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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 9 No. 16

905-727-3300

auroran.com

FREE

Week of February 17, 2009

## Your input sought on Wellington and Yonge

If you're like most Aurorans you have an opinion - good or bad - on the traffic issues associated with the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets.

Now the town wants to hear what you have to say.

On Wednesday, February 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., a public input meeting will be held in the Holland Room on the first floor at Town Hall.

In the first hour, attendees will have the opportunity to view displays of information about the intersection relating to congestion solutions and ideas for change.

Following this, a round table discussion will be held.

Town of Aurora and Region of York staff will be in hand to answer questions and discuss any comments.



Vera Zorzit, a staffer at Jonathan's Restaurant, dishes up a sample of chili during Monday's Arctic Adventure at the Aurora's Town Park. Six restaurants competed in the chili-fest, sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club, but winners were not known at press time. The afternoon event was well attended. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## ARC signage still up in the air

Town staff is working to resolve the outstanding issue of sponsorship signage at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, (ARC) but based on direction provided by Aurora's general committee earlier this month, isn't quite there yet.

Back in June, 2004, council approved a fundraising campaign for the new recreation complex, with a goal of \$2 million.

A committee, named Aurora Spirit, was formed with representatives from various potential users, including a number of local hockey and swim clubs.

As part of their campaign, the committee developed a Naming Rights Policy, which was subsequently approved by council.

Over the next few years, fundraising moved slowly and met with limited success.

Council was regularly asking the committee when the campaign would begin in earnest.

The slow progress was especially noticeable when compared with that of the concurrent campaign being carried out by the Aurora Seniors, who eventually raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for their new centre.

The \$2 million target for the Rec Centre was never included in the funding formula for the facility. This is fortunate, as the fundraising campaign only ever received pledges of \$71,300, with only \$24,700 collected.

**Please see page 16**

## Where is "core area", anyway?

Infill in the downtown core seems to be a priority of Aurora Council.

To ensure there is adequate water and wastewater capacity for residential and business growth, the Town of Aurora is allocated units of servicing by the Region of York.

These dictate how many houses and businesses can be built in town.

Where they go, is decided by Council.

In a meeting earlier this month, the town's general committee explored a staff recommendation that

should 126 servicing allocation units currently uncommitted for the entire town not be used within six months, that they be allocated downtown to what is called the Core Area.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern  
**Please see page 18**

## CYFS master fire plan review results in 14 recommendations

According to a presentation made to Aurora Council last week, Central York Fire Services (CYFS) is working well, and wishes to continue its mandate as a combined service.

The Aurora and Newmarket Fire Departments consolidated in

January, 2002.

At the time, a commitment was made to review and update the original Master Fire Plan, and to make a decision by 2009 whether or not to continue with the amalgamated department.

The Joint Council Committee

of Aurora and Newmarket (made up of three councillors from each municipality) continues to provide governance.

According to Deputy Chief Paul Leslie, in his presentation to council, the consolidation has  
**Please see page 8**

### Briefly

#### Hot Spot open

Due to a breakdown in communication last week, an ad that said the popular Hot Spot would be closed this Friday is wrong.

This Friday at the Aurora Community Centre, upstairs, Hot Spot will be open and will celebrate Valentine's Day.

The Auroran apologizes for the confusion.

#### He's baack!!

They say you can't hold a good man down, and it must be true, because Dick Illingworth, freshly released from hospital, returns to the pages of The Auroran this week. Well, almost.

His "Poor Richard" column, replaced by "Poor Ronnie" was already written, so his story on Aurora Annie will have to wait a week.

However, the popular "Bouquets and Brickbats" returns to Page 6 this week.

"I'm comfortable behind a computer," he said when asked how he was feeling.

No mean feat for a guy who's 92 and had to be convinced to give up a typewriter in favour of computer several years ago.

#### Model Suite opening

This Sunday afternoon at Hollandview Trail Retirement Community, on John West Way, officials will hold their official opening of a model suite.

Activities get underway at 2.30 p.m. and continue to 5.30 p.m. and will include refreshments, music and prizes.

#### No tomatoes

For five years, Gord Barnes and his wife, Marie, have held tomato tasting in their back yard.

But it's time to call it quits.

"We now have a combined age of 158 plus years and it's time to slow down on the heavy slugging," Gord told The Auroran last week.

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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.

On Thursdays 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 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.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Historical Society. Hillary House at 8 p.m.

## 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@wesleyunited-church.net.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Aurora Mardi Gras gala event slated for DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South. For more information call Sandra Humfryes at 905-727-1433 or email Sandra at shumfryes@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

Please see page 18

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**GORGEOUS BUNGALOW IN SOUTHEAST AURORA!**

Wonderful layout - 2390 sq. ft. Large principal rooms - terrific for entertaining! Spacious eat-in kitchen with walkout to patio & private, treed yard! Extra living space in finished basement with 4th bedroom, 4-pc bath & recreation rm. with gas fireplace.

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presented by



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Tuesday

**29¢**

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Every Night

**1/2 price**

Appetizers  
Crisp Apps

Thursday

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Full Back ribs

Sunday

**Kids Eat FREE!**

Come watch the GAME on SATURDAY for your chance to win a HOCKEY JERSEY!

125 Pedersen Drive, Off Bayview Aurora 905-751-0006



They officially kicked off an annual fund raising event for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY) last week. Taking part in the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser are, left to right, Scott Macaulay, BBBSY president; York Regional Police Staff Sgt. Shelley Rogers; BBBSY Director Dean Smalley; and Police Chief Armand La Barge. Seated in front are Little Sister Brianna and Little Brother Brayden. Aurora's Bowling Day is March 7.

## Bowl for Kids Sake in Aurora, March 7

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, along with event Honourary Chair York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, announced the launch of its Bowl For Kids Sake 2009 fund raising campaign last week to take place in communities across York Region February 22 and March 28, with a target of \$235,000.

Bowl for Kids Sake takes place in Aurora March 7.

In the many communities served by Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, demand for youth mentoring far exceeds the supply of available Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

More than 100 children and young teens are on waiting lists and some remain without a mentor for as long as 12 to 18 months.

"Bowl For Kids Sake is our most important fundraising event of the year," said Moragh Wolfe, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York. "Funds raised are absolutely critical to connecting children and youth in need with mentors that will help them learn, grow and succeed. Every child in our region who needs a Big Brother or Big Sister should have one, and that is our goal."

Monies raised are used to support children and youth mentoring programs, match "Bigs" with "Littles", maintain existing relationships, recruit

new "Bigs" and form new matches.

The Agency's Traditional one-to-one mentoring program is complemented by several other programs, including In-School Mentoring, Go Girls!, Couples for Kids, Teen Mentoring and others.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York has been providing quality adult mentoring services for almost 40 years.

The Agency has been there to help provide a positive influence in the life of a child when one is needed.

Big Brothers Big Sisters programs, which are made possible by Bowl For Kids

Sake funding, have proven instrumental in reducing truancy, bullying, early school leaving, delinquency and substance abuse, officials said.

Big Brother Big Sisters of York is among 117 BBBS agencies across Canada that will host their own Bowl For Kids Sake campaign in their respective communities this year.

To find out more or donate on-line, visit Big Brothers Big Sisters of York at [www.bbbsy.ca](http://www.bbbsy.ca) and click on the Bowl for Kids Sake banner.

The agency may be reached at 905-895-0289.



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## Aurora Seniors duplicate bridge

**Monday, Feb. 9:** N/S - Lucille Sequeira and Judy Salmon; Dennis McFadden and Melody Irving; Carolynn Liddy and Christine Woolley. E/W - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Mary Oglanby and Isobelle Garrett.

# AUROMA



**Aurora Shopping Centre merchants**

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**Aurora Dollars Discount**  
\*905-841-2497

**Aurora Dry Cleaners**  
\*905-713-0095

**Aurora Salon Secrets**  
\*905-727-1044

**Beer Store**  
\*905-727-4741

**Bulk Barn**  
\*905-751-1822

**CIBC Bank**  
\*1-800-465-2422

**Chris' No Frills**

**Clothing Outlet**  
\*905-841-7652

**Creative Colours**  
\*905-727-0552

**Day Break**  
\*905-726-3060

**Dr. Charles Weingarten Dentist**  
\*905-727-9541

**Ella's Nails**  
\* 905-726-2468

**5 Below Jeans & More**  
\*905-841-7762

**Fabulous Flicks Video**  
\*905-841-5768

**Family Shoe Repair**  
\*905-841-8922

**Gourmet Bakery & Deli**  
\*905-727-2105

**Henry's Fish & Chips**  
\*905-727-8001

**Kitchen Accents**  
\*905-841-0885

**Kodak Image Centre**  
\*905-726-4243

**Legacy Jewellery**  
\*905-841-3065

**Northern Karate Schools**  
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**Not Just Cards Hallmark**  
\*905-727-1547

**Oakridge Outfitters**  
\*905-726-4063

**Omars Shoes**  
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**Regency Variety**  
\*905-727-6691

**Sparkle Pharmacy**  
\*905-727-2322

**Staples/Business Depot**  
\*905-713-0367

**The Source by Circuit City**  
\*905-713-2783

**Van De Ven Car Wash**

**York Medical**  
\*905-713-0404

# Valentine's DRAW GIFT WINNER



Alison Green of Aurora, above, was the lucky winner of a beautiful gift bag filled with merchandise, courtesy of the merchants at Aurora Shopping Centre.





## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

### Perusing an old high school yearbook

Part of the job running R & R Revisited, our used book store, includes picking up books.

People don't want to throw them away, and most places where you would think books would be welcomed have so many they don't know what to do with them all.

Last week, I picked up a van load of books, and among them were three copies of a 1970 Dr. G.W. Williams yearbook, entitled, simply, "The Book".

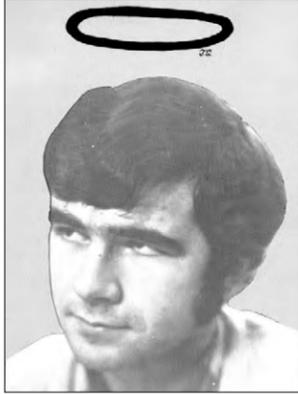
What a trip down memory lane it provided.

Aurora Councillor Bob McRoberts was then president of the student council and led an executive of another 10 people, including Bob Sedore, Bruce Bailey, George Baczynski, Ken Mills, Debbie Rowat, Valerie Shea, Ilse Richter, Jane Hawley, Pam Maple and Sharon Brown.

Currently, Mr. McRoberts is a teacher at the same school, contemplating retirement next year.

But aside from the people mentioned - like Jamie Thompson, Suzanne Illingworth (yes, Dick's daughter), Roy Eveleigh, Dave Pearson, Steve Ostick, Jim Spragg and Trish Hutchins - what I enjoyed the most was looking at the advertising and the number of businesses that no longer exist in Aurora.

Remember the Pant Pit?



BOB McROBERTS



It was part of Don Greenham Gentlemen's Apparel, but located then at 236 Yonge Street South, across the street from the existing Greenham Men's Wear.

In those days, Yonge Street had smaller numbers and a north-south designation, with Wellington Street being the dividing line.

The Aurora Shopping Centre bought a full page in the yearbook, and touted such businesses as Coiffures by Eugenie, Tony Bruno Barber Shop, Butterworth's Sports Shop (remember Bruce Butterworth, one time pro at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club?), Fabric Fair, Aurora Hobby Crafts, Aurora Optical and Aurora Bakery, just to name a few.

Most have disappeared over the years, but the Shopping Centre is still growing.

Remember La Colony, the restaurant across the street from the Graystone's, currently a Filly and Firken Pub?

Priestly Brothers (Vic and the late Dave) had a garden centre at 160 Yonge Street North. I know that because I lived right next door to it, and Vic would test snowmobiles in the forest (it truly was) across the street. Currently, Vic, who I once dubbed the boy millionaire, is the R & R Revisited's, and The Auroran's landlord.

The Lavender Lounge on Yonge Street advertised, along with Lawton Bros., Alcan Aluminum, Aurora Radio Hospital, the Aurora Fire Department, the Lions Club, H.A. McLean Chevrolet-Oldsmobile (remember Bud McLean?), Excel Metalcraft, and the Bank of Montreal (remember Don Pulcine, the manager; the only guy in town to lend me enough money to buy a colour television?), the Trio Restaurant and Fiesta Room, Norm Cook Men's Wear, the Aurora Highlands Texaco station, Doane Hall Pharmacy, and Leonard B. Rosenberg and Associates.

There are many more ads in the yearbook, two copies of which I will give away to anyone who asks for them.

First two callers to 905-727-3300 get the books. No charge, eh!!



Literary Suzanne Illingworth

SUZANNE ILLINGWORTH



## Allowance enough for candy all week

To the editor,

My wife, Judy, nee Sparks, who is a lifelong Aurora resident, suggested we give you a little history on the above photograph.

On the east side of Yonge Street, between Centre Street and Catherine Avenue, there are the apartments, known as the Terrace, that I know you will recognize when you see the picture.

Pay a little attention to the little hut on the south end.

Back in the 1950s the little hut on the south end of the building, still there today by the way, was a candy store known as Hudsons.

It was a husband and wife who ran it.

Judy says he seemed very old then.

They sold all sorts of penny candies, black balls, three for a

cent, licorice pipes, jaw breakers.

Ten cents then would buy enough candy to last the whole week.

Judy used to walk with her Grandma Heaney from Irwin Avenue to the candy store.

She, of course, was not allowed to cross Yonge St. by herself. I guess good old Grandma took her to spend her allowance, 10 cents. Ten cents back then bought you a whole

bag full.

Perhaps some of the other readers could fill us in a little more about the Hudsons and the store, etc.

Your staff and you do a great job with The Auroran.

I look forward to reading it every week.

When I'm away, I read it online. Keep up the good work.

John Swarbrick  
Aurora

## Call the bylaw department, reader advises this resident

To the editor,

Re: Letter to the Editor Feb 10th "GO commuters will park..."

I have, perhaps, an answer to one of the woes of Verek Runde of Harrison Avenue.

Common sense should tell a driver that to park with the back or front of their vehicle right up tight to a driveway entrance limits the access to that driveway and depending on the clear space opposite the driveway may sometimes make it very difficult for the homeowner to drive in, as Verek Runde said.

If both sides of the driveway are "blocked" in this way, it's a big hassle.

A car is a rectangle, it does not bend going around corners.

But, "me first" trumps common sense every time.

So, in their wisdom, most municipalities have a bylaw to remedy the problem.

From the online Aurora Bylaws. By-law Number 4574-04.T: BEING A BY-LAW to regulate parking and traffic in the Town of Aurora

"3.2 PARKING PROHIBITED IN SPECIFIED PLACES - SIGNS NOT REQUIRED:

(a) No person shall park any vehicle on any highway:

(ii) within 60 centimetres of a driveway on all town roadways"

Very clear.

Leave about two feet clearance to the edge of a driveway. Just like common sense would tell you.

So, in cases with smaller house lots and driveways, barely a car length apart, it's really "no parking" for most cars.

Please note that signs are NOT required.

All you have to do is call Bylaw Enforcement.

I hope.

Bob Demaline  
Aurora

### THE AURORAN

#### "Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

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#### Editorial policy

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.

#### Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## Tory convention

This coming weekend the provincial Progressive Conservatives will hold their Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls.

It is expected that more than 750 delegates plus some 250 observers, members of the press and volunteers will be in attendance.

This is a phenomenal number given the state of the economy, and the fact that a provincial election will not be held until October, 2011.

The Newmarket-Aurora riding will be well represented by a full delegate contingent, led by MPP Frank Klees.

Party conventions are a time to renew friendships, share gossip, discuss campaign strategy, visit the cornucopia of hospitality suites and oh yes, before I forget, maybe talk a little policy.

The nature and tone of this meeting will be quite different from the provincial party get-together held last year in London.

At that meeting, the only question on the 1,500 people's minds was leadership. You may recall that John Tory received 66.8 per cent of the vote that weekend.

But this vote did not stop the grumbling from some party members during the rest of 2008 because the leader did not contest a bi-election seat.

However, in December, Laurie Scott, the PC member for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes - Brock, stepped down, and Mr. Tory will run in a bi-election slated for March 7th.

If he wins his seat, it means the party can get on with the work of strengthening itself; recruiting new party members,

raising funds and developing policy alternatives for the next election.

Despite what happened in October, 2007, people still care about the party and want to be part of its renewal.

And renewal begins with policy.

Each policy session will be co-chaired by two individuals; one an elected MPP, and the other a volunteer with industry knowledge and expertise.

The policy chairs will first provide an outline of the process and the expected timelines.

No suggestions will be offered as the party leadership, at this point, simply wants to determine what individual party volunteers feel is important and to identify policy priority areas.

Over the next two years party members will be shaping and developing policy resolutions on a wide range of issues so that by the time the 2011 election rolls around, the party will have a policy platform that has been debated, and vetted by the ordinary volunteer members.

This is especially important in light of what took place in 2007, when most people recall the PC electoral disaster because of the "faith based" education issue.

That is why I am pleased that we are doing these sessions. You could really entitle this exercise as "Back to the Future" because the party is traveling back to its recent past to determine its future policy.

Under the guidance of then Ontario third vice president Klees, the policy process that began in 1993 was one of the main reasons for the PC Party's electoral success in 1995.

The party developed a plan that was discussed and debat-

ed within the various riding associations, and then at regional policy workshops before final resolutions were adopted after rigorous debates at a provincial wide policy meeting.

These final policy resolutions became part of the party's platform.

While it is true that the end product - that being the policy platform document - is the most important issue, how you develop the document is also crucial.

Party volunteers were energized, as they had the opportunity to make and influence party policy. This certainly did not mean that they won everything that they wanted - as the Leader and his campaign team craft a campaign strategy and theme out of the policy resolutions - but the grass roots were consulted, and listened to.

So, why is all this important to me here in Aurora in the winter of 2009?

It is important for the simple reason that a democracy best functions when you have opposition parties that are ready and able to govern.

Knowing that the other guy can do the job is a great way to keep the incumbents on their toes.

This is especially important now, given the state and the challenges in our economy.

By proposing detailed, and well thought out policy alternatives, hopefully it will provide voters with that most important commodity when they enter the ballot booth in 2011.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

## Living the romantic life

Valentine's Day is kind of like starting a campfire with lighter fluid.

At first there is a big flash of flaming fire but the fuel quickly burns off and if things don't go as planned, all you have left is a pile of charred smoking wood.

This is what I think when I see all the desperate men scrambling around the day before Valentine's...and all the heart-shaped boxes of chocolates on the clearance rack the day after.

The most romantic day of the year can also be the most stressful and disappointing.

How could it not be? Have you ever tried the chocolates that come in those overdone heart-shaped boxes? What is that sickly-sweet minty goop in the centre? Toothpaste?

While we are being bombarded with messages like: "Say it with flowers! Say it with chocolates!" or even worse, "Say it with diamonds!" I like to think that Benjamin Franklin had the right idea: "Well done is better than well said".

Maybe I'm just too old to equate "happiness" with "sappiness".

Perhaps I've been married too long. I know perfectly well that cuddling before sleep is one of the most pleasant, romantic things a couple can do...until he starts to snore.

So go ahead, call me jaded, but the difference between

Valentine's Day and the other 364 days of the year is simply this: If it's Valentine's Day there will probably be a rose petal up his nose the next morning.

But does that really make life more romantic?

Maybe I'm just getting old, maybe it's menopause...or maybe it's the kids leaving home, but I am seeing romance a little differently.

I'm not sure what it is but I do know that my little heart goes pitter-patter when Damir comes home for lunch and brings a platter of sushi.

Okay, so the fridge is empty and maybe that's why the sushi, but does that make it any less romantic? Of course not!

And who would have thought that grocery shopping could be romantic?

I used to approach grocery shopping like a woman on a mission - list in hand and cart turned deadly weapon.

Now I know there is something warm and special about browsing through the aisles leisurely with your Honey...pausing to read labels and discovering new products.

He says: "Hmmm, what shall we make for dinner tonight, dear?"

And it opens a whole new world of romantic possibilities.

The ordinary is about to become the extraordinary.

We start dreaming together and sharing our dreams. Okay, so once upon a time our dreams revolved around kids, careers and real estate and now they are all about lamb chops and assorted cheeses.

Life is simpler but definitely romantic.

When we get home, Damir opens a bottle of excellent wine and puts his ipod on the dock. Now we have Andrea Boccelli and Julio Iglesias coaching us through the simmering and stirring.

Cooking dinner used to be such a chore and now it's such a joy!

And the dinner conversation is so very pleasant. Ever since I stuck this little poem by Ogden Nash on the fridge, romance has simply blossomed.

**To keep your marriage brimming,  
With love in the wedding cup,  
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;  
Whenever you're right, shut up.**

And after everything is said and well done, we go to bed and cuddle for a while...until he starts to snore...or I do.

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



**Bouquets & BRICKBATS**

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to all the blood donors who participated in the recent Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic at the Town Hall, as it's the gift of life and badly needed.

**BRICKBATS** to all the motorists who fail to observe road conditions especially in the winter months in spite of all the warnings by police and safety officials causing motor vehicle accidents for themselves and others. Slow down and live and let others live!

**BOUQUETS** to Scott Johnston for his hilarious review in a recent edition of The Auroran about council's activities during 2008 as it contained a strong message for council members, if they take the time to read it.

**BRICKBATS** to the Highway 407 administration or toll collectors for sending a \$174.82 invoice to a woman who has been dead for seven years spoiling the holiday season for her husband and family.

**BOUQUETS** to 13-year-old Dylan Lyons of Aurora for raising \$1,535 for the Canadian Cancer Society in memory of her grandfather, Bob Gillies. The target was \$280 but was exceeded with the help of friends and a lot of hard work.

**BRICKBATS** to the Scott Mission in Toronto for putting 45 homeless men out on the street on one of the coldest mornings of the year with a windchill of minus 30 and an extreme cold weather alert issued by the city. The rules say the overnights must be out by 7 a.m.

**BOUQUETS** to Peter Drost of Aurora for his letter to the editor regarding the ugly chicanes in the northeast quadrant of Old Aurora and especially Walton Drive where he lives. He points out there has been no noticeable difference when it comes to traffic in terms of speed and quantity, after taxpayers spent \$250,000 on traffic calming.

**BOUQUETS** to Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock Progressive Conservative MPP Laurie Scott for her selflessness by giving up her seat in the Legislature to make way for Party Leader John Tory who failed to win his seat in the last election.

**BRICKBATS** to Prince Edward who was pictured in the papers waving a 1.2 metre stick at two gundogs, first with the stick in the air then close to the dog's heads. The Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals investigated but claimed there was insufficient evidence to charge the young prince.

**BOUQUETS** to the Ontario Provincial Police for finally getting rid of their American-style State Trooper hats and returning to the more traditional caps

**BRICKBATS** to the government agencies including the CBC for continuing to stymie access to public records through excessive delays, excessive fees and the refusal to provide records in electronic form.

**BOUQUETS** to the members of the Markham African Caribbean Association for their fight against gangs, guns and drugs and they do it one child at a time by education, mentoring and instilling in them the desire to give something back to the community and to help others.

**BRICKBATS** to the Canada Revenue Agency for revoking the charitable status of Little League Baseball Canada because of its participation in a tax shelter program that has raised more than \$82 million for six sports groups. The agency's action may result in costs for uniforms, equipment, umpires and field maintenance being increased.

**BOUQUETS** to the Toronto Humane Society and other humane societies for their fight against Bill 50, introduced by the McGuinty government, which would have stripped the societies of their names. They won as the government backed down.

Letters to the Editor

# It'll cost mega bucks to save Petch house

To the editor,

At an estimated cost of \$100,000 in the capital budget, we are planning to save a rotting, mouldering pile of lumber in 2009.

The Petch house has been perched on blocks on the east side of Leslie, south of Wellington for five years or more.

It has no historical significance.

It was moved to its present location by a developer at the town's request.

They will move it again at their expense if we find another place for it.

There has been no staff

report on its current condition or whether moving it is even feasible.

For five years, we have been unable to find anyone with a use for the 450 sq. ft. cabin but not for the want of trying.

We offered it to the Arboretum a couple of years ago but they opted to buy a pre-fabricated tool shed with almost \$50,000 of the money we gave them to plant an Arboretum.

The money came from the interest from the Hydro Fund.

The shack has sat on that site, sad and dilapidated, rain pouring through the roof for at least half a decade. It lost its

variety of town programs. Summer playground youngsters cavort there. They tend to be messy. Yoga classes are practiced there, too...on the floor. They pay a fee.

But, nothing daunted, if it can be moved without cutting down trees, Simcoe Conservation Authority will allow it to be situated in Sheppard's Bush.

It will make a matched pair for the shack we moved there from McMahon Park, 30 years ago.

I'm not sure they ever found a practical use for that one either.

We are saving \$12,000 on another item in the capital budget.

Meeting rooms at the library are heavily used for a

variety of town programs. Summer playground youngsters cavort there. They tend to be messy. Yoga classes are practiced there, too...on the floor. They pay a fee. They complain about stains and the bad smell of the carpet. It has been heavily used, summer and winter for seven years.

Staff recommend replacing the stained and smelly floor covering with carpet tile.

It can be replaced in squares when necessary. Areas in every floor bear heavier traffic than others. Using tiles means flooring in a whole room no longer needs to be replaced at one time.

The estimate is \$12,000.

But we are not going to spend that. Oh dear, no.

We must find places to save, don't you see...so we can spend \$100,000 on a rotting, mouldering, crumbling shack of no historical significance in a year of economic downturn.

Evelyn Buck  
Aurora

**ED. NOTE: Offer the building to the Model Aircraft Club. It's already at their front door, so moving it shouldn't be too expensive.**

## Council must separate needs from wants: reader

To the editor,

I read with great interest a newspaper article "Aurora seeking to spend ways into grants" in last Thursday's issue.

I do agree that local infrastructure of roads and bridges need improvement and these projects are justified.

HOWEVER, other areas of proposed spending caused my eyebrows to almost meet my hairline.

\* the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex needs 1.8 million for repairs...a new

building requiring work of this magnitude ( no pun intended), I have questions.

\* a senior baseball diamond in Steward Burnett Park at a cost of \$1.7 million...will there be a real diamond under home plate?

\* Hillary House wants its "50 thousand dollar grant because it traditionally receives it".

\* the Library wants \$80,000 for new carpeting.

\* the Church Street School wants \$390,000 to operate its cultural centre.

I would be very interested to see attendance figures for

the last two facilities listed to see whether these operating costs are justified.

In this serious economic downturn with significant job losses in Aurora I think our local council should do a reality check and learn to separate NEEDS FROM WANTS.

Judy Salmon  
Aurora

## Norm still has it, daughter claims

To the editor,

I read with pleasure Tom Davey's letter questioning Norm Weller's logic.

It's been a long time since Norm has actually sat down and penned something to The Auroran.

To finally see a letter again in print made me smile.

It brought me even more happiness to see that he still could actually stir someone's ire to respond!

Mr. Davey's Harley Davidson/pensioner comparison is well taken.

Norm's point, I believe, was that The Auroran is

Aurora's true paper and perhaps the town's page belongs there.

The bonus could be that it might cost taxpayers less.

As an avid fan of The Auroran, I know that all the "hip" people read it first!

On a completely different but related subject, thank you to the fine staff at the Southlake oncology department for keeping my dad around to write and be written about.

Daffodil Days are coming. Make sure you buy a bunch!

Lynn Weller Gardner  
Aurora

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**Peter Virtanen**  
CLU, Agent, Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

# Council needs to watch its spending, reader says

To the editor,

Having lived in Aurora for more than 20 years, I have seen many changes take place.

Some of these changes were good, and some not so good.

One element of council thinking over this period has been "growth"!

There was a period of stagnation that took place in the 1980's, but much of that was the result of the recession.

Unemployment was high and there was an overall contraction in the economy, which

hit Aurora as well as most other communities.

Are the present conditions or those we are about to experience going to be any different?

Surely the Aurora Council must look at their current budget in terms of the status quo.

The ability for Aurora to grow has certainly been curtailed by council running out of land (thank goodness), and certainly a recession will make demands on council to restrict spending and limit to the essentials, such as garbage collection, snow removal,

grass cutting, safety, etc.

New projects and grandiose plans for infrastructure, hockey rinks, swimming pools, baseball diamonds need to be shelved and certainly wages and the size of council will need to be limited, and preferably reduced.

Think of those citizens who are on fixed incomes, pensioners and the lower paid.

Property taxes should be held at the current rate (or even lower) and certainly at no more than the rise in inflation, currently about 1.13 per cent.

Councils frequently feel they need to spend more to

get more from the Province and often accuse the Province of under funding while they continue to spend.

Some may argue that their spending is out of control, hiring lawyers, installing traffic calming measures, etc.

How easy it is to simply increase council tax to meet promised objectives.

Councils should not forget that they are answerable to the community for their spending decisions, come the next election.

Robert Grattage  
Aurora

Alfredo-owner  
39 years at A&F



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## Keffer picture brought back memories for this reader

To the editor,

I'd like to thank Donna Keffer for her picture and letter in the Feb. 10 issue of The Auroran.

It brought back many memories of the old Royal Theatre and the businesses mentioned; Yake's Appliances, the taxi office, the hotel and Aurora Dairy Bar.

I distinctly remember lining

up to see "Perry" the last picture show at the Royal.

I don't remember what the movie was about, other than the star was a squirrel.

I don't think any of us thought at that time that we would have to wait 45 years to be able to see another movie at an Aurora theatre.

Thank you for publishing this and other letters and pictures of old Aurora.

The Auroran truly is a community newspaper not only bringing us all the current local news but also, as mentioned, reminding us of our history.

I sincerely hope The Auroran will remain strong and independent and continue publishing for many years to come.

Graham Wride  
Aurora

## Opportunity to discuss budget

To the editor,

Due to the current financial crisis, we are all - as individuals, as families, as businesses, as a community - facing serious economic challenges. This year's budget will, as a consequence, be even more important than past years.

I would, therefore, like to hear your thoughts on the budget.

I can be reached by email at acollinsmrakas@e-

aurora.ca or by phone at 905-727-1375.

In addition, for the convenience of residents, I will be having office hours this Thursday, February 19th from 9 a.m. to noon to meet with residents to hear your concerns about the budget - or any Town matter.

Those meetings will take place in the councillors' office on the second floor of the Town Hall.

Also note that council will begin discussions of the

Operating Budget on Saturday, February 21st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a public open house about the operating budget on Monday, February 23rd, beginning at 7 p.m.

I encourage all residents to attend.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Alison Collins-Mrakas  
Councillor  
Aurora

## Not seeking mayor's job

To the editor,

I would like to thank Guy Poppe for his letter to The Auroran in response to my letter of a couple of weeks ago.

I have met Mr. Poppe through Mayor Phyllis Morris when I was on council with her, and I have the utmost respect for his opinion.

I found him to be a very

intelligent person who cares about what happens in Aurora.

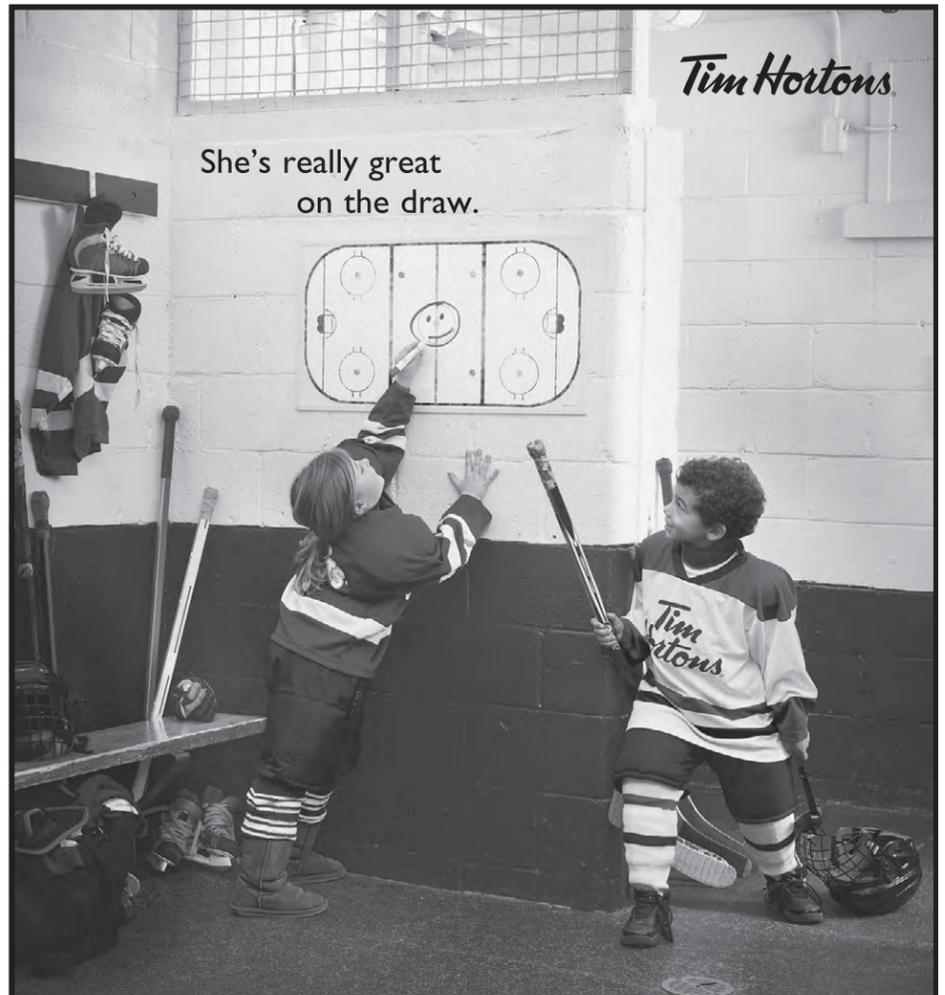
I agree with his statement about the tax shortfall being imposed in the revision of the mill rate but it does concern me that the taxpayers in Aurora, as in other towns, are already overtaxed.

As for his "Keen to be Mayor" slogan, I appreciate

his input but I am not running for mayor nor council.

With regards to Alex Leclerc's letter I am glad you managed to get a laugh, as laughing each day is important for a person's health, according to the medical profession.

Nigel Kean  
Aurora



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# CYFS fire department plan endorsed

**From page 1**  
provided access to more resources and improved levels of service for both towns.

In addition, significant cost savings have been realized.

CYFS, he explained, has four divisions: Administration, Training, Fire Prevention, and Suppression.

These work out of four fire stations, with two each in Aurora and Newmarket.

Of the calls received by CYFS, 43 per cent are medical-related, 14 per cent are public hazards, eight per cent are rescue, seven per cent each are fires and other.

False alarms account for 21 per cent of calls.

The Deputy Chief noted that one reason for the high percentage of medical calls is that in all life threatening situations called in to 911, fire services will respond, even if an ambulance is also being dispatched.

As professionals trained in first aid, the presence of CYFS staff was often vital, as their response times, currently averaging five minutes and twenty seconds, were significantly faster than the 13 minutes usually required by York Region ambulances.

Councillor Evelyn Buck asked if the province was providing funding to CYFS

to cover the costs of the medical-related responses.

The response was that while it may get the occasional grant, or training through the Fire Marshal's Office, there was no other regular provincial funding of CYFS.

CYFS' review of the Master Plan, which began in July, 2007, included broad input and looked all aspects of fire protection services, including administration, fire prevention and fire safety educations, emergency responses, staff development, equip-

ment, staffing and facilities.

The resulting final report was almost 100 pages long, and contained 14 recommendations, ranging from making the consolidation of services a permanent arrangement, to establishing revised levels of services, to reviewing service agreements and response protocols with neighbouring municipalities.

It was noted that CYFS has agreements in place to provide fire services to both Whitechurch-Stouffville and King, with

the costs being borne by the receiving municipality.

This relationship was monitored to ensure that this work did not reduce service levels to Aurora and Newmarket.

Included in the recommendations will be enhanced service levels that will strive for the first crew to arrive in less than six minutes, 90 per cent of the time; three crews (12 firefighters) to arrive in 10 minutes, 90 per cent of the time; crews to respond on their unit in less than 60 seconds of a call; and a

call to be handled by dispatch in less than 60 seconds.

After a few more clarifying questions, Council received and endorsed the Master Fire Plan.

"The creation of CYFS has allowed for access to more resources, increased staff and has proven to be the perfect example of how municipalities can work together to form safer communities," said Aurora Councillor Al Wilson, Chair of the Joint Council Committee. "The recom-

mendations from the Master Fire Plan review will shape the future of CYFS and ensure that the residents of Aurora and Newmarket continue to receive first-class fire services."

To view all of the recommendations outlined in the Master Fire Plan review visit [www.newmarket.ca](http://www.newmarket.ca) or [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca).

To learn more about the Master Fire Plan review contact Deputy Fire Chief Leslie at 905-895-9222, ext. 3009.



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## Part One

# Life in Aurora in the forties

By KEN ELMER  
Special to The Auroran

I was born on Larmont Street in Aurora in 1935 and I have lived in the town for most of my life. As a boy growing up during the war years, I had a paper route covering Aurora in all directions so I got to know a lot of people and knew the town.

I have a few recollections of the war years. I remember the ration coupons used by families to buy essentials.

I also remember collecting newspaper, scrap iron, old grease, milkweed pods, and old rags for the war effort as well as people buying war bonds.

I have a clear memory of my father walking down the street in his army uniform going off to war. I was five years old at the time and I wouldn't see him again until 1945.

I remember starting school at six. My mother took me to the public school on Church Street and when the bell rang for morning recess I thought school was out and I walked home. I was promptly marched back after lunch.

Mark Street was the north-east boundary and the other streets in that corner of the town were Maple, Catherine, Fleury and Centre.

Northwest of Yonge and Wellington were Machell and Irwin Avenues.

To the southwest of Wellington was Temperance, Tyler, Mill, George, Lepper, (Hillview in the fifties) Reuben, Ransom, and Kennedy Street.

Southeast of Wellington was Mosley, Church, Metcalf, Harrison, Connaught, Victoria, Wells, Larmont, Berczy, Ross, Mary, Edward and Cousins Drive.

Looking north, from the railway overpass on the west side of Yonge Street, the first building in the town was Tulloch's Garage.

Then, there were a few houses followed by Aurora's Highlands Golf Course. After this came Nisbet's Greenhouses. There was a house on both corners of Ransom Street and then there was Franklin's Texaco Station.

On both corners of Kennedy Street West, there were large houses.

Just north of Reuben there was a big house called the Chateau and north of it was a double house where the fire chief, Harry Jones, lived.

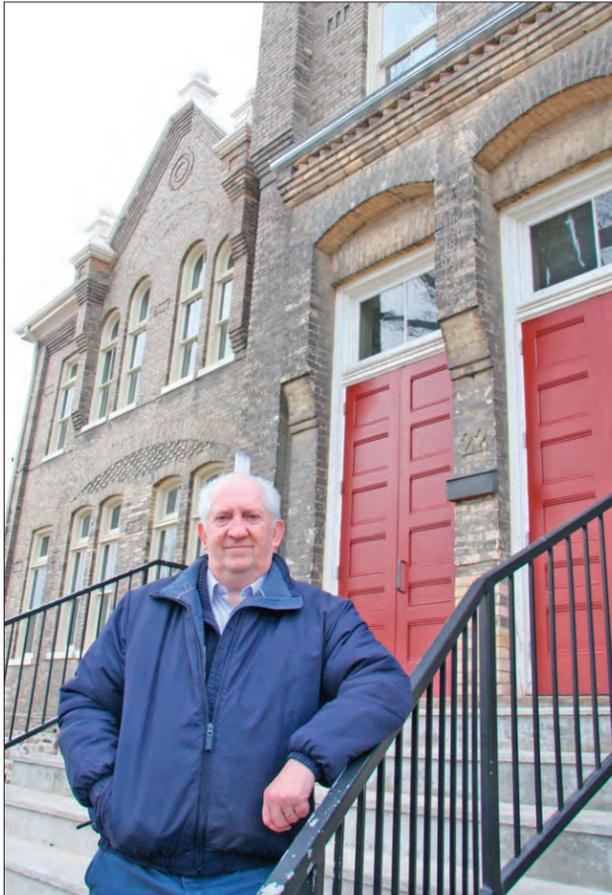
Next, you crossed a creek and came to a small house where Jack Hamill lived and had his plumbing business.

North of this was a blacksmith shop followed by a small house where Merv Taylor lived.

Dal-Har Grill, which was also the Gray Coach Bus Terminal, followed.

Then, there was Aurora Cleaners, Bowser Building Supply Company, Eaton's Order Office, Fice Electric and Aurora Frosted Food Service on the south corner of Tyler Street.

This was a butcher shop with cold storage lockers families could rent.



KEN ELMER

Going west down Tyler Street there were houses and then on the south side in the second block there was Collis Leather Company. When the factory cleaned its tanks the smell was terrible. Tyler Street came to a dead end just west of George Street.

On the north corner of Tyler and Yonge Street, there was the United Church and behind it on the west and north side there was a large L-shaped driving shed where the farmers tied their teams of horses when attending church or shopping on the main street.

There was also a small cemetery on the north side of the church.

North of this there was Taylor's Esso Station which was originally the old Radial Railway Station. The station was turned sideways and had an upstairs added in the forties.

Fisher Dunham, the town policeman, and his family lived there.

Next to this, was Banbury Livery Stable. It had two small offices on Yonge Street and one was used as a barbershop.

Following this was a shoe store, Mary's Fruit Market, a barbershop, an Army Surplus store, with the Oddfellow's hall upstairs, and Hess's I.D.A. drugstore.

I remember that his store had a soda fountain along the north wall.

Marshall Rank's jewelry store was next and then the Aurora Banner office, Fisher's five to a dollar store, and then Morning's drugstore.

In the fifties, Fisher's five to a dollar store was at 50 Yonge Street in a larger building built where the Banbury's Livery had been.

Beside Morning's, there was Cameron Loblaw's grocery store, Ray's Café, Thompson's, Bowser's Hardware, and a butcher shop with a pool hall upstairs.

On the corner of Wellington, there was the Dominion Grocery Store.

Going west on Wellington Street there was a large barn and then the office building of the Fleury Foundry in front of the factory, which had a large smoke stack in the back.

Fleury Foundry was in business in Aurora until 1941 at which time it moved to Elora, Ontario. After the war, the factory was used as an army ordnance storage depot.

Then, it became Bacon Basketware.

Farther west on the southwest corner of Mill Street stood the silos from the old Baldwin Mill, which had burned down years before. Opposite Mill Street on the north side of Wellington Street there was a scrap metal dealership run by Mr. Hartsman. West of this was farmland.

Going north from Wellington Street West on Yonge Street, there was a large home called Doan Hall, a house owned by Julie Smith, which was a shoe repair shop later, Aurora Automotive with a machine shop behind it, a couple of houses, and Gilbert's Garage.

On the corner of Irwin Avenue there was the Bunn family's house and on the north corner there was a large house that was owned by the Websters.

Farther north, there was the Hillary house followed by a service station owned by Tommy Spence, a garage and apartments above owned by Ivan Daniels and then a blacksmith shop owned by Jack Chapman.

After the creek, there was a Sunoco Garage owned by Stan Hughes with a meat-slaughtering house just west of it and, west again, was Aurora Orchards. To the north of this were the grounds and gates of St. Andrew's College.

Next week, Part Two.

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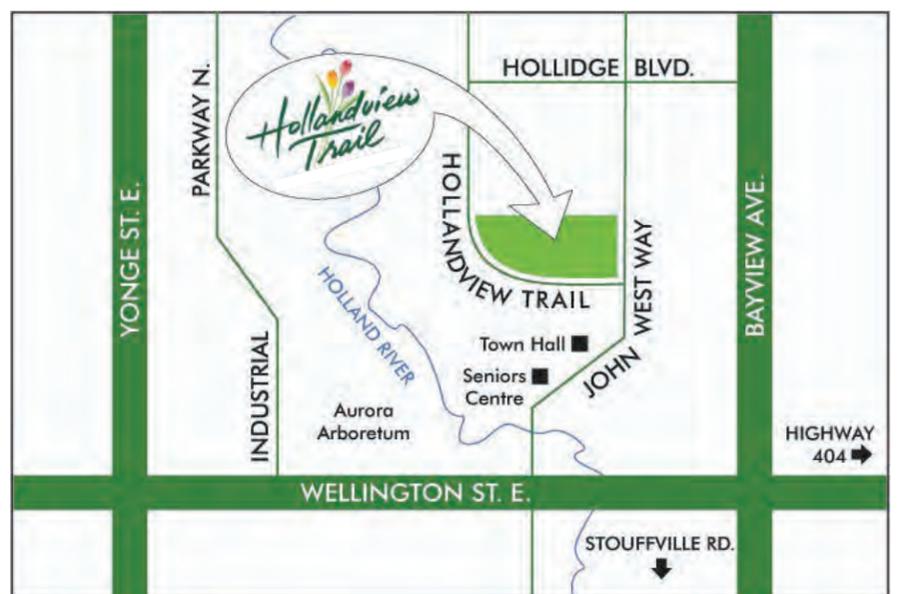
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**Time:** 2:30pm- 5:30pm

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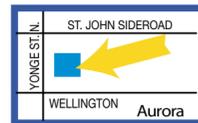
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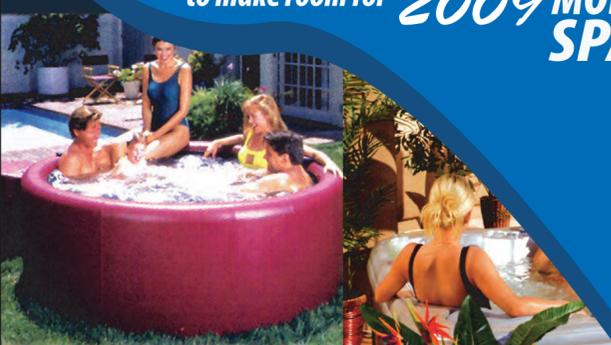
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**LUNCHEON MEETING**  
Showcase: 11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon: 12:15 p.m.  
Program Cost: \$40.00 Members  
\$50.00 Potential Members  
\$30.00 Students  
Speaker: Adam van Koevreden  
Olympic Kayaker  
Place: Dinardo's - The Mansion  
400 Industrial Pkwy. South, Aurora

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2009**  
**WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCHEON MEETING**  
Joint with the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce  
Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank, Newmarket  
Networking: 11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon: 12:00 noon  
Program Cost: \$40.00 Members  
\$50.00 Potential Members  
Place: Cynthia's Chinese Restaurant  
16715 Yonge St., Newmarket

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 2009**  
**SPEED NETWORKING BUSINESS AFTER FIVE**  
Joint with Newmarket Chamber of Commerce  
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Program Cost: \$10.00 Members  
Place: Glenway Golf Club  
470 Crossland Gate, Newmarket

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2009**  
**NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.  
Program Cost: COMPLIMENTARY  
Place: Five Below  
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# Tigers lead playoff series 2-1

By STEVE MITCHELL

The recurring theme of the Phillips Division first round playoff matchup between the Aurora Tigers and the Collingwood Blues is that penalties will kill you.

Over the three games played to date the two teams have combined for an astounding 306 penalty minutes and 14 powerplay goals in a hard fought, emotional series between bitter rivals.

Thanks to two big victories at home by scores of 9-3 in game One and 7-3 in game Three Sunday night the Aurora Tigers are in control of the best of five affair despite a heartbreaking 6-5 overtime loss in Game Two at Collingwood last week.

In last Wednesday night's opener, the heavily favoured Tigers displayed some early playoff jitters as Collingwood kept the game close for more than 40 minutes thanks to a multitude of power play opportunities.

The real story of the third frame was the inevitable clash that occurs when a game is out of hand. Players for both teams were ejected, including Collingwood's goalie, with just over three minutes left in the game.

The referees could be faulted for letting the game get to this stage. Any fan in the arena could hear the two teams chirping each other from the opening whistle, so the mess that occurred at the end of the game was both predictable and avoidable.

David Morley and Kyle Paige led the way for Aurora each with four-point efforts.

Captain Dominic Monardo, Thomas Evans and Lucas VanNatter each had three points.

Steve Taylor netted a pair of goals for the Blues while Lorne Tessier added a single.

Two nights later before a boisterous crowd of 725 in Collingwood, the Blues overcame a 3-1 second period deficit, eventually prevailing in overtime.

Aurora defenceman Matt Pasztor drew a rarely seen double major penalty (with an accompanying four-game suspension) for a head check and cross checking.

With a 10-minute man advantage, the Blues took charge of the hockey game with three powerplay goals.

If not for the heroic efforts of Aurora goaltender Brendan Sullivan, the game could have been a blowout.

A weary Aurora squad managed to tie the game 4-



**Michael Sardella breaks in by himself to score Aurora's second shorthanded goal of the game Sunday night at the Community Centre. This one happened late in the second period. Kyle Paige scored the first shorthanded goal early in the first frame. Tigers won the game 7-3 and play the fourth, and possibly final, game in Collingwood Tuesday night.**

4 with one second remaining in the second period, thanks to a David Morley bank-shot past startled netminder Jonathan McQueen.

The teams traded goals in the third to set up a wild and wooly extra frame.

Aurora's Lucas VanNatter nearly ended it with a shot off the post, but minutes later Collingwood's Steve Taylor deflected a point shot past Sullivan setting off an eruption of jubilous Collingwood players and fans alike.

Sunday night in Aurora, with the series tied 1-1, the Tigers scored early and often chasing Blues starter Jonathan McQueen from the nets before the game had reached the seven-minute mark.

Kyle Paige opened the scoring with an unassisted, shorthanded breakaway goal.

Powerplay markers by Tyler Virgoe, Lucas VanNatter and Mike Bodley put Aurora up 4-0 but Collingwood's Dustin Scott replied with a pair of goals late in the period to make it 4-2 after 20 minutes.

At 3:59 of the second period, Aurora's David Milne potted the Tigers fourth powerplay goal of the evening to make it 5-2.

Then came the backbreaker for the Blues as a diving David Morley poked a loose puck to a wide-open Michael Sardella who made no mistake for Aurora's second shorthanded breakaway goal to put the Tigers up by four after two periods of play.

In the third, Aurora's Nick Vangog and Collingwood's Michael Belanger traded goals to make it a 7-3 final and a 2-1 series lead for Aurora.

Game 4 goes Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in Collingwood as the Tigers look to wrap up the series. Should a deciding fifth game be necessary, it will be played at the Community Centre on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm.

**Notes:** Couchiching, Huntsville and Orangeville all won their Phillips' Division first round matchups and await the winner of the Aurora-Collingwood series.

Should the Tigers advance, they will face Huntsville in the second round. If Collingwood pulls off the upset, they will face division leader Couchiching.

The Tigers started their playoff run with some new yellow stripes on their helmets, gold laces and some new hairstyles as Collingwood came to the ACC last week.

In Sunday's game, three Tigers were named the top stars. They were Lucas VanNatter, Jeff Vanderlugt, and Todd Hellyer.

More than 300 were at the Aurora Community

Centre for the Sunday game, a far cry from the fewer than 100 who showed up for the series opener.

## AURORA 9 COLLINGWOOD 3

### First Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Paige, Morley) PP 18.15

### Second Period

C - Steve Taylor (unassisted) 9.44  
A - Mike Bodley (Vanderlugt, VanNatter) PP 12.54  
A - Brandon Happeney (Vangog, Evans) 14.01  
C - Lorne Tessier (Ciampichini, Scott) 14.48  
A - Lucas VanNatter (Paige, Vanderlugt) 18.16

### Third Period

C - Steve Taylor (Zeggil) PP 1.52  
A - Lucas VanNatter (Morley, Paige) 3.10  
A - Jacob Mooney (Milne, Hellyer) 5.36  
A - Dominic Monardo (Sardella, Morley) 9.35  
A - David Morley (Paige, Evans) PP 11.02  
A - Garrett Trainor (Evans, Monardo) 15.22

## COLLINGWOOD 6 AURORA 5

### First Period

A - David Morley (Monardo, Pasztor) PP 8.22  
C - Andrew Ciampichini (Zeggil, Scott) 11.14  
A - Tyler Virgoe (Vangog, Milne) 11.14

### Second Period

A - Mike Bodley (Trainor) 0.09  
C - Brett Zeggil (Scott, Ciampichini) PP 5.38  
C - Ryan Johnson (Thomson, Zeggil) PP 8.01  
C - Ryan Johnson (Thomson, Zeggil) PP 9.45  
A - Mike Bodley (Monardo, Sardella) PP 19.51

### Third Period

A - Mike Bodley (VanNatter) PP 6.58  
C - Paul Stewart (Zeggil, Cox) 12.26

## Overtime C - Steve Taylor (Belanger) 4.35

## AURORA 7 COLLINGWOOD 3

### First Period

A - Kyle Paige (unassisted) SH 3.15  
A - Tyler Virgoe (VanNatter, Hellyer) PP 5.57  
A - Lucas VanNatter (Hellyer, Vanderlugt) PP 6.25  
A - Mike Bodley (VanNatter, Vanderlugt) PP 8.21  
C - Dustin Scott (unassisted) 14.58  
C - Dustin Scott (Zeggil, Ciampichini) PP 18.40

### Second Period

A - David Milne (Virgoe, Happeney) PP 3.59  
A - Michael Sardella (Morley) SH 17.19

### Third Period

A - Nick Vangog (Virgoe, Happeney) 10.15  
C - Michael Belanger (Scott) PP 19.59

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# Monday night men's hockey

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Highland Chev-Cad	12	7	1	81	55	25
Priestly Demolition	11	7	2	75	62	24
Tom & Jerry's	10	7	3	77	69	23
Baldwin's	11	8	1	85	73	23
FPL Aggregates	8	9	3	72	78	19
Masterclean Contracting	9	10	1	83	90	19
Law Insurance Brokers	6	12	2	57	76	14
Rec Cycle N' Sports	6	13	1	56	79	13

## WEEKLY SCORES

Masterclean	4	Priestly Demolition	5
Law Insurance	3	Tom & Jerry's	1
Rec Sports	6	Highland's Chev	4
FPL Aggregates	2	Baldwin's	0

## PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	G	A	Pts
Tom Hussey	18	27	45
John Archibald	22	11	33
Todd Richardson	23	9	32
Rob Blakely	18	13	31
Mark Swirla	15	16	31
Jody Matthews	13	16	29
Craig McConnell	17	11	28
Brad McMillan	14	12	26
Ed Kilroy	12	13	25
Jason Muise	16	9	25
Pat O'Mahony	9	15	24
Doug Adair	10	13	23
Dave Caverley	10	12	22
John Anderson	9	13	22
Steve Kavanah	9	12	21
Dean Iwai	13	7	20
Darren Yaremko	7	13	20
Mark Inglis	6	14	20
Steve Robertson	11	8	19
Dwayne Smith	10	9	19
Ron Thiessen	9	10	19
Mark Sedore	8	11	19
Scott Crabbe	6	13	19
Chris Neale	10	8	18
Bruce Chappell	3	15	18
Mike O'Conner	11	6	17
Vince Greco	8	9	17
Mike Caicco	4	13	17
Joel Reeves	4	13	17
Hugh Alcorn	2	15	17
Peter Briand	7	9	16
Gerald Briand	6	10	16
Charlie Steenhorst	3	13	16
Ed Jackson	7	8	15
Ken Rumble	4	11	15
Ken Fisher	5	9	14
Brandon Chappell	8	4	12
Bob Ince	5	7	12
Scott Thomas	4	8	12
Steven MacDonald	3	9	12
Pat Davies	8	3	11
Raz Khamissa	8	3	11
Tom Webster	8	3	11
Kevin O'Keefe	7	4	11
John Yaremko	6	5	11
Paul Gibson	5	6	11
Jason Holbert	5	6	11
Scott Pogue	3	8	11
Ralph Tuck	2	9	11
Ron Van Noort	6	4	10
Dan Cote	4	6	10
Mike Nisbet	4	6	10
Doug McGrath	2	8	10
Phil Pestatsky	6	3	9
Derek Preston	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
Alain Boudreau	3	5	8
Craig Donaldson	3	5	8
Dennis Giles	3	5	8
Scott Leslie	2	6	8
Jerry Mackerell	2	6	8
Les Nip	2	6	8
Steve Riswick	2	6	8

# Aurora's 2008 a big year in heritage conservation

The year 2008 was proclaimed by council as Aurora's Year of Arts, Heritage and Culture and it was a year of significant achievement in Heritage Conservation in Aurora which culminated in the town being awarded the Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Leadership by the Heritage Canada Foundation.

The award recognizes both the long term commitment to heritage conservation by the town and the significant strides made in recent years to improve the municipal heritage conservation program.

The Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee was established to advise council on matters related to the conservation of local heritage.

Originally its mandate was to recognize features of architectural interest, however, amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act which came into effect in 2005 broadened this mandate to include features of cultural heritage value or interest.

The core activities of the Heritage Advisory Committee include identifying and protecting Heritage Resources under the Ontario Heritage Act and developing and implementing policies, programs and tools to support the conservation of heritage resources and to review heritage and planning applications and other interventions related to heritage resources and areas.

In a report to council recently the Heritage

Advisory Committee provided an overview of the 2008 accomplishments of the committee.

Aurora was named the ninth recipient of the Prince of Wales prize and at a ceremony in Quebec City, Mayor Phyllis Morris received the award on behalf of the town.

Aurora's heritage accomplishments were showcased to delegates from across the country.

The preparation of a special book commemorating the state of Heritage in Aurora in 2008 took place and this book became a core component of the nomination of the town for the Prince of Wales Prize.

Presentation of award certificates was made in all seven categories as part of the 2007 Ontario Heritage Trust heritage Community Awards and Janine Fernandes of Aurora was selected as first in Ontario and the recipient of the Young Heritage award.

Ten properties were recommended for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act including Aurora's first Designated Heritage Tree.

Presentation of 21 Heritage Designation Plaques to recently designated properties were made as part of the celebrations for Ontario Heritage Week 2008.

Serving for the third year running as the lead organizer was Doors Open Aurora, which achieved a record 3,000 site visits over 20 sites, 13 of which were new.

Extensive coverage was provided in The Auroran, a key reason for the continuing success of the event.

Six Heritage Advisory Committee Awards were presented at the 2008 Civic Appreciation Awards

Heritage permit applications were reviewed throughout the year by the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Heritage Sign program remained active in 2008 with seven new plaques installed.

Heritage Advisory Committee members took part in the Sheppard's Bush working group as organized by the Conservation Authority.

The committee will establish a work plan for 2009 to facilitate the achievement of council's goals related to heritage conservation.

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22 @RANGERS 8PM SNET	23 Domestic Pints & any individual pizza deal!	24 MINNESOTA 7PM TSN	25 RANGERS 7:30PM TSN	26 @SLANDERS 7PM SNET	27 @PHOENIX 7PM TSN 2	28 @SENATORS 7PM CBC



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# School will be culture centre

In a staff report to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee for their January 2009 meeting it was noted that the Church Street School Cultural Centre was now complete and ready for occupancy.

The school, located on Church Street between Yonge and Victoria, is more than 125 years old.

In 1969, the building served as headquarters for the newly formed York Region Board of Education.

The building was also used by the Aurora senior citizens and the Aurora museum.

It was also noted that Ken Whitehurst had been busy seeking qualified people who would volunteer to serve on the initial Board of Directors for the Centre and the process was accomplished through public advertisements and identifying individuals through referrals from the community.

The plan's objective was to identify at least three qualified people to volunteer to be initial board members to take responsibility for the Centre's incorporation and six people were identified for the initial board.

Another 10 qualified individuals have identified themselves as willing to participate in the governance of the Centre if called upon after by the initial board of directors to join the full board of directors after incorporation.

The next step in accordance with the approved business and strategic plan for the Centre is for the initial group of six to incorporate the Cultural Centre and negotiate agreements for the purposes of the plan as approved by council.

The information about the leadership of the Centre was presented to council in a report advising council who the initial group would be and to seek a grant to assist this group with the not-for-profit incorporation of the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

The information report which was received as information listed the various tasks to be carried out by the Board of Directors and the Program Director, when appointed.



**Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown, right, dropped by the Ray Twinney Centre last week to inform politicians of grant money available from the federal government. On hand to meet her were several members of the Newmarket Hurricanes Junior A hockey team, complete with mascot, and Aurora politicians Al Wilson, Alison Collins-Mrakas and mayor Phyllis Morris.**

# Money will allow creation of more projects: Brown

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown was in Newmarket last week to announce the federal government's Recreation Infrastructure in Canada (RIInC) program.

To build jobs and stimulate local businesses in communities across Canada, the RIInC program will invest \$500 million in building and renewing recreational infrastructure such as community hockey arenas, swimming pools, sport fields and recreation centres.

Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen and Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris along with several players from the Newmarket Hurricanes Junior A Hockey Club were on hand to hear the news.

"Hockey is in our nation's blood and nowhere do we see that more than here in Newmarket-Aurora." MP Brown said.

"Recreation centres and sport facilities play an important role in our towns. They are places where we come together as communities to cheer on our teams and to spend time with our neighbours. They promote our well being and help us teach our children healthy lifestyles."

"Investing in our sports and recreation infrastructure such as hockey arenas and soccer fields will create jobs and put money into our local business-

es. Facilities like these promote healthy living opportunities, allow our children to learn about the importance of competitiveness and fair play and provide meeting places for the entire community," she said. "I look forward to working with both Newmarket and Aurora in the weeks ahead so we may take full advantage of the new RIInC program."

The federal government has allocated \$500 million for eligible projects in the next two years, which may include hockey arenas, swimming pools, basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields and

recreation centres.

Under the RIInC Program, municipalities will be invited to apply for funding in the next few weeks through an application process.

RIInC funding can be combined with money from provincial governments, municipal capital budgets, investments from businesses and local fundraising activities.

This funding may be dedicated to either the construction of new recreation facilities or the upgrading of existing sites and will cover up to 50 per cent of the total project costs.

# You may get another chance to have park named after yourself

If you've ever wanted to have a town park named after yourself, you may soon have that opportunity.

All that stands in your way is a deep pocketbook and council approval.

At its meeting last week, council had before it a recommendation from staff that the naming opportunity for a new parkette near the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Sideroad be auctioned off in support of the Regional Cancer Care Program.

This would take place at a live auction at the "On the Red Carpet" Gala for the Southlake Foundation slated for October 17.

This is not the first time that council had discussed this issue.

Back in 2007, after much debate, it approved that the naming rights for a park be auctioned off to benefit Southlake.

When the auction took place in October that year, three bids of \$100,000 each were received for two parks, one in Aurora, and one in Newmarket.

Rather than potentially lose one of the three bids, Aurora was asked to donate the naming rights

for a second park, which council subsequently approved.

At the meeting this month, council again asked what the usual process was for naming parks.

Staff members advised that developers often proposed names for the parks and parkettes within their subdivisions.

The Leisure Services department would then provide the proposed name(s) to council, who had the final approval.

The difference in this case would be that instead of a developer, the person who had won the auction would suggest the name.

Despite having approved a similar arrangement less than two years ago, council was wary of proceeding without further information.

Instead it approved a revised motion from Councillor Bob McRoberts that a staff report be prepared outlining recent park naming history, that it be referred to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee for its comments, and then brought to a future general committee meeting prior to July.



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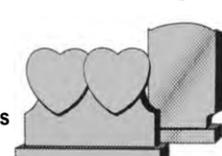
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# AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Results to Sunday, February 15, 2009



### House League

#### Novice

**206 Caravan Kids Penguins 4** - Nicholas Vamvarkaris 2G, Alexander Mueller 1G. **205 Caravan Kids Leafs 0.**

**202 Caravan Kids Bruins 3** - Shayne Colin 1G, Christopher Walsh 1G, Jaedon Jackson 1G, Wayne Freeman 2A, Vince Rotundi 1A. **204 Caravan Kids Flyers 1** - Jacob Turriff 1G, Nicholas Sever 1A.

**203 Caravan Kids Leafs 4** - Caelan Bloor 2G 1A, Chris Sands 1G 1A, Stephen Silverion 1G 1A, Christian Ferguson 1A, Justin Carcone 1A. **201 Caravan Kids Flames 4** - Adam Dipiero 2G, Nicholas Robinson 1G, William Reid 1G, Noah Cepelak 1A, Riley Jackson 1A, Jack Chivers 1A, Keegan Fisher 1A.

#### Peewee

**504 Pizza Pizza 1** - Max Brown 1G, Michael Tanel 1A. **507 Sgt. Pepper's Bar & Grill 1** - Morgan Walker 1G, Keith Jarvis 1A.

**501 Perfect Moves 4** - Brian Langdon 1G 2A, Mitchell Carter 1A, Jonah Blaser 2G, Matthew Sanita 1G 1A. **503 Greenpoint Laser 2** - Liam Henderson 1G 1A, Mitchell Palmer 1A, Tyler Abushinov 1A,

Corey Young 1G.

**505 Laurion Law Office 6** - Russell Johnson 2G 1A, Scott Taylor 1G, Jamie Wilson 1G, Graham Killby 1G 1A, Nicholas Chethuan 1G 1A, Brady Wilson 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Ian Coschi 2A, Owen Nisbet 1A. **506 Wikoff Color Corp. 1** - Justin Chalmers 1G, Michael Roell 1A.

**508 Tilemaster 4** - Matthew Pelkola 1G, Ryan McGolrick 2G 1A, Adam DeRoos 1G 1A, Thomas McDonald 2A, Jake Anderson 1A. **502 Omar's Shoes 3** - Eric McMurray 1G, Michael Liscio 1G, Mitchell Arnew 1G 1A, Ian Chappell 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A,

#### Midget

**Backyard Pool & Spa Team 910 8** - Peter Durst 1G, Dylan Calvert 2G 3A, Cameron Day 1G 2A, Ryan Cathers 1G 1A, Caleb Gould 3G 1A, Conner Sands 2A, Garet Lewis 1A, Kyle Partanen 2A. **Graystones Team 909 5** - Jay Finch 1G 1A, Jake Boyle 2G, Michael Davis 1G, Stephen Thompson 1G 1A, Matthew Thompson 1A, Sean Maule 1A.

**Crabby Joes Team 903 8** - James Adams 1G 2A, Louis Lamanna 3G 2A, Ray Mullins 2G, Marcel Lamana 2G, Matt Perdeaux 2A. **Aurora Home Hardware Team 904 2** - Patrick McMurray 2G,

Anthony Mesillo 1A.

**Packaging World Team 906 7** - Dillon Cappell 3G 1A, Jesse Cappell 2G, Ian Weston 1G 1A, Daniel Sacchetti 1G, Rhys Williams 2A, Cody Benson 1G, Michael VanBakel 1A, Chris Dynes 1A, Michael French 1A. **Barb Blaser Remax Team 905 2** - Ryan Bagshaw 1G, James Sendel 1G.

**AHPA Team 908 4** - James Chappel 2G 1A, Tyler Clements 1G 1A, Luca Ghegin 1G, Aaron Lempinen 1A, Evan Vizzachero 1A. **Rival Concepts Team 907 1** - Evan Campbell 1G, Chris McGill 1A, Cameron Smith 1A.

**Sentia Solutions Team 901 4** - Phil Meunier 1G, Simon Esposito 1G, Andrew Osmond 1G 1A, Zack Roitner 1G, Wil Ginther 1A, Eric De Roos 1A, Hunter Warden 1A. **KTI Limited Team 902 4** - Mike Shoesmith 1G 1A, Curtis Hough 1G 1A, Eric Shoesmith 1G, David Iwai 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Ethan Shore 1A.

**AHPA Team 908 5** - Tyler Clements 1G 2A, Tom Gibson 2G, Paul Duggan 1G 1A, Aaron Lempinen 1G, Michael Orschel 2A. **Graystones Team 909 2** - Adrian Clark 1G, Jake Boyle 1G, Sean Ellison 1A.

**Rival Concepts Team 907 3** - Taylor Bryce 1G, Mike Coggin 1G, Derek Smith 1G 1A, Chris McGill. **Backyard Pool & Spa**

**Team 910 3** - Dylan Calvert 1G, Stuart Marsh 1G, Michael McGee 1G, Peter Durst 2A, Cameron Day 1A, Adam Stubbs 1A.

**Packaging World Team 906 9** - Dillon Cappell 3G 1A, Jesse Cappell 2G, Ian Weston 2G, Chris Dynes 1G, Daniel Sacchetti 1G, Mathew Semeredy 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 2A, Scott Perry 1A, Michael French 2A, Evan Jones 1A. **Crabby Joes Team 903 3** - Matt Raponi 1G, James Adams 1G 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Ray Mullins 1A, Robert Horton 1A, Marcel Lamanna 2A

**Barb Blaser Remax Team 905 6** - Jamie Russell 1G 1A, James Sendel 1G, Chris Tambos 1G, Michael Morson 2G 1A, Vasilios Karagiannis 1G 1A, Tyler Friars 1A, Nick Di Nallo 2A, Ryan Bagshaw 1A, Richard Sendel 1A. **KTI Limited Team 902 2** - Eric Shoesmith 1G 1A, Mike Shoesmith 1G 1A, Curtis Hough 1A.

#### Rep Games

**Aurora Tigers Midget AE 3 (OT)** - Stephen Di Nallo 2G 1A, Andrew McKay 1G 1A, Jake Boyle 1A, Justin Killens 1A, Mike Machin 1A. **East Gwillimbury Eagles 2.**

**East Gwillimbury Eagles 3 Aurora Tigers 2** - Lucca Ghegin 1G, Chris Blumreisinger 1G, Stephen Di Nallo 1A, Alex Heintzman 1A, Andrew McKay 1A.



## GRAFFITI IS A CRIME



Graffiti is ugly. Graffiti devalues property. Graffiti damages the reputation of a community and spoils neighbourhoods. Graffiti costs us money.

Graffiti is a crime.

Graffiti is making headlines.

The Graffiti Abatement Committee is giving the citizens of Aurora information, and a means to take action and clean up our town.

In December, 2008, York Regional Police laid charges resulting from a graffiti crime spree in the Towns of Aurora and Newmarket.

Aurora has been suffering under the weight of this growing crime. We have all noticed it and wonder what we can do.

We can do plenty. We can become informed.

There are different types of graffiti, tagging, writers and throw ups.

Taggers tend to engage in the most basic form of graffiti. Taggers paint personal stylized signatures. A tagger's motivation is to put his/her signature up in as many places as possible.

Writers are responsible for the more artistic form of graffiti. Often writers work in small crews and are competitive amongst themselves.

Throw ups consist of multi-coloured bubble letters, and are more appealing to the eye.

Removing graffiti promptly is important. If graffiti is not removed it sends a message that the community is not cared for or respected. When graffiti is removed

quickly it discourages the perpetrators from committing the offence again in the same location. They do not want to waste their time or supplies on an activity that produces little benefit to them.

The message is getting out, graffiti will not be tolerated.

As a volunteer and teacher, I have had personal dealings with young people who have used graffiti to deface property. They do not realize that their actions are criminal. These youths are generally good people. They are our students, our neighbours, perhaps even our own children. They say graffiti is an art form, a means of self expression. Graffiti is art when done on paper or canvas or another surface with permission of the owner.

As parents and citizens we can help recognize the signs of a potential graffiti perpetrator. York Regional Police inform us that a young person may possess items such as: markers, spray paint, rubber gloves, adhesive stickers, flashlights or candles, coarse sand paper, tools and old deodorant containers stuffed with socks.

The young person may also display an interest in graffiti through conversation, markings on their clothing, walls, lockers, books, school assignments and bags. A review of their internet activity may show frequent visits to graffiti websites.

Parents should question their child if graffiti related items are brought home.

Being arrested for graffiti related crimes is a serious matter. A young person under the age of 18 will be

charged under the Criminal Code of Canada with the offence of Mischief Over \$5,000 or Mischief Under \$5,000, depending on the extent of damage done to the property.

The young person will be fingerprinted and photographed and scheduled to appear in court. The young person will face the possibility of a criminal record. The involvement in the criminal justice system will alter the young person's life and reputation.

Aurora is a beautiful town to live in, populated mostly by law-abiding citizens and productive, respectful young people. However, the growing incidences of graffiti are a sign that something is amiss in our town.

The solution lies not in idly laying blame and pointing fingers but in us working together to productively and effectively take back our town.

Through awareness and action we are doing just that.

Anyone with information on the crime of graffiti is asked to contact Community Services Gang Prevention Officer, Constable Shayne Mulligan at 1-866-876-5423 ext. 7120, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip on line at [www.1800222tips.com](http://www.1800222tips.com).

For more information on graffiti visit the York Regional Police website at [yrp.ca](http://yrp.ca). Go to Search our Site and enter keyword, Graffiti.

Written by: Marianne Mandryk  
Co-Chair, PACT



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Aurora Legion column

# Back in 1945, Tilston earned Victoria Cross

By IAN SWEET

Sixty-four years ago, on March 1, 1945, the Hochwald Forest in Germany was the scene of an incredible act of valour by a local soldier.

The allies had successfully advanced through the low countries after D-Day, and now found themselves on the borders of Germany itself.

The 2nd Canadian Division had been given the task of



FRED TILSTON

breaking through the strongly fortified Hochwald Forest defensive line and the Essex Scottish Regiment was ordered to breach those fortifications.

At 7.15 a.m. on that fateful morning, the then Major Fred Albert Tilston, (yes, the Aurora Legion is named after him) personally led his company in the attack across approximately 500 yards of flat open country, in the face of intense enemy fire despite not having any tank support as the ground was too soft to hold their weight.

Almost at once, Major Tilston was wounded in the head, yet he continued to lead his men forward, through a belt of wire 10 feet in depth to the enemy trenches shouting orders and encouragement. When the platoon on his left came under heavy fire from an enemy machine-gun post, he personally ran forward and silenced it with a grenade.

Determined to maintain the momentum of the attack, he pressed on with his main force to the second line of enemy defences which were on the edge of the woods.

As he approached the woods he was severely wounded in the hip and fell to the ground.

Shouting to his men to carry on without him and urging them to get into the woods, he struggled to his feet and rejoined them as they reached the trenches of their objective.

Here, an elaborate system of underground dugouts and trenches was manned in considerable strength and vicious hand-to-hand fighting followed.

Despite his wounds, Major Tilston's unyielding will to close with the enemy was an inspiration to his men as he led them in systematically clearing the trenches of the fiercely resisting enemy.

Such had been the grimness of the fighting and so savage the enemy resistance that the company was now reduced to only 26 men, one quarter of its original strength.

When the supply of ammunition became a serious problem, Major Tilston, although

twice wounded, repeatedly crossed the bullet-swept ground to the company on his right flank to bring back grenades, rifle and bren gun ammunition to his troops.

He also replaced a damaged wireless set to re-establish communications with battalion headquarters.

He made at least six of these hazardous trips, each time crossing a road which was dominated by intense fire from numerous, well-sited enemy

machine-gun posts.

His unshakable confidence and enthusiasm so inspired his men that they held firm against great odds.

On his last trip he was wounded for the third time, this time in the leg. He was later found in a shell crater beside the road.

Although very seriously wounded and barely conscious, he would not submit to medical attention until he had given complete instructions to his one remaining officer to the defence plan, emphasizing the absolute necessity of holding their position.

As a result of his calm courage, gallant conduct and total disregard for his own safety, Fred Tilston was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

The personal price was high, as Major Tilston lost both legs below the knee as well as an eye from this action.

However, exactly one year later from the date that he received his injuries, he returned to work for his former company, Sterling Drugs in Aurora, in the capacity of vice-president in charge of sales.

He later became president and then chairman of the board for that company.

In the years following the war, Fred Tilston was a regular sight at the Aurora Legion until his death on September 23, 1992.

In his eulogy to Colonel Tilston, author G. Kingsley Ward said "In truth, Fred, you virtually saw with one eye, far, far more than most of us see with two in our entire lives."

Colonel Tilston's wartime Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Bennett best sums up this extraordinary gentleman when he wrote in the London Daily Telegraph: "Firm, a born leader, with a strong devotion to duty, he had a keen understanding of human nature and a wonderful sense of humour. These qualities he exercised with modesty on the battlefield and in civilian life."



Aurora's Shannon Walsh took time out last week to enjoy the mild temperatures. She went walking and stopped briefly at a bridge near the Aurora Town Hall.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Council debates signage

From page 1

only \$24,700 collected. This amount may now be even less, as the town has since received requests from some of the sponsors to return their donations.

During their fundraising efforts, Aurora Spirit also worked with the company that had developed the sponsorship signage for the Seniors' Centre.

The final proposal and quotes for the signs were presented to the general committee in April, 2008. GC was not happy with the some elements of the proposal, such as the use of photographs, and referred to staff to develop standards for sponsorship signs.

When staff subsequently met with Aurora Spirit, it was told that the committee no longer wished to be involved in either fundraising or the signage issue. However, this direction was never received in writing.

The town would now like to get the sponsorship sign issue resolved.

It is hoped that by developing the new signage, not only will the standard be set, but those who have pledged funds will finally be recognized. As well, it may also encourage those who wish to donate in future.

Unfortunately, the town does not have the expertise to design new signage in-house. The estimate to hire a consultant is up to \$15,000.

On February 3, the general committee had before it a recommendation that staff engage a graphic design consultant to design sponsorship signage for

the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

The recommendation also provided that existing sponsors to the fundraising campaign be notified, and funds returned to those who no longer wish to contribute.

However, the committee did

not adopt this, and instead unanimously recommended that staff prepare a report to develop a strategy, and that staff advise all donors in writing of the current status regarding council's direction.

Council approved it last week.

## Two groups will benefit from grants

Based on requests made through the Town's Recreation Grant Policy, two community groups will receive grants totalling \$1,380.

The Aurora Seniors' Association will receive \$380 to assist two members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre who will compete in the 2009 Ontario Senior Games Winterfest.

The Hotspot Youth Club will receive free use of

ACC1 at the Aurora Community Centre on Friday evenings when it is not rented out, up to a total value of \$1,000.

Normal fees are \$150 per night.

Funding will come from the Town's Grant Fund which currently stands at \$16,768.

General Committee's recommendation to endorse these requests was approved by Council last week.

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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.  
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One of the largest donations ever was made by the Aurora Film Circuit to the Aurora Public Library last week, preceding the Film Circuit's monthly movie. Receiving the \$7,500 cheque is library board vice-chairman Michael Thompson, right, from AFC representative Jane Taylor. Large amount was due mostly to last year's screening of *The Stone Angel*, which featured Aurora actress Christine Horne. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Core to be used for infill

**From page 1**  
Councillor Evelyn Buck immediately suggested an amendment to the recommendation, calling for the 126 units to be transferred immediately, so that they would be available should new applications be submitted.

Although there are no additional applications within the core area currently, there is a known potential for 42 units.

There was general agreement among the members that infill development was vital in the downtown core.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted that there were a number of vacant properties, but the town was not receiving "a penny in tax dollars from them".

However, there was some question about exactly where the core area was.

Staff members advised the area was generally considered to be the corridor along Yonge Street and Wellington in the downtown area.

However, an exact boundary could not be confirmed at

the time.

Following these questions, there was additional discussion about the future allocation of additional units expected by the town.

In the end, general committee recommended the 126 units be transferred to the core area infill, and that staff provide a memo to Council outlining the definition of "Core Area", and the location of "built boundaries".

Council approved that last week.

## COMING EVENTS

From page 2

at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Road (Wellington Street East).

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Aurora council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Public Planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The Opera Group of the Aurora Seniors Association presents *La Traviata* at the big screen at the Aurora Seniors' Centre at 6.30 p.m. Cost for members is \$1.50 and non-members \$2.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### 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 [taboxoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:taboxoffice@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](http://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](mailto:carolemgir@aol.com).

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Aurora Minor Baseball Association is accepting online registration at [www.auroraminorball.ca](http://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](mailto:carolemgir@aol.com).

### MONDAY, MARCH 9

The Aurora Film Circuit presents the film "Outsourced". Tickets are \$10 and 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. Proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Aurora Council meets as general committee at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

### 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. 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](http://www.library.aurora.on.ca) or phone 905-727-9493 or pick up a program flyer at the library.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual World's Longest Street Sale on the World's Longest Street beginning at 11 a.m.



### Everything Old is New Again! City TV's Frank Ferragine

Saturday March 7th  
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham

Composting, rain barrels, English perennials and kitchen gardens: these new trends are all revisited from the days gone by. The desire to create sustainable and natural gardens has led us back to our past. Frank will discuss the revival of old school garden techniques and how they are being used in today's modern world.

**Also...**  
Sign up for a **FREE** landscape visit for customized help to make your lawn and garden more water efficient!

### Garden Design Workshop Series All Garden Design Workshops run 7:30pm to 9:00pm

**MARCH 31** Weed free, water free, no mow gardening success  
Tuesday March 31st  
Aurora Senior's Hall

**APRIL 14** Fabulous plant choices to get colour in shade  
Tuesday April 14th  
Newmarket Community Centre

**APRIL 02** No fail plants for a first garden  
Thursday April 2nd  
Richmond Hill Public Library

**APRIL 16** Tough love for drought tolerant gardens  
Thursday April 16th  
Sharon Temple

**APRIL 07** Uncommon plants for star groundcover solutions  
Tuesday April 7th  
Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Hall

**APRIL 21** Heroes for hot dry boulevards  
Tuesday April 21st  
Nobleton Community Recreation Centre

**APRIL 09** Right plant, right place  
Thursday April 9th  
Stephen Leacock Theatre

**APRIL 23** Rethinking the front lawn  
Thursday April 23rd  
Ballantrae Community Centre

### Garden Centre Workshops Various times

**FREE!** Attend one of our free Garden Centre Workshops and receive 2 free water efficient perennials! \*  
(\*Space and selection limited)

**JUNE 14** Kitchen gardens/butterfly gardening  
Sunday June 14th  
1pm to 3pm  
Blue Willow Garden Centre

**MAY 14** Designing with trees and shrubs  
Thursday May 14th  
7pm to 9pm  
Reeves Nurseries

**JUNE 20** Container gardening  
Saturday June 20th  
10am to 12pm  
Black Forest Garden Centre

**MAY 28** Creative containers  
Thursday May 28th  
7pm to 9pm  
Sheridan Nurseries

**MAY 30** Creating a water efficient outdoor oasis  
Saturday May 30th  
10am to 12pm  
Pathways to Perennials



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# Senior Scape



## Spring season looming, but winter not done yet

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Groundhog Day has come and gone and so has Valentine's Day and the promise of pleasant weather fit for golf and other outdoor activities is alive in my mind and clamoring for action, but sadly, the promise has a not before date attached, and sadly, that is not yet.

The unfortunate reality is that winter still has some bite to send our way, and resolve and resilience fortified with patience must sustain us.

Soon enough, nature will prompt the growth in bulbs, seeds and roots in the mad dash to reach a favoured place in the sun.

A garden stampede for life and success, with all of the energy locked in the ground and the trees converted to the greening of the landscape, the blossoming of flowers and the unleashing of a new cycle of renewal.

And a farewell to winter will see the members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) slip seamlessly into the season of renewal and glorious days of fine weather, cutting grass, planting gardens and enjoying the glory days provided by endless activities with good friends and the good times that come with good weather.

These words are written eagerly anticipating spring, yet fully aware that our world is locked once more in a bout of financial turmoil and that some ASA members, friends and colleagues, have

suffered financial setbacks.

Our financial world creates enormous wealth but is far from perfect, and dysfunction and lack of clarity have combined to shock confidence, destroy wealth and paralyze western culture by challenging the flow of credit, the life blood of commerce.

To engage in the issue of credit is to accept risk or reward, and to deny one is to lose both, which is in fact, the present sorry state of affairs.

The monumental effort to right the world economy strives mightily to find the correct course to pursue, to right the financial problems paralyzing trade, and to realize more advantageous and beneficial days by creating an orderly path to the creation of wealth.

Former ASA coordinator Kelly Elliot has chosen to pursue her career in Barrie, and the position of ASA coordinator is now open to qualified candidates.

In the meantime, Virginia Ciuffo will continue in her regular duties as senior programmer while the search is conducted for a qualified candidate to assume the coordinator's title and responsibilities.

The ASA is a strong organization, governed by a board of directors composed of ASA member volunteers, who cooperate with town staff.

The ASA continues to function with all programs and activities fully staffed, and the advent of a new coordinator may well advance

bright new ideas.

The organization of senior community management has worked surprisingly well in the ASA and as a result, the functioning and success in matters senior, continue to illuminate Aurora as a leader in the senior community field.

The ASA senior community demonstrates clearly that a productive life in retirement is available to all who wish to continue life's adventure.

Once the burden of work has been lifted, the senior is monarch of his or her destiny and the challenges of recreation, especially enjoyable activities, beckon enticingly.

Those who continue to accept the challenge of how far they can go, serve to show everybody how far that is, and is, in fact, astonishingly far.

It is the truth, absolute and recurring again and again in the ASA that success and excitement in pursuit of personal choices are available to those who choose to pursue their dreams.

The excitement of pursuit leaves no time for regret but an abundance of time to attempt whatever they choose to do.

A new career of leisure and pleasure can and does unfold for those who pursue the ASA path to good times, and seniors have functioned splendidly for years with groups of friends immersed in one or multiple activities, often

achieving remarkable proficiency and expertise.

The ASA Evergreen Choir underlines the meaning of participation and satisfaction by performing with many others and with admirable distinction, at the Valentine Mass Choir Concert in Richmond Hill last Sunday, under the direction of Enid Maize.

The choir was in the good company of two other excellent choirs, the McConaghy Choir from Richmond Hill, and the Mellow Tones Choir from Markham, who together with our own awesome Evergreen Choir gave a powerful and impressive choral recital.

The concept of mass choirs is a bold, invigorating and imaginative initiative and the sheer number of singers stirs the imagination and lends power to the performance.

I hope this exciting vitalizing venture is pursued in the future, supported on a base of publicity appropriate to the occasion, since a greater appreciative audience would lend the authority of its approval to the greater fulfillment of everybody.

The Valentine event was exciting and stimulating for the performers and created a wonderful and lasting impression.

It drew a great many fine choristers from three choirs, to share their musical art in concert before a small but very appreciative audience, and the musical world for choral seniors is elevated and enhanced.

## Brown off to Brussels for meeting

Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Lois Brown has been selected as a member of the Canadian delegation attending the joint meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Defence and Security, Political, and Economics and Security Committees in Brussels, Belgium, later this week.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a link between NATO and the parliaments of NATO nations within the Atlantic alliance, helping to build parliamentary and public consensus in support of alliance policies and to deal with major security and policy challenges confronting allied countries.

Most of the Assembly's work is carried out by five committees: Political, Defence & Security, Economics & Security, Science & Technology and Civilian Dimension of Security.

The upcoming meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels is an annual gathering between the Defence & Security, Political and Economics & Security committees and senior NATO officials.

Ms Brown joins Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, Senator Joseph Day, Senator Jane Cordy, MP Cheryl Gallant, and MP John McKay in the Canadian delegation.

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Daniella Luciani, RMT  
MASSAGE THERAPIST



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MASSAGE THERAPIST

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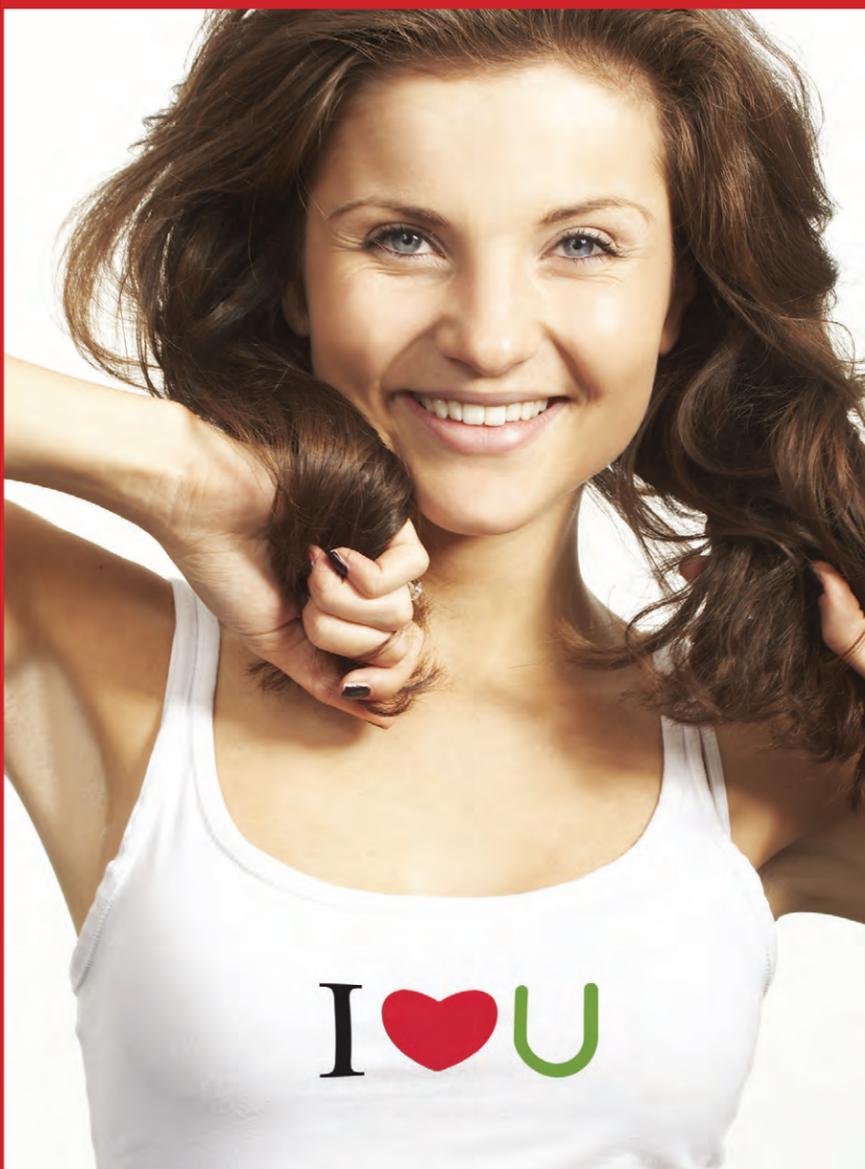
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