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FREE

Week of November 30, 2010

Bette Stephenson Honoured with School Name

Aurora native and Richmond Hill resident Dr. Bette Stephenson was honoured Thursday when the York Region District School Board voted to name their new continuous learning facility in her honour.

Located in northern Oak Ridges, the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning is slated to be a hub for the entire region.

Dr. Stephenson, who served as Minister of Education from 1978 to 1985 in the cabinets of Premiers Bill Davis and Frank Miller told The Auroran that she was "very honoured" and "a bit humbled" by the tribute.

"More than a bit, because I am surprised that they would do such a thing," she said.

"It was sort of dropped on me and I am surprised, humbled, and terribly pleased. [Since it is] right on Yonge Street, people will go past it every day and maybe that will make people think about learning and continuing learning because lifelong learning is certainly a 'hobby horse' of mine.

"It is something that you must do if you're going to keep on living. If you don't keep on learning, you are only surviving, you're not living."

The Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning is expected to open in January and be fully occupied by the end of the month.

According to Bill Harper, the York Region District School Board's Coordinating Superintendent of Education, the Centre "presents a significant opportunity to recognize an individual in our society and community who exemplifies the vision for the services and programs which will operate through Community and International Education Services and serve the Region from junior kindergarten and including adult education."

The programs occupying the Centre for Learning will include an adult day school, night school, leadership teams supporting continuing education, elementary summer school, "virtual schooling", international language, community and cultural services.

It will also house "infrastructure for the Board's large Personal Support Worker Program, which serves as such a strong link to the health sector."

For Mr. Harper, the selection of Dr. Stephenson as the new Centre's namesake was a natural choice.

"She is a very special person and we think she exemplifies what that location is and serves, and programs what ought to exemplify to our students, young and old," he said.

"One of the things that continuing education

Please see page 7



Here comes Santa Claus! Downtown Aurora was lined with throngs of people Saturday night, as residents gathered along Yonge Street to see St. Nick go by. Kids had the opportunity to give letters to the jolly old elf, and were treated to music, floats, and little goodies handed out by those marching. The 2010 Parade attracted local students, bands, and cadets, while service clubs, area businesses, and civic leaders also took part. For a full gallery of photos from Saturday's Santa Under The Stars Parade, please see Page 18.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Private Marc Harrison greets wellwishers outside the Aurora Armoury on Wednesday. Private Harrison was greeted by residents and an Honour Guard when he was officially welcomed home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. The Honour Guard was comprised of veterans, police, EMS, fire fighters and citizens at large. Pt. Harrison's fellow soldier, Corporal Michael Primerano will return home to Aurora Thursday. Please see Page 3.

Break-In: a setback for Lions Club

The Aurora Lions Club is working to get their Christmas Basket Drive back on track following a break-in at the Lions Hall in the early hours of November 18, which left the building vandalized, and food and other goods waiting to be distributed in baskets stolen.

A police investigation is ongoing.

Fred Bullen, Hall Manager and President of the Aurora Lions Club estimates there was probably \$1,700 worth of damage done to the building located on Mosley Street.

"There were seven doors damaged," he said. "They broke all of the doors so you can't use them again. They used crowbars and they broke all the deadbolts right out of the door. There are five new locks and deadbolts. I was able to save two of them."

Mr. Bullen said those responsible took product that was being prepared for Christmas basket distribution, including hams and boxes of canned goods. A local hockey team was working in the hall the night before the incident organizing food they had collected. That is now all gone.

In the week since the break-in, members have been working hard to fix up the facilities. While most of the doors have been repaired, there is still work to be done and he expects work to continue into this week.

Brad Snell of the Aurora Lions responded to the vandals in a Letter to the Editor late last week.

"This kind of destruction puts the Lions behind in our mission to have donations, gifts, and food ready for the already growing list of residents that need this necessary service," he said.

Mr. Snell's full letter can be read on Page 4.

Council wraps up

Outgoing Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors Alison Collins-Mrakas, Stephen Granger, Bob McRoberts, and Al Wilson, paid tribute to their families and their constituents last Tuesday at the final Council meeting of the 2006-2010 term.

Presentations were made to the outgoing members of Council by Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, before a packed house, which included Mayor-Elect Geoff Dawe, and incoming Councillors Michael Thompson and Paul Pirri.

In his remarks, saluting the 2006-2010 Council as a whole, Mr. Garbe praised members for their "dedicated service" to the Town. The first outgoing Councillor to receive a parting gift from the Town was Mr. Wilson,

Please see page 14

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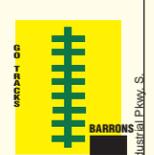
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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

A Children's Wish Foundation Christmas Tree Raffle happens today at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The tree, donated by Home Hardware, will be on display until December 1 when the draw will take place. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will host a reflexology session featuring Jean Louie at 2 pm. Some benefits of reflexology include relaxation, balancing the body and energy flow, breaking up calcium deposits, enhancing circulation, assist with normalizing metabolism, increase clarity, ability to cope with stress and complements all other healing, according to the Seniors' Association.

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School holds its Winter Concert at the school. The event starts at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Join the York Highlands Chorus an A Cappella Holiday Experience at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 484 Water St., Newmarket, with shows at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and a portion of proceeds will be donated to local food banks. For more information contact Karen at 905-726-2113 or by email at cheryly-aciuk@rogers.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

York Region Community Choir Presents "Classics of Christmas", a concert celebrating the Holiday Season, at 2 p.m. at the Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained by calling Heather at 905-853-6925.

Amnesty International hosts its annual Writeathon, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. Write cards of support to

human rights defenders. For more information call 905-713-6713.

At 2.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre (formerly Church Street School) you can travel the world with Pandora. Virtuoso Accordionist Alexander Sevastian will present Russian music, and there will be dance from India and Egypt. Baritone David Roth will perform favourite British songs. The Sonore Percussion Trio play music from Bali, Africa, USA and Serbia. Sitarist Anwar Khurshid's music will thrill you, and local dance sensation Aarzo Hameed will present classical Indian dance in brilliant costume. First Nations' poems will be shared and York Region's Sabrina Nazar will play the wooden flute, to honour the indigenous culture of Canada. Net proceeds to the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign. Tickets are \$35 and \$25, and tickets for a family of four will cost \$95. Order by calling 289-221-0229 or for more information, go to <http://www.pandorasboxsalon.com>.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Holiday Singalong takes place at the Aurora Cultural Centre today from 2 to 4 p.m. Free admission. Building is wheelchair accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or email info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Aurora Seniors' Centre invites everyone to a Christmas dinner and theatre event, with doors opening at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m. Also on hand will be the Dickens Committee who will perform the CBC1 radio script of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for members, and \$30 for non-members.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Aurora's famous Hillary House will be the scene of a Family Christmas. Hillary House will be decorated by members of the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society. The fires will glow in the fireplace, the smell of mulled cider will fill the air and the sound of familiar carols will be heard. There will be crafts for children, refreshments and maybe even a visit from Santa Claus. Hillary House is on the west side of Yonge Street, south of Aurora Heights Drive.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

At 7.30 p.m. join the festivities at the

Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, as the Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinzle, presents "A Joyous Sound". Tickets are adults \$5, children, 14 and under, free. Tickets are available at the Seniors' Centre or at the door. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Robbie Burns night at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, features a live celtic-rock band, Hadrian's Wall. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets, available from all members of the White Heather Pipes and Drums band or from the bar at the Legion starting Dec. 1, are \$40 per person.

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Briefly

International Day for Persons With Disabilities

The International Day for Persons with Disabilities will be marked Friday, December 3, with a reception at Town Hall. Residents are invited to come to the Skylight Gallery at 2 pm for cake and coffee as the Town "celebrates diversity in our community."

"If you can't join us, please take a moment to celebrate with those around you in how far we have come in creating a more inclusive society for all!" said Ivy Henriksen, the Town's Accessibility Advisor.

Those attending will also be able to view the Town's annual Accessibility Plan and receive further information on disabilities and accessibility in general.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The Salvation Army Brass Band, carollers, a holiday play, children's crafts, and, of course, Santa will add to the festivities on December 13 at the Town's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 pm. Residents will be able to decorate the evergreen with ornaments made at the ceremony or with decorations brought from home.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will also host the kick-off of the annual Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive campaign. Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food donation or an unwrapped toy to the event.

"With the Town's Special Events office hosting more than 20 community events each year, the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is sure to be a winter family favourite," said CAO Neil Garbe.

Santa is scheduled to arrive at 6.45 p.m.

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CORPORAL MICHAEL PRIMERANO

Aurora soldier Corporal Michael Primerano returns home from Afghanistan Thursday and to mark the occasion, and the return of other sol-

Ribbons celebrate returning soldier

diers back to Canada through December, his family is decorating their neighbourhood homes with yellow ribbons.

"Our heroes are coming home," said Councillor-Elect Sandra Humfries. "Sue Primerano, mother of Michael Primerano, came up with a great idea to welcome home Michael and all our soldiers. With permission from residents, Sue tied yellow ribbons around all the trees in front of homes on her street.

Michael has been a reservist with the 48th

Highlanders at Moss Park Armory, said Ralph Primerano, Michael's father.

"Since childhood, Michael was always interested in the Canadian Armed Forces," he said. "He attended St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School, Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, and later graduated from the University of Guelph with an Honours Degree in Classical Studies.

"While attending university, he travelled every week from Guelph to Toronto to fulfill his duties with the 48th

Highlanders."

By Sunday, their Golf Links Drive neighbourhood was festooned with yellow ribbons, but some ribbons had already been torn and left on the ground.

"I would like to ask for the residents and businesses of Aurora to show their support for soldiers

who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces by tying a yellow ribbon around their front trees, porches, and doors in a big, warm, homecoming welcome!" said Ms. Humfries.

"Let's welcome home our heroes who protect us and allow us to live in our beautiful free country."



Ribbons outside soldier's family home. The faded top ribbon was tied when Michael left for Afghanistan.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan



Civil Liberties Association agrees to intervene in Morris suit

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association has opted to go ahead with seeking to intervene in outgoing Mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others, to obtain the identity of anonymous posters on the Aurora Citizen Blog, as well as damages.

Cara Zwibel, a lawyer for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, confirmed to The Auroran Friday that the Association had retained outside counsel to get involved.

"We have been involved in litigation like this before where [we've] intervened for privacy protection and freedom of

expression, and that is the type of argument we will be making here," she said.

"While I have seen the statement of claim, it still doesn't lay out what the allegedly defamatory statements are, so I don't know if there will be any more information about that. Once that information is available we would be in a better position to know exactly what our view is on the comments.

"I have some sense on what some of the comments are because some of them are laid out in the motion materials on this motion to obtain the identity of the anonymous bloggers and many of the com-

ments at least appear to be opinion and commentary."

Ms. Zwibel acknowledges that one of the claims in the statement alleges that the comments are threatening, thus the argument that the posters identities need to be disclosed, but she said using a defamation lawsuit is not the proper forum to "deal with threatening remarks."

"That's when you ask law enforcement to step in and [they] have tools available at their disposal to obtain the identities of these people to the extent they feel these are credible threats, and could obtain an authorization to get that

information," she said. "That would be the appropriate way to go about this, not through a defamation lawsuit."

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, although comprised of many lawyers, typically employs outside counsel for help, Ms. Zwibel added. The organization plans to ask the court to intervene on the motion and if their request is granted, they would then make oral and written submissions before the court.

The motion is expected to come before the court in mid-January. With Ms. Morris' term coming to a close on

Painting to benefit Children's Aid

Going to the foyer of Town Hall will be "For the Birds" for the next few weeks, as a painting by local environmentalist Ben Kestain goes on display to raise money to purchase gifts for the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Kestain's painting, entitled "It's For The Birds", (pictured right) was presented by Phyllis Morris at last week's Council meeting and will go on display in Town Hall's main lobby this Wednesday. The silent auction will raise funds for "TOAST" (Town of Aurora Staff Together), who will use money to purchase holiday

gifts for the CAS.

With an opening bid of \$500, art aficionados and citizens at large are invited to come and view the painting at Town Hall and make bids at the Info Aurora desk during regular business hours (Weekdays from 9 am - 4 pm).

Bidding ends on December 15.

"People know Ben as the person who has just been recognized on St. John's Sideroad for his efforts, along with Ildi Connor, when they were collecting funds and getting recognition to help protect the [McKenzie]

Wetlands area when the new widening of the road was happening," said Ms. Morris last Tuesday.

"Yesterday I received a

call from Mr. Kestain and he has offered the painting. We would like to thank Mr. Kestain... for your generosity during the holiday season."



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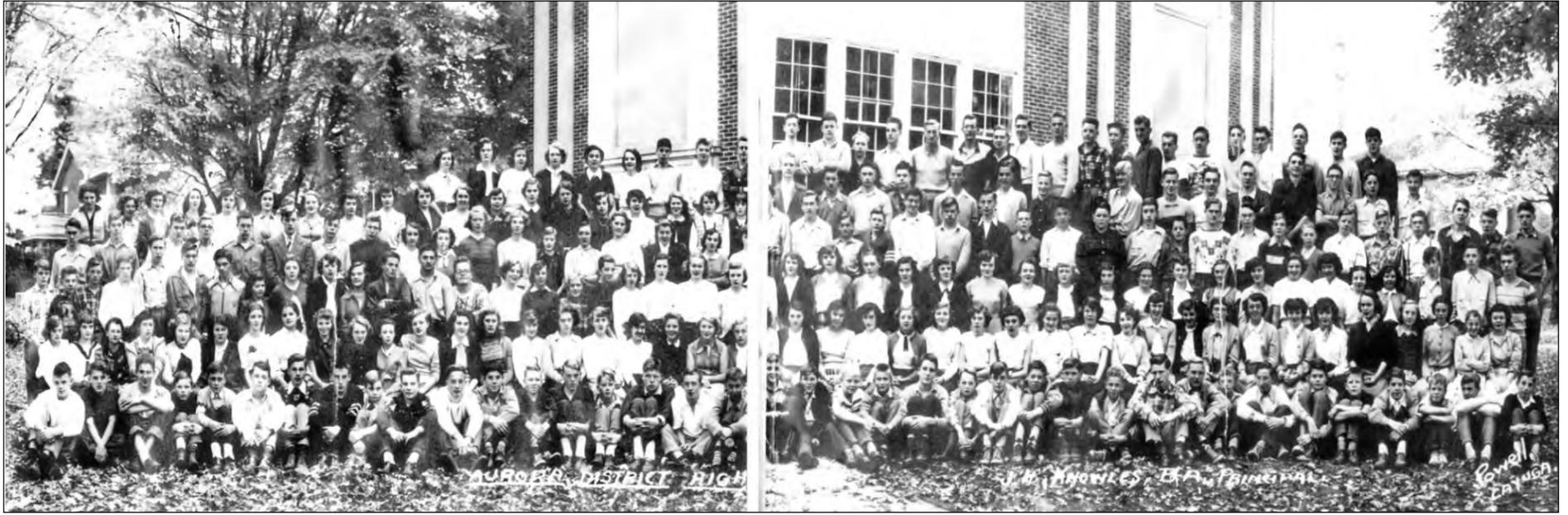
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Poor Ronnie needs your help. Above are two photos taken of students outside of the Wells Street School when it was still Aurora District High School. Nothing is known about the photos, so any and

all information is welcome. If you know the date these photos were taken or can identify any of the faces in the photo, please email the editor at ron@auroran.com.



Broke Brock

By BROCK WEIR

Poor Ronnie will return next week

Disappointed?

The audience gallery was packed for the last meeting of the 2006-2010 Council Tuesday night.

Perhaps it is reasonable to say that a fair chunk of the crowd was there for the various presentations that night.

Maybe a sizable portion were there as moral support for the outgoing mayor and councillors.

Who knows, maybe some people who have watched this Council on TV out of morbid curiosity just showed up so they could tell their sure-to-be-fascinated future grandchildren, "I was there when..."

If these people came into the building hoping to leave the building able to finish that sentence with "... when members of the audience heckled council one last time" or "... when members of council heckled the audience one last time"; or "... when they attempted to remove a councillor from the chamber one last time"; or "... when one councillor royally schooled another with rules of procedure" they must have left sorely disappointed.

Well, council threw them a bone on the last matter, but the rest of the meeting could only be described as dignified.

When I spoke to outgoing Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas and incoming Mayor Geoff Dawe following the recount earlier this month, both said they hoped the last meeting would be "dignified."

They got it!

Outgoing Mayor Phyllis Morris was gracious in acknowledging the presence of her successor, as well as incoming councillors seated in the audience, and the audience was near unanimous in setting aside their differences and applauding the Class of 2010 as a whole.

Some people in the audience may have felt some satisfaction with the proceedings.

Others may have left nauseous by the bonhomie on display that evening. But it was over and the torch had been passed.

It was on display again this weekend in the Santa Under The Stars parade, in which both Ms. Morris - thanking the Town - and Mr. Dawe participated. They didn't ride together, but I guess one can't have everything.

While I don't think many could argue that this council was completely harmonious, in my time covering this last year of the Class of 2010, one of the rare moments of unity seemed to be in the Town's 2010 Olympic Celebration.

The excitement, pride, and unity displayed by the council and citizens at large was palpable.

The 2010-2014 Council will have ample opportunity to build on that excitement, pride, and unity, including Aurora's upcoming milestone anniversary, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The latter, celebrating the Queen's 60th anniversary as Queen of Canada, would be a golden opportunity to thank and pay tribute to those who too have dedicated their lives to the service of others.

And it's a great excuse to throw one hell of a party!

Letters to the Editor

Vandals hurt less fortunate, says Lion

To the editor:

Being a part of the Aurora Lions and assisting people in the community is one of the main reasons that I joined the Aurora Lions, which is part of a world wide organization called Lions International.

Whether it is with vision screening in the schools, pancake breakfasts in Sheppard's Bush, or general assistance to residents that need a helping hand is all part of the Lions mandate and mission to the community.

Recently last week there was a break in at the Lions Hall in Aurora between Nov 18 12.00

a.m. and Nov 19, 7.00 a.m. where there was considerable damage done to the doors, walls and our kitchen facilities not to mention theft of gifts and food that were destined to the community during our annual Christmas Basket Drive.

This Christmas Basket Drive undertaking has been part of the Lions' mandate for over 30 years now giving assistance and hope to the less fortunate during these hard economic times through the means of food, and gifts to the children.

I am appalled that the perpetrators could actually vandalize and steal

from the very facility that goes out of the way to assist people in the community, whether it is monetary or with food during this festive season that is coming upon us.

The Lions Hall on Mosley Street has undergone a face lift outside and inside by way of renovations to the kitchen, washroom and wheelchair facilities, an undertaking that is fully funded by the Lion's Club itself through fundraisers and hall rentals.

This kind of destruction puts the Lions behind in our mission to have donations, gifts, and food ready for the already

growing list of residents that need this necessary service.

We hope to restore the hall's destruction by the November 27, so that we may resume our Christmas Basket Drive so that we can fulfill our mandate as Lions to help and assist the community in future endeavors.

In closing, I hope the vandals feel good about themselves, taking the necessity's away from the less fortunate and creating this expense and chaos at the price of others.

Brad Snell
Aurora Lions

Neighbourhood Network drop-off for toys

To the editor,

As the holiday season fast approaches, Neighbourhood Network will once again this year serve as a local drop-off for toy donations.

We are partnered with more than 160 local charities and nonprofit organizations, many of which are engaged in toy drives to assist needy families.

Three years ago, we were contacted by the owner of a local business whose employees wanted to give to other, less fortunate residents in the community.

The business owner approached Neighbourhood Network, knowing it is our responsibility to identify and assist with community needs.

Like most people, he wanted to make sure the gifts his employees were donating were going to those who could

truly use them.

Neighbourhood Network helped make that happen.

We ask our partners to tell us what their needs are.

This helps us assure those who have donated that their gifts will go to those truly in need, while at the same helping our charitable partners meet the needs of their clients.

If you are considering making a donation of toys but don't know who to support, I invite you to drop off your donation at our office.

You can be assured that your generosity will directly benefit someone in need within our community this Christmas.

Please give us a call at 905-726-3737 to learn more about how we can help.

Steve Hinder
Neighbourhood Network
Aurora

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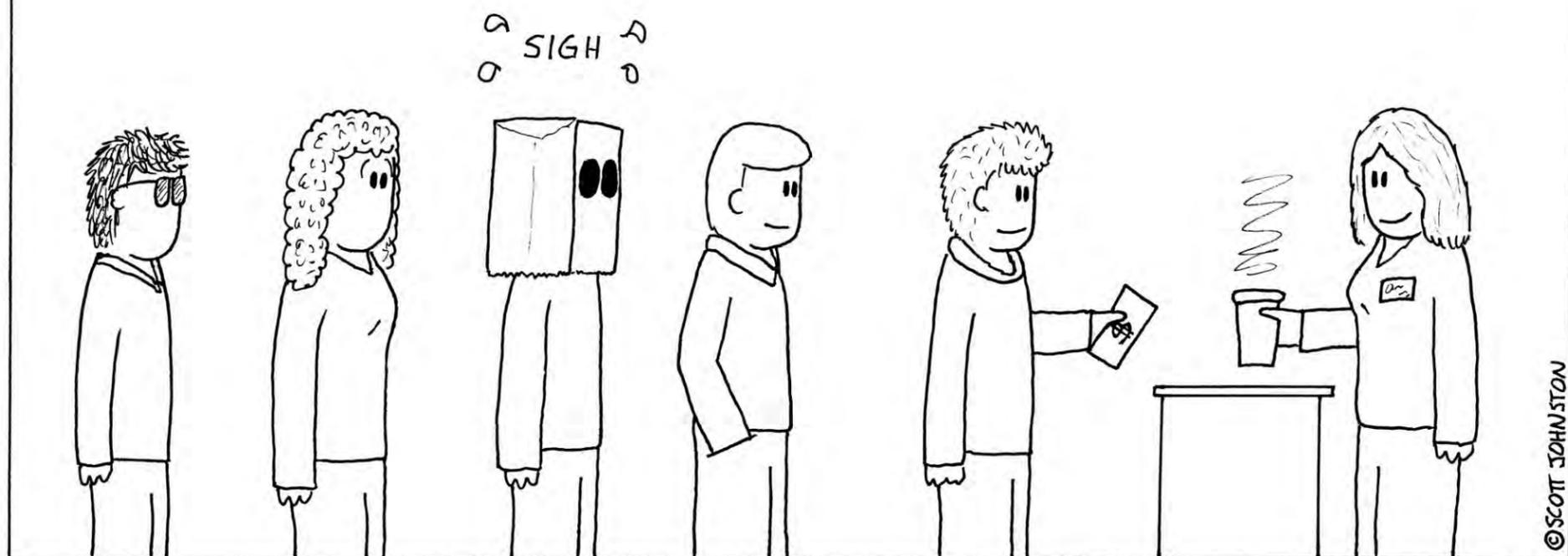
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FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF SECRET MEETINGS AT LOCAL COFFEE SHOPS, AURORA COUNCILLORS WHO SIMPLY WANTED TO PICK UP A MORNING BREW WERE FORCED TO DISGUISE THEIR APPEARANCE



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

In 2001 PBS aired a television series entitled, "Cracking the code of life", which "chronicled the race to capture one of the biggest prizes in scientific history: the complete letter-by-letter sequence of genetic information that defines human life -- the human genome."

The television program ends with the two participants in the race, the publicly funded Human Genome Project and the private company Celera Genomics, both completing a rough draft of the sequence.

The Human Genome Project gives us the ability to, for the first time, to read nature's complete genetic blueprint for building a human being.

What was especially fascinating about the show was the way they made the science understandable - even for me.

Mapping the human genome may lead to scientific discoveries or un-locking the mysteries surrounding many of man's major diseases.

The founder of Celera Genomics, Dr. Craig Venter, in a newspaper article that appeared a week or so ago, said that his own DNA has now been mapped. He now knows that he may have a disposition to certain cancers or diseases.

But all these things pale in comparison to the real issue that the Human Genome Project should have been trying to solve; man's inability to shop for Christmas presents.

And it is that time of year, once again.

I believe that there is something in a man's gene pool that does not allow them to begin purchasing any presents until at least 4 pm on December 23rd.

My situation is magnified, as I now need to shop for birthday gifts during the holiday season.

My wife's birthday is the day after Christmas and my son's birthday is the day after that.

When I was first courting Julie she made sure to inform me "that Christmas and my birthday are two separate and distinct events". I guess she felt 'short changed' in the gift department growing up. Great - now I get to deal with the guilt!

I thought our son being born so close to Christmas would solve part of my Christmas buying dilemma; the argument being that Ryan is my annual and ever loving gift to Julie. I don't know why, but this did not sit very well with her.

For the first couple of years, I would rely on my mother-in-law's advice for purchasing some of the gifts, until Julie found out about it. She then forbid me to talk to her mom from mid November until December 27 every year.

I have also relied on the good graces of others - sometimes complete and utter strangers in the shopping mall.

I have also relied on people at my work. One of the ladies in the office was dressed very well one day, so I asked her what designer label she was wearing. She prepared a list for me (just the outerwear thank you) of the clothes that she had on, then I went to the exact same store and purchased it. Not bad - I only had to return two of the three items!

In past years I had implored my wife to provide me with a list of things that she would deem suitable. No dice. She would always say, "Whatever you purchase will be fine with

me" - which evidently was not the case as she took back most of the things I purchased for her.

I guess she thought I should have ESP - and magically figure out what she wants.

But this year was different. As Henry Kissinger once said, "Peace is at hand". Without me asking or prompting her in any fashion what so ever, earlier this month, Julie provided me with her Christmas wish list.

I guess enough years of receiving hockey sticks, blenders, Leaf tickets and pitching wedges has now tipped the balance in my favour.

Besides shopping for presents, the other problem that I have had in the past is actually assembling some of the gifts. And it will only get worse as Ryan gets older. I remember taking four and half hours to put together his crib, and having seven screws and various other parts left over afterward. I remarked to Julie, "that the crib looks good, but I am afraid for Ryan's safety once he reaches ten pounds."

As difficult as it has been to purchase Christmas presents for my wife over the years, it has been that easy and quick to purchase a Christmas present for my mother-in-law.

The PetroCanada kiosk at the bottom of Orchard Heights and Yonge Street is open on Christmas day and usually has beef jerky on sale - two for a dollar.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

I'm often asked why I do what I do. That question is posed in many different ways, depending on the issue of the day or the headlines in the media that week, or who is doing the asking.

Why do you put up with the abuse? How can you stand sitting in that legislature listening to the endless heckling? And you may have your own version of that question - certainly, my family have theirs.

My response, after 15 years as MPP, is very simple:

I can think of no other calling in life, that could give the sense of satisfaction and fulfillment that I experience through my role as MPP.

I admit that with every looming election, I contemplate alternatives.

Returning to the private sector does have its attraction. Escape from the fish bowl existence of public life, more personal time with family and friends and removing myself from the daily 6 am commute on the 404, thus making my personal contribution to the GTA gridlock solution.

With the next provincial election less than eleven months away, I once again went through that thought process, and concluded that nothing could compare to the privilege of serving as the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora.

Let me share with you my reasons for coming to that conclusion.

In my last column, I described a typical day in my constituency office. I gave you some insight into the many issues families in our community are facing every day, and that for many, a call for help to their MPP's office is a call of desperation and last resort.

You will recall that one of those calls was from Melodie, whose 17 year old son had been suffering agonizing pain for months. Rheumatoid arthritis had disintegrated the joints in his jaw, his morphine prescription is at the dose of a dying cancer patient, and she was told that her son would have to wait four years for a procedure to remedy the situation.

The family was at a loss as to where to turn next.

I can now report that after raising the issue on the floor of the legislature, with the parents present in the gallery, the Minister of Health agreed to intervene. The operation is now scheduled for January 11, 2011 at Mt Sinai Hospital, and because of this intervention, the Ministry of Health has also allocated sufficient funding to eliminate the wait list for some 70 more patients with similar conditions.

You may recall the middle-aged MS patient I mentioned in my last column. She was distraught that she was being

denied an assistive device in her long term care home that was essential to her mobility. I can report that after our intervention, she has now been provided with that equipment.

Making a difference in people's lives is what my staff and I have the privilege of doing on a daily basis.

We can't resolve every issue, but to know that a supportive phone call, an intervening letter, a question in the legislature on behalf of a constituent has made a difference in the life of that person, is the reason we do what we do. I say we, because it is my staff who are often the first contact for our constituents, and it's because they share my commitment to public service, that we are truly able to make a difference.

Although I have served as a Cabinet Minister and have held a number of portfolios both in government and in the Official Opposition, the reason I do what I do, is the sense of purpose that I'm privileged to experience every day in my work as your MPP.

I thank you for that privilege.

As always, I invite you to contact me with your comments or questions through my website at www.frankklees.com or by calling me at 905-750-0019.

Frank

Why Would Anyone Do This Job?

Letters to the Editor

Resident to new Council: Bring back our museum

To the editor:

It seems passing strange that Aurora had a museum which was incorporated under provincial law, under the aegis of the Aurora Historical Society, on November 16, 1976, with the stated objective to operate as a museum. But now, 34

years later, a board of the Cultural Centre has taken it upon itself the power to say that the people of Aurora no longer want a museum and have closed it down.

They have decided to store the artefacts in climate controlled conditions and say that the AHS may have an exhibi-

tion occasionally if they want to.

For over 38 years, the Historical Society met in the Church Street School. We climbed the two flights of stairs to the museum and met there every month. For years we fought hard to keep the building from being torn down. Some councillors felt that it was a

"heap of rubble" and wanted it torn down to make room for development. We were so pleased that the Aurora Council decided to do the renovations and now this beautiful building is available for cultural pursuits.

The museum operated in the Church Street School until

2004 when the archival collection had to be moved because of the renovations.

It was only on inquiring from the Board of Directors as to why there has been no publicity for the museum, that I found out that there was no publicity because there is no museum.

How a board formed by the

Aurora Council two or three years ago can do away with our museum without anyone saying a word is beyond me!

I hope that our new Council will take note of this and will reinstate our museum.

Margaret Stevens
Aurora

Incoming Council should use social media: resident

To the editor:

I believe it was some New York Times piece that wrote: "Aurora is exactly the kind of hip, upscale, well-educated town where conflicting values are put to the test."

I don't believe we are there yet, although the outcome of the recent election can do nothing but correct the town's steadily downward trajectory in the field of communications.

I hold a Bachelor Degree in New Media and over 15 years experience in the field. I have Sr. Management experience providing experience and product design solutions for Fortune 100 & 500 companies and have created solutions in the markets of retail, military, education and

health care.

I operate 3 blogs, comment on about 17 more, use Wikipedia, Twitter, 4square, Digg, LinkedIn and several other Web2.0 tools on a daily basis.

After closely scrutinizing the last 4 years it has been my observation that in regards to communication and emerging media the town has been held back substantially by the direction of this past council and its committees.

Especially when one reads in a recent edition of this paper councilor-elect Wendy Gaertner quoted as saying: "we need to decide what can and cannot be allowed in the new social media"

In regards to Social Media

my experience is that it is not owned, it is shared. And it's an earned privilege.

After having multiple opportunities to discuss the subject with the majority of incoming council I don't foresee the same misconceptions that have plagued the town this past term of council. I have extended an offer to those members should they wish to take advantage of my services as a consultant regarding Social Media and have been met with a very welcome response.

I see no reason not to extend the same courtesy to the outgoing members of council as well. I expect that there are members at this table that will see value in my services especially considering how the out-

going mayor has as been quoted in this paper that she may be looking to start her own blog.

I believe it was in the outgoing Mayor's inauguration speech where she offered this challenge:

"I would challenge you to get involved in your government. Your involvement, your scrutiny, your challenges and your support will ensure your Council delivers. Please don't leave it to council alone, to build a better Aurora - we'll do a better job with your participation."

I am happy to say that I accepted that challenge along with several others that participate in local blogs that have been formed over the past 4 years.

I would advise all council

members, elect or outgoing, to familiarize themselves with the established and very successful blogs that exist inside the community as they can be a valuable resource to keep informed about issues that are of importance to town residents.

By rising to the challenge of

participating in all facets of Social Media we will not only put conflicting values to the test, we will increase our sense of community and in the process restore the Aura to Aurora.

Christopher Watts
Aurora

This man takes exception to letter writers' comments

To the editor,

The proposed coffee sightings were in no way printed as proof of orchestrated council meeting, but as reference of hoping of things not to come.

For proof, read my last letter which I wrote the same week as the meeting.

Well, the meeting was at the beginning of the week and a week has seven days...and I did say there's nothing wrong

Resident Pitches Morris "Tribute"

To the editor:

As a long time resident of Aurora, I have seen new streets named in honour of past mayors, such as John West Way and Evelyn Buck Lane. I feel we should keep this fine tradition going for our out bound mayor, Phyllis Morris. The newly dedicated street should be aptly named "Phyllis Morris Causewaytoomuchpain" the latter part in honour of the ancient local indigenous peoples who historically suffered severe retribution serving the head of the tribe. This one-way road will be laden with chicanes and speed bumps and end abruptly with a toll booth which requires taxpayers to cough up \$6 million to exit.

Chris Robertson
Aurora

with having coffee.

Yes, Mr. John Gallo, maybe I should make sure something is 100 per cent fact before printing, yet the person who made the claim still stands behind their words.

I now wish I had omitted those comments as it takes emphasis off the main topic of my letter and the coffee thing was to have been after the special meeting.

I am man enough to apologize to all concerned if the comments were not indeed fact.

I accept your thanks as I did support you.

Wendy Gaertner, in reference to hot spot, in no way was I commenting on the youth "HOT SPOT" you were involved with.

It was said like a "hot spot" as a bar, restaurant, nightclub. They come and go.

As for your reference to the integrity of Rebecca Beaton, did I question my respect for her?

Not one bit, in fact, I thought she was a little stupid to be telling me these things after all

my previous writings.

My proof of orchestrated meeting had to do with her comments, which you cleverly omitted to mention in your response letter to editor and now she says I said to her.

I made no statements or accusations of such to her as I know nothing about what was to unfold, think about that one.

I was just all ears, and that is fact that I would swear to in a court of law.

Why else would I phone the town clerk and other councillors the next day to find out what I was told about, a four-page court judgment from Vaughan, incompetence costing \$500,000, etc., which was supposedly in hands of Rebecca, some councillors and Staff.

I knew nothing of it before this lady sat with me.

I do not wish to get into a he said, she said debate as nothing comes of it and she needs to save face with her peers.

If she wishes to put blame on me, so be it.

My friend told me something which may not be fact, if

so, I disrespect them for it.

Rebecca told me something and then I was there to see it unfold and she chooses to blame me.

I disrespect her for that.

It's a new time in Aurora, I just hope we all not called incorrect, even when we do have all facts right on certain issues.

Trying to make me look bad does not change a thing about the last special council meeting.

I stand behind the facts 100 per cent.

I was personally in attendance and this is not hearsay.

John Sargent
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Witness to lights last week is "not alone"

To the editor:

I'm not sure if you are the correct person to contact but

I wanted to let someone at the paper know that I too saw strange lights last Friday evening.

We were walking up Cameron when we first saw them. My seven year old grandson was as intrigued

as I was and my four year old granddaughter just thought they were 'cool'. They were still there as we

walked along Cousins and then up Wells. We stopped to listen, as I thought they may have been caused by a

search helicopter, there was no sound at all. I kept hoping someone else would be out walking but we saw no one at all. I thought about calling the police but I have to say I got distracted by my grandchildren. I listened to the news the next morning and scanned the papers for any mention of the strange lights over Aurora but saw nothing. It was kind of a relief to read the story in the paper, to know we were not the only ones to see them. You can tell your anonymous subscriber that she indeed was not the only person to see them.

Why do residents have to pay for recount, she asks

To the editor,

Is this Town of Aurora

governing body so arrogant and have their heads so far up their a....

that they are blind as well.

Now we have to pay for

a recount for them, too?

The people of Aurora have spoken!

You, mayor Morris and your followers, LOST!

You did not get enough votes nor did the rest who lost!

Why not learn to step down gracefully! As any civil human would.

Aurora has had enough of the Show for the last four years, we just want the Town running properly.

Reader wants 4-way stops at intersection

To the editor,

You goofed regarding your column about the four-way stop signs at McClellan/Loraview and Briardale; It is not Briardale Road, but Briardale Place.

I have family on Briardale and we have been concerned for years when exiting Briardale because either way going right or left, you encounter two curves, making visibility limited.

When we exit we stop,

look around and floor it till we get onto McClellan.

Mind you, if everyone obeyed the speed limit it wouldn't be such a problem as it was prior to these stop signs.

So, personally, I am all

for the stop signs as it will help to ensure everyone's safety.

I still like you and your paper, though.

Marilyn Munslow
Aurora

Sandra Robinson RN
Aurora

Cathy Woods
Aurora

Wells Street deadline extended

Further steps to assess and possibly secure the Wells Street School building will be in the incoming Council's hands, after correspondence regarding the site was received at Council last week.

In a letter dated October 25, 2010, Dr. Ralph Benson, Superintendent of Corporate Planning for the York Region District School Board responded to Council's request from earlier that month that the Board extend its deadline to express interest in obtaining the site at a "fair market value."

The outgoing Council discussed the issue in late September when questions were raised about what the actual "fair market value" for

the site would be, as well as what it would cost the Town for refurbishment.

"Am I interested in buying it at fair market value?" asked Evelina MacEachern at the time. "Well, I might be, but it depends on the price."

Phyllis Morris added that the Town had heard time and again that it would cost upwards of \$10 million to refurbish the school and the community wanted to know if that was "a true figure."

At the September meeting Ms. Morris suggested expressing an interest in going in and the Town having its own independent people going in to evaluate the site and determine the fair market value "based on a thorough examination of the building."

The recent letter from Dr. Benson indicates that this will be allowed, as well as the request to extend the deadline to March 15, 2011. The previous deadline had been set for December 15, but the Town requested an extension to give the new Council time to evaluate options.

"The board would be pleased to make arrangements for the Town to inspect the property to determine a fair market value," wrote Dr. Benson in his response.

"If there have been no expressions of interest from other agencies on the circulation list by the end of the formal circulation period, the Board will look forward to then entering into discussion with the Town of Aurora with

respect to the future of the school property."

The board formally declared the property surplus on August 26. When school sites are declared surplus, they must be offered to public agencies for a time.

Several suggestions on what to do with the school building should it be taken on by the Town of Aurora cropped up during the election campaign. These suggestions ranged from making it a home for an Aurora historic museum to a theatre, and from turning it into a private school to an arts college.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, November 22:
N/S - Carol Gordon and Marg Cyr; Mary Oglanby and Bernie O'Brien; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young. E/W - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton; Rose White and Gloria Smith.



- New to the community?
- Expecting a baby at your house?
- Newly Engaged?
- New Business/ Professional?
- A Civic minded Business interested in sponsoring Welcome Wagon?

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New centre reflects vision

From page 1
does well is helping people who sometimes need additional high school credits or some kind of skills training and language training that would otherwise not be available in their adulthood.

"Dr. Stephenson's groundbreaking work in the 1980s in being a cabinet minister responsible for the foundational matters related to special educational skills really, really opened up some tremendous opportunities for students across the province in having public education recognized, the full continuum of service that we want to be a part of as part of a real and vibrant public education system."

The Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning will be located on Yonge Street at Regatta Avenue, just about halfway between Bloomington Road and King Road. The site is ideal for public transit access "from all directions", Mr. Harper said.

This fits in with Dr. Stephenson's vision for the Centre which now bears her name, that people would "find it a place where they can easily reach, easily access, and easily participate in terms of their own learning requirements.

She said she hopes the Centre can bring together "all the elements of formal education with the elements of less

formal education and make it work together effectively."

"I've been involved in what we used to think was tangential learning," she said. "But now we realize it is important. I think it is just a natural development. School boards are recognizing that their responsibilities are much broader than just elementary schools and secondary schools.

"We started that broadening with the heritage lan-

guage programs, and certainly the English as a Second Language Programs for adults are very much a part of that. The fact we'll bring together the people who are helping staff of the board with health and welfare and social things, as well as education, really pleases me tremendously because those things are really tied together.

"I have been trying for 25 years to prove that."

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- studio 3: Deborah Campo Studio, 97 James Henry Dr.
- studio 4: Mariann O'Neill, 15 Mendys Forest
- studio 5: Linda Harti, 28 Poplar Cres.
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Artists open their studios this weekend

Aurora artists are in the midst of compiling their works and decorating their studios in advance of the this weekend's Aurora Artist Holiday Tour and Sale, the first to showcase Aurora artists in 10 years, according to organizer Deborah Campo.

Ms. Campo said when she came up with the idea earlier this year, she got an enthusiastic response and she and fellow artists have been meeting monthly to plan the event since.

Artists currently signed up for the 2010 tour include Judy Sherman, Eva Folks, Cathy Fairs, Christine Valentini, Deborah Campo, Maya Rodrigues, Mariann O'Neill, Svea Frantila, Linda Harti, and Najma Kausar.

They will open their homes for the tour Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

"We have been working consistently over the past several weeks to bring this tour to Aurora and it basically entails the artist open up their homes to the general public [so they] can come in and meet the artists in their environment," said Ms. Campo.

"It is also a chance for the general public to have an opportunity to purchase a special gift during the holiday season."

If successful, Ms. Campo said she and her fellow artists would like to make this an annual event. While sending out feelers to gauge the interest in this event, Ms. Campo said she received interest from artists in Newmarket as well but organiz-



Artists gather in Deborah Campo's home in preparation of this weekend's art tour. Seated in the front is (L to R) Svea Frantila, Najma Kausar, Emma the Cat (Campo's "toughest critic"), and Maya Rodrigues. Behind them are (L to R) Mariann O'Neill, Judy Sherman, Campo, and Christine Valentini. In the back row stands Cathy Fairs, Eva Folks, and Linda Harti.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

ers were focused specifically on Aurora.

"It was just our passion," she said. "We wanted to showcase Aurora's talent in the community."

For Ms. O'Neill, in addition to displaying her own works of art, she is also hosting Ms. Frantila, who specialises in botanical paintings, particularly watercolours.

"I work mostly in acrylics," said Ms. O'Neill. What I am interested in is the application of light as it diffuses throughout a painting. I don't really have one application. I can do land-

scapes, I can do still life, it is anything that really has to do with the application of light and how it diffuses and refracts within a shape."

She told The Auroran she plans on having a couple of flower paintings for sale during the tour, as well as a landscape and still life which are still in the works. She also plans to include works that were previously displayed at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

"I just enjoy seeing the reaction people have to my paintings," she said. "I think it is just a lovely time of year. Everybody

seems to be in a great mood around Christmas so it is nice to see happy people out looking for Christmas presents."

Ms. Campo is certainly one who is getting in the Christmas spirit. When The Auroran spoke to her last week, she was preparing to spend the next several days decking her place out in her traditional Victorian Christmas theme.

"It has always been what I enjoyed from my childhood," she said. "The ornaments that my mother and grandmother had for the tree were very charming. My mother, being British, came with the old school style of decoration where she used to talk about the cranberry and popcorn garlands.

"For me, it's part of the style I have always adopted at Christmas; it is elaborate. On my particular tree I use porce-

lain angels. I used to be known more for my angels, so during this part of the holiday the angels seem to be more apparently welcoming to the community."

In addition to the 350 paintings Ms. Campo said she plans on displaying, she also plans to sell hand watercoloured angel greeting cards, and uniquely painted glass bulbs to fit in with a holiday theme.

Visitors to Christine Valentini's studio will be able to look at pieces of various sizes and created with various media that depict "the rugged Canadian landscape and northern lights," said Ms. Valentini.

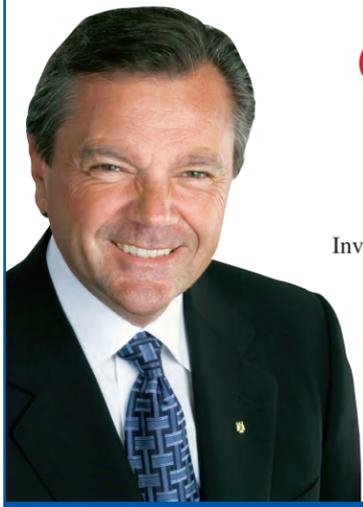
"They are executed with palette knife only," she added. "I also have many detailed watercolour paintings of florals, landscapes, and [Aurora] historical homes. Five of my original

paintings of historical homes and landmarks of Aurora are on display in the permanent collection at Aurora Town Hall and I'm sure many Aurorans have seen them."

Following the Artists Studio Tour, members of the public will have a further opportunity to view and purchase select pieces from many of these participating artists at Gallery High Tea Artists Afternoons being held December 12 and 19 at the Wellington Gallery from Noon - 4 p.m.

Artists Judy Sherman, Deborah Campo, Eva Folks, and Christine Valentini will each exhibit four paintings, while art enthusiasts will be able to sip tea and mingle with the creators.

For more information on the 2010 Tour, please visit www.evafolks.com.



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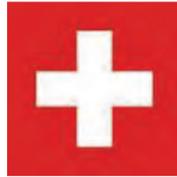
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- DECEMBER 31 - 7 - 3
- JANUARY 1 - 8 - 3

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HOUSE LEAGUE

105 Timbits Black 5 - Jake Pridham 1G 1A, Matthew Reid 1A, Liam Taylor 1G, Ryan Weeks 1G, Eric Silver 1G 1A, Nicholas Petinarelis 1G, Philip Lamparter 1A, Thomas Bradley 1A. **106 Timbits Powder Blue 3** - Calum Ormond 1G, Ryan Dunbar 1A, Lucas De Palma 1A, Daniel Romas 2G.

108 Timbits Grey 6 - Riley Pearl 2G, Brett Watson 1G, Thomas Guilbert 1A, Anthony Russo 1G, Adam Rame 1G 1A, Nicholas Pisapia 1G 1A.

106 Timbits Powder Blue 4 - Lucas De Palma 2G, C Ormond 2G 1A, J Chu 1A.

102 Timbits Gold 1 - Luka Rodrigues 1G. **105 Timbits Black 0.**

101 Timbits Red 6. 107 Timbits Kelly Green 0.

205 Caravan Kids Black 7 - Kyle Rame 2G, Gianluca Rotondi 1G, Jackson Galbraith 1G 1A, Ethan Joiner 3G. **206 Caravan Kids Powder Blue 6** - Joshua Anselmo 1G, Alexander Ko 1A, Christopher Marton 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Matthew Muxlow 1G, Justin Just 1G 1A, Jack Nicholson 1A, G Charnley 1G.

204 Caravan Kids Blue 8. 202 Caravan Kids Gold 8 - Liam Vivian 2G 1A, J Avgousti 3G 1A, G DeAppollonia 1G 1A, Thomas Raeburn 1G, Brennan Powell 1G.

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 10 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 5G, Cody Fisher 3G, Keegan Fisher 1G, Vaughn Hewgill 1G 1A, Nicholas Sever 1A. **405 Novintro Black 2** - Matthew Bolger 2G, Nicholas Huxley 1A, D Doroschenko 1A.

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 4 - Carter Wilmsmeyer 4G, Keegan Fisher 1A. **404 Tilemaster Blue 2** - Benjamin Godber 2G, Dillon Varone 1A, Matthew Parkin 1A.

401 Chouinard Bros. Red 7 - Colin Windle 3A, Dylan McFee 1G, Ben Pitre 2G 1A, Raffaele Parente 1G, Jason Iaboni 2G, N Vamvakaris 1G 1A, Hunter Gilpin Maier 1A, Jessey van Soest 1A. **405 Novintro Black 4** - Matthew Bolger 1G, Alexander Mueller 1G, Aidan Brown 1G, Matthew Winters 1G, Dan Rheeder 1A, Wayne Freeman 1A, David Doroschenko 1A.

409 Pfaff VW Teal 4. 410 HS Financial Orange 1.

407 H.J. Pfaff Audi Kelly Green 9 - Evan Kiah 4G3A, Matthew Hastings 5G 2A, Matthew Romano 1A. **403 Optimist Club Of Aurora White 6** - Dylan Clark 2G 1A, Jack Hosmer 2G, Alexander Murgida 1G, Chris Sands 1G, Evan Hall 1A, Adrian Brstilo 1A, Brayden Reid 1A.

604 Orr & Associates Insurance Brks Ltd. Blue 6 - Blake Holtby 1G, Braeden Wodehouse 1G, Tarek Koudmani 2G, Colin Read 1G, Ben Kissack 1G 3A, Sean Nguyen 1A, Darren Tree 1A. **607 Envirocar Kelly Green 2** - Jacob Cann 1G, Cory Brear 1G, I Rucker 1A, M Jones 1A.

602 Wedi Corp.Com Waterproff Tile Solutions Goild 4 - Ted Baek 1G, Ryan Camweon 1G, Jordan Screech 1G, Matthew MacDonald 2A, Leo Branigan 1A, Joel Attalla 1A, Aidan Burbank 1G, Colin Boorn 1A, Paige Crossley 2A. **604 Orr & Associates Insurance Brks Ltd. Blue 0.**

603 Diamond Groundskeeping Services White 1 - C. Dyer 1G, J. Camplin 1A. **606 Aurora Chrysler Powder Blue 1** - Will Ashton 1G, Connor Reilly 1A. **611 Purple 2** - Alex Louie 1G, William Morin 1G 1A. **609 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 2** - Michael Montesanti 1G 1A, Evan Lambert 1G, Trevor Barnett 1A.

604 Orr & Associates Insurance Brks Ltd. Blue 7 - Tyler Wilson 1G, R Simmons 2G 1A, Tarek Koudmani 1G 1A, Ben Kissack 3G, Jake Campoli 1A, Nathan Sherrard 2A, Braeden Wodehouse 1A, Matthew Rotman 2A. **605 Lakeshore Valu Mart 2** - Jacob Hatton 1G 1A, Jack Bishenden 2G, Mathew Breazel 1A, Andrew Currie 1A.

601 Municipal Engineering Solutions Red 3 - Evan Knowles 1G, Christian Pearce 2G, Nicolas Pearce 1A, Cameron Palmer 1A. **608 Crabby**

Joe's Grey 5 - Connor Tripp 2G 1A, Jack Dion 2G 1A, S McNeil 1G 2A.

812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 4 - Joshua Bell 3G, Derek Capone 1G 1A, Patrick Bourrie 1A, Justin Chalmers 1A. **807 Danny & Scotties Boys Kelly Green 1** - Alexander MacDonald 1G, Declan Johnston 1A, Matthew Hall 1A.

808 Crabby Joe's Grey 4 - Carson Roell 1G, Michael Roell 1G, Tyler Futterer 1G, Grant Kavanaugh 1G 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 2A, Tyler George 2A. **811 Caruso & Company Purple 4**

Nicolas Chethuan 1G, Matt Walker 2G, Riley O'Brien 1G 2A, Daniel Wochenmarkt 1A, Ryan Batten 1G, Michael Boorn 1G, Mitch Palmer 1A.

809 AHPA Teal 3 - Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Bradley Snoultlen 2G, Jake Arcangeli 1A. **810 Pizza Pizza Orange 3** - Jonathan Jin 1G, Max Brown 1G, Michael Boorn 1G, Mitch Palmer 1A.

801 Rogers Red 4 - Brett Bond 3G, Brady Wilson 1G, Kevin Wood 1A, Scotty Barker 1A, Randy Sutton 1A. **804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 1** - Adam Ashraf 1G, Jerryd Jensen 1A, Lucas Brutto 1A.

805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 7 - Ben Ashton 4G 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1G, Thomas Mason 1G 2A, Carter Goan 1G, Harris Riopelle 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A, Ben McGowan 1A, Lucas Marek 1A, Jason Omand 2A, Michael De Cesare 3A. **803 Rotary Club Of Aurora White 3** - Matt Sanita 1G, Cameron Pyle 1G, Matthew Niece 1G, Chris Sanita 2A, Aaron Rival 1A, Justin Laird 1A.

806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 8 - Francois Bicego, shutout, Sean Foxwell 5G, Tyler Abushinov 1G, Andy Butler 2G 1A, J Stephenson 1A, Matt D'Allessandro 3A, Geoffrey Siow 3A, Zac kroll 1A, Alec Barnett 1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 0.**

806 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 3 - Chris Falfalios 1G, John Dinocolantino 1G, Josh Lawlor 1G 2A. **903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 3** - Quinn McGowan 2G, Kyle Coughlin 1G 1A, Ryan Dowling 1A, Michael Perryman 1A.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 7 - Cameron Annear 2G, Ben Slimkowich 1G, Dylan Cross 2G 1A, Matt Bishop 1G, Dylan Jolivet 1G 1A, Eric Abel 1A, Ian Weston 1A, Kasey Piper 1A, Nick Zebrowski 1A. **1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 3** - Mark Tanel 3G, Anthony De Cesare 1A, C Avolio 1A.

1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 2 - Daniel Fusco 1G 1A, Brayden Jackson 1G, Craig Bennett 1A. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 2** - T Hagias 1G, T McGowan 1G 1A.

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 6 - Egan Fennell 1G1A, Nick Di Nallo 3G, Spencer George 1G, Kamran Karamchi 1G, Josh Ashfield 1A, Adam Tomlin 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A, Zach Ashfield 2A. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 5** - Michael Wood 2G, Brandon Pederson 2G, Alex Heintzman 1G, Nick Heintzman 2A, James Harkin 2A.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 6 - Andrew McKay 1G, 2A, Matt Schmitt 1G, Cameron Annear 1G, Dylan Cross 3G, Nick Zebrowski 1A, Matt Bishop 1A, Griffin Slimkowich 1A, Ian Weston 1A. **1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 2** - J Killens 2G, M Mears 2A.

1004 Global Caffe Blue 2 - Carter Schaeffer 1G, Ryan Taylor 1G, Lucas Poletto 2A, Tristan Miller 1A. **1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 2** - Nick Heintzman 1G, James Harkin 1G, Tyler Lamantia 1A, A Heintzman 2A.

1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 5 - Christopher Piron 2G 1A, Jonathan Boehmer 2G, Michael Di Vincenzo 1G, Mark Tanel 2A. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 3** - Taran McGowan 3G, Alexander Dunn 1A.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 5 - Ian Weston 2G, Andrew McKay 2G 2A, Dylan Cross 3A, Griffin Slimkowich 1A. **1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 2** - Brandon Rival 1G, Ryan Laird 1G, Kevin McCrudden 1A.

1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 6 - Spencer

George 1G, Nick Di Nallo 3G, Jamie Hawkins 1G 2A, Zach Ashfield 1G, Kamran Karamchi 1A, Aidan Morris 1A, Victor Grabovsky 1A, Adam Tomlin 2A, Josh Klinowski 1A. **1009 Backyard Pool & Spa Teal 7** - Daniel Howie 2G 1A, Brayden Jackson 2G 1A, Dylan Skelton 2G 2A, Craig Bennett 1G 2A, C Smith 2A, B Matthews 1A.

1005 Aurora Home Hardware Black 6 - Ryan Antoniel 1G 2A, Justin Killens 3G 1A, Scott Donello 1G, Josh Bentolila 1G 1A, Ryan Antonel 2A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Chase Riddell 2A, Andrew Cosentino 1A, Greg Lacroix 1A. **1004 Global Caffe Blue 1** - Jordan Snowie 1G.

1002 CW Coop's Aurora Gold 6 - Ian Weston 3G 1A, Dylan Cross 2G 1A, Griffin Slimkowich 1G, Andrew McKay 3A, Matt Bishop 1A, Kasey Piper 1A. **1007 CAA South Central Ontario Kelly Green 3** - Taran McGowan 3G, Philipp Mueller 1A.

1006 BMO Bank of Montreal Powder Blue 6 - Michael Morson 1G 1A, Sean Takahashi 1G 1A, Nick Heintzman 1G 2A, David Scott 1G, Tyler Lamantia 1G, 2A, James Harkin 1G, Alex Heintzman 2A. **1003 A.D.C. Aluminum White 4** - Nicholas Orsatti 2G, Jonathan Boehmer 2G 1A, Jamie Saabas 2A, Dave Melanson 1A, Kevin Tree 1A, Mark Tanel 1A.

1008 McAlpine Ford Grey 3 - Stephen Newby 1G, Brett Richardson 1G, Adam Reid 1A, Jaret Meron 1G, Jamie Cherutti 1A. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora Red 3** - Kamran Karamchi 1G, Egan Fennell 1G, Cooper Riswick 1A, Jamie Hawkins 1G.

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select A - Aurora 2 - Owen Hollett 1G, 1A, Thomas Hollett 1A, Owen Papulkas 1G, Jack Bray 1A, Michael Crowe 1A. **Clarington 2.**

Novice A Aurora 2 - Jace Jackson 1G, Riley Klugerman 1G, Justin Hicks 1A, Kazuki Negishi 1A. **Stouffville 2.**

Novice AE - Newmarket 2. Aurora 1.
Novice AE - Aurora 5. Newmarket 2.
Novice AE - Aurora 8. Georgina 1.
M Atom AA - Aurora 2 - A DiPietro 1G 1A, Harris Goan 1G. **Macomb 1.**

M Atom AA - North Toronto 5. Aurora 0.
M Atom AA - Aurora 3 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Andrew Park 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G, Luke Jarvis 1G, Wesley Reid 1A. **Mississauga 2.**
M Atom AA - London Green 5. Aurora 1 - L Jarvis 1G, W Reid 1A.

M Atom AA - Aurora 3 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1G, Trevor Dungey 1A, Michael Orlandi 1G. **Richmond Hill 2.**

M Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Alex Sandras 1G, Ryan McCartney 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1A, Rony Wahab 1A, Daniel Babcock 1G, Luc Catania 3G, Joseph Kuchcicki, shutout. **Richmond Hill 0.**

Minor Atom AE - Stouffville 3. Aurora 2 - A Sandras 2G, Jack Patterson 1A, Kyle Fowler 1A. **Atom AA - Barrie 3. Aurora 1.**

Atom AA - Orillia 5. Aurora 1.
Atom A - Aurora 2 - Carson Yeomans 1G, Jaedon Jackson 1G, Jason Cox 1A, Ryan Jamieson 1A. **Richmond Hill 3.**

Atom AE - Aurora 2 - Michael Fodero 1G 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1G. **East Gwillimbury 1.**

Atom AE - Barrie 3. Aurora 1 - Braeden Joynt 1G, Lucas Surace 1A.

Atom AE - Aurora 4 - Braeden Joynt 1G 1A, Max Lombard 1G 1A, Finn Reeves 1G, Stephen Silverio 1G, Lucas Surace 1A, Thomas Morra 1A, Adam DePiero 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, F Scuglia 1A. **Newmarket 1.**

M Pee wee A - Stouffville 3. Aurora 2 - Colin McGoldrick 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Curtis Romanchych 1A.

M Pee wee A - Tigers 5 - Reid Carpenter 3G 1A, Stewart Gable 1G 3A, Jordan Torre3s 1G, Alexander Simardone 1A, Eric McGhie 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1A, Thomas Kostoff 1A. **East Gwillimbury 1.**

Pee wee AA - Aurora 5 - Keegan Matthew 2G, Tyler Williams 1G, Patrick Servideo 1G 3A, Alec

Magnante 1G, Cameron Morrison 3A, Graham Sanford 1A. **Toronto Eagles 3.**

Pee wee AA - Aurora 5 - Cameron Morrison 2G 1A, Tyler Williams 1G 1A, Patrick Servideo 1G 1A, Jack Pecora 1G 1A, Graham Sanford 1A, Keegan Matthew 1A, Jared Brown 1A, Jared Reeves 1A.

London Gold 1.
Pee wee AA - Aurora 5 - Alec Magnante 2G, Cameron Morrison 2G 1A, Patrick Servideo 1G 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Michael Shum 1A, Jared Brown 1A, Keegan Matthew 1A. **Whitby 3.**

Pee wee AA - Midland 7. Aurora 0.
Pee wee AA - Aurora 3 - Patrick Servideo 1G 1A, Jack Pecora 1A, Cameron Morrison 1G, Jared Brown 1A, Tyler Williams 1G. **Toronto 2.**

Pee wee AA - Midland 7. Aurora 0.
Pee wee A - Aurora 3 - Cameron Zinner 1G, Jack Bryant 1G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Mathew Tyndall 1A, Alistair Johnston 1A, Mathew Liscio 1A, Shaun Broad 2A. **Markham 2.**

Pee wee A Aurora 3 - Matthew Liscio 1G 1A, Evan Cherubini 1G, Spencer White 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Mathew Tyndall 1A, Ryan Coveart 1A, Cole Chapman, shutout. **Innisfil 0.**

Pee wee A Aurora 4 - Mathew Tyndall 1G 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G, Mathew Liscio 1G 1A, Spencer White 1G, T Kuchar 1A, A Johnston 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Pee wee AE Aurora 3 - Michael DaCosta 2G, Nick Sansalone 1G, Brendin Ramsay 2A, Nick Pearce 1A, Christian Arcuri 1A, Zach Fletcher 1A, Adam Leader, shutout. **Beeton 0.**
Pee wee AE - TNT 2. Aurora 1 - M DaCosta 1G.

Pee wee AE - Barrie 3. Aurora 2 - Cooper Hewgill 1G 1A, Cameron Anderson 1G, Zach Fletcher 1A, Connor Downs 1A.

Pee wee AE - Aurora 6 - Charles Bennett 1G, Connor Downs 1G, Christian Arcuri 1G 1A, Michael DaCosta 1G, Cooper Hewgill 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1G 1A, Nick Pearce 2A, Adam Caicco 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1A, Nick Sansalone 1A, Louie Kirkos, shutout. **Markham 0.**

Bantam AA - Aurora 4 - Lucas Pozzebon 1G 2A, Tait Snedden 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G, Spencer Green 1G, John MacDonald 1A, Austin Lane 1A, Nic Delzotto 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Bantam AA - Georgina 3. Aurora 1 - Q Campbell 1G.

Bantam A - Aurora 12 - Kevin Willert, shutout, Austin Persaud 2G 2A, Liam Beresford 2G 1A, Erik Balkovec 2G 1A, Evan Jackson 2G, Paul Neophytou 1G 2A, Liam Coll 1G 2A, Shadove Storm 1G 1A, Harrison Smith 1G, Jack Caldwell 2A, Alec Ground 2A, Zac Cowl 1A, Mitch Arnew 1A, Gabe Oulahan 1A, Robert Stokes 1A. **Markham 2.**

Bantam AE Aurora 6 - Kyle Nice 1G, Parker Baile 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Brayden Beswick 2G 1A, Nicklaus Steiner 1G 1A, B Bond 1A, Kyle Strachan 1A, Ryan McGolrick 1A, Scott Kostin 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Bantam AE Aurora 7 - Nicklaus Steiner 2G, Kyle Nice 3G, Brayden Beswick 2G, Nathan Nealon 2A, Ryan McGolrick 1A, Joel Gouveia 1A, Jonah Blaser 1A, Brett Bond 1A. **East Gwillimbury 3.**

M Midget AE Aurora 6 - Kyle Fedec 2G, Collin Laird 2G, Eliot Harkin 1G 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1G, Matthew Reeves 1A, Chris Cherubini 1A, Sasha Dajia 2A, Connor McQuillan 2A, Paul Steiner 1A, Connor Moody 3A, Daniel Jones 1A, Taylor Coveart, shutout. **Quinte West 0.**

M Midget AE Aurora 3 - Christopher Tsianos 1G, Kyle Fedec 1G, 1A, Paul Steiner 1G, Casey Severini 1A, Matthew Reeves 1A, Andrew Stobbe shutout, **Ajax 0.**

Midget AA - Markham 3. Aurora 2.

Midget AA - TNT 2. Aurora 1.

Midget AA - Markham 2. Aurora 1.

Midget AA - Newmarket 5. Aurora 3.

Midget AA - Aurora 4. Georgina: 1

Midget AA - Barrie 6. Aurora 2.

Midget AA - Aurora 1. R Hill 1.

Midget AA - Aurora 6. Barrie 1.

Midget AA - Aurora 5. Barrie 1.

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Georgetown beats Tigers Sunday

The Georgetown Raiders beat Aurora's Tigers 3 - 2 in the final minutes of the third period in their game at the ACC Sunday afternoon.

The decisive goal was scored with 3:39 left on the clock by Raider Tyler Shiplo with an assist from Scott Wilson on a power play.

The Tigers dominated the first period, with one goal by Eric Bouchard, with assists by Sloan Stewart and Jordan Reed with only 43 seconds remaining.

Their lead was bolstered early in the second period on a goal by Jeff MacPherson, his first goal of the season, with assists from Eric Bouchard and Justin Nice. The Raiders' Brock Labelle, again with an assist from Wilson, scored the team's first goal

of the game with just over seven minutes remaining.

Wilson evened the score in the first few seconds of the third period with assists from Josh Burnell and Justin Basso and, despite 13 shots on goal from the Tigers, the Raiders went ahead with just under four minutes left in the period. Goalie Knick Dawe stopped 36 of 39 shots for Aurora.

November 23 saw the Tigers face off in an away game against the Collingwood Black Hawks. Collingwood scored their two goals of the game in the second period, the first by Tom Tsicos, on a power play with assists from Brandon Fehd and Mike Mullay just under nine minutes into the period.

Mullay scored the second goal, assisted by Jacob Bauchman and

Peter Austin Wagoner at 14:47.

Aurora's lone goal in the third period was scored by Daniel Lisi in a power play with assists from Reed and Jordan Gidaro.

A decisive 9 - 1 victory came for the Tigers in a home game over the Mississauga Chargers last Friday.

Sloan Stewart scored four of the nine goals for Aurora, with three coming in the first period and the final in the third. The first period also saw goals scored for the Tigers by Ryan Johnson, with assists from Reed and Stewart, and Brendan Bell, assisted by Jarrett Fennell and MacPherson.

Reed, with an assist from Tyler Zeggil, scored the lone goal of the second period. This was the first



Georgetown goaltender Michael Nishi covers up while Tigers forward Jordan Reed gets a face-full of elbow from Tyler Shiplo. Georgetown won 3-2.

Photo by Steve Mitchell

game for Zeggil as a defenceman for the team.

Early in the third, a period in which the Tigers dominated, Stewart scored his fourth goal of the game with another assist being credited to Reed. Their eighth goal was scored on a

power play by Lisi with an assist from Gidaro and EJ Faust, and Patrick Moran's power play goal assisted by Reed and Gidaro closed out the scoring.

The Tigers' next two games are both at home this weekend.

Friday evening they face the Huntsville Otters at 7.30 pm.

On Sunday they get another shot at the Collingwood Black Hawks at 2.30 p.m.

Both games are at ACC1.

<p>COLLINGWOOD 2 AURORA 1</p> <p>First Period</p> <p>(no scoring)</p> <p>Second Period</p> <p>C - Tom Tsicos (Fehd, Mullay) PP 8.49 C - Mike Mullay (Bauchman Wagoner) 14.47</p> <p>Third Period</p> <p>A - Daniel Lisi (Reed, Gidaro) PP 1.10</p> <p>AURORA 9 MISSISSAUGA 1</p> <p>First Period</p> <p>A - Sloan Stewart (Johnson, Moran) 0.55 A - Ryan Johnson (Reed, Stewart) 4.06 M - Daniel Vernace (Facchini, D'Arrioso) 8.33 A - Brendan Bell (Fennell, MacPherson) 9.12 A - Stewart (Johnson, Reed) 10:23 A - Stewart (Reed, Johnson) 17.47</p>	<p>Second Period</p> <p>A - Jordan Reed (Zeggil) 18.04</p> <p>Third Period</p> <p>A - Sloan Stewart (Reed) 1.05 A - Daniel Lisi (Gidaro, Faust) PP 5.50 A - Patrick Moran (Reed, Gidaro) PP 9.56</p> <p>GEORGETOWN 3 AURORA 2</p> <p>First Period</p> <p>A - Eric Bouchard (Stewart, Reed) PP 19.17</p> <p>Second Period</p> <p>A - Jeff MacPherson (Bouchard, Nice) 2.36 G - Brock Labelle (Wilson, Megannety) 12.37</p> <p>Third Period</p> <p>G - Scott Wilson (Burnell, Basso) 0.37 G - Tyler Shiplo (Wilson) PP 16.21</p>
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Monday night hockey results

STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
MASTERCLEAN CONTRACTING	6	2	1	34	24	13
HIGHLAND CHEV-OLDS-GEO-CAD	6	3	0	34	28	12
COPPER CREEK	5	3	1	36	27	11
FPL AGGREGATES	5	3	1	32	32	11
BALDWIN'S	4	5	0	43	42	8
REC CYCLE N' SPORTS	3	4	2	29	35	8
TOM & JERRY'S	2	6	1	30	35	5
PRIESTLY DEMOLITION	2	7	0	27	38	4

WEEKLY RESULTS

Highland Chev	7	Baldwin's	3
Rec Sports	4	Copper Creek	1
Masterclean	5	Priestly Demolition	2
Tom & Jerry's	6	FPL Aggregates	1

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Send-off for Morris, Councillors

From page 1
 who Mr. Garbe saluted for his work on Town committees and boards. He also paid special attention to his role as head of the Joint Council Committee of the Central York Fire Services.

"In your role, you have shown leadership in enhancing your partnership with the Town of Newmarket, which is the foundation of the success of that program," said Mr. Garbe.

In response, Mr. Wilson thanked the residents of Aurora for their support and the opportunity to represent citizens at the table for the past four years.

"It has been an incredible learning experience for me, as well as a very self-ishly self-satisfying opportunity to give back to the community that I have lived in for 24 years," said Mr. Wilson. "[My wife and family] have a big part to play in this because they're the ones who have to wake up when I come home at midnight or come out five nights of the week.

"Now they're going to have to put up with me five nights a week!"

Next up was Mr. Granger, who was cited for his work on committees such as the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, his role as Council liaison for the Aurora Farmers' Market, and his contributions to the community outside of the public sphere.

"As many know, your contributions to the community outside this formal list of Council appointments far exceed what is on the list," said Mr. Garbe. "You're a tireless contributor to the life of the community and I know the residents of the community have benefited and will continue to benefit from your involvement in Aurora."

In his remarks, Mr. Granger echoed Mr.

Wilson in saying it was an "incredible learning experience" to be on Council.

"It's a tremendous opportunity [with] incredible responsibilities," he said. "But staff, you guys are the best. Thanks so much, it has been a blast."

Although not in attendance, Mr. Garbe then paid tribute to Evelina MacEachern, particularly for her environmental record and her work on committees ranging from the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to the 2C Secondary Plan Steering Committee.

"In addition to this impressive list, you have also served as York Region's appointee to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority where you also held a position as chair of the Ad Hoc Sheppard's Bush committee," said Mr. Garbe. "Your tireless efforts are appreciated."

Mr. Garbe's tribute to Alison Collins-Mrakas, cited not just her Council and committee service, but her contributions to the community at large.

"Your work with Warm Hands, Warm Heart, making mittens for children who don't have this basic item of clothing demonstrates your kind heart and desire to make a tangible impact on the lives of those who are less fortunate," said Mr. Garbe. "On behalf of the staff of the Town of Aurora, and the residents you have so faithfully served, I say well done."

In her response, a visibly emotional Ms. Collins-Mrakas, who paid tribute to her husband Tom "who is a bit of a saint for tolerating" her, said the last four years have been "extraordinary".

"Regardless of what you read, it has been, for the most part, a positive," she said. "I want to thank someone who isn't here - former Councillor Grace Marsh, who I drew upon



Phyllis Morris with Aurora CAO Neil Garbe after being presented with a gift from the Town at the final meeting of the 2006-2010 Council. Ms. Morris and outgoing Councillors Alison Collins-Mrakas, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern, Bob McRoberts, and Al Wilson were feted at the meeting and presentations were made to each by Mr. Garbe.
Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

her extensive experience with budgets over the last three years, and driving her bonkers with questions, and Councillor Evelyn Buck who has become a very good friend. I have drawn upon her years and years of experience and it has been invaluable."

The evening's tributes concluded with outgoing Deputy Mayor McRoberts and Ms. Morris.

Mr. McRoberts is a "thoughtful, patient, and caring man", which is something "evident to all" said Mr. Garbe.

"You have shared your caring nature in the leadership role you have played in the annual Salvation Army Kettle Drive appeal," he said. "Aurora residents will no doubt agree unanimously with these observations. We know that you are a born and bred Auroran and the residents of Aurora will continue to enjoy your love for the Town for many years to come."

Mr. McRoberts thanked the public for the opportunity to serve, the support that has been given to him over the years, the "tremendous staff" at Town Hall, and his wife Kim.

"She has been an excellent sounding board, just honest feedback," he said. "It has been a wonderful experience, generally speaking, and I just appreciated that opportunity."

In his remarks to Ms. Morris, Mr. Garbe saluted her "passion" for the Town of Aurora, and her service to both the Town, the Region of York, and beyond.

"You have demonstrated your love for the Town and I know that you are one of its biggest boosters," said Mr. Garbe. "I know that we have a fan in you. On behalf of staff, the town of Aurora, and the residents that you have faithfully served; I say 'Well done.'"

"Generally, it has been marvellous!" said Ms. Morris in her response. "My passion for Aurora started the first time I ever set eyes on it."

Highlighting her term on Council from 1992 to 2000, and again from 2003 to 2006 before becoming Mayor, her time at Town Hall is something she said she would "never forget."

"The accomplishments that we have made together, the volunteers in the community, citizen groups,

the volunteers in the community who have given so much to other people in need... some of the initiatives that many of you in this room tonight are being honoured for, but to say in front of all of you that my biggest booster has been my husband, Brian.

"Like Councillor Wilson has just mentioned, you've got me at home now, so if anyone gives cooking classes...! This is one fantastic Town and I for one

intend to be, if not the biggest booster, one of them. It has been an absolute privilege in the good and bad times.

"One of the final comments would be to wish the Mayor-Elect and the Members of Council and their staff all the very best going forward, and also to recognize the great work of our staff. You are inheriting an amazing group, so congratulations and good luck in the next few years."

Continuing issues face new Council

When the new Council is inaugurated on December 7, new mayor Geoff Dawe and the new and returning Councillors will inherit several issues that have been in the works for quite some time, including many with environmental impact.

While some of these issues include the study of the appropriate use of a laneway near Yonge and Temperance Streets that could be used for traffic for a new school near the site and, of course, looking at the Integrity Commissioner, and possibly revising the code of conduct, still further issues are on a strict

timeline. The first is the Ontario Municipal Board hearing between the Westhill Redevelopment Company and the Town of Aurora, which is expected to resume in the New Year.

According to a report submitted to Council last week by Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, the four week first phase of the hearing began in mid-September with the second phase starting on October 12, running for two and a half weeks.

Please see page 16



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Residents, Seniors thank outgoing Council

Citizens at large took to the podium at last week's final Council meeting of the 2006-2010 term to express their thanks to Council as a whole.

The first person to speak was Sher St. Ktts, who said she was addressing her comments "especially to those who are leaving this term."

"I want to express my gratitude as a volunteer who came forward and was treated with great respect," she said.

"To have been able to bring forward the Canada Day Parade and grow it into a wonderful event for the children and citizens of Aurora [as well as working on] the Aurora Farmers' market with Councillor Granger and just so many new, wonderful things I had the honour to participate with you in and creating and

bringing to the town. "It was my pleasure to work with you and I am just here to say thank you."

Next up were representatives from the Aurora Seniors Association who came to the Council chamber bearing gifts, including paying the remaining nearly \$9,000 of the outstanding debt to the Town of \$250,000.

"We know how hard the Seniors Association has worked to fulfil their commitment to the Town," said Phyllis Morris. "We have an incredibly beautiful Seniors' Centre across the car park now and I'm sure Mr. Elliott is thrilled to accept that cheque on behalf of all of us who are indebted to the seniors of this Town."

The Seniors Association also presented Ms. Morris with a pen created in their own wood shop.

"On behalf of our members and Board of Directors we would like to thank you and Councillors for your valuable support and cooperation that we have received during your term of office for the past four years," said Association President Charles Sequeira. "We have always enjoyed

a very close relationship and it has always been a pleasure to see you and your Councillors at the Seniors' Centre, either at one-on-one coffee and chat or at special events. We wish you and your Councillors much success in your future endeavours."

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Arts fund could use more sponsors

Over 20 area groups and individuals were awarded grants from the Town's 2010 Arts and Culture Grants at Tuesday's Council meeting, but the program could need an infusion of sponsors going forward, according to Phyllis Morris.

The grants, which were established in 1973 with the financial assistance of the late David Merkur, who owned the Aurora Shopping Centre, were awarded by Lorne Merkur. Annually, the Grant Program awards

between \$8,000 and \$12,000 to various applicants.

Tuesday's recipients included the Aurora Scottish Country Dancers, the Aurora Writers Group, the Aurora Historical Society, Doors Open Aurora, the Heritage Advisory Committee's Wooden Interpretive Plaque Program for Heritage buildings, Writers Springboard, Artcures Inc., the Aurora Iranian-Canadian Seniors Group, and Theatre Aurora.

Flo Murray, accepting on behalf of the Aurora Seniors' Book Club, said the enjoyment seniors derive from reading and discussing books would be enhanced by their grant from the Arts and Culture fund, which will go towards paying for half the books used by the group.

"[The late Mr. Merkur] said he wanted to give something back to the Town," said Ms. Murray. "Many organizations have benefited from the fund and

are grateful for the help."

The seniors were also represented Tuesday evening by Bud Switzer, who accepted grants on behalf of the Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir and the Aurora Seniors Silver Start Drama Club.

Filling in for Stella, Mr. Switzer said she couldn't be there as she "had a bunch of people chomping at the bit to get into a cha-cha", but the grant money would be used to keep their program fresh and purchase

new sheet music for the choir.

Susan Walmer was on hand to accept a grant on behalf of the Aurora Heritage Fair which, she noted, has been run by volunteers for the past five years. Typically the event, hosted by St. Andrew's College, attracts over 100 community volunteers annually, she said.

"When we were [at St. Andrew's] last year I asked them if they would host it for as long as they've been around," Ms. Walmer told the audience. "They said, 'absolutely', so we're there for at least another 120 years and we look forward to showing the projects and showcasing Canadian students work from Grade 4 to Grade 8."

The achievements of the Pine Tree Potters Guild's inaugural Empty Bowls Project was highlighted when guild member Sheena Griffith took to the podium to accept the cheque on behalf of the group. The Continent-wide initiative, which is run by the Potters of North America, was a highly successful fundraiser, she said.

"The potters in Aurora made 500 soup bowls, which we donated, and 15 wonderful chefs came to the Cultural Centre and brought their signature soups and we served over 300 people," she said. "They chose a bowl which they took home with them and we raised over \$12,000 for the Food Bank and Welcoming Arms."

The Potters plan on using their grant money to defray table rental costs

incurred earlier this month. The second annual event, she added, is almost already sold out.

The 2010 grants will also go towards multimedia projects, including Wake Up 2 Life, which is an initiative being undertaken by Jamie Leigh Gianopoulous, which encompasses both film and online components.

"We are inspiring and being inspired by people who are daring to dream and create memories of the future," she said. "My co-creator and I are going to be travelling from culture to culture, land to sea, transforming our dreams into reality and you will be able to follow it on an online website."

For outgoing mayor Phyllis Morris, who helped Mr. Merkur hand out the grants, the details of the projects presented showed how the money went to enriching recipients talents, and the Town was, in turn, enriched. But she added the Town is looking for further sponsors to bolster support for the program.

"We've relied heavily on the Merkur family and we're very grateful, but we would welcome some support going forward," said Ms. Morris. "This year I can tell you that an inordinate amount of people have asked for support. Unfortunately with this fund that we have, we're unable to support everyone, but this evening I think it is one of the longest lists I've ever seen."

"We thank the Merkur family with all our hearts. I know you can never say thank you enough, so thank you, thank you, thank you!"

From left to right, Linda Henshaw, Katelyn Stewart, Gail Bevilacqua, Steven Weaver, Lori Johnstone, Arsalan Javid and Stewart McLaren try to figure out how to thwart villain Mannly Rasch's latest scheme in Theatre Aurora's production of "The Saloonkeeper's Daughter", now playing at The Factory Theatre.

Photo by Valerie Prussak



Theatre Review - The Saloonkeeper's Daughter

By Scott Johnston

The audience was indulging in a lot of booing and hissing at the preview night for Theatre Aurora's latest production, "The Saloonkeeper's Daughter".

But it was all part of the show.

Set in a saloon in the wild, wild west, this spoof of typical western themes and characters tells the story of a villain who arrives in a small, struggling town with a number of evil schemes to take over the town's property and hidden wealth.

Which one will he decide on, who will be affected, is there anything the helpless townspeople can do, and will love conquer all?

As a musical comedy, the answer to the last two questions is, obviously, "yes", but how they get there as we move towards the conclusion is part of the fun.

As noted earlier, audience participation is encouraged, with cues being provided to applaud the hero, sigh over the love interests, and heartily boo and hiss the arrival of the villain.

These cues are provided courtesy of the resident piano player and the show's musical director, Paul Mason. He is not only on stage the entire performance providing musical accompaniment to the many songs, but he also plays before the show, entertaining the audience members while they are taking their seats.

The cast of twelve is one of the larger ones that

Theatre Aurora has had on stage in recent productions, and everyone participates at some point in the many musical productions.

Although all the players are enthusiastic and play their parts well, there are a few standouts. Barry Flynn as Mannly Rasch, the villain, dives into the role with enthusiasm, twirling his mustache, laughing maniacally at his nefarious schemes, and generally reminding one of the villains in the old silent movie comedies.

His sidekick, the wonderfully clueless Seedy Shlepper, is portrayed by

Lori Johnstone, who uses perfect facial expressions not only as part of her communication with those to whom she's speaking, but also to react to events taking place on stage, even when she's not part of the action.

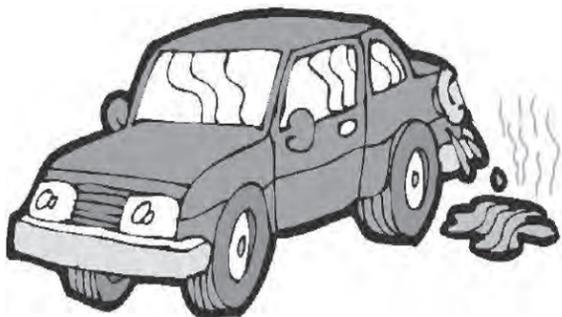
Linda Henshaw, as Cinnamon Hickey, the long serving and suffering dancing girl, is truly sympathetic, and has a strong singing voice.

The set easily brings to mind an old western bar, and the costumes easily help identify all of the characters, with the dancing girls in vivid colours, the cowpokes in dusty

jeans, the hero in white, and, of course, the villain in black.

Evening performances of "The Saloonkeeper's Daughter" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, on December 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11, with a matinee on December 5. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

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Down to business Dec. 14

From page 14

"The Bovair trail matter was added to the OMB's agenda and was heard during the period October 27 to 29, 2010," said Mr. Garbe in his report. "The Board has set aside three days for closing arguments, to commence on January 4, 2011."

Also on the Council agenda will be the use of the Anne Bartley Smith lands in the west side of Aurora between the Town and the Ontario Heritage

Trust, which was the subject of much Council discussion this year.

"As directed by Council, staff have been working with the Ontario Heritage Trust to prepare a draft custodial agreement for the Anne Bartley Smith property," said Mr. Garbe. "Staff have prepared a preliminary draft agreement based on the principles outlined in the April 20, 2010 report.

[Staff] are awaiting final comment from the Ontario

Heritage Trust prior to presenting the draft agreement to Council for consideration. Final comment is expected in the coming weeks."

The new Council is also expected to revisit the issue of the Magna lands.

"MI Developments did not fulfil its promise to work with Adena Meadows Limited for the purpose of conveying the lands to the Town by the October 31, 2010 deadline," said Mr. Garbe.

"Staff has indicated corre-

spondence with Adena's solicitor aimed at carrying out Council's direction, which includes re-attending before the OMB in order to enforce the minutes of settlement.

The new Mayor and Councillors will be formally inaugurated on December 7 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chambers. The ceremony will be broadcast live on theauroran.com. The Council is expected to fully get down to business December 14.

"Lawsuit" minutes amended

Phyllis Morris' \$6 million dollar lawsuit against three local bloggers was brought to the fore of the 2006-2010 Council one last time on Tuesday as Councillors passed an amendment to the minutes of the September meeting which resulted in the Town retaining outside legal counsel to pursue the matter.

The amendment was to clarify the timing on the minutes of

the September 14 meeting, which noted that Council came out of closed session at 1.11 am to pass the resolution "to retain external legal counsel and to take any and all actions to bring resolution to this matter."

The minutes did not reflect that Ms. Morris left the meeting at 1.10 am before Bob McRoberts, as Deputy Mayor, reconvened the meeting at 1.11.

"Through inadvertence, the

minutes of the September 14, 2010 Council meeting did not reflect that Mayor Morris left at 1.10," said Town Clerk John Leach in a report to Council. "These minutes were adopted by Council at the September 28, 2010 Council meeting.

"It would be appropriate to amend the Council minutes of the September 14, 2010 meeting to reflect that Mayor Morris left the meeting at 1.10 am and

that Deputy Mayor McRoberts was in the Chair when open session reconvened at 1.11 am."

The matter before Council raised two concerns for Councillor Buck, from the fact that each meeting is closed with a confirming bylaw, as well as the matter itself.

"It deals with a resolution giving staff approval to pursue legal action and I think it is not a simple amendment and I have concerns," she said.

Closing with a confirmatory bylaw gives any action taken by a council "the same force and effect as a bylaw", said Mr. Leach.

"That said, the current issue, even if the adoption of the minutes had the status of a bylaw, Council has the authority to amend its bylaws," he said. "[The recommendation in the report] does not deal with the subject matter; it deals more to the form in that there was an inadvertent omission here that would normally have been included in the record."

Alison Collins-Mrakas concluded that this was indeed a housekeeping matter, but reiterated her misgivings about the matter it pertained to.

"I don't support the motion that is reported out from closed session, and given what has transpired since that date, I don't believe the vagueness of the motion is a true reflection of what could and did transpire," she said.

Councillor McRoberts, who took the chair in this matter after Ms. Morris excused herself, expressed similar concerns.

"I did not and do not support the minutes of September 14, but I consider this amendment to be accurate and I will be supporting the motion that is currently on the floor."

The amendment was approved with only Councillor Buck voting against it.

Association addresses quote

From page 3

December 1, Mayor-Elect Geoff Dawe has already stated his intention to bring the matter before Council after the inaugural on December 7 to put the brakes on any further taxpayer dollars being spent on the matter.

Earlier this month, Ms. Morris criticized the Canadian Civil Liberties Association's interest in this matter.

"As for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, we have heard nothing further from them since their first contact with my lawyers," Ms. Morris told The Auroran. "It is hard to image that such an Association would choose to align themselves with extreme

anonymous language and personal threats against an individual."

Ms. Zwibel told The Auroran last week that the Association "certainly doesn't condone threats and we certainly don't endorse that kind of statement."

"To the extent that these are true threats, there are other legal avenues to address that, and a civil defamation lawsuit is not the appropriate forum in which to do that. That is one of the reasons this lawsuit is concerning to us.

"With respect to the anonymous bloggers, these are people who are expressing their views on questions of politics, questions of public importance.

The language in which they choose to express themselves is obviously up to them and, as I've said, as we are not sure exactly what the allegedly defamatory statements are, we are not yet in a position to comment on that.

"We do advocate for a person's right to make comments anonymously on the internet and we have been involved in cases like this before and advocated for a system where a person seeking that identifying information needs to demonstrate that there is a compelling interest in getting that information and needs to demonstrate they have a strong case in their civil suit to obtain that information."

Aurora cadet wins award

Flight Sgt. Carolyn Marshall of 140 Squadron in Aurora won the Doug Whitley Award at the Air Cadet League of Canada, 2010 Conference and AGM in St. Catharines, recently.

The Doug Whitley Award is given to an air cadet based on their participation and achievements at this year's Flying Scholarship Course.

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"Our annual conference is our premiere opportunity to recognize the phenomenal commitment and accomplishments of our members and partners and show our

communities how rich our program is with highly skilled and dedicated citizens", said Scott Lawson, Executive Director of the Air Cadet League of Ontario. "It's rewarding to see the award winners who have given their time and commitment be honoured for their accomplishments."

Cadets from around the province participated in the annual conference.



Ken McIsaac and Nora MacDonald co-chaired the Optimist Book Sale on November 30.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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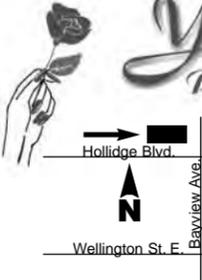


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- A) The negative comments posted on blogs such as AuroraCitizen.ca?
- B) Ms. Morris' \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers to obtain the identities of anonymous posters on AuroraCitizen.ca?
- C) Neither of these issues affected Ms. Morris at the poll.

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Santa Under the Stars 2010



Auroran photos by David Falconer



Senior Scape



Reflections on the Seniors' Bazaar

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is an excellent venue to express fascination for the beauty of music, which fills our world, and in harmony with those sentiments, the Video Concert Night on Friday received accolades from an enthusiastic audience. In fact, the audience spent the evening in rapt attention, enjoying three tenors from Canada and four from Scotland, who sang together in part interspersed with solo performances.

American born Josh Groban was excellent in his videos and it is easy to see why he has sold 20 million albums in the United States. Russell Watson sang last and clearly captured the hearts of the audience with the power and range of his voice and versatility of presentation.

The video presentation on the wall of the West McKenzie was successful, although the early going required some fixes to get the volume to a satisfactory level. Once under control,

the audience became completely engrossed and enthusiastic with applause greeting many performances.

Well-known members of the Seniors' Centre, Sylvia Neal and Bud Switzer each gave solo live performances to continuing enthusiasm.

The world of music is filled with outstanding opera, and these fine senior performers show deep-seeded affection for music and wonderful admiration for the talent displayed through the video recordings.

The enthusiasm of the audience leaves little doubt that opera will find a future among seniors in Aurora.

Continuing along the vein of music, the Evergreen Choir conducted by Richard Heinzle and accompanied on the piano by Hadara Jacoby will present "A Joyous Sound", a Christmas concert, on Tuesday, December 14th, at 7.30 p.m., at the Seniors' Centre. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, and children under 14 are free. Refreshments will be

served at the intermission.

Richard Heinzle has impressed members of the choir with his musical knowledge and instruction, resulting in increasing choir membership.

Richard, in addition to his excellence as a conductor, is also an excellent pianist. He is proving a powerful musical influence among the Evergreen Choir. As a result, prospects for the choir improve with every rehearsal and successful performance.

The concert will include several pieces by the Evergreen Choir. Solos and duets by Sylvia Neal, Bill Reid, and Bud and Stella Switzer will provide their selections of Christmas music. A quartet of four male singers, Dave Griffith, Terry Paul, Bill Reid and Bud Switzer will perform "Silver Bells."

Christmas is the most revered time of the year, and an old-fashioned Christmas is probably what we remember from our earliest childhood memories. Early mem-

ories of Christmas flood back with music. These memories linger with of each of us forever!

This year's edition of the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday was attended by many shoppers searching for something special for Christmas. This joy of good shopping in a different environment never fails to produce something novel. In addition, while Christmas is clearly an excuse to shop, the joy of shopping is a shared by many seniors who shop with a critical approach to what is a good buy.

Upon entering the bazaar, I first saw Lydia Schuster, busy with a line-up of people, eager to purchase raffle tickets for the delightfully decorated Christmas tree. Flo Murray and Gail Van Wolde were equally busy with a 50/50 raffle, and I purchased tickets for both raffles.

Going deeper into the Bazaar, books, knitted goods and other items from the sewing club added to

the attractions, as did food including pickles and preserves and baked goods appealing to taste buds, along with artful jewelry that would blend so well with items in many wardrobes.

A jewelry table operated by Carrie Eastwood, a member of Aurora Town staff, addressed these considerations. In conversation with Carrie, I learned that creating the jewelry provides an outlet for her crafting ability and a change from her business life. A more relaxing world where creating some-

thing of beauty fosters a world of relaxation and simple satisfaction, stimulated by making jewelry.

The age of seniority requires camaraderie and aptitude, a willingness to deal with ordeals presented as years mount, and allowing daunting challenges to dwindle while among friends. Challenges, which seniors everywhere must face, daunt seniors in the ASA less severely, and the parade of seniority through the senior years is often a grand affair.

Students descend on grocery stores

High school student volunteers from Aurora and Newmarket collected dozens of bags of food and thousands of dollars

in donations at grocery stores throughout the community last weekend to help fill the shelves of local food banks.

Neighbourhood Network kicked off its first Food Drive on Saturday, November 13 as a way to engage local students in

a hands-on volunteer activity that helps less fortunate neighbours living within the communities.

Close to 40 student volunteers visited eight supermarkets throughout Aurora and Newmarket to collect food and cash donations from local shoppers.

In Aurora, students canvassed Longo's, Sobey's, Metro and the Real Canadian SuperStore.

In addition to the many bags of food collected, students amassed \$1,533 in cash donations at stores in Aurora.

The food and cash donations were delivered to the Aurora Food Pantry.

New program designed for Aurora's babies

Aurora Public Library has started a new program known as "Baby Bundles".

It has been recognized that the first three years of life are the most important years for development.

New Aurora parents are encouraged to come with their babies to the Library to pick up a Baby Bundles package.

The package consists of a specially designed book bag containing information about the Library, literature on how to increase your baby's language learning, reading suggestions, and the classic book, "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown.

To receive a Baby Bundles package, register

your baby for their own library card and then visit the Children and Young Adult Information Desk on the second floor.

This program is for Aurora babies up to the age of 12 months.

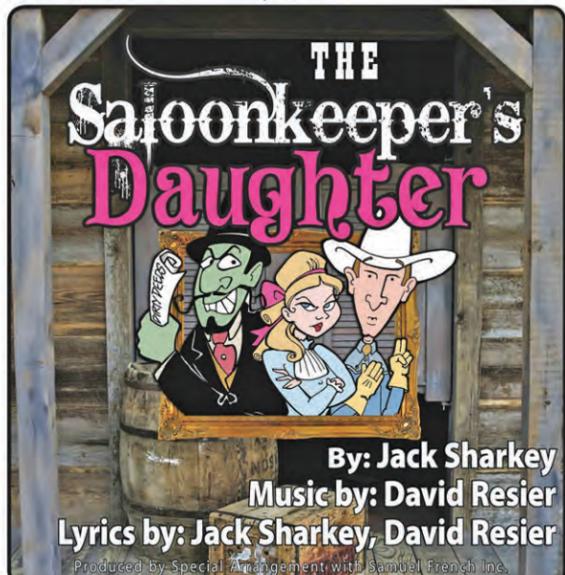
This initiative has been made possible by the ongoing support of the Optimist Club of Aurora.



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