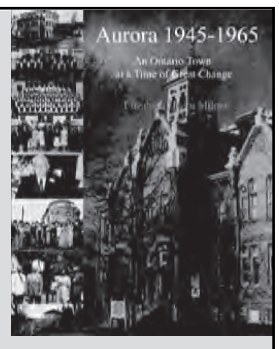

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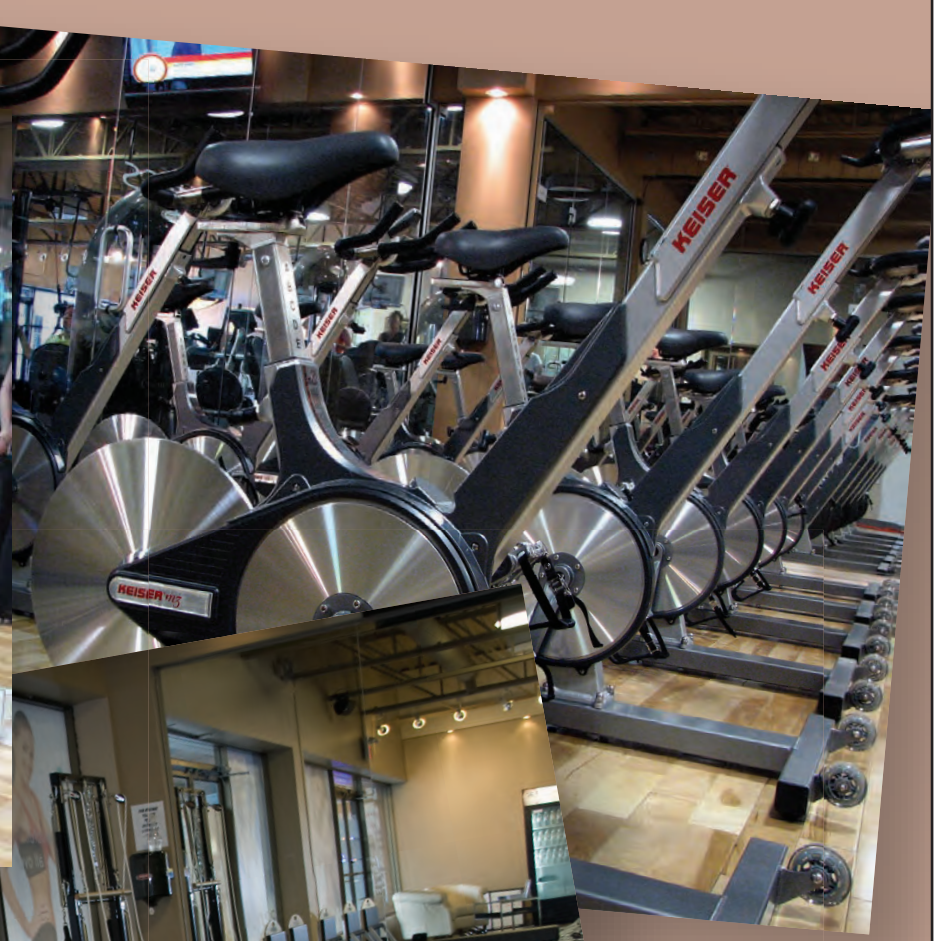

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