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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of February 2, 2010



Hot Spot closes its doors for good

Hot Spot, Aurora's answer to a youth centre, is closing after 18 years of service to the community.

Founder of the Friday evening gathering for youngsters in Grades 6 to 8, Wendy Gaertner told The Auroran last week that the closing was inevitable.

"In 1991 Hot Spot opened with the goal of providing pre and young teens a welcoming and affordable environment where they could have fun while practicing positive social skills," she said. "Supervision was provided by volunteer parents who really cared for kids."

In later years, former Hot Spot participants made up a good part of the senior youth

staff.

"For 18 years thousands of children from all the local schools looked forward to coming to 'their place' on a Friday evening. It was inclusive to all," the Aurora Councillor said.

The fact that a youth initiative could operate successfully for so many years is a testament to the dedication of creator and volunteer organizer Wendy Gaertner.

Several committees have been set up over the years with an eye to opening a youth centre in Aurora, but it never happened.

Hot Spot came the closest. The project became a huge commitment requiring countless

Please see page 17

Food Pantry close to moving

After months of research, and even though a lease has not been signed, the Aurora Food Pantry is preparing to move.

Earlier this week, Linda Irvine, representing the owners of the Aurora Cable Internet (ACI) building, shook hands with Lorna Rummenie, a director of the food pantry, and both sides began the lengthy job of composing a lease.

According to board members, it's the hope of the operation that it will be open for business in the former ACI building on Industrial Parkway South by springtime.

The Auroran first announced that location as a possibility in November last year.

At that time, it was reported that the food pantry may share the building with Big Brothers Big Sisters of York and Hospice King-Aurora.

Both groups are still negotiating with the owners of the building Jim Irvine and his family.

There is more than 14,400

Please see page 16



The photo, top, shows the room that could become the new home for the Aurora Food Pantry. Food Pantry Board members decided unanimously last week that the operation should move from its current Yonge Street location to the former Aurora Cable Internet building on Industrial Parkway South. Below, Lorna Rummenie, left, of the Food Pantry shakes hands with building representative Linda Irvine. The two parties will now prepare a lease for the space.

Briefly

Idea for Valentine's

If the male readers want to solve the Valentine dilemma, here's a thought.

Get the members of the Upper Canada Chordsmen to serenade her, but don't tell her it's going to happen.

Here's what you get for 60 bucks: a live barbershop quartet from the group singing two love songs, a long-stemmed red rose, a box of truffles, a personalized card and a digital photo of the event, e-mailed to you.

If this is a plan for you, call 905-715-6767 and book any one of three days: Feb 12th, 13th or Sunday, Feb. 14th.

If you want to hear what you'll get click on uppercanadachordsmen.ca/Valentine.html.

Speaker

Professor Robert Solomon, a member of the Faculty of Law at Western University and MADD Canada's National Director of Legal Policy, will speak to parents at Aurora's St. Andrew's College Thursday, February 4th at 7 p.m.

The topic of his presentation is "Parents, Parties and the Rise of Alcohol-Related Civil Liability".

The event is free and open to the public.

In Haiti

Aurora resident Christine Barber was in Haiti helping the injured following a recent devastating earthquake.

Her story and a photograph are on Page 16.

Meanwhile, the Aurora Rotary Club has received another \$5,000 from the Aurora Lions Club to purchase another ShelterBox and will apparently pick up enough money at Lester B. Pearson Public School in Aurora Thursday night to buy two more ShelterBoxes for the earthquake-stricken island.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Visions, an art exhibit by Christine Valentini, will continue at the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall until February 26th, weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. An Artist's Reception will be held Friday, February 5th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the third floor gallery. Refreshments will be served.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North in Aurora. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a cappella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Firehall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a cappella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group sings about love, friendship, family, humour and brotherhood and meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Firehall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets, Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves homemade soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. weekly.

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.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Aurora Opera Childrens Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) 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 Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three 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 on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings 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 at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352 or 905-713-9356.

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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Aurora Chamber of Commerce will hold a regular Networking Breakfast, sponsored by Neighbourhood Network at 7.30 a.m. at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club. The 90-minute event will cost chamber members \$20 and those who aren't \$25.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

At Jonathan's Restaurant, Goodlife sponsors a fundraiser for children with autism. The event begins at 8 p.m. and a DJ will be in attendance.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

M & M Meat Store on Yonge Street will hold a super bowl tailgate party in its parking lot from noon until 3 p.m. to raise funds to fight crohn's and colitis. Firefighters from Central York Fire Services will be in attendance.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Young Victoria", which chronicles the early and often turbulent years of a young girl who became queen of England. Barely 18 when she is crowned, she is vivacious, fond of parties, and prone to flirting with the gentlemen of the court. Sara Ferguson, Duchess of York, came up with the idea for the film and fought for more than a decade to have it made. Her co-producers are Academy Award winners Martin Scorsese and Graham King. Movie is shown at the Aurora Cineplex at 7 p.m. Tickets, at \$10, may still be available at the Aurora Public Library.

Music for Life is an eight-week program that begins this afternoon at Hospice King-Aurora. No music training or experience is necessary. The program is open to individuals diagnosed with life-threatening illness, their caregivers or support person and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Book launch for "Vision Speak", written by Aurora author Eden Remme Watt, will be held between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School, at the corner of Church and Victoria). The event will be held in the Research Room which houses the Aurora Historical Society's book collection. The Cultural Centre is just opening and this will be the first book launch held there. Local Bookseller R & R Revisited will be onsite to sell copies of "Vision Speak".

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

It's Family Day at the Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum on Woodbine Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2. Call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337 for further information.

Arctic Adventure at Aurora's Town Park, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Countless activities available.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The annual general meeting of the Aurora Historical Society will be held at the Church Street School Cultural Centre beginning at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in Brevik Hall and will include a review of the society's work in 2009.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Today is Ski Day for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. The annual event will again be held at Osler Bluffs Ski Club in Collingwood. The cost, \$115, includes return bus trip from and to Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket, a lift ticket, lunch and apres-ski events. The day begins at 7 a.m., ends at 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents its Dessert Competition and Social

Meeting at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, beginning at 8 p.m. All visitors welcome for \$2.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The annual Sponsor-A-Student luncheon will be held today at the Tuscany Event Centre from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guest speaker is Bob Abrames and his topic is "Is Your Team in One Canoe?" Cost is \$40 for chamber members; \$50 for guests; and \$30 for students.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

As part of its Montessori Week celebrations, the Aurora Montessori School will host a Juvenile Diabetes community event at the school, 330 Industrial Parkway North from 7 to 8 p.m. Officials say the event has two goals: to raise money for

juvenile diabetes research and the inform the community about the facts of the disease.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street in Aurora presents the 90-male voice Tri-City Gospel Chorus at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

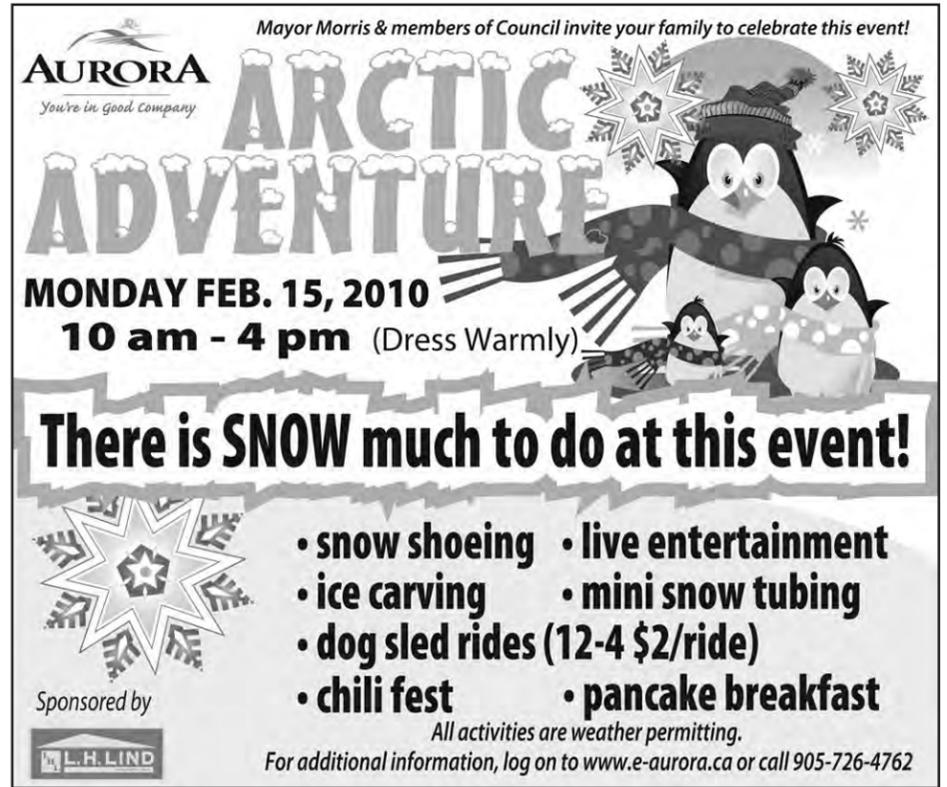
APRIL 23 AND 24

Aurora United Church spring rummage sale at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Times on April 23 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., the individual sale and April 24 from 9 a.m. to noon for the bag sale. For further information, call 905-727-1935.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

The Dr. G W Williams Students' Council will host the second annual Spring Rummage Sale.

Mayor Morris & members of Council invite your family to celebrate this event!



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Umbrellas open Culture Centre



Aurora artist Deborah Campo, top photo, admires the work of Ann Mortimer, above, who spoke at the opening of her display "The Umbrella Caper" at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week. Several people were in attendance viewing the works, the inaugural exhibit at the recently finished Cultural Centre, inside the historic Church Street School.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

The Church Street School Cultural Centre threw open the doors to its new Red and Blue Gallery spaces last week with the launch of The Great Umbrella Caper, featuring the work of Newmarket artist Ann Mortimer.

The Red Gallery, which played host to the reception prior to the ribbon cutting, was filled to capacity as people gathered not just to see Ms. Mortimer's unique ceramic umbrellas on display, but to also get a first look at the newly renovated cultural space.

Architect Roxana Farrell, who moved to Aurora from New York last November, said she wanted to come and be a part of the opening.

"The renovation is fantastic, especially some of the details they kept. The windows and the tin ceilings are very beautiful."

For Ms. Farrell, Ms. Mortimer's exhibition was icing on the cake.

"I know a little bit about her work, but I wanted to see how she constructed the ceramics," she said. "I'm an architect, so I am interested in anything that is three dimensional in structure. It's fantastic. The glazing is amazing and the details are amazing. The imagery on the umbrellas is very creative."

The Great Umbrella Caper is an exhibition of 30 porcelain umbrellas hand-crafted and hand-decorated by Ms

Mortimer, inspired by her travels in China.

The exhibition runs through February 20 and the artist will attend the exhibit every Saturday afternoon.

Ms. Mortimer said she was honoured to be the first exhibitor in the Cultural Centre's galleries.

"The creative and collaborative and enthusiastic effort on the part of so many people has just been so rewarding," she said. "It means a lot."

The Centre's Executive Director, Laura Schembri, said this exhibition was a proud moment.

"Working and knowing artists and creative people, sometimes there is a cliché that says our creative people see the world in a different way," she said. "But it is not a cliché; I know it to be fact. I've known it by working with Ann and seeing things in some way through her eyes. The beauty that I saw there improved and enhanced my life and I'm sure when you see the exhibition it will do the same for you."

Aurora Councillor Wendy Gaertner was thrilled by what she saw.

"I honestly knew it was going to be great, but I didn't know the Church Street School was going to look like this," she said. "I think this exhibit is so unusual and such a great way to open the school to the public."

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Aurora's Arctic Adventure is set for February 15th

That February holiday will be put to good use by the Town of Aurora again this year.

Known as Family Day, Monday, February 15th, has been set aside by the Town for its annual Arctic Adventure and will offer several activities.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. at the Aurora Town Park which is sur-

rounded by Mosley, Metcalfe, Wells and Larmont Streets.

A pancake breakfast will be sponsored by the Aurora Tigers at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street from 10 a.m. to noon for \$5 a person and \$15 per family.

When you're filled with that, try the featured chili-fest at the

Town Park hosted by the Aurora Rotary Club from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Professional restaurants will be on hand serving their finest chili for you to vote on.

Children of all ages will enjoy the numerous activities offered such as ice skating, "Frosty's Tug of War" featuring the Aurora Tigers, dog sled rides hosted by Windrift

Kennels for \$2 per ride from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., snowshoeing, mini-snowtubing; an igloo demonstration, a hockey shootout and professional ice carving.

There will also be live entertainment from noon to 2 p.m. featuring Patti McLaughlin & Friends.

Activities are free of charge, unless otherwise noted.



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Burns evening a big success

His birthday was actually last Monday, January 25, but the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion honoured Robbie Burns two days earlier with a dinner and evening of entertainment.

Robert Burns, born January 25, 1759, Scotland's favourite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire and in Scotland known as simply The Bard, was a Scottish poet and a lyricist.

He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide.

He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a "light" Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland.

Burns also wrote in standard English, and in these pieces, his political or civil commentary is often at its most blunt.

So, for 16 years now, the Aurora Legion has been hosting the dinner, complete with haggis, thanks to the efforts of Ken White and Bob Dunsmore.

On the night in question, White was the emcee for the evening, while Dunsmore did his regular Ode to the Haggis.

Which, contrary to everything I have heard about the taste of haggis, I like.

The place, as usual, was packed, but the seating had been improved from a year ago. The banquet hall was set up with individual tables, unlike the lengthy ones that were used last year.

A great improvement, I thought, especially if you arrived late, like I did a year ago.

But, while the evening was entertaining, I thought the White Heather Pipes & Drums group stole the show.

They received a standing ovation at the end of their performance and came back to entertain some more. Moving music.

Of course, I'll never figure out how great sound can come from a musical instrument that you blow air into and then squeeze the heck out of, such as the bagpipes.

Nevertheless, if you missed the event, you missed a great evening of entertainment, and I'm now impatiently awaiting the 17th annual show at the Legion next January.

Below is a picture I took of the event:



Bob Dunsmore, as he has for several years, offers up his Ode to the Haggis, during Robbie Burns dinner at the Aurora Legion recently.



The top photo shows this house on Maple Street as it appeared in the January 19 issue of *The Auroran*. It didn't take current owners, the Dodds, long to recognize their house, and Jack tried to find the exact spot where the original photographer stood to capture the house today. In the letter below, the couple outline a bit of the history of the building. The other house that appeared in the January 19 edition, is on Mark Street, and, according to Aurora historian Jackie Stuart, were both designed by the same architect. Meanwhile, in spite of several calls Friday, no one correctly identified the person in last week's photograph. Keep trying. Call 905-727-3300. The unidentified man is a former mayor of Aurora.

Letter to the Editor

House on Maple Street

To the editor,

We took ownership of our 1937 house in December of 1982.

It's located at 32 Maple Street.

In 1987 we were informed by Jacqueline Stuart, the town museum's curator at the time, that this house, and the Mark Street house you featured in *The Auroran* a few weeks back, had been designed by the same architect.

He was well known at the time and his style bordered on Arts & Crafts.

Jacqueline showed us the little booklet, described by *The Auroran*, that was intended to attract people and industry to move to Aurora.

We know there were three owners before us.

We don't know much about owners number one, but the second owners ran a theatre which stood near the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington.

It was housed on Centre Street near what became a Home Hardware, and is now a Mac's.

The people we purchased the house from, owners number three, lived in it for 17 years, and now we've been in it going

on 28 years.

In that time the house hasn't changed much.

We love our home and have tried when upgrading it, to keep its original integrity and style. Amazingly enough, the beautiful wooden/marble fireplace in our living room, and all the original high baseboards and moulding at the top of the walls, have never been painted over.

Some of the light fixtures are original to the house too, and depict a different era.

The bathroom has its original black and white 'subway' tile, and the lidless toilet, then called 'a silent flush', continues to be of service.

One interesting change is that the driveway is now on the west side, to the left in the photo.

Our kitchen door is on the east side and in the photo one can see that the front stairs went down to the east only.

Steps to the west were added later when, we believe, it was discovered that there had been a surveying error made in positioning the house on the lot when it was built.

The lot line on the east is only about a metre from the house and thus the driveway had to be moved

to the west side.

When taking the current photograph we positioned ourselves as close as possible to the exact spot that the photographer

of the early 1940's stood.

We hope readers find some of this interesting.

**Carol and Jack Dodds
Aurora**

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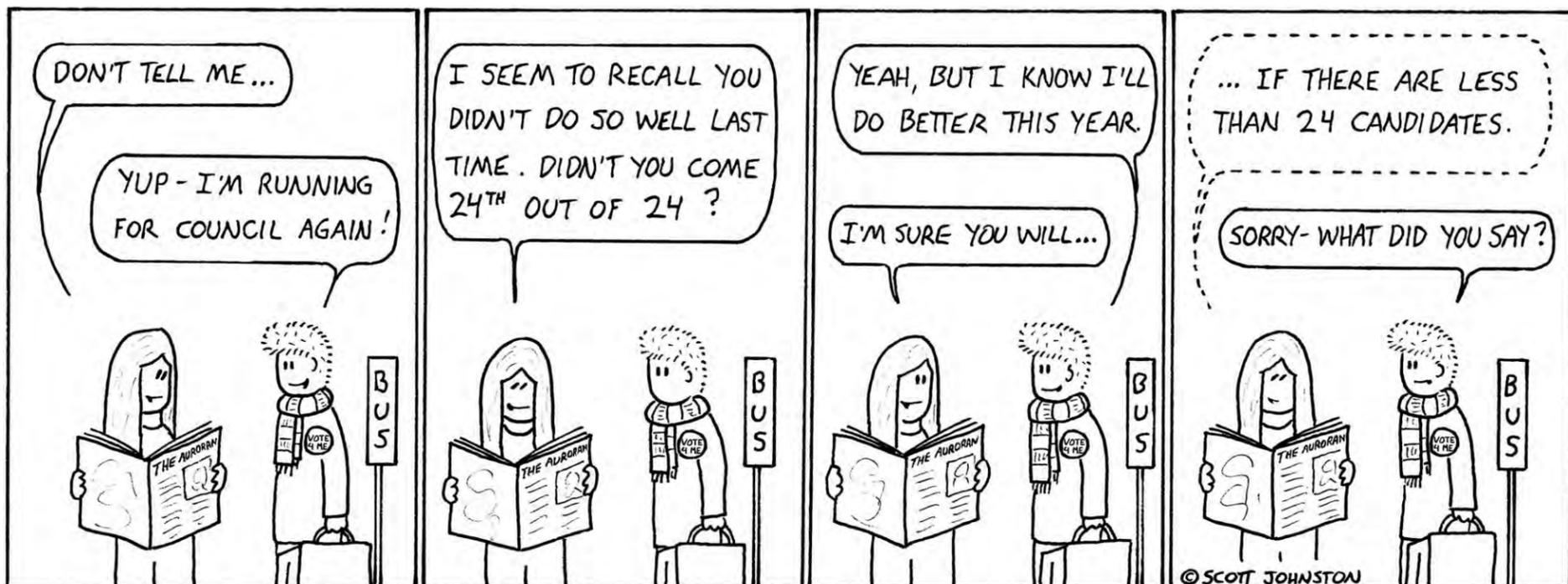
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Editorial policy

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Those loyal readers may recall the column I wrote last week regarding coverage of the local elections.

In the column I noted that the editor/publisher of this paper and I have a good relationship.

Ron Wallace has never told me or ever suggested to me that I write about a particular topic.

That is not to say that he agrees with my views. As Ron has written on more than one occasion, he is happy to have me around because since our views are so divergent, he always has something to comment about!

Ron has also saved me from myself on many occasions by editing out some stupidly smart aleck or flip-pant comment that I felt was "pithy".

I have written 177 columns thus far and Mr. Wallace has only once refused to publish my column.

I also agree with his editorial policy, which is "that The Auroran will not select a slate nor recommend who should be the mayor of the community".

I also like the fact that a lot of editorial space is reserved for reader feedback; this is one of the key reasons for the success of the newspaper. I have changed my mind on some issues as a result of various letters to the editor.

I also agree with the recent change of heart that Ron has had regarding letters to the editor. In the past, he would - on occasion - print a letter while withholding the identity of the letter writer.

As he wrote a couple of weeks ago:

"My usual rule applies: You need to sign your letters. I must be able to print those signatures, and whatever you say, won't put me in jail for libel.

In other words, I may not print your letter, but I will tell you why before I make that decision. So I need to know how to contact you. Submissions will NOT (his emphasis) be accepted from declared candidates."

However, I believe there is a democratic gap that must be closed regarding political advertising in this newspaper.

And this issue goes straight to the heart of the series of "To the residents of Aurora" Open Letters that had been published last fall.

These letters, sponsored by an anonymous group called the "Coalition For a Better Aurora," appeals to members of the public "who are interested in serving the Town of Aurora to come forward and declare themselves as candidates for public office, either for the position of Mayor or that of Councilor."

The letters also called to "Rid the Town of Aurora of its present mayor" and five of council's sitting members.

The initial letter pointed out why this group should be removed, with the most vitriol being reserved for the mayor: "whose campaign promises, when seeking the position of mayor in 2006, have been broken, trampled, and denigrated almost to the point of blasphemy".

I have absolutely no problem with anyone communicating a particular viewpoint on a subject.

However, I do have an issue here.

This newspaper has a new policy of not publishing anonymous letters to the editor. And with good reason, if you are going to offer some criticism, then people should know who you are.

In this case, the group or persons behind this letter has produced this document as an "Advertisement" that cleverly gets around this issue.

I know that Ron is not asking for my input/thoughts on this matter, but I will offer them up anyway.

I know that the publisher needs to make a dollar and turning down advertising dollars - especially in this economy - is not easy.

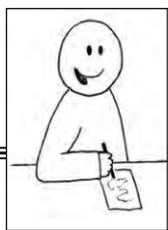
Simply providing an e-mail address or phone number at the bottom of the advertisement does not cut it.

I look forward to watching, and commenting on, an interesting mayoralty and council race this year.

The citizens of Aurora deserve a vigorous and respectful debate this fall on the issues of growth, the level, quality and costs of services, and the appropriate level of taxation.

Removing the shroud of secrecy around policy advertising will ensure that there is a fair, and transparent atmosphere in which to have an engaging and thoughtful discussion of Aurora's future.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

It was the first day of February, and I was wandering through the Aurora arboretum, enjoying another beautifully mild winter day, when I noticed a small figure sitting on a bench.

As I got closer, I found to my surprise that it was Aurora Annie, our local spring forecasting groundhog.

Wanting to see if I could be the first to hear her prediction for this year, I headed towards her.

Then I noticed her posture. She was slumped forward, shoulders sagging, and it looked like she'd been crying.

"What's the matter?" I asked with concern, as I sat down. "Are you second-guessing your prediction as to whether spring will be early or late?"

"No, I haven't made it yet," she sniffed.

"Why not? February 2nd is tomorrow."

After blowing her nose into a tiny handkerchief, she looked around.

Seeing there was no one else in the vicinity, she stared up at me with wide eyes, and confided in a tiny voice, "I'm afraid to."

"Why?"

"Because of David Tsubouchi."

"The town's new Integrity Commissioner?" I gasped. "What would he do?"

"Investigate me for lying to the citizens of Aurora."

Seeing my look of surprise, she sighed.

"Every year I make a prediction about when spring will

arrive. Last year we had a nasty winter. I said we'd have an early spring, and we didn't, which didn't go over very well."

"But it's all just a bit of fun, isn't it?"

"It's supposed to be."

Lifting each tiny hand in turn, she said, "sometimes you're right, and sometimes you're wrong. No harm done. And there are never any repercussions."

"But now that we have an Integrity Commissioner," she continued, "that's all changed."

"You really think so?"

"Of course. Don't you see," she said, looking up at me with red-rimmed eyes, "council could have waited to hire the new Integrity Commissioner until after the municipal election, but they didn't. They're obviously looking for issues and scapegoats in this election year."

"And who do you think they'll pick on first?" she asked, pointing to herself with emphasis. "Me."

"That's ridiculous," I said. "Surely there are bigger fish to fry in town than a good natured groundhog?"

"You'd think so, but the writings on the wall. We public figures can't get away with anything anymore, and that includes weather forecasting."

"Now I know why Willie lives in Warton," she said, referring to her groundhog counterpart near Georgian Bay. "That town doesn't have an Integrity Commissioner."

"You know", she continued, "I've never done this before, but I'm thinking of not making a prediction this year. That's

the safest thing to do."

"But you've got to!" I exclaimed. "It's tradition."

"That's easy for you to say," she said, gripping my pant leg, "but I can't afford a lawyer. I don't want to be sued!"

"Look," I said hastily, as sobs started to wrack her tiny body, "I don't think Mr. Tsubouchi is starting for a couple of months. By then, not only will no one remember whether you were right or wrong, but council will have undoubtedly done something else to catch his attention. Probably a whole bunch of stuff."

"You really think so?" she said hopefully, wiping her eyes.

"Sure. You know what they're like. Go ahead," I encouraged, "make your prediction. You'll be fine."

"Okay, maybe I will," she declared, with a bit more composure. "Thanks."

Sliding off the bench, she headed off slowly down the path.

I normally wouldn't wish for anything to happen in town that would require a ruling by the Integrity Commissioner, but as I watched Annie trudge off into the distance, I kind of hoped for her sake that something would come up over the next few months.

I guess the fate of that little groundhog is in council's hands, now.

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

Transparency

Groundhog Daze II

Letters to the Editor

20-year Director says Food Pantry to move

To the editor,

For the past 20 years I have been on the Board of Directors for the Aurora Food Pantry.

I would like to share some facts regarding the Aurora Food Pantry and its history.

The Aurora Food Pantry was started in January, 1990, by members of Ecumenical Churches, spearheaded by the Lutheran Church.

The need was felt to help the many people struggling to make ends meet.

The Board was made up of representatives from the churches and community and operated out of

the basement at the Lutheran Church.

When the Lutheran Church could no longer accommodate the space needed feelers were put out for a new location.

At that time the late John Dol offered the basement of the Old Post Office on Yonge Street.

This has been the home of the Aurora Food Pantry for more than 15 years.

We are very grateful to the Dol family for letting us use the space and for their support.

The community has supported the Aurora Food Pantry throughout the years in many ways.

Thank you for supporting/organizing food drives;

Concerts in the Park, Santa Claus Parade pick ups and other events.

Many young people are giving up birthday presents and collecting food for the Pantry at their parties.

We appreciate all the donations of money and food.

Most of all, thank you to the many people who have volunteered over the years.

The Aurora Food Pantry is run completely by volunteers.

There are two shifts each Saturday.

The first is from 9 a.m. until noon and the second noon until 3 p.m.

Just recently we have opened in the evenings on

the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month from 6 to 8 p.m.

We use student volunteers to help sort food, stack shelves and carry groceries.

In return they are able to get credit for the compulsory volunteer hours for school.

Other volunteers also do weekly pickups at various businesses and collect food donations from most grocery stores and the fire hall.

There are two main food drives each year at Easter and Thanksgiving to coincide with the Daily Bread's Food Drives.

At Christmas we work with the Aurora Lions Club

to help with their Christmas Food Hamper program.

The past three years we have also been involved with the Christmas Dream Team that provides Christmas dinner to many in Aurora.

Many businesses, schools and individuals do special drives/events at this time of year so extra pick ups/drop-offs and sorting are needed.

This past year the numbers using the Aurora Food Pantry have greatly increased and the need for wheelchair accessible space made it necessary for us to look for a different facility.

At this time another wonderful family, the Irvines, have come forward with accessible space and we will be working with them to move into 350 Industrial Parkway South (formally the ACI building) in the coming months.

During the past several years the needs of the community have greatly increased, not only in regards to food and clothing but other areas, too.

Once again the Ecumenical Churches

have come together to help fill the need creating The Welcoming Arms to provide counseling, information and financial aid for needs such as household bills, rent and transportation.

Food and fellowship are also provided by several church outreach groups.

The Trinity Anglican Church has a dinner every Wednesday evening starting at 5.30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has a soup and sandwich lunch Thursday, noon until 1.30 p.m.

The United Church serves breakfast from 9.30 to 11.30 on Saturday mornings. These are appreciated by all who partake.

Again I must say Thank you to all who support the people of Aurora through the Aurora Food Pantry and these other programs.

If you are not involved already we will be looking for more assistance in the months to come.

Think about how you can help.

Lorna Rummenie
Aurora

Why does Aurora need integrity commissioner?

To the editor,

So, Aurora Council is forging ahead with the once-failed appointment of an integrity commissioner, one who is an industry expert in ethics, to hire a former politician and lawyer to fill the position. Does this make sense to anybody

else?

Why the rush?

Isn't this an election year, why tie the hands of a new council with your selection?

Unless, of course, their plan is to resurrect the complaint against Councillor Evelyn Buck (given she's suing them) and, of course, do

it before the next election.

My wish is that next term we will have a mayor with leadership skills therefore eliminating the need for an integrity commissioner.

I was humoured by Councillor Al Wilson's comments.

He thinks we should "be

honoured to have an individual like that protecting them".

Protecting them from what? Do you mean protecting you from yourselves, supporting the select group of councillors on their infighting, what?

Give me a break, Nigel is bang on.

The money could be spent finding a home for the Aurora Food Pantry.

Then we have the mayor's hand-picked CAO talking about the cost of bringing on the new integrity commissioner speaking about the \$60,000 budgeted to pay for this unneeded service saying "it may certainly be less".

What does that mean?

The whole matter stinks. It's self-serving and part of the plan to get back at Councillor Buck.

It does nothing to serve or support staff or more importantly nothing to serve us, the taxpayers. Mark the date on your calendar, folks.

Get out and vote to rid us of this overspending, agenda driven, self-serving bunch.

Aurora cannot afford them any longer.

Complain all you want, it means nothing unless on October 25th you do something about it.

I can't seem to find again) the town has the code of conduct complaint against Councillor Evelyn Buck so prominently posted despite the litigation and despite the fact the mayor stated on camera that there were no outstanding issues for the recently hired Integrity Commissioner.

The whole issue of keeping these unsubstantiated allegations under the guise of a re-consideration of a passed resolution seems highly suspect, especially given the official response to my Freedom Of Information request in this regard.

Food for thought.

R. Johnson
Aurora

H. Down
Aurora

Town of Aurora website confuses this reader

To the editor,

The town's website seems to be changing in Reader offers support to Kean

To the editor,

I read recently that former town councillor Nigel Kean will be running for mayor in the next election. Mr. Kean seems like a man of integrity who truly wants what is best for Aurora and its citizens.

Many Aurorans, myself included, would love to see major changes in the way our current mayor and councillors conduct themselves.

Should you read this letter, Mr. Kean, I would like to offer my time to assist you during your election campaign.

If I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me at mcchisholm@sympatico.ca.

Mark Chisholm
Aurora

inexplicable ways these days.

Am I missing something? I go to the "Mayor and Council" LINK and all I see is the mayor.

When I go to find the agenda LINK under the "Town Hall" the LINK is not there.

I did find the agenda LINK under the "Resident Services" LINK. I'm not sure why.

The "Aurora in the news" section seems to be quite selective, which I guess is no wonder given some recent press.

The LINK to (what amounted to be very selective) letters that have been to the town seems to no longer be posted.

They never posted at least one or two of my letters, that's for sure.

I also find it frustrating and disappointing that under the heading "Welcome to Aurora" (which

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Letters to the Editor

Hot Spot closes after 18-year stint

To the editor,

2010: the beginning of a new decade and the end of almost two decades for the recreational social venue "Hot Spot".

By the time Hot Spot celebrated its 18th birthday in December it was clear that the time had finally come to close.

When we opened in 1991 our mandate was to provide a quality, affordable social

venue for children in Grades 6 to 8.

There wasn't much offered for this group anywhere locally.

The children wanted to feel independent, yet still needed supervision during the evening's games, dances and contests.

Parents and youth volunteers gave up their Friday evenings for the success of Hot Spot.

Along with The Town, the

Optimists and the Opti-Mrs., their help enabled us to get through the difficult early years.

After that a wonderful youth staff, reliable and competent, gave up part of their Friday evenings to continue the experience for the next group of children.

The support in year 18 from Vanessa, Andrew and Kyra is very much appreciated.

A very special 'thank you'

to the Temple Family for their help and dedication throughout.

Certainly, our Aurora has changed over the years and now provides so much more for our children, and the reality is that children also socialize very differently in these days of available media.

Over the years, support for our little 'club' confirmed its value.

When the call for help

went out a year ago, many in the community stepped forward.

It all started with HS Financial, a local company with a lot of community spirit.

Cindy believed in Hot Spot's value and convinced Chris to donate to our non-tax-deductible cause. The Optimists, a true friend of youth and our first sponsor in 1991, once again came forward.

TD Canada Trust proved that a big corporation can have a local heart.

Julia and Ann were terrific in making the case for Hot Spot.

Bell Canada didn't hesitate to say yes when asked for help.

Our new Sony Style store called us to see what they could do. The result was a wonderful rock band Beatles Competition.

The free movie passes

from Cineplex Aurora were a big hit, of course.

Many thanks to Staples Business Depot, the Bulk Barn, Ventura Vending and the Hurst Bakery for sharing and donating product.

The Auroran and Banner were generous with their support.

Ron Wallace and Jeff Bower always said yes when I asked for help.

Ron gave up many Friday evening hours to photograph the events. Sean Peirce wrote wonderful articles.

Know that each of you allowed the children to keep coming and have some good old-fashioned fun!

Thank you to all the children, (well, mostly adults now), who called and mailed to say how much Hot Spot had meant to them – thank you for the memories!

**Wendy Gaertner
Aurora**

Parade organizer Sher is seeking volunteers

To the editor,

The Canada Day Parade Lady is Back!

February 15th is Canadian National Flag Day - get your flags!

I will be handing out flags at the Town Park on Family Day and recruiting volunteers to help with the 2010 Parade!

2010 is a year when the Olympics visit Canada – countries from all over the world set their focus on our beautiful country and our athletes.

I propose this theme for our 2010 Parade: "Celebration of Olympics in Canada's Birthday Town of

Aurora".

When the Olympic Torch went through town many of us were moved to a tear.

Our love of country and pride tugged at our hearts and it felt good.

It was a moment in time that will stay etched in our hearts.

That is the purpose of our Canada Day Parade.

It's an annual community opportunity to show and share our national pride together in a march.

It is an investment in our future and in our children.

As the official Canada Day Parade Lady, I am asking each of you to contribute something to this year's

Canada Day Parade.

Your suggestions for this year's parade are welcome.

I eagerly look forward to working with each of you to build our best Canada Day Parade ever.

I need volunteers; dancers, entertainment, music, trailers, trucks and flatbeds for floats!

All it takes is each of us to contribute a little: to help organize a float; to walk with a flag in the parade with your family or friends; to volunteer to be a clown; help a youth group; or dress up in red and white and come out watch the parade and cheer!

The Olympics make us think of all the people around

the world.

Canadians hail from all over the world. This is our wonderfully multicultural home.

I invite a display of all the nationalities that make up Canada to join in this year's parade.

Share your cultural arts, music and dance with us at this year's Celebration of Olympics in Canada Parade.

Contact me at sher@stkittsmusic.ca

**Sher St. Kitts
Snowball**

Fundraiser looking for community's support

To the editor,

The excitement is in the air!

The 2010 Olympics are in Vancouver and The Aurora Skating Club is currently in the preparation stage of our 2010 Ice Show "Viva Las Vegas" in Aurora.

The show will take place Saturday, April 10, at the Aurora Community Centre.

There will be a matinee and an evening performance and will once again be televised by Rogers TV.

The Aurora Skating Club is a non-profit organization with more than 400 members.

Our skaters range from three to 19 years of age and are eagerly awaiting the 2010 Ice Show production.

As I am sure you can understand the production of an Ice Show is very costly.

The average cost to produce the show is \$45,000.

As a non-profit organization we rely on the generosity of local business to help us produce a successful event.

There are many levels of sponsorships with different advantages to each, for interested participants.

You may ask how will your company benefit.

Well each of our 400 plus

club members live either in Aurora or in close proximity.

Each year our performances are sold out with parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and close friends of the skaters.

As the skaters and their families live in the area, they are likely to shop and eat in the area.

Your sponsorship will be advertised for all participants and observers to see.

Our club members are very loyal and will be

encouraged to remember those who help us.

It is with the generosity of businesses like yours that will make "Viva Las Vegas" a show the kids will be proud of.

If you have any questions you can reach me @ 289-221-3774 or hollypiotrowski@rogers.com.

**Holly Piotrowski
Fundraiser
Ice Show "Viva Las Vegas"
Aurora Skating Club**

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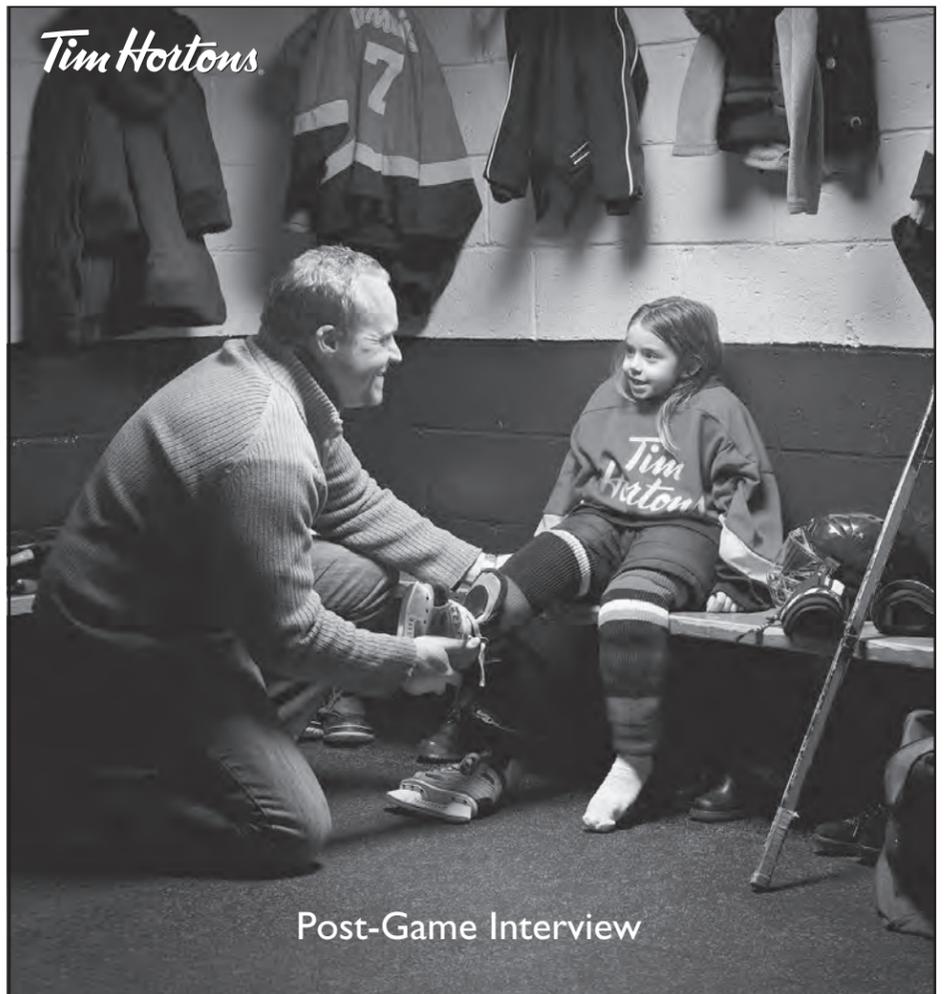


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Post-Game Interview

Every year, over 60,000 boys and girls play Timbits Hockey, where they learn the skills of the game, and share moments with family and friends. Tim Hortons is proud to support the 175 boys and girls who play Timbits Hockey in Aurora.



The first goal is having fun.

Letters to the Editor

Heidi supports the wetland: reader

To the editor,

Re: The McKenzie Wetland, The Nose on Aurora's Face

I've been following the story of the Nokaiidaa Trail and Heidi Stoecklin's campaign to preserve the McKenzie wetlands in their present state with curiosity.

As someone from rural BC who is accustomed to large areas of wilderness, I've asked myself during my stay in Aurora, what's the

big deal?

Why is Heidi so passionate about this one little patch of swamp?

It seems easy to dismiss the McKenzie Wetlands as but a tiny remnant of an ecosystem that has been battered and fragmented beyond viability.

Many of Aurora's residents and politicians must be asking: what difference would a boardwalk make. The area is full of invasive plants and surrounded

by suburbia anyway?

Wetlands are actually fascinating ecosystems in that no matter how small they are, they perform valuable services for the land and humans.

They are nature's built in, highly efficient water filters.

Wetlands mitigate the effects of floods, help moderate the effects of climate change and offer a home to a variety of plants and animals that are vital to pollinating crops, keeping the food

chain in balance, etc., etc. etc.

The services afforded by wetlands are generally taken for granted and thus are some of the most endangered ecosystems in developed nations.

Over half have been wiped out in the USA.

A 1997 study published in Nature concluded that one wetland acre is seven times more valuable than an acre of tropical forest in terms of ecosystem benefits.

All over North America, work is being done to restore wetlands. This is a costly venture.

That's partly why the first principle of conservation ecology is: preserve what you still have. Although the McKenzie Wetlands are by no means pristine, the enhancements programs proposed will undoubtedly be more effective without adding the Nokaiidaa Trail to the mix.

During my stay here in Aurora, I've done a lot of walking on the fine set of existing trails.

Over 90 per cent of those out walking are out with their dogs.

That's fine, but does it really make sense to put dog feces in your water filter?

Adding human and canine wastes does nothing to "enhance" a wetland.

Our presence does nothing to enhance the viability of the area for birds and other animals.

Why don't the Trail promoters seem to understand this?

Surely additional recreation areas aren't more important than the basics of clean water,

clean air and life supporting ecosystems.

If I, like Heidi, were a resident of Aurora, I'd be frustrated.

Look, she seems to be saying, you have a nose on your face. And look at all the money you're spending trying to convince your face it doesn't have a nose.

And the politicians seem to not be willing to look at the face of the matter at all.

This might be a good time for people to recognize that we are living, breathing, human animals, as dependent on viable wetlands as turtles, birds and plants are.

Heidi and others who are speaking out are not "trail opposers" as your headline read, but wetland supporters, life supporters.

I'm grateful to them for putting their energy into this campaign and for doing it with such grace and respect.

K. Linda Kivi Nelson, B.C.

ED. NOTE: K. Linda Kivi is the author of her first novel "If Home Is A Place".

Auroran helping in Haiti

To the editor,

I wanted to bring attention to Auroran, Shane Eickmann, and his deployment about one week ago to Haiti to assist in relief efforts.

Some of you may know Shane as he worked in the Aquatics section at the Leisure Complex for many years.

Shane recently graduated from Niagara College as a Paramedic and is now working in that capacity in the Niagara Region.

He is also a Rapid Response Team member for a Canadian based organization called Global

Medic. Global Medic provides emergency relief to those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies.

In Shane's words, "we empower the emergency response capacity of organizations and communities in the developing world by providing technological equipment and training."

Global Medic strives to deliver the maximum amount of aid with the minimum operating cost.

They seek to increase the independence of communities in the developing world, while ultimately improving the efficiency of international disaster

relief.

Shane went on to say, "currently we have a team of six in Haiti that have been there since January 12th."

The team has focused on restoring access to clean drinking water through the provision of water purification units, as well as restoring medical infrastructure through the use of a 22 ft X 42 ft inflatable field hospital.

RRT members will train local aid groups on the installation, operation and maintenance of all gear so that it may be operational as long as needed.

The team that has been there for the past

two weeks is now coming out and another six team members will be going in to the disaster area.

For updates on what the team has done in Haiti please visit the website and click on the Haiti mission: www.globalmedic.ca.

As we reflect on the crisis in Haiti, let us be thankful for our safe environment and let us be especially thankful that the Shane Eickmann's of the world step up to help out.

Geoffrey Dawe Aurora

Re-open school, reader suggests

To the editor,

Re: Minister of Education to review decision to close Wells Street

Congratulations to those who asked the Minister to

review the decision of the York Region District School Board to close Wells Street Public School.

Wells Street Public School is a critical part of a cultural and historic combination that

is unique to Aurora.

The school itself is a heritage building located next to the beautiful Town Park in the historic heart of Aurora.

The area is steeped in history, surrounded by heritage buildings like the Aurora Cultural Centre, Trinity Anglican Church, the Masonic Temple and the Aurora Armoury.

There should be one place left where the raising of children, public celebrations, a Farmer's Market, community recreation, and an appreciation of living history can exist in one place, not just as a museum piece, but as a living, working reality.

Wells Street Public School must be re-opened.

members of council..

I know that at the end of the day, we will all pay for this fight, regardless who was right or wrong

It could have been resolved with an effective commissioner.

Such an appointment was long overdue.

Guy L. Poppe Aurora

Jill Donahue Aurora

This appointment long overdue, he says

To the editor,

While I am not surprised with Nigel Kean's criticism of council, since, after all, he is running for mayor, his position that the appointment of an integrity commissioner should have been deferred until after the elections, is, in my humble opinion, simply wrong.

The concept of an integrity commissioner is to attempt to resolve internal issues, without the necessity of having to seek court assistance (with its attendant costs to taxpayers).

Unfortunately, we didn't have one to help us resolve these issues.

In the meantime, we now have a court fight between Councillor Evelyn Buck, and the mayor and certain



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Resident wants to live without car

Aurora-resident Carol Cooper says she would like to go car-free.

But to do that, she needs some outside help.

"I don't love the car," says Ms. Cooper who says her life is

currently "in flux".

"I figure between gas, insurance, licences, rust proofing, snow tires, and saving to buy another car when this one dies, it will cost about \$500 a month."

Ms. Cooper lives near Yonge and Wellington so, she says, she can walk to "most things in her life" aside from a few trips to areas such as Mount Albert and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"Most of the time my car sits in the driveway and I'm still paying whether I use it or not," she said. "It is economics and I really don't use it at all. I'm almost there in terms of not needing a car, but I need this extra help from Autosshare."

Autosshare is Toronto-based hourly car rental service that is becoming popular in urban areas.

In a letter submitted to Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee, Ms. Cooper encouraged the Town to take the company up on its services.

"I thought I am going to fight here instead of moving [to Toronto]," she says. "It just seems to me this is the way of the future and when I talked to Autosshare they said they won't come without demonstrated need."

"But people won't develop an interest in it unless they know about it. How are they going to know about it? I guess they're leaving that job to me."

According to Autosshare President Kevin McLaughlin, the company is looking at ways it can expand outside of the Downtown Toronto area, but he says expansion will not be possible without partnership with the towns themselves.

"We're looking at working with the City of Mississauga to bring cars to their city centre and we would be working in

partnership with the city," he says. "Partnership could include help with parking, and signage, and it may have to do with having a contract with city staff."

Mr. McLaughlin says currently their most frequent partners are development firms building multi-unit residential or commercial buildings, either at the request of the city or at their own initiative.

Autosshare has also had discussions with various municipalities on installing their services in conjunction to GO Transit stations and parking hubs.

The company rents parking and stations vehicles in strategic locations. When one becomes a member of Autosshare, they receive access to the cars which are computer programmed with information

for reservations and security.

"People can get 24-hour self-serve access to these vehicles, so it is not an alternative to a cheaper way to lease a car if they are commuting," said Mr. McLaughlin. "It is about people who are a

few times a month or a few times a year [going to need to] make business, family, or shopping trips."

He says lessening one's individual carbon footprint is "one of the three top reasons people join Autosshare."

Town appoints new fire chief

Incoming Central York Fire Services Chief Ian Laing was officially appointed to his new position last week as Aurora Council formally approved the bylaw appointing him to the post.

Chief Laing and Deputy Fire Chief Paul Leslie were on hand as council approved the bylaw, with Chief Laing's appointment having been passed by Newmarket Council the previous evening.

In his introduction, Councillor Al Wilson enumerated Chief Laing's many credentials from a "list as long as my arm."

"Chief Laing came to us after a very successful 37 years with the Mississauga Fire Department, rising from firefighter to assistant deputy chief," said Councillor Wilson. "I would continue to read the list but I think the most fascinating part is that Chief Laing's wife is an officer with the Mississauga Fire Communications Division and his son Kyle is an advanced paramedic with

Halton EMS. I think the credentials are within the family as well."

In his remarks, Chief Laing said it was an honour to serve as the Fire Chief of Central York and praised the unique qualities of the fire service.

"You have a great service here, and any time the two councils can get together and come up with a plan that enables better service for less money to the citizens of their communities should be applauded," he said. "It is a bold and uncommon move in the province and we are an example of how to do it right."

Council also received an updated Emergency Response Plan "to bring the Town of Aurora's Emergency Management Plan into consistent operations with the province's initiative to consolidate emergency management," according to Deputy Chief Leslie.

"It sounds like a good plan, and I hope we don't need it!" said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

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House League

103 Toronto White Timbits 4 - Riley Klugerman 2G, Christian Romas 1G, James Sproul 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Thomas Raeburn 1G. **105 St. Louis Blue Timbits 2** - Daniel Gaeta 2G.

101 Florida Red Timbits 9. 107 Pittsburgh Powder Blue Timbits 1.

106 Pittsburgh Black Timbits 6 - Brett Pearce 2G 1A, Matthew Cowl 2G, Liam Mahoney 1G, Brandin Harris 1G 1A, Adriano Albanese 1A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Dereck Avery 1A, Zachary Grant 1A, Dante Fanuzzi 1A. **102 Boston Gold Timbits 1** - Carson Maybury 1G.

108 Philly Orange Timbits 3. 104 Los Angeles Purple Timbits 2 - Tommy Green 1G 1A, Christopher Marton 1A, Zoe Rodger 1A, Daniel Walker 1G, Quinn Spicer 1A.

201 Los Angeles Purple Caravan Kids 9 - Cameron Lang 1G 3A, Colby Harrison 2G 2A, Ethan Moulds 5G 1A, Alexander Iaboni 1G, Mason Brown 1A, Cody Fisher 1A. **202 St. Louis Blue Caravan Kids 1** - Austin Martin 1G, Cole Forhan 1A, Brandon Urman 1A.

204 Toronto White Caravan Kids 4 - Andrew Breau 1G, Giuliano Iervasi 2G, Tommy Collins 1G 1A, Carson Williams 1A, Eric Flicker 2A, Ryan Funston Clarke 1A. **203 Boston Gold Caravan Kids 4** - John Dol 3G, Christopher Siarkas 1G, Justin Foster 2A, Joseph Franze 1A.

403 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 5 - Nicholas Sever 2A, Gordon Scott 2G 1A, Devon Mundy 1G 1A, Stephen McNeil 1A, Jack Dion 2G. **406 Pittsburgh Black Compass Insurance Brokers 3** - Charles Peters 1G, Justin Miller 1A, Nathan Sherrard 1G, Elais Pasani 1G, Christian Ramirez 1A.

407 Pittsburgh Powder Blue HS Financial 7 - Cameron Dyer 2G 1A, Jacob Leblanc 2G, Paige Crossley 1A, James Samson 1G 2A, Matt LeClair 2G, Nicolas Verbeek 1A. **402 Boston Gold Omar's Shoes 5** - Ryan Cameron 1G 1A, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G, Christian Ridd 1A, Evan Bryan 1G, Jake Carson 1A, Connor DeVogel 1G 1A, Liam DeSouza 1G.

402 Boston Gold Omar's Shoes 7 - Noah Murphy-Sealy 2G, Evan Bryan 1A, Anthony Livia 1G 3A, Connor DeVogel 3G 1A, Matthew Parkin 1A, Michael Vivian 1A, Peter Leontis 1G 2A, Liam Crone 2A, Ryan Cameron 1A. **405 St. Louis Blue Laurion Law Office 3** - Austin Hendy 2G, William Morin 1G 1A, Liam Patterson 1A, Jayson Perkins 1A.

409 San Jose Teal North York Plumbing & Heating 3 - Evan McKenzie, shutout, Sean Mackrell 1G, Cameron Bourne 1A, Colin Boorn 1G, Chris Walsh 1A, Niklas Seidel 1G. **401 Florida Red Chouinard Bros. 0.**

403 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 3 - Jack Dion 2G, Hayden Edwards 1G, Zane Zwicker 1A, Matthew Broad 1A. **404 Los Angeles Purple Mastermind Toys 1** - Owen Bourrie 1G, Jackson Clements 1A.

410 Los Angeles Grey McAlpine Ford 4 - Evan Lambert 2G, Joshua Fallavollita 2G, Nolan Roy 1A, Dillon Varone 1A, Jacob Turriff 1A. **408 Philly Orange Paragon Asset Management 4** - Jack Camplin 3G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Reid Ludgate 1A.

412 Dallas Kelly Green Aurora Lodge 148 8 - Troy Campbell 4G 1A, David Tonelli 4G 5A, James Freel 1A, Evan Knowles 1A. **406 Pittsburgh Black Compass Insurance Brokers 4** - Charles Peters 2G, Nathan Sherrard 1G, Chris Sands 1G 1A, Caelan Bloor 1A, Ayrton Ochab 1A, Ryan Motazedian 1A.

412 Dallas Kelly Green Aurora Lodge 148 5 - Andrew Currie 1G 1A, Evan Knowles 1G 1A, Troy Campbell 2G, Jeremy Rusnell 1G, Jack Campbell 2A, Jordan Kagan 1A, Johnathon Martin 1A, James Freel 1A. **408 Philly Orange Paragon Asset Management 3** - Nicholas Vamvakaris 2G, Nicklaus Reid 1G, Dalton Slind 1A, Reid Ludgate 1A, Brendan Ross 1A.

603 Toronto White Aurora Orthodontics 6. 610 St. Louis Blue Rotary Club of Aurora 4.

608 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 1. 605 Los Angeles Grey Rival Concepts 1.

606 Pittsburgh Black AHPA 4. 607 Pittsburgh

Powder Blue Diamond Groundskeeping 1. 602 Boston Gold Tilemaster 7. 601 Florida Red Rogers 0.

609 San Jose Teal Backyard Pool & Spa 6. 604 Los Angeles Purple Swiss Chalet 4.

810 Los Angeles Grey 3 - Declan Johnson 1G, Graeme Allison 1G, Trevor Rice 1G, Ryan MacMillan 1A, Micheal Roell 1A, Tyler George 1A, Eric Stauble 1A, Tom Mason 1A. **805 St. Louis Blue Orr & Associates 1** - Thomas Scougall 1G, Riley O'Brien 1A.

806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 3 - Eric Bulloch 1G, 1A, Brendan Elliot 1G, Nicholas Bertrand 1G, Justin Stevens 1A, Scott Taylor 1A, Trevor Stephens 1A. **809 San Jose Teal 3** - Brendon McDonald 1G 1A, Austin Boudreau 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1G, Harris Riopelle 1A, Gavin Matheson 1A.

811 Colorado Burgandy 4 - Dylan Indos 2G, Quinn Harris 1G, Tyler Indos 1G, Andrew Kaszuba 1A, Josh Lawlor 1A. **804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 2** - Brian Langdon 1G, Jesse Borin 1G, 1A.

802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 4 - Ryan Dowling 2G, Corey Young 1G, Mitchell Arnold 1G, Matthew Foschia 1A, Mac Cawfield 1A, Michael Liscio 1A, Kyle Nice 1A, Alex Seto 1A, Quinn McGowan 1A. **813 St Louis White 1** - Morgan Walker 1G.

803 Toronto White AHPA 4 - Daniel Antoniel 1G 3A, Matthew D'Allessandro 1G, Bailey Miller 1G 1A, Liam Devlin 1G 2A. **812 Dallas Kelly Green 3** - William He 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 1G, Josh Bell 1G 1A, Tyler Delahey 1A, Matthew Roach 1A, Francois Bicego 1A.

813 St Louis White 2 - Morgan Walker 1G 1A, Kienan Osborne 1G 1A, Alex Harrison 2A. **801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 2** - Parker Baile 1G 1A, Andrew Boehmer 1G, William Allen 1A, Jake Arcangeli 1A.

808 Philly Orange Pizza Pizza 3 - Russell Johnson 2G 1A, Scott Wheeler 1G. **805 St. Louis Blue Orr & Associates 1** - Dylan Lyons 1G, Matt Walker 1A.,

810 Los Angeles Grey 5 - Sam Mason, shutout, Colin Laird 2G, Trevor Rice 1G, Lucas Marek 2G, Tyler George 1A, Graeme Allison 3A. **803 Toronto White AHPA 0.**

806 Pittsburgh Black Continental Ingredients 3 - Nicholas Bertrand 2G 1A, Trevor Stephens 1G 1. **807 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 1** - Christopher Sanita 1G, Matthew Sanita 1A.

811 Colorado Burgandy 2 - Michael Slack 1G 1A, Nicholas Holliday 1G 1A. **802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 1** - Michael Liscio 1G, Corey Young 1A, Kyle Nice 1A.

804 Los Angeles Purple Caruso & Company 8 - Tyler Futterer 3G 1A, Gregory Milligan 2G 2A, Adam Durante 1G, Duncan Eveleigh 2G 3A, Mark Pressaco 1A, Luc Martineau 1A, Chris Downs 1A. **809 San Jose Teal 3** - Jamie Pountney 1G, Brendon McDonald 1G, Gavin Matheson 1G, Nicolas Marrelli 1A.

902 Boston Gold CW Coops 2. 901 Florida Red Aurora Chrysler 0.

903 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 4. 906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 1.

905 St. Louis Blue 6. 904 Los Angeles Purple 1.

1006 Pittsburgh Black 3 - Matthew Semeredy 2G, Dillon Cappell 1G 2A, Jay Lamont 1A, Zachary Samonas 1A, Jesse Cappell 1A. **1002 Boston Gold 2** - Wesley Seminara 1G, Jonathan Boehmer 1G, Michael Mourtzanos 2A, Mark Tanel 1A.

1010 Los Angeles Grey 5 - Matthew Bishop 1G, Tristan Miller 2G, Ben Slimkovich 1G 1A, Dylan Jolivet 1G 2A, Jake Boyle 2A. **1011 Colorado Burgandy Graystones Restaurant 3** - Justin Killens 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Chris Blumreisinger 1G, Matthew Mears 1A.

1004 Los Angeles Purple 5 - Marco Santella 1G, Sean Ellison 1G, Cameron Meikle 1G, Brendan Strachan 1G, Daniel Howie 1G 1A, Brett Matthews 2A, Carter Schaefer 1A. **1001 Florida Red 1** - James Harkin 1G.

1009 San Jose Teal 6 - Paul Keilty 4G, Liam McGoldrick 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 1G, Michael Bar 2A,

Dylan Skelton 1A, Cory Blom 3A, Sean Maule 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1A. **1012 Dallas Kelly Green Enviroc 3** - Michael Morson 2G, Daniel Cervone 1G, Jamie Cherutti 1A, Liam Martin 2A.

Rep League

Tyke Select B 1 - Justin Hicks 1G, Jace Jackson 1A, Justin Lacroix and Dereck Avery, shutouts. **Bradford: 0**

Stouffville Clippers 8. Tyke Select B 0.

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Malcolm Johnston 1G 1A, Wesley Reid 1G, Evan Pringle 1G, Ben Liotta 2A, Cooper Judson 1A, **TNT 3.**

Novice AA Tigers 2 - Evan Pringle 2G. **Ted Reeve Tornados 1.**

Novice AA Tigers 5 - Wesley Reid 3G, Malcolm Johnston 1G 1A, Evan Pringle 1G, Ben Liotta 1A, Andrew Wolanski 1A, Ryan Cunniam 1A, Cory Read 1A. **Vaughan Rangers 3.**

West London 2. Novice AA Tigers 2 - Evan Pringle 2G, Anthony DiPietro 1A, Trevor Dungey 1A.

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Malcolm Johnston 1G 1A, Evan Pringle 1G, Luke Jarvis 1G, Cory Read 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Cooper Judson 1A, Matteo Orlandi, shutout. **Markham Waxers 0.**

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Malcolm Johnston 2G, Evan Pringle 1G 1A, Ben Liotta 1A, Michael Orlandi 1A, Matteo Orlandi, shutout. **Ajax 0.**

Novice AA Tigers 3 - Malcolm Johnston 1G 1A, Wesley Reid 1G, Evan Pringle 1G, Cory Read 1A, Matteo Orlandi, shutout. **Newmarket 0.**

Novice AE Tigers 4 - Justin Harbaruk 3G, Harris Goan 1G, Evan Robertson 1A, Jack Patterson 1A, Connor Thomas 1A, Warren Hill, shutout. **Orillia 0.**

Novice AE Tigers 4 - Justin Harbaruk 1G 1A, Luke Catania 1G 1A, Evan Robertson 1G 1A, Harris Goan 1G 1A, Rony Wahab 1A, Ryan McCartney 1A. **Orillia 1.**

TNT 6. Minor Atom AA Tigers 0.

Newmarket 4. Minor Atom A Tigers 1.

Minor Atom A Tigers 3. Markham 0.

Richmond Hill 4. Minor Atom AE Tigers 0.

Richmond Hill 5. Minor Atom AE Tigers 3 - Scott Rumble 1G, Adam DePiero 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Jaedon Jackson 1G 1A, Luke O'Keefe 1A, Justin Evans 1A.

Richmond Hill 4. Atom AA Tigers 4 - Morgan Frost 3G, Brennan Young 2A, Philip Wolanski 1G, Brady Futterer 1A, Thomas Wilson 1A.

Atom AA Tigers 2 - Brennan Young 1G 1A, Morgan Frost 1G 1A, Ben Langlois 1A, Max Goldman 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Atom A Tigers 3 - Kyle Rice 1G, Jordan Torres 1G, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Reid Carpenter 1A, Alex Wyndham-West 1A, Eric McGhie 1A. **Nobleking 2.**

Markham Waxers 3. Minor Pee wee AA Tigers 2 - James Wyndham West 1G 1A, Evan Woodhead 1G, Keegan Matthew 1A.

Innisfil 3. Minor Pee wee A Tigers 1 - Spencer White 1G.

Markham 2. Minor Pee wee A Tigers 0.

Minor Pee wee A Tigers 4 - Mathew Tyndall 2G, Brendin Ramsay 1G, Colin Kostin 1A, Evan Cherubini 1G, Spencer White 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Brian Suominen 1A. **Markham 0.**

Minor Pee wee A Tigers 3 - Ryan Coveart 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Cameron Zinner 1A, Spencer White 1G, Colin Kostin 1G, Matthew Liscio 1A. **Markham 2.**

Minor Pee wee AE Tigers 5 - Michael DaCosta 3G, Christian Arcuri 2A, Cameron Anderson 2A, Connor Downs 2G, Tyler Williams 1A, Michael Jollimore 1A. **Richmond Hill 4.**

Minor Pee wee AE Tigers 5 - Zach Fletcher 1G

1A, Matthew MacDonald 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 1A, Tyler Williams 1G 2A, Michael DaCosta 1G, Connor Downs 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Richmond Hill 2. Pee wee AA Tigers 1 - David O'Connor 1A, Jake Appleby 1G.

Pee wee AA Tigers 1 - Chris Klinowski 1G, Jake Appleby 1A, Taylor Lemmon, shutout. **Richmond Hill 0.**

Newmarket 2. Pee wee A Tigers 1.

Pee wee AE Tigers 2. Barrie 1.

Pee wee AE Tigers 1. Barrie 0.

Barrie 2. Pee wee AE Tigers 0.

Pee wee AE Tigers 2. Barrie 2.

Richmond Hill 5. Minor Bantam AA Tigers 1 - Liam Coll 1G, Blake Wallace 1A.

Richmond Hill 8. Minor Bantam AA Tigers 3 - Shadoc Storm 1G, Lucas Pozzebon 1G, John MacDonald 1G, Matt Iwai 1A, Konner McMillan 1A, Liam Coll 1A.

Barrie 7. Minor Bantam A Tigers 3 - Graham Robinson 1G 1A, Liam Beresford 1G, Zac Cowl 1G, Jack Caldwell 1A, Austin Persaud 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A, Jake McKee 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A.

Minor Bantam A Tigers 1 - Nathan Nealon 1G, Graham Robinson 1A. **Barrie 1.**

Minor Bantam AE Tigers 4 - Brayden Beswick 2G 2A, Nicholas Steiner 2G, Kyle Strachan 1A, Nelson Hossack 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Minor Bantam AE Tigers 6 - Alec Ground 2G, Kyle Nice 1G 1A, Ben Ashton 1G, Brayden Beswick 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Ian Dunlop 1A, Victor Chadarov 1A. **Richmond Hill 2.**

Markham 4. Bantam AA Tigers 4.

Markham 3. Bantam AA Tigers 2.

Bantam A Tigers 1 - Andrew McDonald 1G, Eric Damecour 1A, Colton Lee 1A. **Grimbsy 1.**

TBD 4. Bantam A Tigers 3 - Ryan Baskin 1G, Andrew McDonald 1G, Evan Romano 1G, Quincy Ing 1G, Colton Lee 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Braden Casselden 2A.

Bantam A Tigers 2 - Colton Lee 1G 1A, Eric Damecour 1G, Matthew Pryse 1A, Taylor Coveart, shutout. **Markham 0.**

Bantam A Tigers 6 - Vincent Ruscica 2G 1A, Matthew Pryse 2G, Eric Archibald 1G, Jonathan McConnell 1G 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Andrew McDonald 1G, Ryan Baskin 1A. **Markham 1.**

Newmarket 4. Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Zach Ferry 1G,

Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Casey Severini 1G, Connor McQuillan 1A, Seth Rodger, shutout. **Newmarket 0.**

Newmarket 4 - Bantam AE Tigers 1 - Peter Sandwell 1G, Paul Steiner 1A.

Barrie 3. Minor Midget AA Tigers 1 - Mark Robertson 1G.

Innisfil 4. Minor Midget A Tigers 3 - Brett Wilson 1G, Josh Klinowski 1A, Matt Skoulikas 1G, Marco Ghedin 1A, Ryan Hughes 1G.

Minor Midget A Tigers 4 - Alex Woodward 1G, Josh Klinowski 1G, Cooper Riswick 1G 1A, Brendan Beresford 1G, Matt Skoulikas 1A, Marco Ghedin 1A, Matthew Melito 1A. **Orillia 3.**

Minor Midget AE Tigers 4. Richmond Hill 1.

Minor Midget AE Tigers 5. Richmond Hill 2.

Richmond Hill 2. Minor Midget AE Tigers 1.

Midget AE Tigers 4. TNT 1.

Midget AE Tigers 4. Markham 0.

Midget AE Tigers 3. TNT 1.

Midget AE Tigers 4. Georgina 0.

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Tigers increase hold on 7th place

With only seven games remaining in the regular schedule, the Provincial Junior A Aurora Tigers put some distance between them and elimination from the playoffs last week.

They have a six-point bulge over eighth place Vaughan thanks to a pair of wins and a shootout loss in three games last week.

Two teams, Kingston and Oakville, have already clinched playoff berths.

In the first game Friday night, players increased their standings in the scoring race as Aurora downed the last place Milton IceHawks 13-1, led by Jeff Vanderlugt's five goals.

And Milton scored the first goal of the game.

Perhaps that goal woke the Tigers, because, a minute later, Vanderlugt's shot from the slot blasted through the IceHawks goalie, and once the Tigers got going, it was all Aurora for the rest of the night.

With three minutes gone in the second, team captain David Morley scored.

Ninety seconds later, Vanderlugt ripped a shot high to the short side.

With 13 minutes gone in the period Morley scored again and four minutes later Vanderlugt completed the hat trick.

Vanderlugt kept using the hot stick as he scored with just over a minute gone in the third period.

Ten minutes later, Shawn Clark finished a great shift as he went hard to the net to score.

30 seconds later Nick Vangog added another.

Sardella got his second of the game when he broke in on a rink-long pass from Morley.

Less than a minute later Vanderlugt finished his five-goal scoring rampage.

Saturday afternoon, the Tigers faced the Villanova Knights at York University, with their game a little lax after

thumping Milton the night before.

The Tigers looked vulnerable early. They were missing Mark Ramkema (playing in the OHL) and Steven Taylor and Anthony Ranieri to injury.

By the 13-minute mark of the first period the Tigers were trailing 3-0 to the Knights.

Late in the period on a powerplay, David Morley cut into the slot where he hit metal, ringing the crossbar in a 'bar-down' goal.

Less than a minute later Greg Cerilli brought Aurora to within one.

A Tigers powerplay at the start of the second ended when Morley scored again.

Villanova took the lead three minutes later on a powerplay of their own, but five minutes later Sardella scored.

It's never great to give up a goal to the opposition in the last minute of a period - but the Tigers did - and went to the locker room trailing by one.

The Tigers started the third strong and were rewarded when Matt Prinsen scored.

That ended the game scoring, leaving the teams tied 5-5 at the end of regulation.

Overtime solved nothing, which meant a shootout would decide the winner.

All three Tigers shooters fired blanks, while one Knight scored.

Sunday afternoon, in front of more than 100 fans, Aurora defeated the Mississauga Chargers 3-1.

Mississauga again scored the first goal, but it was all they would do for the afternoon.

It took almost 17 minutes before Aurora was able to capitalize, on a powerplay, when Lucas VanNatter scored.

With just over two minutes gone in the third, Nick Vangog scored the eventual game winner.

The Chargers continued to have their chances

but couldn't solve Curtis Black as Black made some astounding stops in the period.

Almost ten minutes later Vanderlugt scored the insurance marker.

Black had a great game, turning away 28 of the 29 shots he faced, while the Chargers goaltender played well at the other end, turning away 31 of the 34 Tigers' shots.

The Tigers next play these same Chargers in their Port Credit home this Saturday, February 6th, at 8 p.m.

Aurora's next home game is Sunday, February 7th at 2:30 p.m. where they will get a chance to avenge their shoot out loss to the Villanova Knights.

There is no home game this Friday.

AURORA 13 MILTON 1

First period

M - Chris Micallef (Jende, Zuccaro) 4.24

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Chiarantano, Pianosi) 5.44

A - Matt Chiarantano (Stewart, Morley) 16.18

A - Andrew Secco (Vangog, Lisi) 17.45

Second period

A - David Morley (Sardella, Stewart) 3.05

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Chiarantano, Pianosi) 4.49

A - David Morley (Sardella) 13.29

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (VanNatter, Cerilli) 17.09

A - Michael Sardella (Morley, Stewart) 19.09

Third period

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (VanNatter, Chiarantano) 1.06

A - Shawn Clark (Pianosi, Vangog) 10.31

A - Nick Vangog (Pianosi, Chiarantano) 10.52

A - Michael Sardella (Morley, Morton) 14.09

A - Jeff Vanderlugt

(Cerilli) 14.46 VILLANOVA 6 AURORA 5

First period

V - Matt Lorito (Harris, Baptista) 6.29

V - Blake Lovell (Lochner, Chiappetta) 12.44

V - Junior Harris (Lorito, Chiappetta) 13.14

A - David Morley (Sardella) PP 18,17

A - Greg Cerilli (Chiarantano, VanNatter) 18.49

Second period

A - David Morley (Stewart, Sardella) PP 0.45

V - Nathaniel Domagala (Harris, Chiappetta) PP 3.42

A - Alexi Pianosi (Morley) 8.30

V - Matt Lorito (Di Giuseppe, Domagala) 19.12

Third period

A - Matt Prinsen (Vanderlugt) 1.10

Overtime

No scoring

Shootout

Villanova 1, Aurora 0.

AURORA 3 MISSISSAUGA 1

First period

M - Mike Santini (DeMelo, D Arrisso) 6.55

Second period

A - Lucas VanNatter

(Chiarantano, Vanderlugt) PP 16.53

Third period

A - Nick Vangog (Lisi, Secco) 2.16

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Sardella) 11.:38

Provincial Junior A hockey standings

	GP	W	L	Pts
Kingston	48	38	3	86
Oakville	47	35	7	79
Georgetown	47	31	9	72
Villanova	49	27	15	64
Couchiching	48	26	16	63
Trenton	48	22	17	59
Aurora	48	24	16	58
Vaughan	47	19	16	52
Buffalo	47	20	21	50
Brampton	50	16	23	49
Huntsville	48	17	26	42
Mississauga	48	13	29	36
Bramalea	49	11	31	32
Collingwood	48	8	36	23
Milton	48	2	44	6

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CHRISTINA SMID



WILSON DERBYSHIRE

Selkies swimmers score well at meet

The rapidly growing Aurora Selkies Swim Club sent 26 swimmers to the Pickering Winterfest swim meet recently and they came home with 24 individual first place finishes, 10 second places and 11 thirds.

The Selkies three first place and one third place relay finishes, show an increasing depth in strength that is developing within the team, said coach Yvonne Cattrall.

Individual top three places were secured by Andrea Bobadilla, Nicolas Bobadilla, Jennifer Colwell, Brock Derbyshire and Carter Derbyshire, Lucas Durante, Andrew Goslin, Evan Holtby, Madison Jakubas, Kyra

Lansing, Madeline Moffatt, James Pallotto, Constantin Sasarman, Valentin Sasarman, Leanna Smid, Myko Smid and Luke Williams.

Wilson Derbyshire won all six individual events that he swam and scored one relay win in addition to a third place relay finish.

Christina Smid, meanwhile, won all four events that she swam.

In Relay races first place Selkies relay team members included Nicolas Bobadilla, Wilson Derbyshire, Carter Derbyshire, Brock Derbyshire, Myko Smid, Natalia Blair, Andrew Goslin, Connor Malbeuf, Kiran Singh, Evan Holtby, Valentin

Sasarman, James Pallotto and Constantin Sasarman,

The Selkies have seven swimmers who have qualified for the Central Region Championships to be held in Etobicoke in early February.

Coach Cattrall (herself a current World Record Holder in Masters swimming) is "very excited about the results of the meet.

"Twelve months ago the Selkies had no swimmers qualify for the Central Region Championships, this year we have seven; our swimmers are going from strength to strength," she said. "Our successes so far are a direct result of the hard work of our dedicated coaching team."

Groups discuss budget with riding's MP Brown

Residents in Aurora and Newmarket had plenty of suggestions for the upcoming federal budget at a Pre-Budget Consultation hosted by Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown in Aurora recently.

A number of presentations covering a range of issues were tabled, MP Brown said.

"Given the fragile state of the economic recovery, the upcoming budget could be one of our most important," she said. "Town hall meetings such as this allows the public to directly inform government about their priorities and issues, a crucial component of the process. All of tonight's suggestions will be passed onto the finance minister for serious consideration."

Several individuals and community groups took the opportunity to participate.

Presentations were heard from the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, the Multi-Employer Benefit Plan Council of Canada; Bonnie Kirsch; Lucille Abate, the president of the Newmarket Soccer Club; Charles Sequeira, president of the Aurora Seniors Centre; Lorris Herenda from the Yellow Brick House in Aurora; Kirk Farquar; Matt Morrison; and Geoffrey Dawe, president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Specific suggestions included enacting a temporary tax rebate on new car purchases, extending the Housing

Renovation Tax Credit, investing in Canada's knowledge industry and taxing exported raw materials.

Although noted as not directly a federal responsibility, presentations also cited the need to address the imbalance of social service per-capita funding in York Region.

"All residents of Aurora and Newmarket have an opportunity to play a role in the federal budget process," said MP Brown. "I encourage everyone to take the

time to submit any ideas and comments they might have. Their input will be seriously considered for this budget as we work together to plan the future of our country."

Residents may submit ideas and suggestions in person to 16600 Bayview Avenue in Newmarket; by fax to 905-953-7527 or by email to Brown.L@parl.gc.ca<mailto:Brown.L@parl.gc.ca>.

The budget will be released March 4.

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Monday night hockey results

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Rec Cycle N' Sports	13	2	3	89	55	29
Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	10	2	6	70	48	26
Baldwin's	10	7	1	65	65	21
Law Insurance Brokers	8	9	1	54	75	17
Tom & Jerry's	7	8	3	71	63	17
Priestly Demolition	4	9	5	64	74	13
FPL Aggregates	4	11	3	49	54	11
Masterclean Contracting	4	12	2	53	77	10

WEEKLY RESULTS

Tom & Jerry's	9	Rec Sports	9
Masterclean	4	Priestly Demolition	5
Baldwin's	1	Highland Chev	5
FPL Aggregates	0	Law Insurance	2

Rob Blakley, Tom & Jerry's	25	14	39
John Andersen, Rec Sports	17	17	34
Mark Swirla, Priestly	18	15	33
John Archibald, Highland	15	11	26
Doug Adair, Rec Sports	7	18	25
Scott Thomas, Tom & Jerry's	4	20	24
Tom Hussey, Masterclean	8	15	23
Ed Kilroy, Rec Sports	17	5	22
Ken Fisher, Highland	14	8	22
Brad McMillan, Baldwins	12	10	22
Steve Kavanagh, Baldwins	9	13	22
Julian Dalcin, Rec Sports	7	15	22
Craig McConnell, Masterclean	14	7	21
Sam Speranini, Tom & Jerry's	12	9	21
Mark Lemmon, Rec Sports	11	10	21
Peter Briand, Baldwins	7	14	21
Ed Jackson, Baldwins	7	14	21
Paul Gibson, Highland	9	11	20
Mike O'Connor, Priestly	7	13	20
Gerry Mackrell, Rec Sports	6	14	20
Mark Sedore, Priestly	11	7	18
Alain Boudreau, Highland	5	13	18
Stephen McDonald, Law Insurance	6	11	17
Tom Webster, Tom & Jerry's	6	11	17
Dwayne Smith, Law Insurance	4	13	17
Paul Wolanski, Law Insurance	4	12	16
John Leader, Law Insurance	11	5	16
Don Nichols, Law Insurance	11	5	16
Gerald Briand, Baldwins	9	7	16
Steve Robertson, Masterclean	6	8	14
Ken Heinrich, Rec Sports	2	12	14
Ron Thiessen, Tom & Jerry's	1	13	14
Al Perkins, Priestly	6	7	13
Rob Stroud, Masterclean	7	5	12
Brad Wilson, Tom & Jerry's	5	7	12
Phil Podstatzky, Priestly	4	8	12
Patrick Davies, Priestly	3	9	12
Jason Muise, Rec Sports	3	9	12
Ken Rumble, Highland	3	9	12
Bill Collings, Tom & Jerry's	1	11	12
Scott Crabbe, Highland	5	6	11
Jason Hurlbut, Rec Sports	5	6	11
Todd Richardson, FPL	5	6	11
Dave Calverley, Law Insurance	4	7	11
Joel Reeves, Tom & Jerry's	4	7	11
Bob Ince, Rec Sports	3	8	11
Brett Vickers, FPL	2	9	11
Scott Shepperd, Rec Sports	1	10	11
Ken VanNoort, FPL	6	4	10
Kevin O'Keefe, Rec Sports	5	5	10
Glen Bince, Masterclean	4	6	10
Steve McBurnie, Priestly	4	6	10
Hugh Alcorn, Masterclean	2	8	10
Steve Riswick, Tom & Jerry's	2	8	10
Brian MacKenzie, Priestly	1	9	10
Brandon Chappel, FPL	9	0	9
Jerome Flanagan, Highland	3	6	9
Dan Smith, Baldwins	3	6	9
Dennis Tonello, Baldwins	3	6	9
Ron Van Noort, FPL	3	6	9
Bruce Ing, Law Insurance	2	7	9
Craig Gellatly, FPL	7	1	8
Frank Balkovec, Baldwins	5	3	8
Denny Giles, FPL	3	5	8
Adam Tzarik, Tom & Jerry's	3	5	8
Les Nip, Highland	2	6	8
Deryk Preston, FPL	2	6	8
Dan Cote, Highland	1	7	8
Jody Mathews, Highland	1	7	8
Chris Neale, Law Insurance	1	7	8



Members of the tournament winning Aurora Tigers Novice AA team are, front row, left to right, Tyler Sawyer, Evan Pringle, Michael Orlandi, Anthony Di Pietro, Ben Liotta, Luke Jarvis, Malcolm Johnston, Matteo Orlandi, Trevor Dungey and Wesley Reid. Middle row, left to right, are Cory Read, Noah Dempsey, Cooper Judson, Russell Tanaka, Andrew Wolanski and Ryan Cunniam. In the back row, the coaching staff, left to right, includes Stuart Pringle, Paul Wolanski, Rich Liotta, Tod Dungey and Paul Reid.

Tigers Novice AA squad wins Preston tournament

The Aurora Tigers Novice AA team recently won the 52nd Annual Preston International Tournament, defeating the Ajax Knights in the final 3-0.

The Tigers got the award with a record of two wins and a tie in the preliminary round, followed up with a 3-0 victory against the Markham Waxers in the semi-final.

In the final, the team dominated Ajax right from the opening, controlling play for much of the game. Although tied 0-0 going into the third period, the Tigers took control scoring three goals to secure the championship.

Scoring for the Tigers were Malcolm Johnston with two goals and Evan Pringle with one.

The team had spectacular goaltending from Matteo Orlandi, who earned the shutout.

This was the second tournament victory for the Tigers this season and couldn't have come at a better time as they begin playoffs this week.



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Aurora Optimist Club turning 25.....

Optimist of the Month
Peter Bifulchi



Joined the Optimist Club of Aurora in January 2007. Currently 2009-2010 Vice President Pete is a contributing force to the many successful community events the club undertakes. In his short time as a member Pete has packed a lot into these 3 years, also serving for 2 years as our Sargent at Arms. In this position Pete is responsible for keeping our banners up to date and available for community events where they are required. The next function would be the upcoming Annual Chess Tournament hosted by the Optimist Club of Aurora in February. The tournament involves children from grades 1-12 with the top 3 of each category advancing to the Regional Chess Tournament held in March. In the next few months you will read more about the Optimists and their plan to celebrate 25 years on Sat. June 19th with a community Picnic at Optimist Park.



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Aurora resident serves in Haiti

By BROCK WEIR
Auroran Staff

As Halton EMS worker Christine Barber walked through her hospital ward last month, the Aurora resident came across a man who had just had surgery on his one good leg.

He appeared to have already been missing one leg for a previous injury, but this man had been lying there all day.

She was finally called over to the patient who said he was getting hungry. Ms Barber thought that was a good sign of improvement.

"I sat him up in the bed and I gave him six little pretzels and he started eating them very slowly," she said. "He just wanted to savour it. He was thin and drawn-looking, so obviously he hadn't had food in a long time.

"He was just eating these pretzels, so I leaned in and started to rub his back because a lot of [patients] get bed sores. I started massaging his back and a big smile came over his face. He put his arm around me, pulled me in and sat there with his pretzel in his hand, then I heard him say something to the interpreter.

"The interpreter laughed and said, 'He says he is in paradise.'"

This scene was all too familiar to Ms Barber who recently came back from a one-week mission to Haiti.

While many of us have been glued to the TV and internet over the past few weeks watching in shock and sadness as the horrors of Haiti's devastating earthquake unfolded, Ms.



Aurora's Christine Barber assists members of the 82nd Airborne as they help people in Haiti who were injured in a recent earthquake. To find out how you can help aid Haiti relief, visit www.ftccanada.ca.

Barber, who is a manager of support services for Halton EMS, was on the scene, along with nine others in a Canadian mission led by FTC Canada.

Staying at the Mission of Hope compound 40 minutes northeast of Port-au-Prince, Ms Barber was anxious to help out.

A fellow EMS worker from Halton had taken a leave of absence from work in September to operate an ambulance in Haiti. He and his family were unharmed in the quake.

The volunteers on this mission formed three teams which were dispersed through the General Hospital, which had expanded with tents for pre-

and post-op patients to cover most of its grounds, something Ms Barber likened to "semi-organized chaos."

"We had pain relief medications we were giving to patients," she said. "We changed bandages, wounds that had been roughly bandaged up and hadn't been changed in eight days. We were taking bandages off wounds and they were just imbedded; very painful and lots of infection. We started IVs, fluid replacement, and basically went around patient to patient."

While Ms Barber and her team were able to see the devastation first hand travelling to and from their hospital, it is the

"faces of desperation" she said will leave the most lasting impression on her.

"I can honestly say that the Haitian people are gentle people," she said. "They were not demanding. They were patient, stoic, they were just unbelievably patient. They sat there while we would go through the wards asking every patient if they had problems; they may have had their legs covered up and all of a sudden they would undrape a blanket off their legs and you would see a horrendous injury with bones and you think, 'This person has been sitting here all day and they never said look after me' or they never persisted in any way. They just

waited patiently for help. It was quite moving to see this.

"There were endless situations like that with people who would turn around and smile in the chaos and pain. It was an experience I will never forget."

For those wanting to help out the victims of Haiti's earthquake any way they can, Ms Barber said that while monetary donations are always good, there is a pressing need for donated crutches and mobility aids such as splints and walkers to aid those who have suffered injuries and limb amputa-

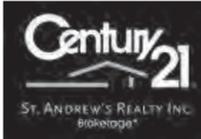
tions.

Ms Barber said one day a neighbour said to her, "Christine, if you're not giving, you're not living." This advice, she said, has remained with her.

"I would go back in a heartbeat," she said. "I wasn't ready to leave when we were going, but we determined it was going to be a seven-day mission. But the reality is if there is any more going back, there is a whole list of people ready to go. I think in fairness I would let others have an opportunity."

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Pantry near deal to move

From page 1
square feet of space available in the structure that was used by Rogers Communications after it had purchased ACI, one of Canada's last remaining independent cable companies.

But Rogers was only renting the facility and their lease is about to end.

Rogers plans to relocate operations to their other properties in York Region.

Food Pantry board members met at the building last Wednesday night, and unanimously approved the recommendation to move.

Currently in the base-

ment of the old post office building on Yonge Street, the food bank has poor access and needs more space.

The building is owned by the Dol family of Aurora, and the basement space has forced the pantry to use facilities at a nearby church to store and sort food.

That would not be a problem at the new location, board members agreed.

Whether the hours of operation would increase remains to be seen.

Currently, the food pantry is open all day Saturday and the second

and fourth Thursday evenings.

Members of the board tell The Auroran that, although getting the space ready and making the move is a big undertaking for an all-volunteer organization, they are excited about the potential the space offers.

They have already started hearing from members of the community who are offering assistance and

advise they welcome the offers.

According to board members, inquiries may be made by email to auro-rafoodpantry@gmail.com.

"We have a wish list," said board member Patricia Wallace.

Director Rummenie has written a Letter to the Editor about the pantry's history. The letter appears on Page 6.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Among the fascinating aspects of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is the manner in which it developed from a stunted, hapless condition, lodged in the narrow confines of an old fire hall, to the vibrant and self confident edition, evident in today's Seniors' Centre.

I will not recount again at this time, the way the new centre came to life suddenly, after years of being little more than a political verbal promise of a future which proved elusive, but which eventually did, in fact, materialize.

The new ASA building is well looked after by the Town under the auspices of the Leisure Services Department whose responsibility it is.

It is treated with care and respect by the legions of seniors.

Imagination, rightly or wrongly, suggests that seniors who cannot bring themselves to accept seniority, would, in fact, fare very well among their contemporaries in the ASA.

New members often lose any doubts quickly as they are drawn into the existing social life, and particularly so when they find a pursuit or hobby of their choice available.

Immersed in such circumstances, seniority is hardly forgotten, but it is dwarfed by the realization that life continues long after retirement.

Many times I have alluded to activity leaders who have led the ASA to one smashing success after another; not the slightest doubt exists that more of the same will materialize, possibly with the same members leading the way but just as likely with new leaders emerging with their own, new and invigorating ideas.

The years of youth have disappeared into the misty past, and still the years of retirement offers different pathways; but whichever pathway appears, good times gather wherever the seniors gather, and the good times will be senior good times just as our vital human nature intended.

As I write, the ASA is moving into disaster relief mode for the earthquake victims in Haiti and the Zephyr Big Band will donate their talented expertise and excellent music on Sunday, February 28th from 2 to 3.30 p.m.

All ticket proceeds will be directed to Haiti through the Canadian Red Cross and the

Salvation Army.

Returning to the ASA agenda, I note that Valentines Day Lunch will be served at noon, February 10th and Pancake Tuesday will be celebrated Tuesday, February 16th.

For all the Opera Club fans who pack the ASA lounge to its limit, La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini is scheduled for Friday, February 26th at 7 p.m.

Jytte Gillies who originated the Opera Club has done a great job of making opera available to the members of the ASA, where members can listen to it quietly and discuss it afterwards.

Inspired are those who listen to beautiful opera, since listening to great music stirs the passion of our nature with the beauty delivered through sound.

The computer club and the ASA each scheduled meetings for February 10th, which clashed.

The computer club has cancelled its meeting for February 10th, and has substituted a Drop In session in its place.

The ASA meeting is to discuss and vote on the proposed application of a permanent liquor license for the sale of liquor at the Aurora Seniors Centre, and seeks a mandate from the members.

Licensing for the ASA is an important subject and deserves the input and opinion of the members. Many members would clearly enjoy an occasional drink, while others would prefer not to introduce a permanent license.

So the stage is set to exchange views and to decide the matter by a decisive vote to give the Board of Directors clear direction in this matter. A good attendance on this important subject would give resounding authority to the result of the voting.

Rogers TV hosted a panel of five to debate senior related issues, and ASA president, Charles Sequeira was among those chosen.

The heart of the debate concerned the arrival in large numbers during the next ten years, of the so called Grey Power, which is an age group born in the years succeeding World War two.

The program Focal Point will be shown Wednesday, February 3rd, at 2 p.m. on Rogers Cable TV, channel 10.



Town of Aurora United Way Campaign representative, Heather Green, second from left, receives an award on behalf of the Town at the United Way "Crowning Moments" 2009 Campaign wrap up at Le Parc recently. In the photo are, left to right, Court Carruthers, 2009 Campaign Cabinet Chair and President of Grainger International; Ms Green; Mark Foerster, Chair of the UWYR 2009/2010 Board of Directors and Vice President of Group Operations and Claims for Munich Reinsurance Company and Daniele Zanotti, Chief Executive Officer, United Way York Region. Aurora beat out Georgina and Stouffville in the category.

Hot Spot closes

From page 1

hours of administration, hard work and quality supervision, Ms. Gaertner said, praising Colin Temple and his family who were instrumental in ensuring that Friday evenings ran smoothly.

But, Ms Gaertner said, youngsters have different forms of entertainment these days, and the closing of Aurora's Bingo Hall, which was subsidizing the operation, didn't help either.

Hot Spot started at the Aurora Community Centre, then moved to the Aurora Lions Hall on Mosley Street for several years, and was back at the Community Centre when it closed.

Ms Gaertner pays trib-

ute to the people who helped Hot Spot survive as long as it did, in a Letter to the Editor, appearing this week on Page 7.

Aurora Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, January 25 - N/S: Rose White and Gloria Smith and Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young; Rosemary Nichols and Jean Bongard; Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden. E/W: Carolyn Liddy and Christine Woolley; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin.

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2.8 per cent budget increase approved

Council formally approved last week the Operating and Capital Budgets for 2010, which had been presented to the town's general committee in December.

Bringing the 2010 budget before the January 26 council meeting afforded the public an opportunity to hear about it further, as well as for councillors to make some last ditch attempts to voice their concerns over some sticking points left over from earlier budget consultations.

"The 2010 budget focused on strengthening core services while reviewing the key processes to locate efficiencies and improving client services," said Mayor Phyllis Morris at the meeting. "But just the burden we inherited off of new operationals...we managed to trim it down and brought it to 2.8 per cent

"To our community who will have to bear the brunt of paying an extra \$30 a year if they are in a \$300,000 home, we wish it could be lower but we are delivering a wonderful service through the library, we are out there plowing the roads as best we can when the snow comes, we are out there

cleaning up the parks, trimming the trees when we can, doing the maintenance, and we are looking to the future as well."

Mayor Morris added that everyone is trying to do their part "but that comes at a price."

"It's the best we can do," she continued. "Are we happy with everything? Probably not. Did we do everything perfectly? Probably not. But I would like to thank everybody who did come out during the process. It was open, it was transparent, and people delegated."

Some councillors were not as enthusiastic about the budget.

Councillor Eveyln Buck, who ultimately voted against the budget at the end of the discussion, expressed her disappointment with what she thought were "miniscule" and unnecessary cuts to the library budget.

"Clearly, as the community grows, the demands on the library services grow," Councillor Buck said. "The increase in the library budget barely recognized the growth yet council took it upon themselves to reduce that budget. For what pur-

pose I do not understand, nor do I support."

Councillor Evelina MacEachern took the opportunity to speak on behalf of the workers and volunteers of the town's Arboretum, who she feels might have been maligned during the budget process.

"[The Arboretum] delegated to [budget meetings] asking us for \$100,000," she said. "They didn't do that because they wanted money to go squander, but because they had a plan and they did that because they felt they needed the \$100,000 and not the [regular] \$50,000."

"People plant trees for the future. Unfortunately there has been some negative coverage and some not-so-nice things said about the volunteers. I raise this because through their hard work, their commitment and the dedication they've shown this town, and the thousands of hours they put into our community, I think it is disgraceful that anyone would shed any negative light on them."

The budget resolution passed council eight to one, with the only dissenting vote belonging to Councillor Buck.

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