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THE AUROREDAN

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FREE

Week of January 20, 2009



The 26th annual St. Andrew's College MacPherson Hockey Tournament got underway Friday at two Aurora locations, after being piped into the Aurora Community Centre by the school's Scottish band. Unfortunately, the Saints, St. Andrew's entry in the tournament, failed to win a game, losing every match by a single goal. Friday they lost 3-2 to Upper Canada College and 3-2 in overtime to Gilmour Academy. Gilmour Academy won the championship title Sunday afternoon, edging St. Francis High School 4-3, while Edge School won the consolation with a 3-2 win over Upper Canada College. History of the tournament on Page 11.

(Auroran photo by David Falconer)

Part II

Second half of 2008 was quieter

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The second half of 2008 started off in a truly Aurora traditional way with the Canada Day Parade after an absence of a year thanks to Sher St. Kitts and her hard working

volunteer committee and once again Aurora was Canada's Birthday Town.

During July and August council takes a holiday as only one meeting is scheduled for each month so the amount of town business is limited

during those two months.

After 23 years with CHATS and the agency's first executive director, Deborah Egan left to take on new challenges as Director of the new Capacity Building Initiative for the Central Support Services Network representing 44 organizations in the Central LIN area.

After asking staff for a report to regulate the Sale and Possession of Replica Firearms using the Township of Scugog as a model, council received the report as information and took no further action at the time on the basis the enactment and enforcement of the bylaw was not practical.

After being empty for almost two years, council engaged a space planner for \$49,850 to recommend the future of the Public Works and Parks facility and the Hydro building with a final report to council in October, but nothing has happened and the Hydro building is still empty.

In order to comply with the provi-

Please see page 12

Please see page 13

Discussions continue over school's future

Aurora High School hosted the second Accommodation Review Committee Public Meeting on the future of Wells Street Public School last week.

The meeting started by reviewing the role of the committee, and moved into an explanation of funding options should the school be fixed.

"There are two sources of funding," said Ralph Benson of the Board of Education.

The first was the Ministry of

Education's Prohibitive to Repair Program, but Mr. Benson noted the program "may have run its course".

He did, however, suggest the possibility of a new government program to help fund the school, but added this was unlikely.

The second option was for the Board to take a portion of its annual allocation for facilities.



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Briefly

Programs for kids

There are some amazing programs available for children at the Aurora Public Library this month and next.

Kids, aged six to nine, will explore the world of art Tuesday, January 27, from 7 to 8 p.m. They'll learn the technique of relief printing, while finding out about Andy Warhol. Children will draw, scratch, and pound their designs into a unique foam product. Fee for the program is \$6 per child.

A month later, Tuesday, February 24, a similar program will be held as children learn about the artistic movement that brought emotions into art: expressionism.

They will discover how colour, brushstrokes and composition affect what they feel when they look at art.

Fee is the same as January.

For children, six to eight, the library plans a Valentine Magic program where children can personalize existing Valentine rhymes. Valentine stories will be read and related books will be available to borrow.

That program is slated for Wednesday, February 4, from 6.45 to 7.30 p.m. and it's free with registration.

Author Catherine Rodina will conduct a "Good Idea Workshop" for children in Grades 4 to 6 on Tuesday, February 10, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. and will discuss how writers get their ideas and how those ideas get turned into a book or an article.

Fee is \$8 per child.

Visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or phone 905-727-9493 for further information or pick up a program flyer at the library.

Mardi Gras planning

Mardi Gras season has kicked off in Aurora.

The King and Queen will hold court this Saturday, at 2 p.m. at Di Nardo's Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South.

In their formal dress, the King and Queen—the mayors of Newmarket and Aurora—along with their royal subjects, anticipate the appearance of party-goers.

With the gala event scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, the King and Queen will be inspecting the preparations of the Mansion in anticipation of the biggest and best Mardi Gras event of the year.

The Aurora Mardi Gras Gala Fundraiser supports Southlake Hospital Regional Cancer Centre with a fundraising goal of \$50,000.

For more information call Sandra Humfries at 905-727-1433 or email Sandra at shumfries@sympatico.ca.

Travelling exhibit

The Aurora Historical Society announced recently the arrival of the Medical Records Travelling Exhibit to Hillary House.

The exhibit, on loan from the Archives of Ontario, is being displayed in the ballroom at Hillary House until February 26.

Also on display are some of the medical documents and equipment owned by Dr. Robert William Hillary and Dr. Robert Michael Hillary.

Admission is free for Aurora Historical Society members and \$3 for non-members. For more information call 905-727-8991 or visit the website at <http://www.aurorahistorical-society.ca>.

Hillary House is located on the west side of Yonge Street between Wellington and Aurora Heights Drive.

Chili fest

Aurora's Arctic Adventure will take on a new project this year, since the new Family Day holiday will occur.

On Monday, February 16, the Aurora Rotary Club will hold a Chili Fest, that may involve as many as a dozen restaurants.

The event will be held in the Town Park from noon to 4 p.m. and breaks down into three time slots.

From noon to 2 p.m., the general public will participate in a 'taste testing' of the various chili submissions from each restaurant.

From 2 to 3 p.m., the votes will be tallied and from 3 to 4 p.m., chili judging, based on the above 'votes', will have the top three restaurants competing for the title.

It is hoped members of the Central York Fire Service will be available as judges.

Pond tournament

The Second Annual Aurora Women's Pond Hockey Tournament – a fundraiser for Central York Girls Hockey Association - will be held February 7 and 8 at Machell Park, across the street from the Aurora Community Centre.

In case it's not cold enough to hold the tourney on the 7th and 8th, organizers have arranged February 21 and 22 as an alternative.

COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

The Adult Bereavement Support Group offers a chance to learn how to cope with the loss of a loved one. Fred Bullen has given the use of the Aurora Lions Club and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will provide administrative cost so that this service is given free to the community. Contact mariesgriefjourney@yahoo.com to reserve a seat or get further information.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. and motorists must get their cars off the streets so that the Public Works Department can clear snow and ice from the roadway.

VOICE is a creative writing collective for teens between the ages of 13 and 18. At the meetings, held at the Aurora Public Library, teens learn various creative writing techniques, give and receive constructive feedback on their writing and meet other like-minded young writers. Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month, September through May, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is not required.

"Louder" is a semi-annual young adult magazine created through the creative effort of teens and produced by the Aurora Public Library's Young Adult Services Department. Submissions of writing, poetry, art, graphic art and photography are accepted. E-mail submissions to yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca or drop it off to the Children and Young Adult Information Desk to the attention of Monika Machacek.

Step into the world of watercolour with artist and teacher Alana Biasi. Both the beginner and advanced painter classes are held throughout the year, to February 12, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$30 per registrant for students, Grades 5-11. Visit www.library.aurora.on.ca, or phone the Library at 905-727-9493 for further information.

On Tuesdays, until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsing@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

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. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

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

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 for more information.

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. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

Meet at Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised go to local charities.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Demystifying databases at Aurora Public Library. This is a hands-on workshop to learn how use the Library's electronic research resources effectively; each month will focus on a different subject. Limited to four participants per session. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, 905-727-9493. Free. Session begins at 10.30 a.m. until 11.15 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Mardi Gras season gets underway today when the King and Queen will

hold court at 2 p.m. at Di Nardo's Mansion in Aurora, 400 Industrial Parkway South. In their formal dress, the King and Queen, along with their Royal Subjects, anticipate your appearance. The Aurora Mardi Gras Gala Fundraiser supports Southlake Hospital Regional Cancer Centre with a fundraising goal of \$50,000.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Monthly meeting of the Aurora Writers Group at Aurora Town Hall. Note: meetings have been moved to the fourth Monday for 2009. New members welcome. Writing exercises, speakers, discussion and more. For more information, call Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day at the library. Aurora Public Library in partnership with the York Region District School Board and Ontario Early Years, York Region, presents 'What is Early Literacy?', a free workshop for parents/caregivers of children 0-6 years. 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Proper Pruning: When, Where & How" Speaker: Mark Vanderwoude. 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Guests welcome. \$2 at the door.

Frosty Feast at the Aurora Seniors' Centre includes chili, salad, rolls and dessert from noon to 1.30 p.m. Tickets at \$6 for members and \$7 for guests.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Ski Day is at Osler Bluff Ski Club in Collingwood. If you are interested in participating, call the Chamber Office at 905-727-7262.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Aurora Minor Baseball Association is accepting online registration at www.auroraminorball.ca. In person registration will take place today at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up for Baseball for youth ages 5-21. Those who register early will be able to take advantage of free Indoor winter baseball clinics. For further information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting will be held at Aurora Orthodontics, 372 Hollandview Trail, Suite 100.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Budget Bistro at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is a drop-in lunch program for \$4.50. It includes homemade soup, sandwich, dessert coffee or tea. Program continues Wednesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 25.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
The Aurora Film Circuit presents the documentary "Man on Wire", plus a bonus short film Kolam. Tickets are \$10, available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45 and film at 7 p.m., and proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Sponsor-a-Student Luncheon will feature speaker Gold Medal Olympian, Adam van Koeverden. Sponsorship is \$30 per student and is a great introduction for local students to Aurora's business community.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Annual music night at Wesley United Church begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each; available by phone or email. Call Paul or Sandra at 905-853-6873 or email letyourspiritsoar@wesleyunitedchurch.net.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Aurora Mardi Gras gala event slated for DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South. For more information call Sandra Humfries at 905-727-1433 or email Sandra at shumfries@sympatico.ca

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents Dessert Competition and Social by its Society Members. Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North 8 p.m. Guests welcome. \$2 at the door.

MONDAY, MARCH 25
Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Lighting the Way", bright selection for the shade garden. Speaker is Paul Zammit. At the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North 8 p.m. \$2 at the door.

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Damage has been estimated at \$350,000 in a fire of undetermined origin that destroyed this house on Old Bloomington Road, east of Yonge Street, last week. Central York Fire Services sent 25 men and two tankers to the scene and got tanker help from Richmond Hill, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville departments, chief John Molyneaux told The Auroran. Because there are no hydrants in the area, he said, fire fighters took hoses into a Richmond Hill subdivision across Bloomington to tap into hydrants. No one was injured in the blaze and the house was insured. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Hinder co-chair of Hartwell Run

Although it's really been cold outside lately, planning for the Eighth Annual Hartwell Run is currently underway.

There are some exciting changes taking place for 2009, including the naming of a new co-chair.

Aurora resident and good friend of Bob Hartwell, Steve Hinder has been named to the position of the event.

"I was honoured to have been asked to take on this role," he said. "All they had to do was mention Bob's name and I gratefully accepted the challenge. It's important for me to keep Bob's legacy and spirit front and centre in our community."

Mr. Hinder, who was the Constituency Manager for Belinda Stronach, former Member of Parliament, continues his work in the community and with Belinda, through Neighbourhood Network and many other community projects supported by Magna.

Both Bob Hartwell and Steve Hinder served together on Aurora Council.

Hartwell died when he collapsed during a run in Toronto several years ago.

This year, the event will benefit the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre.

"It's exactly what Bob would have wanted," said Barb Hartwell. "Having the funds raised going to Southlake will provide an opportunity for the larger community to not only benefit but participate as well."

In past years, the Hartwell Run has supported the Community Safety Village but now that the funding for the Village is complete, funds will go to support the cancer addition to the hospital.

The Hartwell Challenge will start and finish at the Aurora Community Centre this year and a new challenging route has been developed.

There will be a larger focus this year on providing opportunities for families to participate by promoting the five kilometre portion of the event while continuing to enhance the half marathon and relay for the more serious runners.

"It's important for people in our community to have an opportunity to support the new Cancer Centre at Southlake," Mr. Hinder said. "We will be encouraging everyone to get involved by participating and raising pledges. Bob would be amazed at how this event has evolved and excited about the prospects of growing it to serve our hospital."

The Hartwell Challenge takes place Sunday, April 26.



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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Time for more Poor Richard IAFFFA awards

*The Year ends with Awards,
To the foolish and the wise:
The rules are kept a secret
To come as a big surprise!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

As is traditional at this time of the year, Poor Richard makes his annual IAFFFA Awards. It's the "Illingworth Annual Fickle Finger of Fate Award."

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.

One award is the "Erect" category for outstanding and meritorious service above and beyond the call, the "Pinky" category for an itty-bitty act or omission, and the "Thumb" category, but that can be left to your imagination.

An Erect Award goes to former Councillor Grace Marsh who had the courage to resign from Aurora Council in mid-term when she believed that council was not acting in the best interests of the taxpayers. She is missed as she had so much to offer.

An Erect Award goes to Sher St. Kitts for resurrecting the Canada Day Parade after an absence of a year and, with her volunteer committee, produced one of the best parades ever in Canada's Birthday Town.

Also, to Shelley Ware, the town's special events coordinator, for organizing the many community events throughout the year for the enjoyment of residents.

A Special Thumb Award to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty for trying to sneak through a change in election financing in the economic statement instead of an economic plan creating a parliamentary and constitutional crisis.

An ISFFFA to ill-fated Liberal Leader Stephane Dion for his complete failure to grasp the concerns of party members and the needs of the Canadian people and while he may be a nice man, he wasn't a leader.

Another ISFFFA to our politicians and car manufacturers for not putting some type of speed controls on motor vehicles along the lines of permitted speeds on public highways and to motorists for not using common sense and especially to an Aurora resident for driving at 231 km/hr on the Don Valley Parkway, 141 miles above the posted limit.

A Special Thumb Award to Vaughan Council for their ongoing follies, investigations and court cases which make a mockery of local government and have caused the community to be known as the Joke Above Toronto.

Another Special Thumb Award to Premier Dalton McGuinty if he follows through on his commitment to provide more powers to the Mayor of Toronto, who has enough now to make the city and council an embarrassment.

A Pinky Award to Aurora Council for the number of general committee, special general committee, council and in camera meetings they have held yet still leave a long list of unfinished items such as the empty Hydro building, Library Square and so many others. Unless they get their act together soon, they'll fall into the Toronto and Vaughan category.

An Erect Award to Newmarket/Aurora MPP Frank Klees for being everywhere, doing everything in looking after the interests and needs of his constituents. Other politicians should take note.

An ISFFFA award goes to police forces across Canada for continuing to withhold key information from the public about how officers are using Taser stun guns. Canadians have the right to know.

All the awards with the exception of the Erect Award go to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his long list of broken promises such as an elected Senate when he appoints 18, mostly party hacks, the appointed of a Supreme Court Judge without a promised public hearing and more free votes for MPs when he has gagged them.

And an ISFFFA to all federal and provincial politicians who become sheep dogs after being elected and toe the party line instead of representing the people who elected them.

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



It's time for another non-alcoholic free dinner for two at Jonathan's Restuarant in Aurora. Here's all you have to do. Tell us where this three-storey apartment building was, and tell us why was it torn down nearly three decades ago. This photo was taken in 1981. First right answer after noon Friday, January 23, is the winner. Call the newspaper at 905-727-3300 if you think you know.

Letter to the Editor

Our children belong at Wells Street Public School, this reader maintains

To the editor,

It was like déjà vu. Unfortunately, it is a reality.

Another school in my neighbourhood is on the chopping block.

What we seem to have on our hands is a defunct, decrepit school building prohibitive to repair.

Akin to the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School debate, declining school enrolment is another kick-in-the-pants that rings a death-knell for Wells St. Public School.

What a fine mess this is!

I am a Wells St. School Supporter alumnus who was involved with the school between 1994 and 2001.

Entering the main doors of that grandfather of a school always seemed like home to the children, parents and staff, alike.

Many parents involved themselves naturally in the fabric of this institution with great vigour and integrity.

There was something very special about this place.

Children could walk to school then.

The parents formed friendships there.

The staff were simply wonderful.

I challenge those bent on the demise of this school to put a value on these intangibles.

The present displacement of our school (children and staff) is, in a sense, an amputation of

an integral part of this community. Aurora cannot afford to lose this school.

While touring the British Isles, I was amazed how centuries-old buildings, both grand and insignificant were preserved with equal importance.

We Canadians have much to learn about history and preservation.

We all have to practice more prudence in the spending department.

Dollars and cents, figures, flow charts and projected numbers are bandied about.

It seems like the bricks and mortar of Wells St. P.S. don't mean much in a cash-strapped society.

We can ask many questions though...

How could our historic public schools be allowed to decay to such a state while new schools are springing up all over Aurora?

Can projected school enrolments increase as our older home owners leave and younger families move into the area?

Do we perpetuate the declining enrolment issue by creating a school-less neighbourhood?

Parents buy homes near schools, after all!

Can we partner with groups and agencies to make Wells St. P.S. viable such as using it as a shared-space facility?

Will the rule-makers and shakers reinvent the magical school boundary lines to allow a larger school catchment area to increase the school pop-

ulation?

I urge all of our community members-parents, neighbours, teachers, graduates and business owners to get involved to save Wells St. P.S.

In preserving our school, we preserve the past and provide for the future of this community.

In the spring, when the snow has melted, I intend on taking a little walk to the school grounds.

As usual, I will read over the familiar names engraved in the stepping

stones on the front lawn. These are the names those who attended the school - my children amongst them.

My hope is that more stepping stones and new names will be added in years to come.

New students, new families, new teachers.

I hope Wells Street School will go on. This is where our children belong!

Julia Walkley-Sherman
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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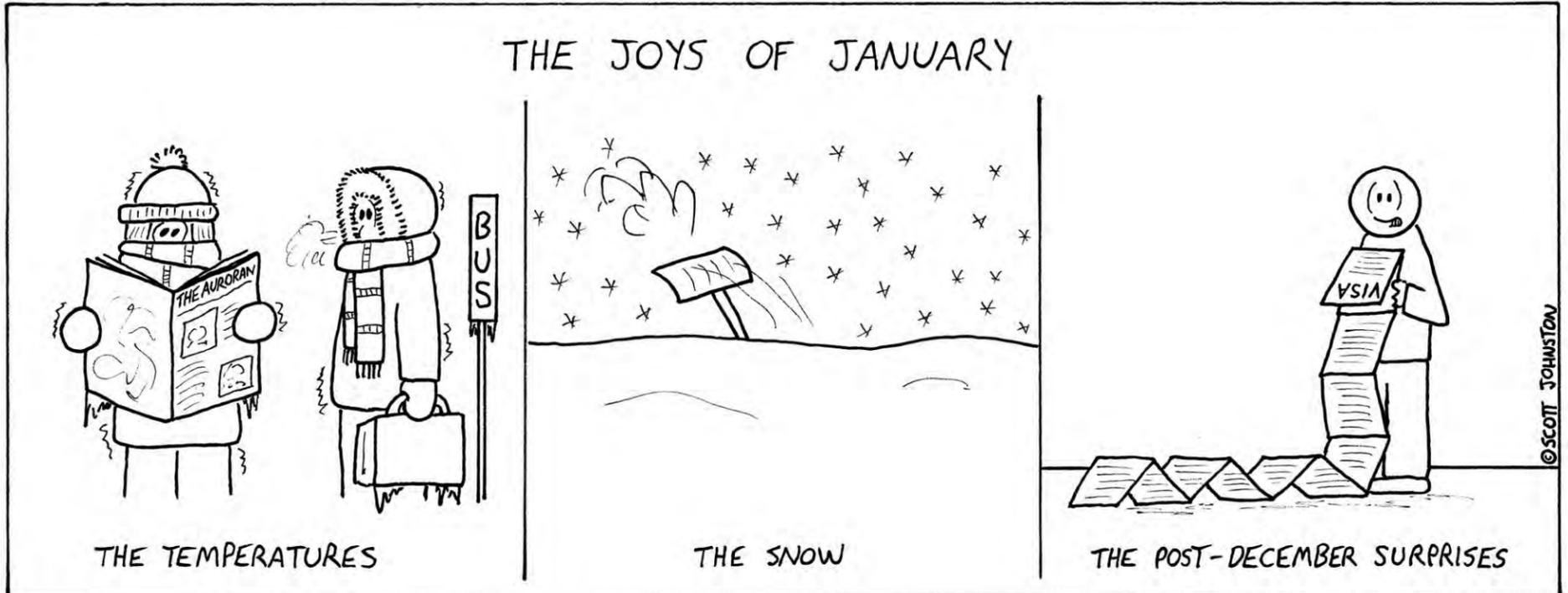
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

My budget deputation

For those faithful readers, you may recall that last week I wrote about the Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting put on by local Conservative Member of Parliament Lois Brown at the Aurora Town Council Chamber.

Of the 10 deputations that night, four were from business organizations and six were from private citizens.

The various groups and private citizens put on interesting, yet very different presentations.

The representative from the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce asked for a National Transportation Plan, a reduction in high marginal personal taxes, and a lowering of corporate taxes.

A number of private citizen presentations advocated, among other things, a reform of the Canadian monetary system, and a call for increased spending on renewable energy and tax incentives for home retrofits.

One of the presenters spoke against government handouts and instead advocated Free Trade and Research & Development Zones, similar to the Centres of Excellence in Kitchener, or the Free Enterprise Zones in North Carolina.

There was lots of food for thought for both our Member of Parliament and the Minister of Finance.

I present below, for the readers' perusal, amusement and probable ridicule, my own brief hypothetical deputation.

Sitting in the Aurora Town Council Chamber, my deputation would go something like this:

"Madame MP, Madame Mayor, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, friends, assembled guests - and even my mother-in-law, good evening!

It gives me a tremendous amount of pride and satisfaction, as a private citizen to offer, in this great

rotunda of thought and grand debate, my thoughts regarding the upcoming budget.

My remarks don't break new ground or offer any new particular insights into the global economic crisis that we face; my comments are aimed at the allocation of our tax dollars in the upcoming budget.

This budget should be about the three P's.

It should be about Priorities. And it should be about Planning. But mostly it should be about People.

Priorities: Many public opinion polls show that consumer confidence is at a 40-year low.

The reason is as clear as it is simple; people won't spend money if they don't have a job or feel that the job they do have is not secure.

Ottawa must offer hope as well as substance.

The hope should come from the comforting words of the PM, who should be saying that he "understands our pain" and that he won't let us down.

The substance should come in the form of the \$35 billion stimulus package.

Like people trying to lose weight by both exercising and eating right, the proper prescription for the economy should include a mix of initiatives.

More than one-third of the stimulus package should be used for infrastructure.

As has been reported in the Toronto Star earlier this week, "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has said towns and cities are ready to move on \$13 billion worth of municipal projects right away, construction work that would create 156,000 jobs."

In order to expedite this spending, every measure needs to be taken to speed up the process, like capping environmental assessments on public transit at six months.

In effect, do what ever it takes to get the guys in the

hard hats on the project site as fast as possible.

One-third of the money should be used to provide targeted income tax relief to low income Canadians.

Or better yet, remove income taxes from anyone making, say \$25,000 or less, for a period of two years.

To encourage and stimulate spending in the middle class, provide a GST holiday on certain items for a specified period of time.

Planning: The enormity of this situation has presented an opportunity for the government to make changes to our economy to enable Canada to prosper in the future.

Just as tax incentives, loan guarantees, increased capital cost allowances and production incentives were used to grow our oil and gas and transportation, and communication related businesses, so too will these mechanisms be needed to incubate the businesses of the future, like electric cars and renewable energy.

People: Joe Clark was right in a sense; Canada is a community of communities. And Canada gains strength from having strong communities.

Part of any infrastructure program needs to be spent on hockey rinks, parks and the like in communities.

We know there is a large number of children who would love to play hockey, baseball or soccer but their families cannot afford the annual fees; every child must have the opportunity.

The ingenuity and resourcefulness of Canadians is clear, but the federal government must help lead the way out of this malaise for us to build a more prosperous, healthier and better Canada.

Thank You."

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Home for the holidays

Tim was the first to arrive home for the holidays.

In typical Tim style, he came in like Santa Claus - his "sled" loaded with big bulbous bags which he immediately parked in the laundry room.

Yes, my dear son brought home the gift of his entire inventory of whites, colours and hand-washables.

Then he promptly disappeared.

You know how it is with young people - they have places to go and people to see and since they don't sleep at night, they sleep during the day. I hear this is "normal".

Jennifer rolled in several days after she left Windsor, having made a pit stop in her old stomping ground, London.

Like I said, these young people have places to go and people to see...

And when they finally arrive home they are ravenously hungry.

This is what happens when young people are required to feed themselves for weeks at a time. Apparently deposits in the laundry room and withdrawals from the refrigerator are "normal" for this stage of human development.

Nadia was the last of the Vrancic children to pull into Aurora.

She is in a different stage of life: looking forward to marriage, mortgage and multiple dependents, so she brought neither laundry nor appetite home for Christmas.

She brought something else.

Nadia and James are practicing for parenthood with two new additions to their family: Oreo and Liberty, both of the feline variety.

At first meeting, Jake was fascinated with the strange new creatures and wanted a closer look.

I don't know if you've ever seen a 95-pound dog stick his snout into the personal space of a four-pound cat but it is a sad, sad sight.

Within seconds, Jake "lost face" - literally!

After that, Oreo strutted around with all the pomp and arrogance one would expect from a creature that is equipped with weapons of mass destruction, a.k.a. "claws".

At one point I caught Oreo perched on the step just above Jake's bed.

For a few moments, he regarded big dog sleeping peacefully much as the Grinch looked down upon Whoville.

Then he straightened up as if he just got a terrible, wonder-

ful, awful idea...

He moved to the edge of the step and reached out with his paw, boxing Jake's ear! Oh, the audacity!

Needless to say, Jake was much relieved when the balance of canine power was restored with the arrival of Kramer and Cosmo, his Shih Tzu-Poodle buddies.

They belong to Jane who will soon become Nadia's mother-in-law, so I guess that would make them Jake's... "brothers-in-law"?

By Christmas Eve, the house contained 16 people, three dogs, two cats...and one unfortunate bird - a turkey so enormous that it sprawled over the roaster and would barely fit in the oven.

And then, too quickly, it was all over.

They loaded their cars with Christmas presents and clean laundry and leftovers.

But I think they took something else too, or why would the house feel so quiet...and empty?

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



Bouquets &

BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Carol Cooper for her excellent work on the Environmental Advisory Committee from which she has just resigned as she says it's time for something else. She was a strong promoter for involving Aurora in the Communities in Bloom competition and hopefully Aurora will participate this year.

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for failing to get his message across in his recent column about the sign bylaw and the many variances granted by council, and the mistaken request from Shoppers Drug Mart for the pictorials in the window like frames at Yonge and Edward Street, which he doesn't consider signs. Convene a special general committee meeting and make a decision, but be consistent.

BOUQUETS to the members of the Burlington Polar Bear Dip Club for carrying on the tradition of Gaye Courage who never expected taking a dip in frigid waters would become so popular. Now in its 24th year what started off as a simple backyard ritual now attracts about 500 people to Oakville's Coronation Park for the annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip with proceeds going to World Vision's clean water efforts.

BRICKBATS to powder-hungry skiers who break the rules by venturing beyond the boundaries into hazardous and avalanche areas and getting trapped, then requiring the efforts of a rescue crew, putting them in danger to bring the skiers to safety. They should be charged with the costs of the rescue plus. This also applies to ice fishermen on Lake Simcoe who break the rules.

BOUQUETS to Frank Stronach on being nominated for two Eclipse Awards in Miami Beach as the Stronach Stables has been nominated as a finalist for the top owner award while Adena Springs, which is owned by Stronach, has been nominated in the top breeder category.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for stranding 39 Canadians in war-racked Gaza, while other countries assisted 226 of their nationals in leaving more than 30 hours before the launch of the deadly attack. Canadian diplomats claimed they didn't know anything about a pending attack.

BOUQUETS to the Ontario Provincial Police on their 100th birthday, which they have started to celebrate. The OPP was established on October 13, 1909 with a Superintendent and 45 officers. To celebrate 100 years and recognize those heroes of yesteryear, two OPP officers will soon undertake a gruelling three-week dogsled expedition through Northern Ontario.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation for their on-going track record of sloppy administration and public relations in dealing with reported winning tickets. The latest is the case of Thomas Nofall who won \$135,000 on four separate Fruit Smash scratch cards. A claims representative confirmed his win but was later told that due to a printing error, no prize money. After the publicity the OLG made a confidential settlement.

BOUQUETS to Little Caesar's Pizza for entering into a partnership with the Defence Department's Transition Assistance Program for offering veterans who want to open a franchise a reduction of \$5,000 for a franchise fee and a \$5,000 credit on equipment and other benefits.

BRICKBATS to the people behind the long-delayed inquiry into the Mulrone-Schreiber affair for claiming they won't be able to complete their work and deliver a final report until the end of 2009 for what they claim is unforeseen technical and other problems. The extension was granted by the government.

BOUQUETS to the federal government for coming into the 21st century with its hiring policy as now for the first time all government job postings are open to all Canadians, after 50 years of geographic hiring that allowed the government to restrict jobs to Canadians living in specific regions.

Letters to the Editor

Slow times for business doesn't mean a tax loss

To the editor,

Re: "It's time the town started job sharing." Letter to the editor, The Auroran, Jan. 13.

I think Mr. Kean does not understand how municipal government collects their taxes.

In his letter dated Jan. 13th he states, "Businesses in Aurora are being negatively affected by the slowdown and that means that there will be less taxes coming to the Town".

Aurora collects revenue from property taxes.

If a business has a slow month or slow year they don't get to pay less property tax.

Even if a company like Magna has to shut down one of their factories, they still have to pay the same tax rate.

Also, I have lived in Aurora for 25 years and in that time I can't remember when there was so much new commercial building going on as has been in the last year or so, and still is today.

For example, the new Wal-Mart and adjacent stores that opened in '08, the Best Buy, Rona, and

several other stores and restaurants going in across the street, the new Toyota dealership at Bayview and Wellington, the Longo's and bank being built on the north side of that same corner.

To the west of Sobey's several new buildings are under construction.

Shopper's Drug Mart at Yonge and Edward has been renovated and enlarged.

There are four new, large, commercial buildings on Don Hillock and others that will be starting construction soon in that same area.

How many millions of

dollars of new tax revenue are these businesses generating for the Town?

I haven't even mentioned the hundreds of new homes northeast of Bayview and Wellington.

There are two new large multi-storey senior condominiums on John West Way just north of the Town Hall.

Finally, I would hate to be the one paying the taxes on the "monster" homes that are going up at Bathurst and Bloomington.

I don't think this "economic slow-down" has hit Aurora as severely you might think.

Maybe Aurora can be a leader in fighting job loss by increasing employment opportunities, not by job sharing.

L. Hayworth
Aurora

Aqua fitness members moved for family swim

To the editor,

I am a regular aqua fitness attendee and would like to comment on the treatment we have received during the holidays.

Our classes on December 24 and December 31 were held as usual at the Aurora Recreation Complex. There was also a family swim planned for those times.

Our classes are always held on the side of the pool with the stairs not the ladders.

Our classes were switched to the other side of the pool to accommodate the family swim.

Some of our older members cannot get in and out of the pool using the ladders.

While we were there, there were only a maximum of four children in the pool taking advantage of the swim time. None of them were in the deep end.

Most of the families taking advantage of the swim time were in the wading pool.

There is no reason why the family swim could not have been put on the other

side of the pool.

It was not because of where the diving board is because there was no one at that end of the pool and there are four diving platforms available on the other side.

The whole point of this is to draw attention to the fact that as citizens of this town and long time aqua fitness users we are once again pushed aside for the minority of the people.

It is bad enough that we were put at that pool without consultation - the water is cold and the change rooms and showers are atrocious but now we are pushed out of our usual area.

Aqua fitness seems to be on the bottom of the list when it comes to accommodation and availability of equipment.

This shows a lack of respect for this part of the population trying to keep fit and stay healthy.

I believe it is time for the powers that be to start thinking of this portion of their citizens and start consulting and considering us.

Ruth Tindall
Aurora

Domenic
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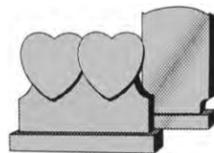
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Letter to the Editor

Windrow project in full swing but who authorized it, councillor wants to know

To the editor,

At last week's general committee meeting, I asked about the status of the new windrow clearing program.

I understood the direction given by council had been changed and I sought an explanation.

Council's decision was to provide the service to seniors and the disabled by an outside contract with costs to be recovered from participants in the program. Not much controversy there.

In an earlier discussion, we had been informed a contractor would need 200 participants to make the program financially viable.

Fifty residents had indicated interest. More were anticipated.

But when the final decision was made, it seemed 50 no longer represented an obstacle to financial viability.

I was not assured. Since it was a try-and-see project which might result in the entire town receiving the service, it was my position there should be no charge to the subjects of the experiment. But council was firm in its position.

Christmas and New Year intervened. We received no

updates on the plan's progress, as noted above. When the Town Hall reopened, I inquired; how many people had signed up? Was the program underway?

It was indeed. But without a contract. Thirty residents had registered. Public Works were providing the service with a plough-attached pick-up truck.

Last week, I raised the matter in committee and requested information to indicate the circumstances whereby council's direction came to be set aside in favour of a different plan.

Councillor Gallo was in the chair. Mayor Morris intervened. The issue was not on the agenda, she said. It could not therefore be raised. A resolution would be required to direct staff to submit a report.

Councillor MacEachern said she did not understand what the fuss was about over a matter of \$2,100. "Staff should be permitted to make decisions under these circumstances" she said.

That was odd, I thought. There was no fuss. My request was for information. I offered no conclusions.

It was an interesting exchange. The circumstances were not clear. Council gave specific direction. It was not followed. No information was provided to council to indicate a change in plan or the reasons. No authority was sought.

What I know is as follows; the service was first proposed at the Seniors' Centre by Mayor Morris and Councillor Granger. Neither council nor staff were consulted beforehand.

After several discussions and contradictory information, a decision was made to provide the service by outside contract and charge the cost to recipients.

That did not happen. Numbers registered indicated for corporate purposes, there was insufficient interest. Not enough to make it worthwhile for a contracted service as approved by council.

It was provided anyway. My question was directed through the chair to the Public Works Director. Mayor Morris intervened and advised the issue could not be raised because the matter was not on the agenda. She further advised a resolution of council is required to direct staff to

provide the information.

Under the Procedure Bylaw, notice is required prior to presenting a resolution. Resolutions must be in writing.

The schedule means such a resolution, if seconded, could not be considered until the end of January.

The information would therefore not be forthcoming until February. If there was no seconder the matter would not be discussed. If seconded and defeated the information would not be forthcoming.

How council's decision came to be changed would forever remain a secret.

Enter The Code of Conduct. Stated purpose as follows: Decision making process is transparent, accessible and equitable. Decisions are made through appropriate channels of government structure. Public office is not to be used for personal gain.

The Code of Conduct has ten pages.

It's chock-a-block full of such righteous statements.

The bylaw requires it to have been "read and understood" and signed TWICE by all members of council.

According to the mayor, it was written by George

Rust D'Eye, legal counsel retained by the mayor and paid for by the town; \$16,200.

I do not believe Aurora's Director of Public Works took it upon himself to disregard and disrespect the decision of council and thereby breach The Code of Conduct. But somebody did.

I am equally certain a comparative calculation could and should have been provided to council as to cost of an alternate plan, even if considered justifiable, to clear 30 driveways with in-house resources.

Costs are identifiable. Wages plus benefits and support services from other town departments. We know the hourly cost of a truck in service.

By now, we know time needed for a single run to clear 30 driveways in different locations throughout the town. The task must be taking employees away from other responsibilities. Is overtime involved? Did we purchase a plow?

In 2003, an election recount which took a couple of 10-hour days and one 12, of staff time, withdrawn from other responsibilities, cost the town in excess of \$21,000.

It did not involve a truck with a plow. It confirmed the original vote count and the efficacy of the machines and my election.

It refuted Councillor MacEachern's contention the machines were unreliable.

Since at least 2003, adopted policy requires administrative decisions to be made by a management team of department heads. I have no reason to believe the management team was involved in this decision.

Thus we are left only with questions. How and on what basis was the decision made to change or ignore the direction of council?

Was it done through appropriate channels of government structure as required by The Code of Conduct?

I think not. Where is the transparency and accessibility required by The Code of Conduct? Is The Code worth anything at all?

What interest is being served? Is it Corporate or Political?

Whose ox is being gored?

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

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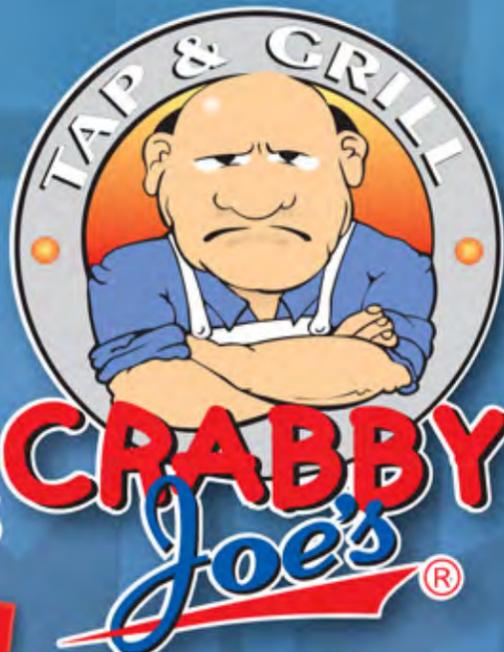
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Letter to the Editor

Cost of advertising is high, reader says

To the editor,

I was so happy to hear the "Meet the Mayor Program" will continue in 2009.

In case you missed it, it was part of the two and a half page spread the mayor supports in another newspaper once a week.

I don't know if you are aware of the costs of advertisements of this nature but as a local businessman I can tell you it isn't cheap.

For those of you who don't take the time to look carefully at the page let me tell you it's full of waste. Each page has the same banner at the top with the same information.

The mayor takes a half

page to thank the residents for their support in 2008, the "Year of Arts, Culture and Heritage".

I must have missed it.

I didn't see any special focus on the Arts, except maybe the hiring of an administrator.

She also thanks us for our work assisting with the Salvation Army's Kettle Drive.

I remember John West used to do it through a letter to the editor (which is free).

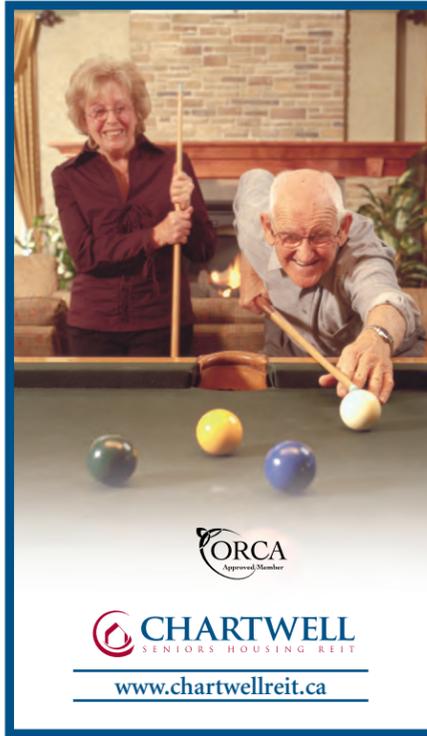
She also reminds us donations are still required for the Aurora Food Pantry.

I'm sure there isn't a resident in Aurora who doesn't know the Pantry needs donations all year long. Maybe I'll take advantage of my chance

to meet the mayor and book my 15-minute appointment on a Friday to ask her why she wastes our money in this fashion at a time when she needs all the dollars she can find to pay for the untold, unnecessary (and unreported) legal costs she continues to accumulate by hiring outside legal experts.

I'll have to talk fast to get it all within my allotted 15 minutes.

L. Shiply
Aurora



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AURORAN NEW YEAR'S WORD SEARCH

by Scott Johnston

Find and circle in the puzzle the words from the list below. Words may run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards or backwards. Letters may be used more than once.

Once you have found all of the words, the remaining uncircled letters will answer the question:

"What can we expect in Aurora in 2008 as compared to 2009?"

P	E	G	N	I	M	L	A	C	R	P	R	H	T
E	Y	L	O	B	A	O	V	I	V	A	O	E	A
S	V	O	B	W	B	O	A	S	E	T	A	G	S
T	B	E	N	A	D	H	O	C	S	C	R	A	G
I	W	S	N	G	C	C	L	P	H	U	O	T	A
C	I	S	G	T	E	S	O	E	Y	R	R	I	T
I	N	F	R	A	S	T	R	U	C	T	U	R	E
D	D	M	A	X	S	S	O	E	E	S	A	E	W
E	R	R	F	E	A	H	E	D	G	N	E	H	A
S	O	R	F	S	R	C	A	T	S	O	O	F	Y
T	W	B	I	E	G	R	O	I	A	C	R	N	S
H	I	G	T	N	A	U	T	D	E	B	N	S	I
R	N	A	I	P	K	H	A	M	E	U	E	E	G
S	W	N	O	I	T	C	N	U	F	S	Y	D	N

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| CALMING | GRASS | STAGES |
| CHAIR | HERITAGE | TAXES |
| CHURCH ST SCHOOL | HOT SPOT | TEACHERS |
| CODES | INFRASTRUCTURE | TRANSIT |
| CONSTRUCT | LAWNS | VIVA |
| DEBATES | PARADE | WATER |
| DYSFUNCTION | PESTICIDES | WINDROW |
| EVENTS | RIBFEST | YONGE |

The answer to the question is hidden on another page



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January 23rd Prize Night

January 30th Dance Competition

February 6th February BLUES

February 13th CLOSED

February 20th Valentine's Party

February 27th Lucky Guess Night

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HOT SPOT would like to apologize for the closure on Jan. 16th!
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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A new word to start the new year

The Collins English Dictionary has accepted the word "meh" as the winner of a nationwide contest that attracted international media attention, partly because the term first gained widespread usage after it was featured in an episode of The Simpsons.

The U.K. publisher of the popular reference book announced the word "meh" meant mediocre, indifference or boring as in "the recent Canadian election was so meh."

WORDS BANISHED FROM THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH

Among the phrases banished from the Queen's English for misuse, overuse and general uselessness in 2008 included "Back in the day" often used by Poor Richard and "At this point of time", often used by former Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough.

HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON CELEBRATIONS

Auroran columnist Poor Richard has found a new way to save money on family celebrations, but he doesn't recommend it.

On June 11th, he spent his 92nd birthday in Southlake Regional Health Centre following the implanting of a heart pacemaker and the only happy note was all the nurses in the section gathered around his bedside to sing "Happy Birthday".

Then on September 14th when Dorothy and Dick were celebrating their 17th Wedding Anniversary, both of them were patients

in Southlake, Dorothy for an operation for lung cancer and Dick for heart problems.

As they were in different wards, their kids put them in wheelchairs and wheeled them to a nursing station at a midway point where they exchanged kisses to the applause and best wishes of the nurses.

Then for the Christmas season, Poor Richard was back at Southlake as his heart and his kidneys were having a battle.

One was generating water and the other wasn't getting rid of it resulting in a large tummy and swollen legs and feet.

For a while it looked like there might be a coalition as the lungs were thought to have fluid but thank heavens they were clear and dropped out of the battle.

While the health problem can't be solved, doctors hope through medication they can reach a balance between the two organs and Poor Richard can carry on, but he doesn't recommend the cure for getting around family celebrations.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average Canadian will in his or her lifetime use 129,000 litres of water, consume the equivalent of 600,000 cubic metres of natural gas, 1,100,000 kilograms of coal or 575,000 litres of crude oil, travel 700,000 kilometres in motor vehicles which is the equivalent of travelling around the world at the equator 17.5 times and

generating 40,000 kilograms of garbage.

2008 was a leap year and all citizens received February 29th as an extra day which occurs every four years to somehow or other to meet the enigma of time.

But there was a difference as at the end of December a leap second was added due to the variability of the Earth's rotation as it is gradually slowing down due to tidal friction making 2008 the longest year since 1992.

A recent survey carried out for Canadian Heritage revealed that almost half of Canadians could not name a single Canadian author unprompted. Among respondents who could name an author, Margaret Atwood was the most mentioned with 22 per cent, and Pierre Berton and Farley Mowat with eight per cent each.

HOW MUCH DID THE REGIONAL BUILDING REALLY COST?

In February, 1991, it was learned that the York Region's new administrative centre would cost \$12 million more than was anticipated forcing regional council to ask the Ontario Municipal Board to approve an additional \$5 million in interim funding to ensure that construction of the building continued.

Council members refused to request the additional funds but agreed to ask the OMB for the interim funding after receiving a progress report by the project management firm engaged by the region in 1990 to oversee construction of the administrative building.

Officials of the firm predicted that the total project cost would be \$65,000,000 rather than \$53,365,000 as originally estimated with the bulk of additional expenses from architect fees, GST, PST, furnishings and equipment.

It was also indicated that the region may ask the OMB to approve additional costs if deemed necessary.

A good question for a member of regional council to ask might be the final total cost of the building. While a member of Regional council Aurora Mayor John West made a \$5 bet with a member of regional staff that the total cost would exceed \$70,000,000. Who won?

THE LAST WORD

With his appointment of 18 Senators, most of whom are Tory bagmen or political hacks, Prime Minister Stephen Harper added another broken promise to the long list of democratic reforms and government accountability promises broken since they were elected in January, 2006.

The promise to have a fixed election date so that Prime Ministers couldn't call an election at any time when the polls were right was quickly broken on the basis Parliament wasn't working when it had the support of the Liberal opposition.

He promised more free votes in Parliament so that MPs could represent the wishes and needs of their constituents and the imposed a gag rule, including some cabinet ministers with all information coming from the Prime Minister's Office. It was Harper's way or the highway.

The executive power of the PMO is greater in Canada than that possessed by any other Western leader, and there were other broken promises including those involved with the Public Appointments Commission and the Accountability Act.

Aurora Industrial Park gets boost when Engelhard Industries arrives

It was October, 1977, when Mayor George Timpson announced that he was 99.9 per cent sure that Company "X," an American-based industry would come to Aurora's industrial park.

He said he was unable to provide any information about the identity of the company as the American board of directors had not yet made a final decision.

In January, 1978, the secret was out.

Engelhard Industries of Canada, a precious metal firm, located in Toronto for the past 42 years, was the first company to purchase a site on the east side of the town's industrial park.

The company paid the town \$300,000 for the 7.2 acre site with an option to purchase an adjacent three acres, on which to build their \$2.4 million manufacturing and administrative centre on what is now Engelhard Drive.

Construction was started in the spring of 1978 with the official opening in October, 1979, although production started in July.

The company had 140 employees at that time. Most moved with the company.

Engelhard Industries was a totally integrated operation, incorporating the refining of precious metals and the manufacture of products containing precious metals.

By the time the plant opened there were close to 200 employees, several from the local area.

As assayers, refiners and workers of precious metals such as gold, silver and platinum, the company manufactured about 1,000 different

products for a wide variety of industries.

The New York-based company operated facilities in 42 countries with revenues of \$7 billion in 1977.

At the official opening, visitors had the opportunity to tour the plant and some were even able to hold a 25-pound bar of 99.99 per cent pure gold worth at that time \$147,138.03.

Staff advised that technically Engelhard was just like a miniature steel mill, but working with very valuable precious metals. The security system was elaborate and sophisticated, inside and outside the building.

In April, 1980, Engelhard decided to exercise its option and purchased the extra property to construct a 20,000 square-foot addition to its 89,000 square foot plant.

During 1980 the gold market was very volatile with the price of gold changing by as much as \$100 to \$200 per day, which adversely impacted jewelry operators, resulting in stores carrying a very limited inventory.

However, due to the diversity of products manufactured by Engelhard, it was business as usual.

One of the most delicate operations carried out at the plant was the cutting of gold coins.

Engelhard was responsible for making the blanks, which were shipped to the Canadian Mint in Ottawa and stamped with the design of Canada's gold coins. Every scrap of metal was gathered up for recycling.

Labour trouble hit the plant in November, 1981, when the 130 unionized workers picketed to protest what they claimed

was an illegal one-day lockout by the company.

The plant was closed for one day for inventory.

In late January, 1982, an independent arbitrator ruled the company had every right to close the plant for inventory. It was pointed out in the ruling that Engelhard had offered to make up for lost wages by working Saturday, but this had been rejected by the union.

During their years in Aurora, the company was considered a good corporate citizen supporting local service clubs, volunteer groups and students. Even though the firm maintained a low profile, continual involvement in Aurora's activities was considered an important part of the firm's operation.

Labour trouble struck again in 1985 when about 100 employees went out. Following four days of mediation, the unionized workers voted to strike, with wages as the main

issue. After a week on the picket line, the workers returned with a settlement of a pay freeze for 1985 and a four per cent increase in 1986.

Monday, November 17, 1986, was "Black Monday" for 80 Engelhard employees as their employment was terminated due to a cutback in production for economic reasons. The 140-member staff was reduced to 60 people.

Included in the 80 terminations was 31 salaried staff.

One of the reasons for the cutback was the loss of the Canadian Mint contract as the Mint decided to manufacture their own gold coins.

The company's Aurora manufacturing facility never recovered and, like Sterling Drug and Tetra Pak, finally closed its doors.

The security fence still surrounds the building, now occupied by a ladder manufacturer, Featherlite Industries.

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Tigers go up four, settle for 4-2 win

The Aurora Tigers of the Provincial Junior A Hockey Association rolled onto the Upper Canada campus to face the Upper Canada Hockey Club, scored four straight

goals in the first 25 minutes of the game, and then proceeded to sit back and let goaltender David Blair have some action on Sunday night before heading home with a 4-2 win in less than classic style.

With Michael Sardella back from injury, the line with David Morley and Dominic Monardo was reunited and got back to work.

Monardo opened the scoring midway through the first

with a little help from Morley and Sardella as he wheeled around in the UCHC end until finally putting the puck in the net.

A minute later Mike Bodley continued his goal scoring

string as he converted a setup from Nick Vangog and David Milne to pot a wrister high stick side from the slot to give the Tigers a 2-0 lead. Blair faced just three shots in the period.

The second period started as the first finished.

Right off the period-opening faceoff, the Tigers drove the play deep into Upper Canada's end. Morley and Thomas Evans combined to feed Sardella with fewer than 30 seconds expired on the clock.

Morley and Matt Pasztor then combined to feed Sardella for his second of the game, just past five minutes into the period.

After that, either Upper Canada woke up or the Tigers went to sleep because it became Blair's turn to "git 'er done" as the Tigers offence went silent.

After only facing three shots in the first period, Blair faced a total of 17 in the second, many of them multiple shot opportunities, as the Tigers let UCHC run to the net at will and keep banging away at the puck.

Blair finally had one beat him when UCHC scored at the 13 minute mark.

That goal really gave UCHC life as they put the Tigers on their heels for the remainder of the period.

In the third, Blair was again kept busy, but so was UCHC's goalie, as they both faced double-digit shots in the period.

Blair surrendered one more in the last 30 seconds of the

game, but he was outstanding in net.

A couple of times he needed a little help from his friends to keep the puck on the right side of the goal line but overall had a great game.

He faced a total of 33 shots on the night, while the Tigers fired 46 at UCHC's net.

The Tigers return to their home confines Friday when they meet the Villanova Knights at the Aurora Community Centre.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.



TOMMY HURLEY

Aurora lacrosse player makes practice roster with Rock

Aurora's Tommy Hurley has made the practice roster of the Toronto Rock professional lacrosse team as a forward.

The fourth-year Commerce student from McMaster University was drafted by the Rock last September in the sixth round, 66th overall.

He was born in 1987, and attended high school at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

Hurley played much of his youth lacrosse in Newmarket.

After he was drafted, the McMaster Marauders website reported him saying, "Since the games are held on weekends, I'm confident that I'll be able to juggle lacrosse and my studies."

In his second year at McMaster, Hurley was chosen the Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association midfielder of the year.

That year, he scored 13 goals and added 11 assists and was a finalist for the Most Valuable Player Award.

He followed that up with nine goals and eight assists in nine games in each of the last two years.

Hurley told the Marauders news that he was "hopeful things will work out" with the Rock.

The Rock have played out of Toronto since 1999, and have won five championships in their 10 full years of existence.

Although Hurley is not yet a starter with the team, that day is likely not far off.

Aurora Minor Atom AA team wins Silver Stick

The Aurora Minor Atom AA Tigers went into the annual Newmarket Silver Stick tournament on the weekend, and emerged with all the marbles.

You may describe this as a journey into the unknown. Playing so many top calibre teams from around North America, with little or no knowledge of your opposition's strengths and weaknesses was what the Aurora team was up against.

The International Silver Stick Association is an American and Canadian non-profit charitable Youth Hockey Association.

The tournaments were created to bring together the best youth hockey teams in North America and to promote citizenship and international goodwill through hockey.

Through a series of Regional Qualifiers, teams play down for the chance to play in the International Finals. This year the Minor Atom AA finals were held in Newmarket with eight teams from Canada and the United States looking for the crown.

The Aurora Tigers, by winning three games and tying one, won their Regional Qualifier in Chatham.

This year's Minor Atom AA team had the opportunity to achieve something no other AA team from Aurora

has ever achieved.

It started Friday morning, when the Tigers met a tough team from Copper Cliff.

But the Tigers battled hard and came away with a 6-2 victory.

This opening victory was key and coach Jay Malowney said, "Our guys realize that the competition will be good. As coaches we tried to ensure we had the boys focused and ready to play our game."

The second game for the Tigers was against their rivals, the Newmarket Redmen.

Strong play by the Tigers, with countless shots on goal failed to produce anything and the Redmen eked out a one-goal victory.

"This type of an event requires all competitors to bring their game to a higher level," said Aurora coach Paul Wolanski. "Tonight the Redmen responded well. Tomorrow morning our boys will need to regroup and bring their best if they hope to move on."

Saturday morning's game was essential. Win or go home. The Tigers needed a win to earn themselves a berth in the semi-final round.

The USA Eagles, from Michigan, are ranked as one of the best teams in the USA at this age group.

But the Tigers were rewarded with a 6-2 victory

and a spot in the round of four.

The Novi Ice Cats, from Michigan, are the second ranked team in the USA at this age group and they have travelled a long way. Their intention was not to lose.

The evening match had the Tigers looking a little tired and the Ice Cats pounced on the luxury afforded them jumping out to an early two-goal lead.

At the end of the first period, the Tigers looked like they were beaten and chants of U-S-A could be heard throughout the Ray Twinney Centre.

But two goals by Morgan Frost puts Aurora back in the game.

Early in the third, Brady Futterer raced down the ice and roofed a beauty to give Aurora the lead.

But the Ice Cats tied it at three when Frost came through with the hat trick giving Aurora a ride to the championship against the Oakville Rangers.

The Tigers come out of the gate firing on all cylinders and finally won the game 3-0 and a Silver Stick title.

Coach Paul Sarazin after the game commented, "I knew, by the end of the first, that we were going to win. Our boys just were not going home empty handed."



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Playing for their lives, Aurora's St. Andrew's Saints lost it all late in the game as they went down to the Gilmour Academy Lancers, from Gates Mills, Ohio, 3-2 in overtime. For Aurora, it was their second loss during the 26th annual MacPherson hockey tournament. The next day, they were edged 2-1 and that finished them from further play. Aurora and Gilmour met last year in the final

game and the Lancers emerged as the champs. Action was fast and furious at both ends of the rink, and St. Andrew's, needing a win, pulled their goalie in the dying minutes of the overtime period, but the idea backfired and Gilmour advanced to win the final game edging St. Francis High School from Athol Springs, New York, Sunday afternoon.

Lots of history behind this tourney

The MacPherson Hockey Tournament, which just wound up last weekend, may not be well known to new Aurorans but for 26 years, it has provided top quality high school hockey played by teams from across North America.

It is also one of St. Andrew's College social events of the year.

During that 26-year period the St. Andrew's Saints captured the gold medal six times, the silver medal seven times and the bronze medal five times.

The tournament was held at the Community Centre and the Stronach Aurora recreation Centre.

The Annual MacPherson Tournament has become a cherished tradition and highly anticipated event in the St. Andrew's school year.

The tournament, a creation of now retired first hockey coach and

teacher Al Dunford, is one of the most respected and well organized high school hockey tournaments in North America.

The first tournament in 1984 set the tone for the future.

In the opening ceremony game held on the Friday night amid the pomp and tradition of the College Pipe and Drum Corps performance, dropping of the first puck and the wildly cheering fans, St. Andrew's defeated the fabled Hounds of Notre Dame 5-4 in overtime.

The tournament has had a truly North American flavour hosting schools from Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Quebec, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, New York, Nova Scotia and Michigan as well as from

Ontario.

The naming of the tournament and the two divisions presented no difficulty as three Andreans; Lloyd MacPherson, Jim Hamilton and Bob Meagher devoted many years to the College and its goals and traditions and the love of the College.

But their passion was hockey.

Lloyd MacPherson was Assistant to the Headmaster from 1957 to 1982 and was regarded as the standard bearer for the College's Scottish traditions.

After his retirement in 1982, he returned to his beloved Nova Scotia where he died in March, 1988.

Jim Hamilton was a life-long Andrean.

He graduated from the College in 1933, served as President of the

Association and in 1965 he joined the College staff as Executive Director of the College Foundation.

Under his leadership, the school added the McLaughlin Science Building and the Bedard Athletic Complex.

He died in November, 1989.

Bob Meagher brought a strong academic background to the college when he was appointed Academic Head of the Lower School in 1972 and until his retirement in 1987 he was an ardent supporter of life in the Lower School Mac House, the under-14 hockey team.

In 1987 he was appointed an Ontario Citizenship Court Judge and died in 2000.

Teams participating in last weekend's tournament included Edge School Mountaineers from Calgary, Gilmour

Academy Lancers from Gates Mills, Ohio, Mount Carmel SS Crusaders from Mississauga, Rothesay Netherwood School Riverhawks from Rothesay, New Brunswick, St. Francis HS red Raiders from Athol Springs, New York, St. Michael's College Double

Blues from Toronto, Upper Canada College Blues from Toronto, and the home team, the St. Andrew's College Saints.

When the final bell had sounded, Gilmour Academy won the championship and Edge School were consolation winners.

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Freezing temperatures aid town's outdoor rinks

It took a plunging thermometer and freezing weather last week, but outdoor ice rinks in Aurora are again ready to do their thing this year.

The public can skate for free at Machell Park, the Town Park, and Regency Acres.

A fourth ice surface is located in the Bayview area.

With this winter's unpredictable temperatures, options were limited over the Christmas season.

"We had basically three of them ready before Christmas," said Town of Aurora Parks Manager Jim Tree. "And then, we had the mild weather and we completely lost them."

After that, "We didn't get any snow until late December and January".

Now, however, "we're back

in business," he said.

The Town recommends the use of proper equipment, and, as Tree himself said, "Kids should never be on the ice without a helmet."

Rinks allow for hockey on one side and pleasure skating on the other.

"We ask all of our users to be respectful," said Tree.

Dedicated volunteers keep the rinks going every

year.

Tree said having volunteers "helps a lot and it improves the quality of the season".

He mentioned another rink on Stone Road which is maintained almost exclusively by volunteers.

All the locations are strategically located in Aurora and available to anyone who wishes to use them.

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SUNDAY SERVICES
8:00am Holy Eucharist (said) in the chapel
9:15am Eucharist in the church with choir
11:00am Eucharist in the church with choir

Parents discuss future of historic school

From page 1

"Effectively, it's the second option which is the option available," he said.

Later, the Board presented three future enrolment projections for the school.

Each projection made different estimations on what part of the population would be in the 0-4 age range.

Statistics suggest 3.2 per cent of the population in the Wells Street area fall into this range.

The first projection predicted the percentage of the population in the age range within Wells St.'s boundaries would fall to 2.6 per cent.

The second projection assumed the 0-4 age group of the population would be static.

Finally, the third projection had the figure rising to 5.6 per cent - compatible with Wells St.'s percentage in the year 2001.

All three assumed a drop in the number of students enrolled in the French Immersion Program at Lester B. Pearson Public School.

Currently, approximately 44 per cent of eligible students attend Lester B. Pearson, much higher than the Board or Provincial average.

Even under the third projection - the most optimistic of the three - Wells Street's full-time enrolment was estimated to be approximately 260 students.

In contrast, the school's estimated capacity is 306.

Some parents found

the Board's estimations to be overly conservative.

Projections were based under the assumption the school would revert to offering classes from kindergarten to Grade 8.

Currently, Wells St. offers classes up to Grade 6.

The Accommodation Review Committee reviewed the factors guiding their decision on the school.

These factors are value to the student, value to the school board, value to the community, and value to the local economy.

Time for public input was spread between the different presentations, and audience questions ended the night.

Like the first gathering, the meeting ran well over

its allotted two-hour time-frame.

Residents expressed concern removing the school would leave a hole in the community.

Early in the meeting, resident Tim Byrne talked about the school's value to the community for close to eight minutes.

Parents mentioned the school's importance to other community groups.

Numerous current and former students of all ages spoke on how important Wells St. was to them.

Attendees of the meeting included Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors Alison Collins-Mrakas, Evelina MacEachern, Bob McRoberts, and John Gallo.

Councillor Gallo is a member of the Accommodation Review

Committee.

"This community believes that the school is a deep part of our heritage," said Mayor Morris.

Some residents wanted to know if the Accommodation Review process helped or hurt the school's chances of salvation.

The perception from committee members was the process did help the school.

The next working meeting is currently scheduled for January 28, at 4 p.m. at The Education Centre, 60 Wellington Street West.

Members of the public are free to attend working meetings, although only as observers to the Committee's process.

If Wells St. Public School is not closed, the Committee and the Board

have three options.

Option one is an estimated \$5.21 million minimal retrofit, with a possible \$3.5 to \$6 million to be added in subsequent years.

A complete retrofit would cost \$10.76 million.

Ironically, it is possible the minimal retrofit could cost equal or more than the complete retrofit if the full \$6 million was utilized.

However, in the meeting, the committee noted the two options were entirely separate entities.

The third of the three options is a rebuilding of the school with a Heritage Façade at a price of an estimated \$8.59 million.

The third public meeting is slated for Thursday, February 19, at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, January 18, 2009



House League Novice

Team 204 Caravan Kids Flyers 3 - Nicholas Sever 1G 1A, Dillon Varone 1G, Brendan Dodd 1G, Kyle Kasak 2A, Bret Walsh 1A, Ethan Cohen 1A. **Team 206 Caravan Kids Penguins 2** - Nicholas Vamvakaris 2G, Brayden Pitre 2A, Brittney Fraser 2A,

Team 201 Caravan Kids Flames 5 - Benjamin Godber 3G, Jack Hosmer 1G, Riley Jackson 2A, Beckham Georgiou 2A, Adam Dipiero 1A, Andrew End 1A. **Team 205 Caravan Kids Leafs 0.**

Team 202 Caravan Kids Bruins 4 - Jaedon Jackson 4G, Nicholas Huxley 1A, Zane Zwicker 1A, Jack Campbell 1A. **Team 203 Caravan Kids Senators 3** - Stephen Silverio 1G, Jacob Cowl 1G, Chris Sands 1G, Ryan Ruuskanen 1A, Ayrton Ochab 1A, Caelan Bloor 1A, Justin Carcone 1A, Kenzie MacMillan 1A, Christian Ferguson 1A.

Minor Pee wee

Rogers Team 401 7 - Cameron Screech 1G 4A, Matthew Hall 3G, Joseph Hodgson 3A, Johnny Sherwood 2G, Joshua DiVincenzo 1G 1A, John Barber 2A, Adam Hoffman 2A. **Team 403 3** - Jacob Hagias 2G, Mitchell Albert 1G, Andre Cristillo 1A, Sandy Rundle-Sanderson 1A.

Pee wee

504 Pizza Pizza 3 - Brendan Elliott 1G, Max Brown 1G 1A, Ben Black 1G, Michael Tanel 1A, Harris Riopelle 1A, Derek Capone 1A. **501 Perfect Moves 3** - Matt Sanita 1G, Chris Sanita 1G, Mitchell Arnold 1G, Brian Langdon 1A.

508 Tilemaster 4 - Ryan McGolrick 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1G, Adam DeRoos 1G 1A, Nicholas Romano 1G, Owen Woodcock 1A. **506 Wikoff Color Corp. 3** - Harry Smith 2G, Michael Slack 1G.

503 Greenpoint Laser 5 - Brayden Beswick 3G, Corey Young 2G 1A, Braydon Babineau 2A, Liam Henderson 1A, Mitchell LaMantia 1A, Mitchell Palmer 1A, Luc Martineau 1A. **502 Omar Shoes 3** - Alec Ground 1G, Michael Liscio 2G, Jonathan Caporusso 1A, Alexander Stewart 1A, Neil Duggan 1A.

504 Pizza Pizza 3 - Brendan Elliott 1G, Max Brown 1G 1A, Oliver Jones 1G, Michael Tanel 1A, Harris Riopelle 1A, Derek Capone 1A. **501 Perfect Moves 3** - Matt Sanita 1G, Chris Sanita 1G, Mitchell Arnold 1G, Brian Langdon 1A.

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Bantam

Team 705 3 - JP Hudon 1G, Jordan Caruso 1G, Sam Straw 1G, Josh Hazlett 1A, Matt MacEachern 1A. **Team 706 1** - Mike Mildon 1G, Zachary Seto 1A.

Team 704 8 - Eamon Reilly 3G, Jake Langford 2G 2A, Jesse Bentolilla 2G 3A, Shane Arcangeli 1A, Kurtis Lindner 2A, Kelley Hudson 1G 2A. **Team 705 3** - Jack Straw 1G 1A, Ryan Rival 1G, Sam Straw 1G, JP Hudon 1A, Cole Roffey 1A.

Midget

Backyard Pool & Spa Team 910 4 - Stuart Marsh 1G 1A, Alex Mackrell 1G, Peter Durst 1G, Mike McGee 1G, Dylan Calvert 1A, Dan Filippi 1A, Ryan Cathers 1A. **KTI Limited Team 902 0.**

AHPA Team 908 5 - Keenan VanRooyen 1G, Luca Ghegin 3G 1A, Corey Jeffery 1G, Steven Foss 2A, Drew Coley 1A. **Home Hardware Team 904 2** - Eric Saracini 2G, Peter Axiotis 1A, Bruce Phillips 1A.

Graystones Team 909 6 - Adrian Clark 3G, Travis Hooper 1G, Jake Boyle 1G, Jay Finch 1G, Sean Maule 2A, Evan Casselden 1A, Patrick Lee 2A, Madison Weber 1A, Stephen Thompson 1A. **Barb Blaser Remax Team 905 3** - Jamie Russell 1G, Ryan Bagshaw 1G, Julian Savosardaro 1G 1A, Chris Tambos 1A, Aaron Wochenmarkt 1A, Richard Sendel 1A.

Crabby Joes Team 903 4 - Brett Dutchyshen 3G, Scott Cunningham 1G, Ray Mullins 1A. **Sentia Solutions Team 901 3** - Hunter Warden 2G, Mike Hay 1G, Paul DeRoos 1A, Jordan Brown 1A, Simon Esposito 1A, Andrew Osmond 1A.

Packaging World Team 906 6 - Ian Weston 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G 1A, Michael VanBakel 1G, Michael French 2G, Ben Slimkowich 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Scott Perry 1A, Chris Dynes 1A. **Rival Concepts Team 907 3** - Connor Sheridan 1G 1A, Chris Tillsley 1G, Keegan O'Leary 1G, Ryan Jones 2A, Nick Gundert 1A,

Graystones Team 909 4 - Madison Weber 1G 2A, Cory Blom 1G, Patrick Lee 2G, Jay Finch 1A, Jake Boyle 1A, Evan Casselden 1A. **Crabby Joes Team 903 0.**

Barb Blaser Remax Team 905 10 - Marco Santella 1G, Jamie Russell 5G 1A, James Sendel 1G 1A, Michael Morson 2G 3A, Richard Sendel 1G 1A, Nick Di Nallo 1A,

Julien Savosardaro 3A, Aaron Wochenmarkt 3A, Ryan Bagshaw 1A, David Nacaratto 1A, Chris Tambos 1A, Kyle Marren 1A. **AHPA Team 908 1** - Braun Hause 1G, Luca Ghegin 1A, James Chappell 1A.

Packaging World Team 906 6 - Cameron Mickle 2G, Dillon Cappell 1G 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1G, Jesse Cappell 1G, Ian Weston 1G, Michael French 2A, Ben Slimkowich 1A. **KTI Limited Team 902 3** - Ethan Shore 1G, Robert Revington 1G, Mike Shoesmith 1G 1A, Graeme Smart 2A, Jacob Peart 1A.

Backyard Pool & Spa Team 910 4 - Stuart Marsh 1G, Peter Durst 2G, Unknown 1G 2A. **Home Hardware Team 904 3** - Bryan Kearns 1G, Patrick McMurray 1G, Chris O'Hara 1G, Nick Orsati 1A, Jay Lamont 1A.

Rival Concepts Team 907 6 - Derik Smith 3G 1A, Keegan O'Leary 1G, Taylor Bryce 1G, Evan Campbell 1G 2A, Nick Gundert 1A, Rob Fiorini 1A, Connor Dinwoodie 1A. **Sentia Solutions Team 901 1** - Adam Gitto 1G.

Rep Results

Stouffville Clippers Novice A 5. Aurora Tigers Novice A 2 - Fin Reeves 1G, Anthony Magnante 1G, Nicholas Rountes 1A.

Beeton Stingers Novice A 5. Aurora Tigers Novice A 3.

Richmond Hill Stars Novice A 4. Aurora Tigers Novice A 3 - Andrew Jorgensen 2G 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1G, 2A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 4 - Sam Steenhorst 1G 1A, Kyle Zacharuk 1G 1A, Zach Ferry 1G, Connor Moody 1G, Bailey Miller 1A, William Brogan 1A, Sasha Dajia 1A, Trevor George 1A, Paul Louis Steiner 1A. **TNT Minor Bantam AE 1.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 3 - Bailey Miller 1G, Zach Ferry 1G, Paul Louis Steiner 1G, Jimmy Brookes 1A, Massimo Longhin 1A, Jeffrey Lam 1A. **TNT Minor Bantam AE 2.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 1 - Sam Steenhorst 1G, Paul Louis Steiner. **Newmarket Minor Bantam AE 1.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 2 - Zach Ferry 1G 1A, Jono McConnell 1G, Connor McQuillan 1A.

Andrew Stobbe, shutout. **West London Minor Bantam AE 0**

Peterborough Minor Bantam AE 2. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 1 - Zach Ferry 1G, Trevor George 1A.

Georgina Minor Bantam AE 3. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 0.

Ajax Minor Bantam AE 1. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 0.

2008's second half quieter than first

From page 1

sions of the Code of Conduct it was necessary for council to appoint an Integrity Commissioner to review and adjudicate on each of the formal complaints that may be submitted and staff was authorized to begin the recruiting process.

John Rogers was hired as Chief Administrative Officer on a contract to replace Acting CAO Larry Allison after a period of Scott Sommerville as Interim CAO only to be dismissed by council with no reasons given.

It was a long time coming but council finally adopted a bylaw for the prohibition of applying cosmetic pesticides in the municipality effective January, 2009.

In spite of advice from staff that the issue of three lights for an alternative pathway across the Canadian Tire parking lot to the townhouse complex behind the store was a private matter between the store and the Condominium Corporation, council authorized the town taking over the three lights on private property at an annual cost of about \$360.

Council adopted a staff recommendation that the site plan application for the police facility building to be located on 8.1 acres on Don Hillock Drive be approved with construction starting in February, 2009, to accommodate 430 staff.

Council approved the

terms of reference and authorized staff to initiate a Request for Proposal for a Downtown Study of the Yonge and Wellington corridors. The study will include economic benefits, intensification, traffic/parking issues, transit and pedestrian access, heritage preservation, façade improvements and urban design issues.

What appeared to be a simple issue developed into a major problem for council as they experienced difficulty in deciding how to spend \$80,000 for an entrance sign at Highway 404 and Wellington Street provided by Whitwell Developments in 2005. The issue has bounced back and forth and is still undecided with the project transferred to Leisure Services for re-tendering.

In 2007 council decided to declare the Jack Woods farmhouse and property surplus to municipal needs and proceed with the sale of the property, but at a recent council meeting decided to defer the sale until staff reported back on the possible realignment of the creek on the property.

As a result of winning the prestigious Prince of Wales prize for maintaining outstanding stewardship of its built heritage, council considered a communication and marketing strategy to promote the municipality.

Historic Doan House on Wellington Street East is to

become a Wellness Centre as council received an application to convert the heritage residence to business and professional offices with a residence on Centre Street to be demolished to make room for parking.

In spite of strong arguments from some members of council, citizens and seniors, council ratified a general committee recommendation that the town provide a snow windrow clearing program at a cost recovery of \$70 per household.

Aurora council learned it qualified for a \$1,716,413 grant under the Investing in Ontario Act with the funds to be used to address the infrastructure within the municipality.

Council was advised that costs were continuing to mount for the renovation of the Church Street School as a deficit of \$37,426 was projected, and staff was instructed to advise council how the town could reduce the cost of the project by \$37,000 to cover the deficit.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation redesigned the 2008 property assessment notice to provide a clear, concise and detailed document which was mailed to residents during the period with a phased-in approach to provide a level of property tax stability.

In spite of additional pool lanes at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre a feud

developed between Aurora's swimming clubs as they sought more lanes resulting in staff being directed to prepare a draft policy for pool allocation for consideration by council.

Although no confirmation was given, it was assumed from a staff report that substantial payments had been made to the contractors of the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre regarding repairs to bulkheads without council's knowledge and that may have been the reason for the dismissal of the CAO. An external lawyer was retained by council to review the processing of purchase orders regarding the payments.

In a letter from the York Region District School Board regarding student accommodation at Wells Street Public School, council was advised that an Accommodation Review Committee had been established for the school due to the condition of the aging building.

A staff report was submitted on the controversial traffic calming project in the north-east quadrant of Old Aurora which noted a reduction in traffic volumes and speeds and council authorized additional traffic calming measures for Mark Street in accordance with the original plan.

In 2007 council approved a request from the Aurora Masters Lacrosse

Association to organize and play the longest box lacrosse game in modern history with lacrosse players from across the province. The 25-hour game was so successful council approved a game for 2008 with proceeds for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

Council was advised that the Olympic Torch for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics will be carried through Aurora and York Region during the build-up to the Games.

Members of council faced a puzzling situation regarding the recently adopted Code of Conduct based on the solicitor's opinion that while any member of council who refuses to sign the Code is not acting in compliance with the purpose and spirit of the Municipal Act but there was no tool under the legislation to force a council member to take a physical course of conduct as required under the bylaw.

Since 2002 Habitat for Humanity has been trying to locate a suitable site to construct a Habitat home in

Aurora without success but that may change as at a public planning meeting, developer Remo Agostino included three lots for Habitat for Humanity homes.

The year ended in a painful way for Magna and 850 employees at two Magna plants located in Aurora and Newmarket as due to the economic turbulence in the auto industry the two plants were to be closed and the workers let go.

2008 was a strange year for council as in spite of the long and numerous meetings, many issues were deferred and are still outstanding. It was the first time in several years that a member of council resigned during the term of office and the first time that the majority of department heads left the town's employment, either by retirement, resignation or dismissal.

The second year of a four-year term of office and there's two years to go in which members will be closely monitored by watchful residents until the next municipal election in 2010.

Brown's budget meeting brings many suggestions

"The residents of Newmarket and Aurora have spoken, and our government will listen," vowed Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown.

Ms. Brown was referring to the substantive collection of public input she accumulated during her recent pre-budget consultations held in Aurora.

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty had sought the public's advice and suggestions for the upcoming federal budget and MP Brown was quick to ensure that

Newmarket and Aurora were included.

Ms. Brown had invited the public to submit comments and suggestions to her office and had held a public meeting recently at the Aurora Town Hall to give everyone an opportunity to have their say.

"I was very pleased, not only with the large number of responses I received, but also with the many thoughtful and creative suggestions submitted. Residents truly want to help, and in many ways are in the best position

to offer us advice," she said.

Specific suggestions from individual deputations were varied.

Residents were also asked a number of specific questions.

GST was the favoured tax cut followed by lower income taxes.

Infrastructure spending should be spent on public transit, with roads, bridges, ports, rail and borders a close second, residents said.

Residents' suggestions on the best way to stimulate the economy were varied with no one clear cut solution.

Reducing taxes and

ensuring access to credit, however, topped the list.

Other suggestions included an infrastructure program, investment in 'green' jobs, restoring consumer confidence and stimulating the housing industry.

When asked to rank their priorities for the budget, residents favoured an infrastructure program followed by assistance for sustainable labour markets and training incentives.

A full report of resident's suggestions has been forwarded to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance.

The budget is scheduled for January 27.

Council approves new street names

In accordance with the town's Street Naming Policy, developers have the option of requesting specific street names for proposed new developments pending approval of the region, the fire department and the town or selecting names from the town's Bank of Street Names.

After reviewing the town's approved bank of street names, Gemview Development selected Vines Place and Rickard Street.

The name Vines is a long

time Auroran family name and Rickard is named after George Arthur Rickard who was a World War II veteran who died last June.

Both names have been approved by all agencies.

The only residential access to the subdivision formerly known as Polsinelli is through Rickard Street from Bayview Avenue.

The street names as presented were approved by council on the recommendation of the general committee.

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Call Steve Miller at 416-439-6557
Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

Senior Scape



The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) announces that Budget Bistro is back at the ASA by popular demand and will be served from Belinda's Kitchen, starting at noon and continuing until 1.30 p.m. every Wednesday during the winter, except for special events.

Inexpensive meals from the ASA kitchen include soup and sandwich, dessert and tea.

No reservations are required and for practical purposes food will be served on the basis of while supplies last.

The first special date when Budget Bistro will not be available is Wednesday, January 28, when the Frosty Feast returns with hot chili and salad, rolls and butter, coffee and tea and delicious cake courtesy of Park Place Manor. Tickets are required for this event.

In honour of Robbie Burns the ASA invites you to an evening of Scottish fun and food on Friday, January 23, starting at 6 p.m.

This is a potluck dinner event and the dance committee asks if members and friends would bring mashed potatoes or peas or turnips, enough for four people and ready to serve. The commit-

tee will supply steak pies.

Cost of the evening is \$4 and \$4.50 for non-members. If you do not wish to bring food, an additional charge of \$2 will apply.

Sign up for this event at the ASA front counter or for more information, contact Bill Moore at 905-726-2068.

It is a pleasure to offer a special congratulations to Flo Murray on her 90th birthday and still on life's journey like somebody half her age.

A trip to the Great Blue Heron Casino Thursday, January 29, should remove winter from minds jaded by inclement and freezing cold weather, for a few hours at least.

School bus transportation, a buffet lunch and a stop at the White Feather Country Store will help make this trip a delight.

A trip to the McMichael Art Gallery and lunch at the Chartreuse in the heart of Kleinberg on Thursday, February 19, will also provide a much needed change from winter.

If the wonderful show the "Sound of Music" would lure you to a splendid day trip, then Wednesday, March 25, offers this fabulous and unforgettable show which also includes

Budget Bistro back at centre

By BRIAN WARBURTON

lunch.

For more information enquire at the ASA reception counter.

Innovative senior minds are a bountiful source of talent for Carol Hedenberg and company to explore and encourage in the new activity group, aptly named "Let's Create".

This is an activity formed in September by members of the ASA who wished to investigate and expand the range of imagination in the art of creating crafts.

"Let's Create" is intent on creating jewelry and other trinkets, ornaments and many objects of value, utilizing materials from any source available including broken jewelry and fabrics and other used or new materials.

Materials employed already include buttons and beads, plastic from pop bottles cut and fashioned into butterflies, and necklace beads fashioned from tightly rolled wallpaper, glued and coloured plus a variety of new or used fabrics and serviceable in the hands of gifted crafters.

Other items produced by "Let's Create" include greeting cards, tote bags, button broaches, and stylish marbled Easter eggs.

The butterflies men-

tioned earlier were created partly out of plastic bottles and are equipped with a sucker to attach to glass surfaces and are known as sun catchers.

Carol Hedenberg says plenty of room exists for more members with fresh ideas.

Among the forces driving these craft oriented women is the desire to recycle materials, the desire to make something useful and decorative or enjoyable in any way, from bits and pieces of discarded material using the power of their ability to create.

It matters not how many objects already exist, room remains for more and interest will always explore and drive new ideas.

Carol also believes that imagination once awakened cannot and will not be denied expression and she encourages all who aspire to probe their unexpressed talent for fine crafting to join "Let's Create".

For those who would benefit from an excellent atmosphere and a little help in starting, instruction is free; membership in the ASA and interest in crafting are the only requirements.

The "Let's Create" group meets every Wednesday 1 until 3 p.m.



Stephen Somerville, right, is congratulated by provincial MPP Frank Klees last week after he was elected president of the Newmarket-Aurora Provincial Progressive Conservative Riding Association. The ceremony was part of the group's annual general meeting, held at Di Nardo's The Mansion Banquet Centre in Aurora. Last term, Somerville was first vice president of the association and was a co-chair of Klees' 2007 election campaign. Somerville also served for two terms as the president of the Federal Newmarket-Aurora Conservative riding association.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

AURORA CEMETERY

Just a reminder

Please contact General Manager:

- to update your address, and Alternate holders
- before planting of flowerbeds & shrubs

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