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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 15

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FREE

Week of February 10, 2009

Planning underway for 14th street sale

If there was ever a doubt the 14th annual Chamber of Commerce Street Sale wouldn't happen this year, it was dispelled last week.

Chamber officials announced that Aurora's Christine Gardner, a fitness trainer at Timberlane Athletic Club, was named to the team as coordinator of the festival.

"Christine brings a wealth of

experience working on a number of community events including the Terry Fox Run, the Bob Hartwell Run, the Mayor's Golf Tournament and most recently with the Canadian Diabetes Association coordinating many of their community events," a Chamber spokesman said.

The event, scheduled for the first Sunday in June - this year, June 7 - will see some 500 vendors set up operations along Yonge Street, from Wellington in the north, to Murray Drive in the south.

Yonge Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day.

As usual, there will be musicians and clowns wandering the street, plus an assortment of interactive displays.

To date, more than 100 booths have been rented, which indicates the event should sell out.

The Street Sale started in 1995 as a tribute to Yonge Street's 200th birthday. It was so successful, it became an annual event, and is now probably one of the highlights in a list of events held throughout the year.

Christine can be reached at christine@christinegardner.ca or through the chamber office at 905-727-7262.



CHRISTINE GARDNER



HOT STUFF

At least half a dozen restaurants are expected to compete in the first ever chili fest, planned as part of the activities of Arctic Adventure, scheduled for the Town Park Monday, February 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the competitors will be Aurora's Jonathan's Restaurant, and owner Mary Georgepoulos holds the chili while Central York Fire Services firefighters Gord Cook, left, and Jeff Rempel, prepare for the fact the chili may be too hot to handle. Central York firefighters will serve as judges at the event Monday afternoon, and the public is invited to get involved in the judging. See the story below.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

Seeking nominations

Know someone exceptional? The Town of Aurora wants to know about it, too.

"There are so many exceptional people contributing to making Aurora an awesome community," said Special Events co-ordinator Shelley Ware. "The Community Recognition Awards are just around the corner and now's the time to nominate an exception person(s) or organization(s) for these awards...it's as easy as 1-2-3!!!"

Deadline is Tuesday, April 14th.

"Please take a few moments today to make someone else feel exceptional and to be recognized for their efforts in the community," she said.

Send your nomination to the Special Events Coordinator, Leisure Services Department, Town of Aurora, 1 Municipal Drive, Box No. 1000.

The Community Recognition Awards will be held Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall, in the Council Chambers.

Spend your day off at Arctic Adventure

If you're looking for a fun way to spend this coming Family Day holiday, one option is to send winter off in style at the Aurora Arctic Adventure.

Taking place in Town Park on Monday, February 16, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., there will be a number of activities in which to take part.

For those who like to be active outdoors, there will be free skating, and a hockey shoot-out.

If you haven't tried showshoeing, this footwear will be available, with instructors on hand to give you some pointers.

If you wish to be a little less active, you can watch professional winter camping professionals as they build a family-sized igloo, or for a nominal fee between noon and 4 p.m. you can enjoy a Siberian husky dog sled ride.

Live entertainment will be provided between noon and 2 p.m. by McLaughlin and Friends.

While you're listening to the music, you have two options for beating the cold.

You can warm up from the outside next to the bonfire, or through the inside by sampling

the dishes in the Aurora Rotary Club chili cook-off.

For the cook-off, six restaurants will be providing their best chili for taste testing between 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

You will be given a lima bean, and can drop it in the jar of the restaurant you feel has the best dish. Local firefighters will also be judging the chili, and the winning restaurant(s), as chosen by the public and the firefighters, will be recognized.

If you prefer to participate in winter by remaining indoors, Family Zumba Fitness classes

will be held at the Leisure Complex from 10 to 11 a.m., while over at the Stronach Rec Centre there will be leisure swimming between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will be a fee for each of these two activities.

Mayor Phyllis Morris accurately summed up the list of events when she noted, "Aurora Arctic Adventure offers a fun day for the family, whether it be participating in the various activities or sampling great food. There is something for everyone to enjoy!"

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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 keepsinging@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 Beverly 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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Amnesty International meets at 7.30 p.m. at Trinity

Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. The focus is on Zimbabwe human rights. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Lunch and Learn" at noon. Feature topic is "Could you Increase Sales in this Economic Crisis?" with speaker Paul Thornhill, ActionCOACH. Cost is \$20 for members, or \$25 for potential members and will be held in the boardroom at the Chamber office, 14483 Yonge St.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Arctic Adventure will be held this year at the Town Park. Watch for an afternoon chili-fest in addition to dog sled rides, snow shoeing, skating, and live entertainment. For further information contact Shelley Ware by e-mail at sware@e-aurora.ca.

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.

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 AMBA's free indoor winter baseball clinics. For more information, e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the Town of Aurora presents "Weathering the future: climate change is real, so what should we do?" Environment Canada's Heather Auld and Windfall Centre director Brent Kopperson speak on what is happening to the climate, how to slow down change and how to prepare for expected effects. Federal MP, Lois Brown, and Ontario's Chief Conservation Officer, Peter Love, present various government initiatives. Free. Takes place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 1.30 to 4 p.m. Register at Info Aurora 905-727-8214 or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

Pancake Lunch at Wesley United Church begins at 12.30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. Wesley United Church is located at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Road (Wellington Street East).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The Opera Group of the Aurora Seniors Association presents La Traviata on the big screen at the Aurora Seniors' Centre at 6.30 p.m. Cost for members is \$1.50

and non-members \$2.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Slippermen perform at Theatre Aurora at 8 p.m. Tickets now on sale by calling 905-727-3669 or by e-mail to taboffice@bellnet.ca. \$30 each.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Aurora Community Day at Gateway Café & Lanes, 210 Edward Street. Big Brothers Big Sisters bowling tournament. Call 905-895-0289 for more information. To register for one of the Bowl For Kids Sake events or to become a sponsor, call the same number or visit www.bbbsy.ca.

In person registration for the Aurora Minor Baseball Association takes place today at the Stronach Aurora Recreation 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 AMBA's free indoor winter baseball clinics. For more information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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 AMBA's free indoor winter baseball clinics. For more information, e-mail carolemgir@aol.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Sally's Tea Party, for children aged three to seven, takes place at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing until 2.45 p.m. Free tickets are available in advance at the library.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Aurora Public Library presents "Up, Up and Away" for children aged seven and up, from 2 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. when the Mad Scientist of Toronto introduces them to the principles of air pressure. Cost: Free tickets are available in advance at the library.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

The Aurora Public Library presents, for children up to six years of age, new and traditional action songs with children's musician, Debbie Carroll. Event begins at 10.30 a.m. and tickets are free and available in advance at the library.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The Aurora Public Library presents "Wildlife Safari" for children, aged seven and up. Jungle Cat World will captivate the audience with an array of reptiles, birds, mammals and insects. Event begins at 10 a.m. and free tickets are available in advance.

WEDNESDAY, 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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

If a child is between six and nine years old, he or she can explore the world of Japanese art at the Aurora Public Library. Students will study famous works by Japanese artists and create their own work using watercolours, wax relief and stamps. It happens from 7 to 8 p.m. and the fee is \$6 per child. For further information visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or phone 905-727-9493 or pick up a program flyer at the library.

Advertiser



Rose Dolgonos and Vesna Mitchell show off their recently opened business, Finesse Studio for Women, which is offering the first ever Pole Dancing classes in Aurora! Other classes include Yoga, Salsa, Zumba, Mommy & Me, Hip-Hop, Belly Dancing and Nia as well as Nutrition Counseling. Finesse is conveniently located at 15222 Yonge St. Call 905-726-1007.

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Please call for upcoming seminar information



Adam van Koeverden, above, will be the guest speaker at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Annual Sponsor-a-Student Luncheon, to be held February 19 at DiNardo's, The Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora. Networking starts at 11.30 a.m., with lunch served at 12.15 p.m. Adam will speak on "Bouncing Back and Rising from the Ashes". Cost for this event is \$40 for Chamber members, \$50 for potential members, and \$30 for students. Businesses are welcome to sponsor any student, or the Chamber will suggest deserving students to be sponsored.

Council giving budget items a real hard look

Council and staff appear to be taking a long, hard look at all the capital projects included in this year's budget.

At a recent all day Saturday budget meeting, Lucille King, the new Town Clerk and Director of Corporate Services, told council that three capital projects in her department could wait until next year.

It would mean a savings of \$168,000.

Leisure Services, a department that has the second highest budget, just below Fire Services, had several projects removed or put on hold until council receives additional information to determine if the items will be included in this year's budget.

Among the projects requiring additional information was the \$1.7 million for the new senior baseball diamond and \$80,000 for new

carpeting at the library.

A \$500,000 request for landscaping on Wellington Street East, between John West Way and Bayview Avenue, including the roadway medium, was referred back to Leisure Services staff for information.

Council asked that the agreement which Magna had with the town as a source of funding for the

project be looked at.

Several items were dropped from the budget, including a total of two million dollars for parkland acquisition and \$40,000 for soccer field fencing.

While some capital projects are being capped or deleted from the budget, council appears to be aggressively pursuing other sources of funding as well.

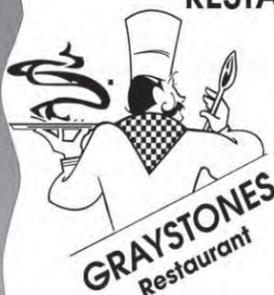


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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Trawna subway is headed north to Richmond Hill

You probably know by now that the environmental project report for the Yonge subway extension is now completed and available for public review.

This is the first project in Ontario to be assessed using the new streamlined Transit Project Assessment Process.

If you want to see it, the document can be reviewed at www.vivayork.com. The public has until March 4, 2009, to submit comments.

What does this have to do with Aurora?

Well, to paraphrase a bit...it's coming.

While this latest extension to the Yonge Subway will only go to Highway 7 in Richmond Hill, you can bet there are plans to bring it farther north.

As a matter of fact, I saw a diagram for a subway station at the corner of Yonge and Wellington back in 1969.

The Regional Municipality of York, in partnership with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission have completed the environmental project report (EPR) in accordance with Ontario Regulation 231/08 for a proposed extension of the Yonge Subway, from its current terminus at Finch Station in the City of Toronto to the Richmond Hill Centre at Yonge Street and Highway 7 in the Town of Richmond Hill.

The transit project is an underground (that's usually where subways go) 6.8 km, six station extension of the Yonge Subway.

Stations will include Cummer/Drewry, Steeles, Clark, Royal Orchard, Langstaff/Longbridge, and Richmond Hill Centre.

Intermodal bus terminals will be provided at Steeles Station and Richmond Hill Centre Station.

The transit project follows the Yonge Street right-of-way to south of Highway 407.

The subway terminus, north of Highway 407, is centrally located in the Richmond Hill Centre, approximately 240 metres east of Yonge Street and 440 metres north of Highway 7.

The subway tunnels cross under Hydro One's high voltage transmission corridor which parallels Highway 407.

A commuter parking lot, as well as passenger pick-up and drop-off facilities, will be located on the Hydro One/Ontario Realty Corporation lands south of Highway 407, west of Yonge Street.

The EPR is now available until early in March at 11 locations throughout York, including the regional building on Yonge Street in Newmarket.

And for all those who thought they moved to Aurora to get away from the Big City...forget it. The Big City is following you.

The subway expansion is a perfect example of it.

Granted, it will be several years before the project is complete, but look how the subway system in Toronto has expanded since the first Yonge Street line was opened from Union Station to Eglinton Avenue in 1954.

If you care to comment on the proposal, you have until March 4 to do it.

Aurora residents wishing to comment would likely do so to Dale Albers, Chief Communications Officer, York Region Rapid Transit Corp., 1 West Pearce Street, Richmond Hill.

A NOTE

Received a note last week from Kim Dunn, owner of Molly Maid in Aurora.

She's organizing a coat drive, and what she does is leave a letter at the homes of her clients, advising them they could leave new or "gently used" coats at their homes and MM staff would pick them up.

"They can also drop them off at our office at 14 Wellington Street East, just east of Yonge and Wellington," she said.

The collected coats will then be donated to the Salvation Army at the end of the month.

Kim included a copy of the letter that her clients would get, but our fax machine obviously had nothing better to do with its ink, so it was unreadable.

"Any exposure you could give us would be great," she said. "Perhaps, with your help more than just our clients will donate!"

I don't remember her looking in my closet at home, but there are definitely a few items that I could probably live without.



Southeast corner of Yonge and Centre once housed Yake's Appliance store, four apartments and a taxi operation. Donna Keffer's father owned it. Behind the building was Aurora's theatre, the Royal. We'd love to see some pictures of the theatre if anyone has any. Last week's question which involved a construction site somewhere in Aurora, was won by Terry Jones. He correctly identified the construction as the beginning of the Aurora Community Centre, located just west of Yonge Street, off Aurora Heights Drive. It was finished in 1968. He won lunch for two at the Aurora Legion.

Once there was an appliance store in the building on corner

To the editor,

Recently, you have been running pictures and articles of the corner of Yonge and Centre Streets.

I am enclosing a picture of my father, Elmer Yake, sitting in his truck in front of his appliance store at 9 Yonge Street North.

My father owned the store and four apartments and taxi office attached in

the late forties until the middle of the sixties as my father passed away in 1964 and my mother ran the store a couple of years after his death.

The only movie theatre in Aurora was attached to the back of my father's store.

I thought you might like to ask people if they remember the theatre and I can't remember if it was the

"Odeon" or not.

Maybe someone else will remember.

I am not sure when it opened but it was torn down in the fifties to make way for the IGA parking lot.

People used to line up beside my dad's store and sometimes the line would extend around Yonge Street, waiting to get into the show.

My sister, Yvonne, used to be an usherette

at the show.

The Aurora Hotel was to the south at the corner of Wellington and Yonge and Aurora Dairy Bar and Grill was to the north.

My husband, Larry, remembers the last show that played at the theatre was called "Perry" and was about a squirrel.

**Donna (Yake) Keffer
Aurora**

Reader questions Norm Weller logic

To the editor,

Norm Weller recently suggested (Letter to the Editor) that the mayor's information page be put out to public tender so that taxpayers "would know the true costs and save money".

This reminds me of Oscar Wilde's witty rejoinder to a man, whom, he said, "knew the price of everything, but did not know the value of anything."

Assessing the intrinsic value of purchasing space in newspapers and magazines is difficult, using price as the main parameter.

Media sales staff often quote the value of purchasing space for newspapers and magazines in sales pitches.

While this seems to make sense, some vital ingredients are missing from this formula such as:

* What is the purchasing power of readership?

* Is that readership well targeted for potential advertisers? No point in ads for Harley Davidson's in media published for pensioners - My happy Harley days are over; cruise ship ads, for example, now appeal to me.

If Mr. Weller were discussing the costs of 'flyers' or other printed matter, rather than advertising, I might agree with him; but even here I have never found that the cheapest prices yielded the best paper or artwork.

I hope the venerable Mr. Weller gets some value from my thoughts.

If he thinks they are worthless, he may be right.

But they were free - so at least the price is right.

**Tom Davey
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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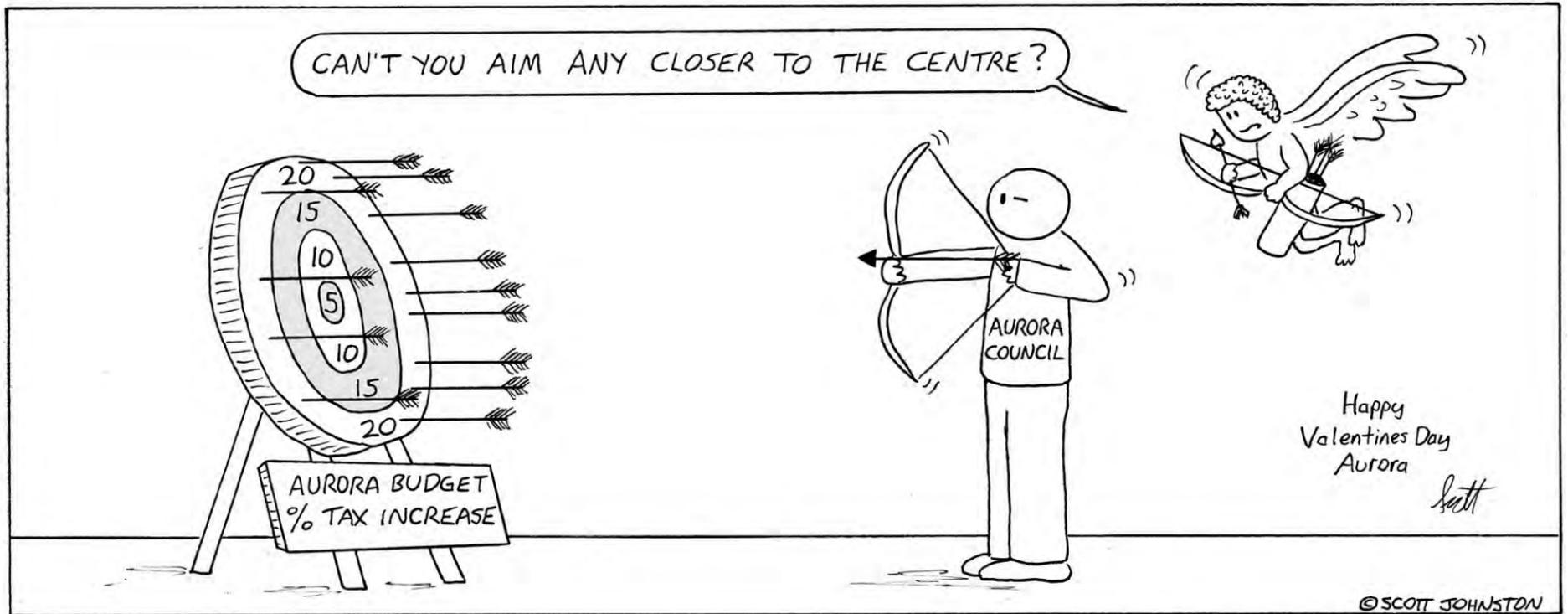
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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

The Green Energy Act

You may have heard about the speech the premier gave a few days ago to the Canadian Club.

In his remarks to the Bay Street crowd, Dalton McGuinty spoke about the need to develop and foster a new economy. Part of the blue print for this would be the Green Energy Act - which his government is set to introduce sometime later this month.

Premier McGuinty says the proposed legislation would "establish Ontario as a leader in North America in building renewable energy, encouraging energy conservation and creating green jobs."

According to the government press release that accompanied the Premier's speech, the bill would help the government ensure our province's future economic prosperity by doing three things:

- first, supporting and expanding economic investment, thus building a stronger, greener economy with an estimated 50,000 plus direct and indirect jobs over the next three years;
- second, expanding Ontario's use of clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, biomass and biogas;
- third, better protecting the environment, combatting climate change and creating a healthier future for generations to come.

The Green Energy Act Alliance, a group of environmental activists, farmers, community groups and representatives from First Nations has already published its own blue print of what they want to see in the government's Green Energy Act document.

The preamble to the Alliance's paper is quite clear in the vision that they seek for the province: "The Proposed Green Energy Act for Ontario would serve as the basis for a green industrial strategy for Ontario increasing economic stimulus at the local level across the province, creating jobs that are distrib-

uted and diverse as well as provide Ontarians with a renewed sense of ownership in the power sector as they are enabled to participate directly as generators and conservers."

The Alliance document is as much about economic development and community engagement as it is about energy and environmental policy.

Although the premier announced that the Green Energy Act is coming soon, all the details of the legislation have been kept very close to the government bosom; therefore any speculation at this point is pure conjecture.

However, it is known that Energy & Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman has met with representatives from the Alliance and he was very interested in what they had to say.

A goal of the Act will certainly be to increase community development and ownership of renewable projects like wind, solar, hydro and biogas.

However, putting aside for a minute the economic development and industrial strategy potential outcomes of this program, the ultimate success or failure of the Green Energy Act will really depend on how many projects are built, which, in turn, depends upon how a couple of the key issues are addressed.

The Act may propose some type of Feed-In Tariff to encourage greater development and deployment of renewable energy projects.

The Tariff would pay developers a set amount of money for the power that they produce under a 20-year contract, which would cover the initial capital cost as well as the long term operating cost of the renewable asset.

Prices may be set on the basis of cost and a reasonable return on investment. The trick will be what tariff rate is actually

set; if it is too low no one will build, too high and some may make extraordinary profits.

Another key issue, especially for wind deployment, is do you want to encourage only the best wind sites be developed or do you want geographic diversity, even though the best wind resources in the province are for the most part, confined to a few areas?

If geographic diversity is desired then how low a wind resource regime do you want to encourage? Put another way, how much money do we want to spend encouraging lower yielding projects before the best ones are developed?

Another key issue is the size limits of projects. If the government is serious about getting mega watt-hours of green energy produced, then it is best not to limit the size of projects.

Reducing the timing and cost of the permitting process is also important.

That is not to say that environmental oversight is not required during the development process and that local public officials shouldn't have their collective say about potential renewable energy projects in their communities, but a shortened timetable known to everyone must be adopted.

The other vital issue is the right to connect the power projects to transmission; this whole Act doesn't work if you can't connect and deliver power to where it is needed.

Rumour has it that the introduction of the Green Energy Act to the legislature is slated for next week.

Stay tuned.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

For the birds

We enjoy seeing wildlife in our neighbourhood. Rabbits, chipmunks and squirrels visit in the summer. We even have the odd raccoon sighting, or when the wind is right, skunk smelling.

But in the winter, these animals tend to hibernate, or at least, reduce their activity to bureaucratic levels. So, when you're stuck inside staring out at drifts of snow, there's less to see.

But many birds stick around through the colder months, so this year we decided to put up a feeder.

Part of the inspiration for this came from my in-laws.

They live in the country, and their birdfeeders are always covered in with juncos, and cardinals, and nuthatches, and chickadees, and goldfinches and a zillion other species.

I'm amazed the tree branches don't collapse under the sheer weight.

Based on this bounty of winter activity, we thought we'd avail ourselves of this free entertainment, and at the same time, help out our feathered friends.

So we went to the local birding supply store, and were soon involved in heated discussions over the merits of sunflower seeds versus nyger, and suet versus mixed seed.

Consideration was also given to squirrel-proofing, because based on the warnings we received from absolutely everyone we spoke to, we expected gangs of squirrels to just unlatch the feeders and run off with them as soon as we

put them up.

We even looked at a metal pail to store the seed in, because we didn't want a repeat of last winter, when mice discovered a bag of grass seed in the garage, which later resulted in a sparse lawn, but full rodents.

When we got home with all our purchases, we put the feeder up in a tree, then grabbed a coffee and sat inside to await our first arrival.

And waited.

And waited.

But none came that day, or the next day.

Granted, we don't spend ALL our time looking out the window (insert your own government employee joke here), but we do spend a fair amount of time in that room.

Despite that, it was exactly a week later before we finally saw our first bird.

The chickadee seemed to enjoy himself, flitting from the feeder to a nearby branch, and looking around before flitting back again for another nibble.

He stayed for a few minutes, then flew off, presumably to tell his friends all about his sumptuous repast, and overall excellent dining experience.

But to our surprise, he must have given our feeder the equivalent of a bad restaurant review, because he never came back. And neither did any of his friends. In fact, since that sighting in early December, we haven't seen another

bird at that feeder.

Perhaps the chickadee was using some sort of avian reverse psychology, because rather than get discouraged by our lack of visitors, we figured maybe one feeder wasn't enough, or maybe it wasn't in the right place, so we went out and bought two more feeders for the other side of the house.

These again were placed in prime locations, near hedges, and trees and sheltered areas.

This time, we only had to wait a couple of days before a junco appeared at one of the feeders.

But again, either he must have been another critic, or our local avian population has developed stealth technology, because he's the only one we've seen there.

As for the third feeder we put up, despite regular observation, it has remained completely bird-less, although occasionally we see some scattered seed underneath it, and tracks through the snow.

While our experiment with feeding Aurora's bird population hasn't been a huge success so far, with luck, we'll get some more activity outside soon, because I'd prefer not to buy any more feeders.

Not only that, but we're running out of trees to put them in.

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

Letters to the Editor

Town business state "teetering", she says

To the editor,

The proposed baseball field has been part of the Master Recreation plan of the Town for several years.

It has been part of the five-year capital forecast in approved budgets as long.

Development charges have been collected on the basis of forecasted recreational needs. The Town's Strategic Plan outlines the need for more than one baseball diamond.

Budgets are prepared on

the basis of Strategic plans and Capital Forecasts. Strategic Plans are approved by Council. Capital Forecasts are approved annually by council. Staff prepare budgets on the basis of forecasts and strategies approved by council.

They do not personally dream up schemes and wish lists.

Development charges are calculated on the basis of documented needs as a result of growth.

The charge is paid for every

permit issued by the Town.

New homeowners, before their house is built, pay for the facilities the town claims are needed to accommodate their arrival.

The development levy is paid up front by developers.

It is included with a myriad of other taxes in the sale price of a residence.

Assessment is based on the sale price.

The new owner pays taxes on taxes for evermore. The town's annual revenue is

derived from assessment.

Despite the fact development charges have been collected to finance the building of more than one baseball field, this council has repeatedly rejected staff recommendations that a single diamond is a priority.

Last year, the Aurora Minor Baseball Association came to council on the eve of budget approval to express their concern and disappointment that, for the third time, the diamond was being eliminated from the budget.

They outlined the urgency.

On April 22, 2008, a resolution was passed by council: Moved by Councillor MacEachern Seconded by Councillor Granger, that council receive this report as information and direct staff to complete detailed design and servicing plan and specifications process in 2008, at a cost of \$40,000 and present the item in the 2009 Capital Budget for Council's consideration; and that, given that other recreation facilities will also be constructed on the Burnett lands, consideration be given to the full function of the property to ensure that the lands are efficiently utilized.

Kean's concern about public-sector workers' salaries "well-founded"

To the editor,

Re: "Kean responds to letter writers". Letter to the editor, The Auroran, Feb. 3

A 2006 Canadian Federation of Independent Business research report entitled 'Wage Watch: A Comparison of Public-sector and Private-sector Wages' (see www.cfib.ca/research), confirms that Nigel Kean's concerns about Town of Aurora employee costs are well founded.

The summary to this report states "that government and public sector employees are paid eight to 17 per cent more than similarly employed individuals in the private sector.

In addition, taking into account significantly higher paid benefits and shorter workweeks, the public sector total compensation package balloons past 30 per cent.

Expressed in dollar terms, public sector employees have a combined wage and benefit bill that is \$19

billion higher than if they had kept cost to private sector norms."

The report summary goes on to say, "The federal government is the worst offender, with a wage and salary premium of 17.3 per cent. Premiums paid by municipal governments are almost as severe at 11.2 per cent. Provincial governments, as a group, look comparatively good, but their wage and salary premiums are still an unacceptably high 7.9 per cent."

Even if the above study is not 100 per cent correct, Canadians who are not government or public sector employees should be demanding prudent use of the property taxes and the federal and provincial income and sales taxes paid each year.

Canadians who are government or public sector employees should not take for granted that the status quo will continue.

The current fiscal environment is going to force sweeping changes, including business and/or plant closures, job cuts and wage and benefit concessions, into the lives of their neighbours who are employed in the private sector.

The time will soon arrive when private sector Canadians are no longer paying taxes at current levels to the various levels of government to maintain the favoured wage and benefit packages now enjoyed by government and public sector workers.

Kean's latest letter made reader laugh

To the editor,

In response to all of Nigel Kean's letters since the last election.

Is Kean keen to be mayor, reader asks

To the editor,

Nigel Kean has been an ardent critic of Mayor Phyllis Morris, and his last comments caused me considerable reflection on his motives: "now that an election is looming" (his words).

He is critical, amongst many other things, about the mayor's column in The Auroran.

He says it should have been done earlier, but now complains about its timing.

He further espouses his expertise and attempts to educate another writer on how taxes work. He says when a company closes, "the town loses money".

While I agree that if a company closes, the town loses this company's tax contribution, the net result is that this shortfall is imposed on other taxpayers in the revision of the mill rate.

So, technically, Mr. Kean is playing a rhetorical game.

Is Mr. Kean keen to become the next mayor???

I laughed long and hard when I read Nigel Kean's latest letter.

In it he has the gall to talk about how the current mayor will have lots of advertising, what with her column in The Auroran and the town pages in the other local paper.

Does Nigel realize that since the last elections, he's written to this paper week in and week out and not so subtly put down the mayor, he's reminded us about what a great guy he is and how without him there wouldn't be a farmers' market.

He constantly gives us his stance on any and all issues before council.

He practically has his own column in this paper and it's as if his last campaign never ended!

Get over it!!

How naive does he think the residents of Aurora are?

Alex Leclerc
Aurora

A. Smith
Aurora

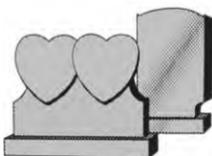


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Letters to the Editor

GO commuters will park anywhere

To the editor,

The frustration level in the community around the Wells Street Town Park is at a boiling point.

Basic services are not provided by the town.

In January our road, Harrison Avenue, shrank by eight feet in width in some areas.

GO train commuters park during a snow storm not allowing trucks to plow properly.

We end up with a pile of snow in the middle of the road.

Before our road can be plowed properly the GO people are parked in the same spots again the next day.

Our road wasn't plowed properly until we phoned to complain.

The piles of snow soon freeze and damage our vehicles.

Most of the driveways are single width. We dig areas in snow banks for recycling and garbage.

The GO patrons just park right in front of our collections.

We ask them to move their vehicles and we get attitude about they're going to miss their train and they pay taxes, too.

I'm sure when they come home their roads and other services are completed.

If they weren't they would be the first to complain.

When they made a pri-

vate community north of Wellington did they stop to think all the traffic would line up at Wellington to make left hand turn.

They go south and use our roads south of Wellington.

They run stop signs, block driveways, race to and from the GO station.

Thank God more of our children haven't been run over.

I don't let my children go to the park until all GO trains have left.

It would be tragic to lose a life just so people can get home quickly.

They are on their cell phones as soon as start driving, not paying attention to their surroundings.

The people living in this area can't even find spots on their own street to change cars around.

The majority of times with smaller road widths and GO parking we cannot receive friends to visit, let alone have enough room to get in our own driveways.

The GO train commuters aren't part of our community, just run the plates.

Why can't council hear our pleas for help.

I guess when ambulances can't get to our driveways and fire trucks get delayed the mayor will say she is sorry as long as you vote for her.

We asked for meetings, but, as usual, the mayor is excluding the public from

these meetings.

In case you haven't noticed she is running the town with an iron fist.

Come knocking on our doors to discuss our

problems.

We promise not to run you out of town.

**Verek Runde
Aurora**

Answer your door when canvasser comes knocking

To the editor,

Now that I am on a writing "kick," there is something on my mind that I know affects more than just myself.

February starts off door to door canvassing months.

Heart and Stroke this month, Kidney Foundation next month, April is Cancer month... every month is designated to some cause.

You know when you get a knock on your door between 7 and 9 p.m. on a weeknight, it's probably someone looking for money.

I am a volunteer canvasser and I do it for the foundations which are near and dear to my heart.

I do it because hopefully the funding will bring them closer to a cure for diseases that have taken or affected my loved ones, and a lot of money is raised this way.

I do it because it makes me feel good, gets me out

for exercise and gives me the opportunity to meet new neighbours or touch base with old ones I don't see too often.

I don't do it to try to make you feel guilty.

I don't do it to force you to come up with spur of the moment reasons if you choose not to support the cause when I call.

A simple "no, thank you" or "yes" is more than enough.

What I am hoping for by writing this, is to let you know that most of us doing

our duty (wind, cold, snow or rain) are obligated to go to each house on our route at least twice.

So, please, when you hear that knock, answer your door.

(When two cars are in the driveway, we pretty much know someone is home).

We will greet you with a smile and leave the same way no matter what your choice is.

Save us bugging you more than once.

Oh, I should also men-

tion, no donation is too small.

Any amount is always greatly appreciated.

We don't expect you to give until it hurts, just enough to make you feel good, if you have it to spare.

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Theatre Aurora

Bad title - good play

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

There's a place where ongoing water shortages have caused havoc for the resident population.

No, it's not Aurora, although there are many similarities.

It's the unnamed location at the heart of Urinetown, the latest stage production from Theatre Aurora.

In the Tony award winning musical, severe draughts have led to the loss of private washrooms, requiring citizens to pay to use public facilities, which are under the control of an evil mega-corporation.

Those who can't afford to pay are sent to a penal colony called Urinetown, never to return.

Of course, eventually the public won't stand for this treatment, which leads to rebellion, and a few surprises.

It was obvious from the comments of the crowd heading into the opening night production that they did not know quite what to expect of such an unusually titled show.

However, a big laugh greeted the first mention of the megacorporation's name, which while witty in itself, also sounds exactly the same as the Town of Aurora's motto.

From there, the clever satire, entertaining musical numbers and enjoyable performances quickly won over the audience, and all were smiling as they left the theatre.

An excellent cast of both veterans and newcomers has been assembled under the direction of Thom Currie, who is himself a 24-year veteran of Theatre Aurora.

The multi-layered story and interesting framing of the scenes allowed several performers to stand out.

Martin Buote as Officer Lockstock and Olivia Jon as Little Sally, acted as our on-stage guides to the events going on around them.

They had many of the best lines, and took advantage of them with excellent comedic timing and expression.

At the heart of the love story, Sergio Calderon as Bobby Strong and Laurie

Norris as Hope Cladwell, had some enjoyable scenes together, and the villains (or were they?) Senator Fipp, played by John Gabriel, and Caldwell B Cladwell, played by Dave Sansom, were convincingly evil.

Overall, the singing and choreography was some of the best seen at Theatre Aurora over the past year, with no obvious missteps or false notes.

Urinetown, which debuted in 2001 shortly after the September 11 attacks, is a bit of a departure for Theatre Aurora, but marks a successful foray into more contemporary, or even edgier shows.

So if you're looking for an entertaining musical/love story/comedy with a few twists, and even some messages to think about on the way home, give the box office a call at 905-727-3669.

Evening performances of Urinetown continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, on February 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21, with a matinee performance February 15.

Old Yonge St. gets sidewalk on east side

Residents on Old Yonge Street have complained for several months about on-street parking and the lack of a sidewalk on sections of the roadway leading to St. John's Sideroad, creating dangerous conditions for both pedestrians and motorists.

Town staff had included \$75,000 for the construction of the sidewalk in the 2007 capital budget but it was deleted to carry out a more thorough review of the situation.

A survey was carried out and 22 respondents wanted the sidewalk to be extended to the St. John's Sideroad while five respondents wanted to keep the existing configuration of the sidewalk.

It was noted that the five respondents who wanted to retain the status quo lived on the east side of the street where the extension of sidewalk was proposed.

The general committee recently recommended to council that the sidewalk be constructed on the east side of Old Yonge Street.

Council agreed.

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*Stay tuned for
further scheduling*

Full service fight continues

If Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee gets its way Aurora may get a full-service gas station for seniors and the disabled who are unable to use self-service stations.

Last September the committee asked that staff members provide a copy of the petition that was compiled from residents who supported the full service gas station proposal.

The petition, containing 56 names of individuals and families, was provided to the committee at the November meeting of the committee.

The committee agreed that the issue be forwarded to the next Accessibility Advisory Committee Chairmen's

Breakfast meeting and that the Minister of Community and Social Services be contacted and asked for assistance.

Since the committee made its recommendation about the loss of full service gas stations in Aurora last February,

the issue of full-service has become very controversial with several delegations supporting and opposing it.

At a recent general committee meeting, Don Dussault representing Imperial Oil was back before the committee as

Please see page 9

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Surrounded by family and friends, Nigel Kean, centre, celebrated his 60th birthday with a party at the Aurora Legion last week. Offering congratulations are, left to right, Diane Buchanan, Kimberley Kerr, Shelley Lundquist, Cathy Vrancic, Lynn Ince, Nigel's wife Kathy, and Patricia Wallace.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Full serve gas debate continues

From page 8

a result of a staff report.

The report recommended that council direct staff to include a clause in all site plan and site plan amendment agreements for gas/service stations, which would require there to be a full service gasoline pump for a minimum of six hours a day for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Dussault said that was already the case at the Esso station on Wellington Street East.

He also noted that Imperial Oil has a policy in place for all Esso stations that full service is available to seniors and people with disabilities at self service prices by making an appointment in advance when two staff members are at the station such as during a shift change.

Staffers had previously said there was no jurisdiction under the Planning Act that permits such a condition to be imposed and it was not known under what authority some municipalities had enacted it.

Mr. Dussault said the convenience store and washrooms were fully accessible and that council was changing the rules during the game. He referred to the Esso station in Markham that was required to provide full service and it was a dismal failure.

In February, 2008, the committee recommended the Canadian Petroleum Products be asked to discuss the need to ensure that gas stations make full provisions for full service to patrons having special needs with its members.

A motion by Councillor Bob McRoberts to adopt the recommendation of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide full serv-

ice for at least six hours a day failed for lack of a seconder.

Councillor Evelyn Buck moved that an option in the report, which keeps the status

quo and to advertise on the town's website that the service providers will assist in providing full service to persons with disabilities with advance

notice and a list of gas/service stations with their phone numbers also be posted on the website, was adopted by the committee.

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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of February 10, 2009

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Playoff bound Tigers win two of three

The Aurora Tigers of the OJHL wrapped up the regular season with a pair of victories and one loss last week at home, defeating Villanova and North York while losing to division leader Couchiching Sunday.

On Wednesday night at the Community Centre, the Tigers backed by a three-goal first period, cruised to a relatively easy 5-2 win over the Knights.

Lucas VanNatter and Todd Hellyer each had a pair of goals for Aurora with Michael Sardella adding a single.

Ryan Murphy scored both goals for Villanova.

Tiger goaltender David Blair recorded the victory.

Friday night was a much more difficult task as the visiting North York Rangers held a 4-2 lead in the second period before Aurora stormed back with five unanswered goals in the last 25 minutes of the hockey game.

A red-hot Jeff Vanderlugt and Kyle Paige each contributed two goals and added two assists for the winners.

Singles went to Dominic Monardo, Michael Sardella and Nick Vangog.

Scoring for the Rangers were Jesse Hebscher, Brendan Wise, Connor Tresham and Anthony Bergin.

Goaltender Brendan Sullivan picked up his second win over North York in six days.

On Sunday night in Aurora, the Tigers faced the first place Couchiching Terriers coached by former NHL'er and Auroran Greg Hotham.

Aurora was without forward David Morley for the contest and once again the team's offence struggled in

his absence.

Powerplay goals by Tyler Swan and Kurt Zdrilich staked the Terriers to a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes.

In the second, Aurora got on the board at 3:55 thanks to a Dominic Monardo goal on a two on one feed from Michael Sardella.

At 5:32, however, Couchiching's Matt Smyth batted in his own rebound, baseball-style to make the score 3-1.

At 15:35, Jeff Vanderlugt's powerplay shot barely trickled over the goal line to pull the Tigers within one again.

But two late goals by the Terriers took the wind out of Aurora's sails as Tyler Swan scored his second of the game at 17:16 and Andrew Csumrik scored following an Aurora giveaway at 18:35.

There was no scoring in the third period making it a 5-2 final for the Terriers.

Aurora finished the season with 37 wins and 12 losses, good for third place in the Phillips Division.

The OJHL playoffs start Wednesday night as Aurora hosts the Collingwood Blues in Game One of a best of five series at 7:30 p.m.

Game Two will be in Collingwood Friday night at 8 p.m. with Game Three comes back to Aurora Sunday night at 7:30 p.m.

Games Four and Five, if necessary, will be played in Collingwood Tuesday, February 17th and in Aurora on Wednesday, February 18th.

Notes: Captain Dominic Monardo led the Tigers in scoring for the regular season with 39 goals and 40 assists.

Goaltender David Blair sported a 2.91 goals against average and .905

save percentage in 27 games.

Defenceman Matt Pasztor was the team's penalty minutes leader with 84.

AURORA 5 VILLANOVA 2

First Period

A - Lucas VanNatter (Bodley, Hellyer) 7.11
A - Todd Hellyer (Doerksen, Monardo) PP 16.04

A - Lucas VanNatter (Vanderlugt, Paige) PP 16.56

Second Period

A - Todd Hellyer (Bodley, Vanderlugt) 6.00

Third Period

V - Murphy Ryan (Crescenzi, Baptista) PP 2.41

A - Michael Sardella (Monardo) 17.44

V - Murphy Ryan (Alberga, Chandler) 18.49

AURORA 7 NORTH YORK 4

First Period

NY - Jesse Hebscher (Serpe, Mazzulla) PP 8.40
A - Dominic Monardo (unassisted) 17.34

Second Period

A - Kyle Paige (Vanderlugt, VanNatter) 1.21

NY - Brendan Wise (unassisted) PP 2.26

NY - Connor Tresham (Mazzulla, Dixon) 6.38

NY - Anthony Bergin (unassisted) PP 12.16

A - Michael Sardella (Monardo, Evans) 15.40

Third Period

A - Kyle Paige (Vanderlugt, Pasztor) 0.42

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Paige, VanNatter) 7.41

A - Nick Vangog (Milne) 8.21

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (VanNatter, Paige) 10.10

COUCHICHING 5 AURORA 2

First Period

C - Tyler Swan (Zdrilich, Ouskun) PP 12.28

C - Kurt Zdrilich (Black, Gomes) PP 17.26

Second Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Sardella, Trainor) 3.55

C - Matt Smyth (Micks, Zdrilich) 5.32

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Evans, Paige) PP 15.35

C - Tyler Swan (Cousineau, Black) 17.16

C - Andrew Csumrik (unassisted) 18.35

Third Period

No scoring



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TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Highland Chev-Cad	11	7	1	77	55	23
Tom & Jerry's	10	6	3	76	64	23
Baldwin's	11	7	1	85	69	23
Priestly Demolition	10	7	2	70	61	22
FPL Aggregates	8	8	3	70	72	19
Masterclean Contracting	8	10	1	79	87	17
Law Insurance Brokers	6	11	2	54	72	14
Rec Cycle N' Sports	5	13	1	50	77	11

WEEKLY SCORES

Masterclean	8	Priestly Demolition	5
Highlands Chev	6	FPL Aggregates	4
Rec Sports	7	Baldwin's	5
Tom & Jerry's	1	Law Insurance	3

PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	G	A	Pts
Tom Hussey	18	23	41
Todd Richardson	23	9	32
John Archibault	21	9	30
Rob Blakely	17	13	30
Mark Swirla	14	14	28
Jody Matthews	11	16	27
Brad McMillan	14	12	26
Jason Muise	16	9	25
Craig McConnell	15	10	25
Pat O'Mahony	9	15	24
Dave Caverley	10	11	21
Steve Kavanah	9	12	21
Doug Adair	8	13	21
Ed Kilroy	9	11	20
Darren Yaremko	7	13	20
Dean Iwai	12	7	19
Steve Robertson	11	8	19
Ron Thiessen	9	10	19
Scott Crabbe	6	13	19
John Anderson	9	9	18
Mark Sedore	7	11	18
Mark Inglis	6	12	18
Bruce Chappell	3	15	18
Mike O'Conner	11	6	17
Chris Neale	9	8	17
Mike Caicco	4	13	17
Joel Reeves	4	13	17
Hugh Alcorn	2	15	17
Vince Greco	8	8	16
Dwayne Smith	8	8	16
Peter Briand	7	9	16
Gerald Briand	6	10	16
Ed Jackson	7	8	15
Charlie Steenhorst	3	12	15
Ken Rumble	4	10	14
Ken Fisher	5	8	13
Brandon Chappell	8	4	12
Scott Thomas	4	8	12
Steven MacDonald	3	9	12
Raz Khamissa	8	3	11
John Yaremko	6	5	11
Paul Gibson	5	6	11
Jason Holbert	5	6	11
Kevin O'Keefe	7	4	11
Scott Pogue	3	8	11
Ralph Tuck	2	9	11
Pat Davies	7	3	10
Ron Van Noort	6	4	10
Bob Ince	5	5	10
Dan Cote	4	6	10
Doug McGrath	2	8	10
Derek Preston	6	3	9
Tom Webster	6	3	9
Dan Cote	4	5	9
Darryl Thompson	4	5	9
Jerome Flanigan	2	7	9
Steve Bromley	2	7	9
Brian Mackenzie	1	8	9
John Leeder	4	4	8
John Sibener	4	4	8
Craig Donaldson	3	5	8
Mike Nisbet	3	5	8
Dennis Giles	3	5	8
Les Nip	2	6	8
Steve Riswick	2	6	8

Remember when we won Gold?

With the spirit of the Vancouver Olympics coming up, it was nearly 41 years ago when 80,000 gathered at the Estadio Olimpico in Mexico City to watch the team jumping event on the last day of the Mexico City Olympics.

The horsemanship and superb training of equestrians from the Aurora area hit the world spotlight in October, 1968. In the last competitive event, three Canadian riders and horses outrode and outjumped the world to bring home a gold medal.

Jim Elder of Aurora, Jim Day of King City and Tom Gayford of Gormley wrote their names into history with a breathtaking performance watched by millions.

Elder and Gayford arrived at Pearson International Airport on October 28, 1968, to be greeted by more than 200 cheering, placard-waving spectators.

Unfortunately no civic officials from Aurora or King City were in the welcoming party.

Aurora Mayor Clarence Davis talked to King officials to try and arrange some sort of reception, but all were tied up that Monday evening.

During the 1969 Canada Day Festivities at the Town Park, the three riders were featured and officially recognized by Mayor Dick Illingworth, members of council and hundreds of citizens for their Mexico City feat.

The riders were surprised to win the gold, as they figured they rated a fifth or sixth finish, or if they were extremely lucky they might get a bronze.

Gayford said everything went right for the Canadian team, while the other teams made mistakes.

The first step toward the Olympic gold was taken by Day when he won the Pan American individual gold medal riding Canadian Club.

He joined Elder riding The Immigrant and Gayford on Big Dee for the tough eight-hour Prix des Nations event over the demanding 14-obstacle course.

Consistency plus Elder's brilliant first ride were the keys to victory. Elder riding The Immigrant, a sometimes troublesome horse, which kicked up its hind legs after each jump, was left to the final round, which would determine Canada's finish.

He started well, but knocked down four jumps and picked up two time faults for an 18-point total. It was one of the best rides of the day and good enough for the gold.

After the event the trio turned out smartly dressed in red tunics, white breeches and black boots to receive their gold medal as the Canadian flag was raised and the band played the national anthem.

A world-ranked equestrian for more than 30 years, Elder was a candidate for the Canadian show-jumping team in the Seoul, South Korea Olympics in 1988.

His spirit was willing, but his horses were a little weak and he missed the incredible feat of participating in six Olympiads.

Five Olympic Games plus gold and bronze medals is an achievement matched by very few.

He won the bronze medal at the Melbourne Games in 1956. He rode with John Rumble and Brian Herbinson. He also rode on the show jumping team in 1968, 1976 and 1984.

Elder remained active in the horse world scouting and training jumpers and competing on a regular basis.

Gayford was appointed chef d'equipe, or head coach, of the Seoul Games passing along a lifetime of experience.

Day is a top thoroughbred trainer for Sam-Son Farms and he saddled the horses that won the Triple Crown of Canadian racing in 1988.

Long before the 1968 Olympics, Elder and Gayford were very experienced riders and regular competitors at the Aurora Horse Show and the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

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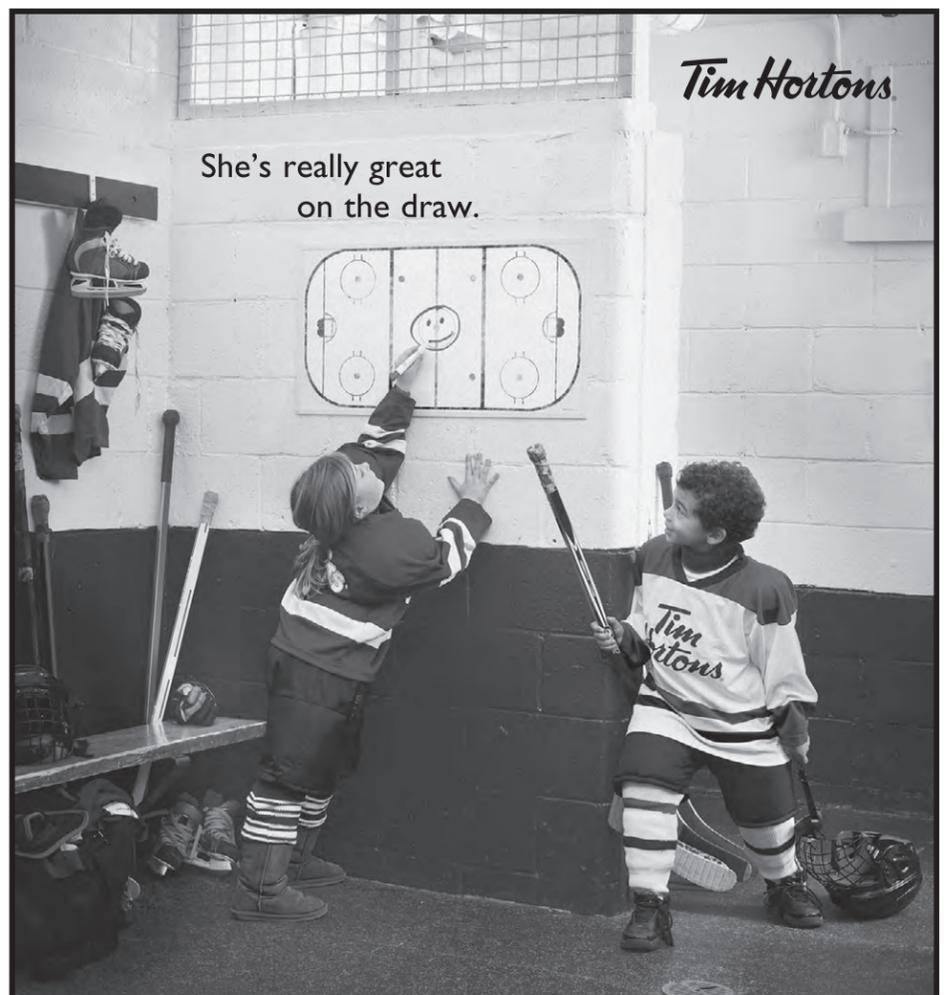
Monday, Feb. 2: N/S - Lucille Sequeira and Judy Salmon; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White. E/W - Rose White and Gloria Smith; Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel; Carolyn Liddy and Christine Woolley.

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Results to Sunday, February 8, 2009

House League Minor Pee wee

405 Chevalier 3 - Christian Baggio 2G 1A, Christopher Baggio 2A, Tyler Bundy 2A, Joshua Capodagli 1G 1A. **403 Ruff n Redi 2** - Christian MacGillivray 1G 1A, Christopher Sutherland 1G, Bryn Burbank 1A, David Leeper 1A, Chris Broughton 1A.

Pee wee

504 Pizza Pizza 1 - Hussain Akbar 1G, Declan Johnston 1A. **502 Omar Shoes 1** - Neil Duggan 1G.

508 Tilemaster 5. 503 Greenpoint Laser 1 - Luc Martineau 1G, Mitchell Palmer 1A, Liam Henderson 1A.

507 Sgt Pepper's Bar & Grill 10 - Tyler Futterer 2G 3A, Chris Downs 2G 1A, Mac Cawfield 2G 1A, Morgan Walker 2G 1A, Jason Glionna 1G, Keith Jarvis 1G, Scott Dunlop 2A, Alexander Harrison 2A, Kevin Wood 1A. **506 Wikoff Color Corp. 4** - Carson Elliot 1G 1A, Michael Slack 1G 1A, Andrew Walter 1G, Justin Chalmers 1G, Zac Kroll 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A.

505 Laurion Law Office 4 - Russell Johnson 2G, Scott Taylor 1G,

Graham Killby 1G 2A, Michael Arcuri 1A, Jamie Wilson 1A. **501 Perfect Moves 2** - Christopher Sanita 1G, Joel Gouveia 1G, Brian Langdon 2A, Matthew Sanita 1A.

505 Laurion Law Office 1 - Russell Johnson 1G, Jamie Wilson 1A. **507 Sgt. Pepper's Bar & Grill 1** - Tyler Futterer 1G, Kevin Wood 1A.

Rep League

Orillia Novice A Terriers 8. Aurora Novice A Tigers 0.

Orillia Novice A Terriers 10. Aurora Novice A Tigers 1 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G.

Orillia Novice A Terriers 9. Aurora Novice A Tigers 1 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Cameron Tyndall, 1A.

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AURORAN WORD SEARCH - PARKS

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 do Aurora parks offer?"

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

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CASE WOODLOT
CONFEDERATION
COUSINS
DEERGLEN
E. HADER
FLOWERS
GOLF GLEN
HAVEN
HICKSON
KENNEDY

KICK
KITES
LAMBERT WILLSON
LAWN BOWLING
LLOYD
LUNDY
MACHELL
MOWS
PLAY
PONDS
RINKS
RUNS

SESTON
SQUIRREL
TIMBERS
TRACK
TREES
TURF
VANDORF
WALKING
WELLER
WELLS

The answer to the question is hidden on another page

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

He got the job without processes occurring

In January, 1984, York Regional Council made a controversial decision regarding the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer when the job was offered to Regional Chairman Bob Forhan without going through the normal advertising and recruitment process.

Although not illegal, politicians, municipal officials and union leaders from outside the region said the appointment without interviewing other candidates was unusual and had few precedents.

No vacancy was advertised when Jack Rettie, who held the post since the region was created in 1971, retired earlier and Forhan assumed the CAO duties while remaining the Region's chairman.

A small group of local politicians protested, charging that Forhan was being eased into the new job as a political reward, but regional council voted to offer him the \$76,000 a year position.

Forhan had served as regional chairman since 1978 and was a former Newmarket mayor and had been a school teacher and real estate mortgage manager.

QUIT IF YOU WANT TO

In March, 1975, then Aurora Mayor Evelyn Buck urged York Regional council to freeze the salaries of its seven department heads and let them quit if they so decided.

She claimed that regional costs had soared out of control and the proposed pay raises were scandalous.

In a scathing attack on York's regional government, its council and its top civil servants, Buck said regional government was a monster and generally hated by all except those

Minor Atom A's take opener 3-0

Three players shared in the scoring as the Aurora Minor Atom A Tigers blanked the East Gwillimbury Eagles 3-0 in the opening game of York Simcoe playdowns last week.

Kyle Rice, Joel Woodcock and Colin McGoldrick scored for the winners.

Both teams played well against each other during the regular season and as such this should be a challenging series for the Tigers.

As the game began, the Tigers showed a little rust from their layoff while the Eagles show good jump having just finished their first playoff round.

With disjointed play, a little luck and some outstanding goaltending by Mark Carpenter, the Tigers emerged from the first period unscathed.

As the second period began, the coaches found the "on" switch and the boys picked up their pace. Two and a half minutes into the period, Kyle Rice broke the goose egg.

Nearing the end of the period, the Tigers enjoyed their first power play and

showed their hard work in practice has paid off.

On what can only be described as a classic tic-tac-toe play, Christopher Pettit dropped a puck from the point down low and Kyle Rice worked behind the net quickly cycling the puck back to the slot for Woodcock.

Woodcock made no mistake as Aurora jumped into a 2-0 lead.

Six minutes into the third, McGoldrick iced the game when he finished off a shot from Robby Graham.

Tyler Thomas gave a good accounting of himself in the Tigers net for the second half of the game and with strong attention to detail in the waning moments the Tigers secured a team shutout for their first victory of the series.

As the game was ending and the Eagles showing a chippy frustration the next several games should be interesting.

Games Monday and Tuesday were too late for The Auroran's press time, but the fourth game is scheduled for Wednesday and Aurora hopes to close out this series early.

employed by it.

Approved by regional council, the staff report gave the department heads increases averaging 21.14 per cent, bringing them to an average of \$37,721 per year.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MISS ONE

Town Crier columnist Ron Wallace writes in November, 1996, about the town's energetic bylaw enforcement officers who do their job well, as many disgruntled citizens will attest.

He described how on a Friday afternoon they were nailing a few motorists parked in a fire route at the Hunters Gate Plaza and that only minutes before they arrived, a York Regional Police cruiser was parked in the same fire route while an officer used Canada Trust to conduct some business at the automatic teller.

Ron still wonders if the bylaw enforcement officers would have given the police officer a ticket.

WHEN TAXPAYERS ALMOST GOT A REBATE

In 1986, Aurora ended the year with a surplus of \$1,119,820 and if Councillors Evelyn Buck, Norm Weller and Martin Paivio had their way the surplus would have been returned to the taxpayers as an overpayment.

But the other members of council agreed with Treasurer Kelly Cerswell's recommendation to allocate the surplus to seven reserves for future spending including ones for new vehicles, the Aurora Leisure Complex, the proposed Seniors' Centre and sick leave payments.

Mayor John West and Councillor George Timpson were irritated by the remarks made by Buck and Weller about returning the money to the taxpayer and another of council's raucous debates took place.

CONTROVERSIAL REGIONAL SMOKE BYLAW

York Region's smoke bylaw was controversial since it was adopted in October, 2000, until provincial legislation was enacted. In October, 2005, six regional smoke and health enforcement officers visited Jersey's Pub on Yonge Street in Aurora on a busy Friday night.

They flashed their badges, scaring customers and staff in the process.

After a thorough inspection of the premises with no infractions found, they spotted an ashtray in the kitchen which a staff member had used to have a smoke in the backyard and laid a charge against the owner and the night manager with fines up to \$500.

THE LAST WORD

The Canadian economy is in tatters, there is a growing fear of unemployment and stories about high-flying investors stealing billions and while Canadian taxpayers hang on by their fingernails hoping this year will be better, one thing unlikely to change is the performance of federal and provincial politicians.

Canadians expect more from them, especially the party leaders during the current economic crisis, but they get the same old thing, the status quo and ways and means of getting re-elected.

It's been said that people get the government they deserve and there may be some truth in that but unfortunately they believe what they hear during the election campaign and trust their elected representative to deliver on those election promises.

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The answer to the word puzzle on page 12 is: "Something for everyone"

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Senior Scape



Is the Windrow program working?

By BRIAN WARBURTON

One thing we seniors will learn from our cold and snow-bound winter is whether or not our "Windrow Aurora" program is up to snuff and getting the job done, or not.

I am not aware of any complaints at all, and in fact, I have not been approached by anybody who has availed themselves of the windrow program, but stories are bound to surface sooner or later.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will be interested in questions including efficiency and timing of work and include quality of windrow removal, and the potentially irritating question which is, did the road snowplows return and provide a second helping of windrow torment, allowing the windrows to materialize again after removal?

The whole windrow problem is fraught with the urgency of snow clearance and the problem of how and where to clear it.

The opening of roads is the Town's priority and clearing the resultant snow windrows is left to the property owner, rightly or wrongly, and is open to debate.

Some circumstances will only be served by trucking the snow away, and other circumstances demand competent municipal service founded on issues of life or death, from residents stricken by heart attacks or by others who require unim-

peded emergency services for medical or other reasons.

I would hazard the comment that the Town staff responsible for implementing the windrow program will welcome the advent of spring, which is about six weeks away.

What is so often a quiet winter Sunday afternoon with little happening can be suddenly invigorated, surprised and refreshed with the vivacity of a society event for seniors ever ready to seize the opportunity for the novelties of occasion the ASA offers.

The ASA Dance Committee seizes such a quiet Sunday and invites everyone to a Sunday afternoon Tea Dance this Sunday, February 15th, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the West McKenzie Hall. Price for members is \$4, and for non-members \$4.50 per person. Refreshments include sandwiches, pastries, scones, tea or coffee.

Sign up at the Reception Desk as seating is limited to 100 and this will likely sell out.

Belinda's kitchen, operated by Bill and Mary Higgins, always has something cooking whether it is food preparation or preparation for the next event.

Bill and Mary are in sunny Australia as I write this piece, and having a great time I understand. The great distance is no handicap to e-mail and while I

did not realize they were in Australia when I sent the e-mail, it made little difference to an exchange of information, and Bill's reply was excellent and very helpful.

Bill is happy to know Food Services is being recognized because the volunteers, collectively, in and around the kitchen impart an enormous amount of character, ambience and the good atmosphere which pervades the ASA and steeps the seniors' playground in the wonderful feeling of a home from home.

Bill informs me that the Food Services committee is composed of Don and Joan Stevenson, Joan Levert and Jane Styngl in addition to Bill and Mary.

Numerous volunteers are worthy of mention and contribute immensely to the efficient operation of the kitchen and regrettably all cannot be recognized in this article.

Of note are Joan Levert and Jane Styngl who operate the Budget Bistro on alternate weeks, with Joan also recognized for her soups, always enjoyable, particularly in this cold and snowy winter.

Terry and Bruce Robertson are always reliable with Terry often providing desserts and Bruce always available to serve.

And two ladies who prefer anonymity are recognized, one

who gathers up the aprons, towels and table cloths and returns them beautifully laundered, and the other who provides delicious cakes when required and both are pillars of the respect.

Luba Nickerson keeps the coffee service functioning efficiently and so many of us enjoy her coffee without appreciating the daily effort that makes efficiency appear to be magic, but that is what Luba does constantly, and I would not be the same without my cup of Luba's java.

She also cleans up and ensures the cream, sugar, cups and everything else are all in place and well stocked.

Among those who also serve in many ways are Rose White, Ann McKenny and Joan Earl, all of whom are always available to do whatever is necessary, and so many more who will receive recognition on another occasion.

And please note a correction to the Evergreens choir's final performance of the season which is Wednesday, May 27.

Enid Maize, the Evergreen choir director, advises that all ranks in the choir are open starting February 11th, for one month, and the next recruitment will be in September.

If you are interested and you can carry a tune, audition for the choir knowing that an audition is a fun thing and an adventure in itself.

Aurora grew in 1960

Aurora entered the 1960s celebrating one of the largest building booms in the history of the town. Building inspector Sam King reported that during 1959, 340 building permits totalled \$7,846,340, more than the total of building permits issued during the previous six years.

The record-setting total was mainly residential development with more than 750 homes built in Regency Acres and Aurora Heights adding 1,500 new Aurora residents.

St. Andrew's College announced two new buildings to be added, the Great Hall and a classroom auditorium with a campaign underway to raise \$1,195,000. The federal government announced an addition to the rear of the Yonge Street Post Office.

In his inaugural address, Mayor Jim Murray said the town's population had reached 6,500, had more than doubled in two years, and predicted it would double again by 1962. In 1958 before the development boom, the town's population was 4,386 soaring to 8,735 by 1961.

Members of council included Reeve Clarence Davis, Deputy Reeve Stu Patrick and Councillors Ray Hammond, Cliff Corbett, Alf Child, William Stoddart, William Davidson and Harvey Bell.

One of the highlights of the year was a survey by the post office as the first step towards establishing door-to-door mail delivery. At that time residents had to visit the Yonge Street

location to get mail.

The federal government announced a 38 by 43 foot addition to the rear of the Yonge Street post office and home mail delivery started later in the year.

Construction began in February, 1960, for a shopping centre at the corner of Yonge Street and Murray Drive. Initial plans called for a Loblaws store and 10 retail stores. It is now the Aurora Shopping Centre.

Land was optioned at Yonge Street and Edward Street for a Canadian Tire store. While the gas pumps are still there, the store has become a Shoppers Drug Mart.

Council approved a request for liquor and brewers' retail stores to be built in the central downtown district as a first step toward a redevelopment of the downtown area, but they never materialized and ended up in the south end.

Al Jubb was appointed Aurora's building inspector to replace retiring Sam King.

Council contributed \$1,300 as its share of the \$3,800 granite Altar of Sacrifice to be placed at the foot of the Aurora War Memorial, which recognized the men from Aurora, King and Whitchurch Townships who were killed during the First World War.

Sterling Drug signed its first agreement with its employees, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International union in March.

Council set the budget at a

special council meeting with an increase of three mills. Aurora Hydro announced an increase of 15 per cent in hydro rates.

A highlight for the month of April was a special liquor vote which brought Aurora back to wet status, after being dry since 1916. The vote for liquor and beer stores was 1,707 for the stores, with 947 opposed.

The vote for liquor in dining rooms, cocktail bars and women's beverage rooms went down to defeat. With a 75.3 per cent voter turnout, it was the largest vote in the history of the municipality.

In July, it was reported that unemployment in the Aurora area had increased by 35 per cent. The week ending June 30th showed 1,187 people seeking work at the federal unemployment office.

Traffic lights were installed at Yonge Street and Murray Drive in July.

A plan to build 417 single family homes plus two apartment blocks providing 40 to 50 apartment units in Aurora Orchards was presented in September, 1960.

Regency Acres Public School was officially opened, bringing the total number of classrooms in Aurora to 41 and Aurora's school population jumped by 1,250 students.

In October, Hart Manufacturing at Cousins Drive and Edward Street officially opened its 8,900 square foot addition.

In November, it was announced that Canada's

famed international jumping team, which included Jim Elder of Aurora and Tom Gayford of Gormley had been disbanded.

Just in time for Christmas, the Aurora Shopping Centre was officially opened in early December with the Aurora Town Band and town officials in attendance.

Keith Nisbet defeated incumbent Jim Murray for the office of Mayor and Clarence Davis was acclaimed as Reeve. William Stoddart was elected Deputy Reeve along with Councillors Vic Jones, William Davidson, Alf Child, Ray Hammond, Cliff Corbett and Jean Moffat in the December election.

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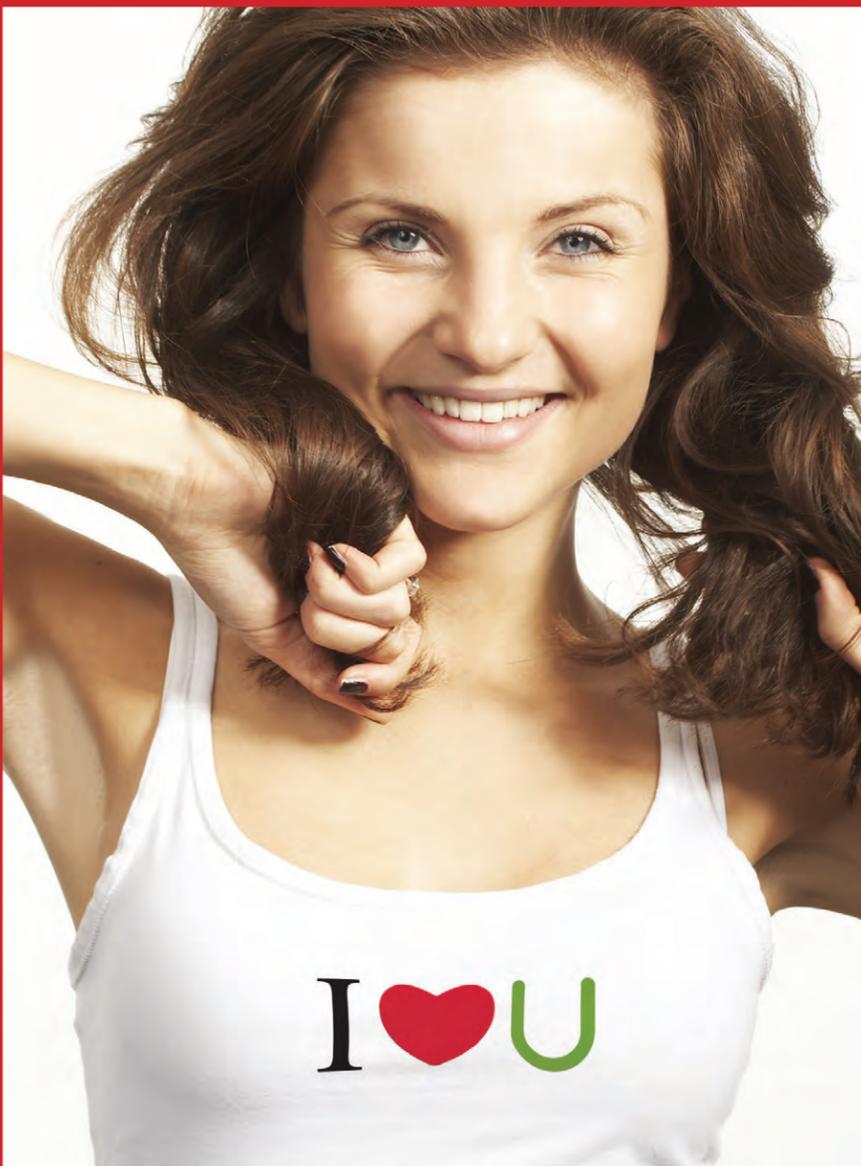
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