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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of February 8, 2011



Darrack Dewar of Almac Conveyor Company on Industrial Parkway South, demonstrates the art of welding during an Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Business After Five" meeting held there last week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Your taxes may go up

A 7.82 per cent tax rate increase could be in the offing to balance the 2011 budget if no adjustments to revenues or expenditures are made by Council during their ongoing budget reviews, according to Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, in a report prepared for Council in advance of budget meetings which began last week.

The first meeting, devoted to the draft budget prepared by staff, took place last Monday evening and discussions continued through the week with a look at the capital budget on Saturday. Public meetings continue through March.

As outlined in his report, key pressures on the Municipality for the 2011 budget include increasing salary and benefit costs to the Town, improving and replacing existing infrastructure, the fact that reliance upon reserve funds over the last several years to

maintain infrastructure has nearly depleted the fund, and the increased cost of fire and emergency services.

"Reserve funds established for infrastructure sustainability purposes have been relied upon continually for many years, without sustainable contributions to keep them replenished," said Mr. Elliott in his report. "They are now nearing depletion. The current state of these reserves places enormous pressure on the 2011 budgets in particular as there exists limited available sources for funding for infrastructure projects in 2011 and beyond.

"For 2011, while not finalized by Joint Committee of Councils, and the Town of Newmarket, the draft cost of Aurora's 2011 share [of Central York Fire Services] increased by 17.7 per cent mainly due to Aurora's share of a new 24-hour coverage crew to meet the service needs of our growing community.

"The new crew will be located [in] and serve Aurora; however the costs are being shared proportionately with our partner in CYFS, Newmarket."

The Town's base budget will take a hit to accommodate increased staffing costs of \$1,044,000, resulting in a 4.2 per cent tax rate pressure, said Mr. Elliott. This includes cost of living

adjustment modifications, step rates for newer staff, and increased pension and benefit rates.

"No additional full time staff
Please see page 7

Men cook on Friday

We Men Cookin', an idea that happens at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, will take place Friday, February 11th and tickets are going fast, according to president Charles Sequeira.

A total of 22 men will bring in their cooked dishes for people to sample.

Among those cooking will be Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Councillors John Abel, John Gallo, and Paul Pirri, former Mayor Tim Jones, Frank Klees MPP, Steve Hinder, and Greg Foster from M&M.

Tickets are \$10 per person and the doors open at 5.30 p.m. with a cash bar.

Dinner will be served at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets are currently on sale at the front desk of the Seniors' Centre.

For more information contact Frank Leone at 905-713-0608 or e-mail him at leoneml@bell.net

Report on Petch log building expected on February 15th

Council and Aurorans alike could know the results later this month of an appeal for public interest in restoring the Petch Log House put out at the request of the previous council.

The 2006-2010 council put out a public request for interest last fall.

Councillors voted in favour of the motion after a carpenter with experience in home restoration said he could restore the house for considerably less than all other proposals received by the Town.

Holland Landing-based carpenter Gary McLaughlin claimed he would be able to dismantle, restore, and rebuild the deteriorating building in the low \$100,000s, rather than the previous estimates of at least

\$400,000.

Mr. McLaughlin said the "remarkable" house could date back as far as 1822 and is a "valuable piece of history" after another member of the audience called the house nothing more than a "pile of rotten logs".

"It is remarkable in the fact it is almost chinkless," he said "The logs were almost parallel. It is falling into greater and greater disrepair as it sits tarped, but I contest the estimates of upwards of \$500,000. Referring to a 'pile of logs' is one person's take on such a thing. As a finished house, it will just say nothing but great things about the past and it is another piece of something that completes the bigger picture."

Mr. McLaughlin, when pressed

by Councillor Eveyln Buck, admitted he had ignored all previous RFPs related to the Petch House, saying he "boycotted" the process because the project was "way over the top".

Councillors are expected to receive a summary of all interest indicated at the next general committee meeting, scheduled for February 15th.

"The expression, as per Council's previous direction to issue an expression of interest - that was done," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning at last week's general committee meeting. "We received those responses and we are preparing a report for the next general committee to present those responses to council."

Briefly

Lawless nominated

Aurora native Gregg Lawless has been nominated for his first Juno award for Children's Album of the Year. Lawless received his nomination for the album "Encore", which he recorded as Gregg LeRock, his French-language alter-ego familiar to countless elementary school kids.

Raised in Aurora and a graduate of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, where Mr. Lawless has said former music teacher Penny Sedore played a key role in setting him on his musical journey, Mr. Lawless is an independent artist who has played to packed houses around the world and before Canadian soldiers in Kandahar.

He also works regularly with York Region students through his Literacy Through Music Program.

"That lets me share my love of playing with words and writing songs with kids," he told The Auroran last winter.

The Juno Awards will be broadcast Sunday, March 27 on CTV.

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COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. there will be a "First Steps" clinic for those who want to learn the basics of Nordic pole walking at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail, Aurora.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

The Aurora Seniors' Centre, in conjunction with Park Place Manor, presents a Blood Pressure Clinic from 10 to 11 a.m. Event takes place at the Centre.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, presents the second in a three-lecture series "Our Aurora Heritage: Taking a Closer Look", an informative series of evening chats by local historian Jacqueline Stuart. Tonight's feature: A Virtual Mystery Tour of Aurora. Can you identify these easily-passed-by spots? Where was this camera shot taken from? How well do you know your town? Complimentary admission and light refreshments, no registration required; starts at 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For information please call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Aurora Farmers' Market & Artisan Fair returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Site is fully accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca. Mark your calendars as well for the final indoor market of the season on March 26.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Are you ready for some heat? Warm up with classical guitar music performed by Robert Carullo. Tracie and Daniel will dance the Tango, Rhumba and Salsa in full costume and singer/actor Brent Titcomb will be featured in Bessada and Arbic's original short play, How Raven Stole the Sun. This is a fundraiser for the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign. Tickets for the show at the Aurora Cultural Centre are available online at www.pandorasboxsalon.com or by calling 289-221-0229. They are \$35 adult; \$25 student/senior; or \$95 for a family of four.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The annual Arctic Adventure takes place in the Town Park today and is an opportunity to bundle up and take in some great outdoor activities such as dog sled rides, snow shoeing, skating, live entertainment, professional ice carving, fire-eating demonstration, chili cook-off and "snow" much more. The event begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. For further information, check the Town Website at e-aurora.ca/arcticadventure.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society Annual Dessert Competition is being held this evening between 8 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora, Ontario. Entries will be received as early as 6.45 p.m. and judging will begin at 8 p.m. Support this fundraising event contributes to some very exciting speakers and demonstrators for members this year. Also, this would be a good opportunity to obtain a membership (required to enter the contest).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts the Mayor's Luncheon today. Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe will be the keynote speaker and will talk about the Town's development of a new strategic plan and what that will mean for businesses in Aurora. The luncheon, sponsored by the Character Community Foundation of York Region, is being held at the Tuscany Event Centre, 222 Edward St., Aurora. Networking starts at 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch. Cost is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for guests - all are welcome but

you must pre-register. Showcase tables are also available for \$30 at this event.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents the launch of the Great Artist Piano Series, with Canadian classical pianist Anton Kuerti in an all-Beethoven program. First in a series of four piano concerts. Tickets are \$30 or \$25 for students and seniors. Subscriptions are also available. Show begins at 8 p.m. For information or to book tickets call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Bowl For Kids Sake, presented by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, will hold its Aurora Community Day today from 1 to 5.30 p.m. at the Gateway Café and Lanes. Call Mary Lynn Stephenson at 905-726-2149, extension 305 to book a lane for your team.

Explore different colours, textures and designs in glass with Daniela Weston while you create your own unique stained glass sun catcher at the Aurora Public Library. Event costs \$15 which includes all materials and is open for youngsters ages 9 to 14. Event lasts two hours and begins at 1.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Seedy Sunday happens today at the Aurora Legion from noon to 4 p.m. Seedy Saturday and Sundays are the days when the new gardening season begins in earnest. You can have an opportunity to learn more about gardening, hone and share your gardening skills, and buy or exchange vegetable and flower seeds. Details at <http://www.living-raw-foods.com>. For further information call 416-277-5432.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Retired York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge will be honoured by the Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District at its ninth annual Community Tribute Dinner tonight. The event will be held at The Manor, Carrying Place Golf & Country Club, 16750 Weston Road in Kettleby. The dinner is the major fundraising event of the year for Community Living and all proceeds will go to support people who have an intellectual disability. Tickets are \$125 each (\$1,000 for a table of eight) and can be purchased online through the Community Living website at www.clnad.com or by calling 905-898-3000, ext. 258.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Embarrassed by your bare wrists? Get beading! Show off your sense of style with a unique beaded backpack pin and a fashionable suede bracelet made at the Aurora Public Library from 6.30 to 8 p.m. This program is for youngsters aged 9 to 14 and costs \$8 which includes all materials.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

The Aurora Farmers' Market & Artisan Fair final day at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly the Church Street School, happens today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Site is fully accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Community Arboretum will be held in the form of a Meet and Greet at 7.30 p.m. in the Aurora Town Hall.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

"I Love Rock & Roll" dinner dance takes place this evening at DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South beginning at 6 p.m. Dance to the music of Freddie Vette and The Flames and meet and have your picture taken with Elvis Presley, who is really Kevin Mills from Richmond Hill. Tickets sell for \$60 a person, which includes a three-course meal and will be available at Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street. Proceeds go to the Aurora-Newmarket District of Community Living.

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Members of Neighbourhood Network's team invited people to a breakfast Friday in Aurora. They included, left to right, Tom Taylor, John Crowell, Linda Potter, Steve Hinder, Karen Addison and former Aurora mayor Tim Jones. Breakfast was held at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, and more than 50 people attended.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Agreement could happen with Elderberry proposal

Landowners, developers, and ratepayers are still working towards an agreement - or at least a compromise - regarding a proposed residential building and wellness centre plan which is slated to be constructed near the Elderberry Trail neighbourhood in south Aurora.

As The Auroran reported last week, ratepayers came to the January 18 general committee meeting to express their opposition to the proposal.

They claimed the plan violated several aspects of the Town's Official Plan and encouraged councillors to reject the plan and request a new one from the developer due to the multiple changes that had been made to it.

News that there may be some progress in finding common ground between the various stakeholders came at the January 25 council meeting where councillors received a letter from Jane Pepino, lawyer for the landowner, explaining there had been ongoing talks with the Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South (RAYS).

In her letter, she said she had been provided with a notice from RAYS requesting that Town Staff adjourn the scheduled February 7 pre-hearing at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) or request another pre-hearing after February 8 to allow for further discussions between parties.

"On behalf of our client, we consent to council passing a resolution in accordance with these requests," she wrote. "Discussions between the parties are under way that, given additional time, may be able to satisfactorily address issues with respect to this application."

Susan Walmer, once again appearing as a delegate on behalf of RAYS on January 25, echoed Ms. Pepino's request

"[We also ask that] planning staff be requested to assist the discussion between the ratepayers association and the applicant in any way possible," she added. "I also suggest that perhaps the developer or someone else be included in those discussions. I leave it in your good judgement and hands."

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, indicated he was fine with the proposal, and said it would provide all parties an opportunity to sit down and engage in negotiations and report back on the progress in discussions in two or three weeks.

"It sounds like all parties are trying to come to some sort of agreement and avoid a full board hearing so I don't have a problem with the deferral," he said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, said she would not like to see council involvement with their discussions.

"There is nothing ever at any time to hinder residents, neighbours of a development from meeting with a developer to discuss what is being proposed," she said. "There is no need for council involvement in that."

Other Councillors expressed support of the motion, indicating it had positive potential to bring a resolution to the matter.

Council voted to defer the matter to a later date to allow discussions to take place.

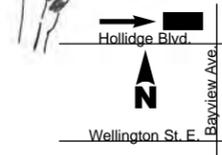
In a report to Council released Friday, Mr. Ramunno said the OMB had consented to the Town's request to delay the hearings and Town staff, the planning applicant, and representatives from RAYS met on Thursday to discuss the matter.

"The negotiations thus far have been both productive and positive, although there continues to be concerns over building height and density as well as a desire to confirm the uses which are proposed for the wellness centre," he said.

"The applicant has agreed to make some revisions to their plans in order to address these concerns and have agreed to a meeting in the near future. Staff are therefore recommending that council defer [the report] as the Town, applicant, and residents are in the process of working towards addressing these issues with respect to the application."



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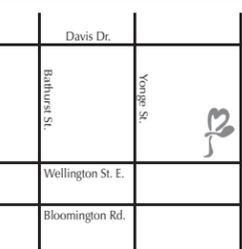
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Letters to the Editor

He agrees with Klees

To the editor,

I appreciate The Auroran includes Frankly Speaking by our Provincial Member of Parliament, Mr. Frank Klees.

He identifies the issues in clear concise terms and what he is doing to address them on behalf of our region and Ontario.

His recent informative article on the Issue of Debt Retirement charge-A McGuinty money mystery; affects each of us paying for electricity and the current Ontario

Government needs to be held accountable, for the monies collected from Ontarians on our hydro bills for the past eight years.

Transparency and Accountability, as human virtues, are not easy for anyone and especially in public business or government; but I do appreciate those in leadership who work to that end.

Thanks, Mr. Klees, your responsible leadership is working.

Alan Grills, BA(hons), M.Ed, DCS, CEC, ACC, Aurora



Do you see yourself in this photo? The picture was downloaded from The Museum of Science and Technology website and is from the Canadian National Railway Archives. The caption says "crowd gathers at Aurora Station to see the Museum Train, 1953". The station is still there.

Send e-mail to councillors

To the editor,

Since we got most of the horses (and their residue) off the streets in the early 1900's, the rule-making has concentrated on control of large motor vehicles.

Sidewalks (note the derivation, side + walk) provided a safe alternative from walking on the side of the road.

In an area of renewed interest in urban planning - new and retrofit - it seems appropriate to seriously consider the increased use and safety of skates - boards, quad and inline; cycles - bicycles, tricycles and quadracycles; with wheels - large and small; powered by - peddles, electric motor and both.

It now seems redundant to itemize the health benefits of the increased physical exercise and the environmental benefits of

pollution reduction.

But it requires a political will to plan things differently and be willing to pay the up-front costs.

Individually we hold title to little bits of land and defend our sovereignty.

Collectively we are the stewards of what the next generation will inherit.

That generation is not at the table to defend their rights.

Government works! Every councillor has an e-mail address [first initial, followed by the last name and "@e-aurora.ca"] and on the subject line put "Plan Paths for People".

They can pass the message on to the traffic and trail planners.

Do not write a long message.

Your "Vote" is enough.

Gordon Barnes Aurora

"Latest" photo was earliest: reader

To the editor,

I've been enjoying the pictures of the radial rail-

Mayor liked Alison's show

To the editor and Alison,

Congratulations on your first edition of Our Town.

It was well done and very enjoyable.

I look forward to future shows!

I especially appreciate that it is on line, as getting TV time at night can be a bit of challenge.

Geoffrey Dawe Aurora Mayor

way in The Auroran.

A couple of weeks ago, you included three pictures, the top two showing tracks being laid.

These date from the late 1920s when the tracks were changed to accommodate larger rail cars.

The bottom picture is actually the earliest one, probably from about 1915 or a bit later, judging by the vehicles on the road and the presence of the post office in the background, completed in 1914.

All part of a fascinating story!

W. John McIntyre, PhD Aurora

Letter to the Editor

New council has "great potential", reader says

To the editor,

Thank you, council, for voting to restore the original and proper address of our Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

In so doing you not only restored an honour to an Aurora citizen but also respected the original decision of the 1990 council.

I would like to thank Councillor Evelyn Buck for presenting this motion, Councillor John Abel for seconding it and Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillors Thompson, Humfries, Pirri and Gallo for supporting it.

For the first time since the 2000-2003 term I feel the majority of councillors are prepared to work together for the betterment of our community and to bring democracy and decorum back to Council.

It appears, however, there is still one councillor, whom as Mark Holmes so aptly described in his letter (Auroran February 1/11), "continues on proudly carrying the flag of the previous feuding council".

In my previous letter to The Auroran I indicated I was rudely and inappropriately interrupted during my presentation to council by the above noted Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Again, referring to Mr. Holmes' letter, this councillor is continually nit-picking about political procedure: however she herself is quick to ignore

proper procedure.

Perhaps, Councillor Gaertner, if you had attended the new council team-building session you would have learned the proper procedure applies to all councillors to follow and that the first and most important tenet of democracy is freedom of speech, which you tried to deny me.

This brings me to your letter in the February 1/11 edition of The Auroran.

You indicate there were two reasons you boycotted the new council team-building meeting.

Firstly, it appears you feel the meeting should have been held in Aurora.

I'm not disputing there is some merit in that and I respect your right to voice this opinion; however the majority of your fellow councillors for whatever reasons voted that it would be beneficial to hold it in King City and therefore I feel it was your duty as part of this team to put aside your personal opinion for the benefit of the Aurora citizens who voted for you to represent them in the best way possible.

How can you do that if you won't participate in team-building meetings and workshops?

Your second reason was that "it was a closed education meeting that citizens were prohibited from attending".

I see absolutely nothing wrong with new councillors meeting in private to get to know each other and express their goals,

opinions and aspirations for Aurora in an informal meeting, without having to press second guessing the meaning of every comment or thought expressed.

Being an expert on procedural bylaws you would know that no motions can be presented and voted upon or official decisions made in a private meeting so what is the harm?

In any event, as the editor indicated following your letter, documents related to this meeting are available to the public online.

I believe this council has great potential to

guide our Town through the next four years.

I'm sure everyone on council is there because they care about Aurora and want to improve it. Certainly there will be differences of opinions and I'm sure there will be heated debates and that is good for democracy.

However, in my opinion personal likes or dislikes, grudges, attempts at one-upmanship, time consuming nit-picking about minor, irrelevant and imagined failure to follow "procedure", should not be part of the process.

Graham Wride Aurora

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

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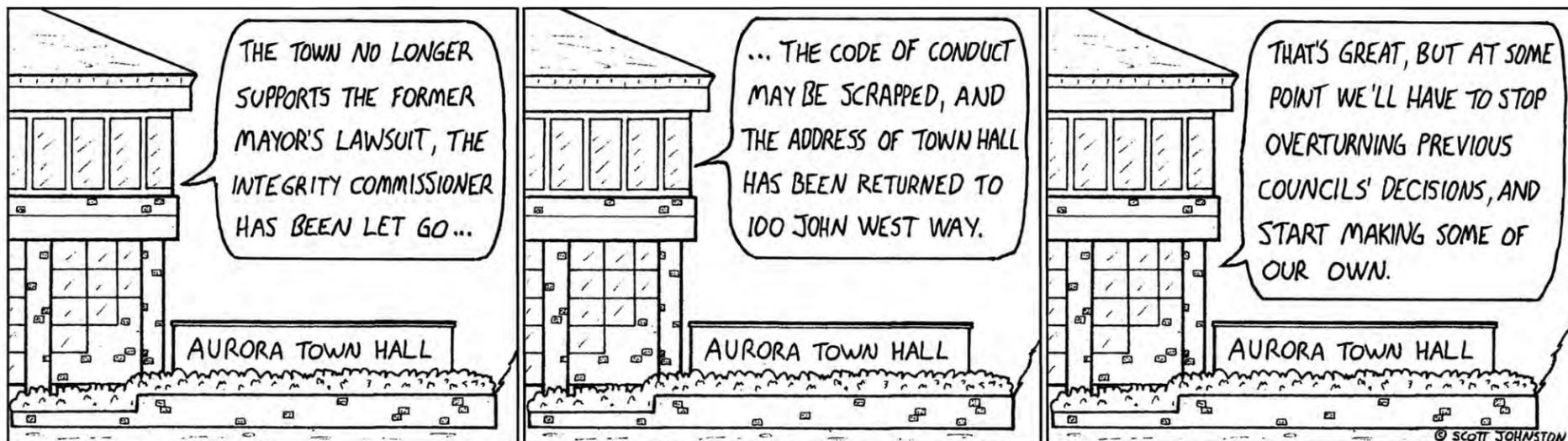
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Meet the new mayor

This is the first in a series of short profiles on the new members of the Aurora Town Council.

This interview asks questions of Aurora's new mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

How long have you lived in Aurora?

"We have lived in Aurora for 33 years, first in Regency Acres, then near the Aurora Community Centre and now near Bathurst and Wellington."

I believe you are married - what is your wife's name, any children? Are they tykes or older?

"Henny and I have been married for 35 years; we have three daughters - Joanne is 29 and a naturopathic doctor; Katherine is 25 and teacher in the French Immersion stream in York Region; Kristen is 23 and is currently living in London, England, taking English courses at Cambridge."

What is your educational background?

"I attended Seneca College of Applied Arts & Technology - Electronics Technology."

What did you do for a living before seeking public office?

"Most of my initial career was in the cable television industry, starting with Keeble Cable in Toronto in 1971 (due to multiple mergers the Keeble Cable service area is now part of Rogers.) I started in the community program group (typically referred to as Cable 10). Then I moved over to the operations department. I was at Keeble for about three years then moved to Jerrold Electronics in the field engineering group, responsible for assisting customers with Jerrold products."

"Jerrold is probably best known as the developer of the TV Converter, so that customers with older television sets could get the additional cable chan-

nels that started being offered in the late '70s. However, Jerrold was also a leading provider of the main electronics that the cable operators actually used to get the signals to the end users. I moved into sales at Jerrold in 1980.

"In 1981 I was recruited to a company called RF Communications (also in the cable television industry) to head up a new department that they were starting to market specialized equipment for two-way communications on the cable system."

"I started my own business in 1986 as a small manufacturer of custom cable assemblies, and then migrated to designing and installing local area networks. We then migrated to providing quality management solutions to the manufacturing sector and then we specialized in working in the food industry. Our company worked with the major food producers like Kraft, Post and Ralston Foods."

Outside of council - what kinds of thing do you like to do?

"My favourite sporting activity is golf. I also enjoy music and love to play guitar - I was playing a lot a Jonathan's on Tuesday nights but that has obviously changed. We also have a cottage just outside of Gravenhurst and we quite enjoy going there."

What community activities were you involved in prior to becoming mayor?

"I have been a cub and scout leader; a member of the Advisory Board of Trinity Anglican Church, including being the senior warden; a member of the Rotary Club of Aurora; a member of the Lester B. Pearson School Council, including being chair."

"I was also Co-Chair of the Grow Your Mind fundraising campaign for the library; member of the

Aurora Public Library Board, including four years as Chair.

"I was a Member of the Board of Directors of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for eight years, culminating in becoming the president. I have also been a member of the Aurora Business Development Committee; a member of the Aurora Economic Development Committee, and an Aurora Business Ambassador and canvasser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation."

What was the compelling reason for you to seek office?

"I first considered running for mayor as I was asked by a number of prominent Aurorans. I agreed as I saw a critical lack of leadership with too much time spent on personal issues and not enough time spent on productivity."

Is the job of mayor different than you thought it would be? If so, in what way?

"For the most part it is what I expected, but at this point there is far more reading than I had expected."

You have officially been mayor for just about two months now - are you enjoying it?

"I am absolutely enjoying it. The town staff is terrific to work with and for the most part council is interested in a collaborative environment."

What are the two biggest things you want council to achieve this year?

"Working on a strategic plan and focusing on being productive."

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Fire alarmed

There's nothing more invigorating and/or panic-inducing than being awakened unexpectedly in the middle of the night by a fire alarm.

There was a letter to the editor recently in which of our Auroran readers wrote of her experiences with their smoke detector going off for no apparent reason. The exact same thing happened to us a number of years ago.

One summer night we were awoken by that shrill sound outside our bedroom.

Needless to say, we were instantly awake, running around like madmen.

There was no smell of smoke, and after a quick search of the premises, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. When we fanned the detector, the alarm shut off.

So we went back to bed, and about an hour later, just after our shattered nerves had allowed us to get back to sleep, it sounded again.

Again, nothing seemed amiss.

When it happened a third time that night, we figured it was some sort of mechanical glitch, but with life safety equipment, you prefer to have some level of comfort. So, we decided to call the fire department for their advice.

That's when we learned you can't call the fire department directly.

Oh, you can call 911, but we didn't want to make an emergency call, and tie up valuable dispatcher time for what really sounded like a false alarm.

But the fire department is not listed in any phone directory. So we called the police instead, and explained the situation.

They were suitably sympathetic and said they'd phone the fire department on our behalf. Several minutes later we got a call back.

We explained the situation again, and they said they'd send someone over.

"Please be subtle", we pleaded. "We don't want to alarm the neighbourhood."

"Of course", they assured us.

For the fire department, being subtle obviously means sending a large hook and ladder truck with its lights flashing, and parking it right in the middle of the street.

But I guess they need to be safe than sorry.

The guys came in, and checked our smoke detectors, and told us what they explained to the reader who had sent in the letter; detectors can get dirty, and you have to take them apart and clean out the inside periodically, or they may trigger an alarm.

Who knew?

When we opened up the problem detector I expected

the insides to look like something that Indiana Jones would have found in some ancient cobweb filled tomb. But it didn't look so bad, so I guess it doesn't make much dust to set them off.

So, we cleaned all of the smoke detectors in the house, and getting the nod of approval from the fire folks, we thanked them all, waved to the neighbours peering out through their curtains at the brightly strobing fire truck as it departed, wearily crawled into bed, closed our eyes...and the same smoke detector went off.

At this stage it was like having to hit a very inconveniently located snooze alarm. In the end, to get any sleep, we had to disconnect it, and hope the one downstairs would rouse us if the place did start burning down.

The next day I bought all new detectors, and we've never had a problem since, so either we're cleaning the house more diligently than we have in the past, or the detectors that came with the house were especially dusty.

In any case, lesson learned; so when daylight savings rolls around next month, we'll be checking not only the batteries in our detectors, but taking a peek to see what's going on inside.

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

Letters to the Editor

No surprise to mayoralty candidate that Town Hall given new address

To the editor,

It was not a surprise that this council, led by Councillor Evelyn Buck, rushed to put the town hall back onto John West Way.

Councillor Buck was one of the then self-serving councillors, along with West, Timpson, Olchoski and Pederson to name a street after each other when serving on the same council.

WOW. How self-serving was that?

There were many names available on the cenotaph or in the history books of Aurora or others such as volunteers of the past, but no, these five thought that they were more important even than those who gave their lives for our freedom.

They were more impotent than the pioneers who settled Aurora and more important than all of the volun-

teers who work for Aurora residents for free.

Why? Because they were elected and paid councillors.

During the election, now Mayor Geoffrey Dawe made a point by venting that I led the charge to dishonour West, since as he said, this was an honour bestowed on West by the residents.

What a joke!

The residents had no say in this self-serving decision.

West still had a street named after him but, to Buck, that was not enough.

Let's charge the residents more money and move the Town Hall back onto John West's street.

During the election, Mr. Dawe claimed that the past council was in the taxpayers' pockets and that had to stop.

The way it is going during the first two months of the current reign the taxpayers of Aurora won't have any

pockets.

First, an unnecessary offsite meeting at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 that could have been held free at our Town Hall with Aurora businesses getting the benefit and now a street change at a cost of between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Not huge amounts but you, Mr. Dawe, are in the taxpayers' of Aurora's pocket very early.

I was also surprised when Mr. Neil Garbe stated that the move would not cost much.

I guess that depends on what he considers not much and considering that he does not live in Aurora, it won't be coming out of his pocket.

At least when we originally gave the Town Hall a new street we had the decency to have the public present at

many meetings to voice their concerns.

That did not happen with this mayor or council as they rushed through the change without any input from the residents.

Oh wait, that was another promise of Mr. Dawe's, transparency.

Another broken promise, already.

Mr. Dawe's supporters will scream that again this is sour grapes on my part but, no, I am stating exactly what I said during the election and I will always be part of the good and the bad of this council.

Hopefully more residents will pay attention to what is already happening and be vocal about it.

Not a sore loser just a worried resident.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Here's why this councillor did not attend the meeting

To the editor,

Council meetings must be open to the public.

Had Town Council's recent "educational retreat" been organized differently, I would have participated.

Had it been held in Aurora and the meeting open to the public, I would have attended.

There would have been no controversy.

All members of Council, myself included, were in favour of holding the team-building, educational exercise.

My reasons for not attending the venue in King were outlined in an e-mail I sent to council before the event, and subsequently posted on my website (www.chrisballard.ca). Here is an excerpt:

"I am concerned as to why the agenda for the closed session meeting on Jan. 14 and 15 was declared "confidential," making it impossible for me to share it with the public. Surely our constituents have the right to know the topics being discussed in closed session - just as they do on any GC or Council agenda.

In my opinion, this is not the openness or transparency we all promised during the election.

At council December 14, I spoke against this closed meeting. My reasons for not attending remain unchanged:

1. The topics for discussion are ones that should be discussed in public. (The public might learn

something, too.)

2. During what is predicted to be a fiscally challenging year for the Town, spending money on an event in a posh retreat is wrong. This event is not budgeted for, nor was an RFP/RFQ requested. Why do taxpayers need to pay for overnight accommodations for an event less than 20 minutes from our town? Staff predict the event will cost approximately \$5,000. Time will tell.

3. It is unfortunate that the event is not being held in Aurora. There are a number of local venues that could house it, and we would not need to pay for overnight accommodation. Catering could be provided by local companies that

employ local people and pay taxes in Aurora.

4. I believe in team building - but not on the taxpayers' tab.

Just because provincial legislation says we can enjoy a closed session educational event doesn't mean we should."

I trust this explains more clearly my reasons for not attending.

On a more positive note, I appreciate the efforts residents place in engaging Town Council.

It is heartening to hear so many passionate and articulate views expressed by citizens in council delegations and at council's Open Forum.

It is good to see people writing their newspaper about issues important to

them.

And in keeping with that philosophy, please make your thoughts known to myself and fellow councillors during Aurora's budget deliberations.

There are meetings throughout February and March.

Information on dates, times and how to delegate can be found on the Town's website: www.aurora.ca.

If you would like to directly contact me about any town issue, feel free to visit my website: www.chrisballard.ca or by email: chris@chrisballard.ca.

Chris Ballard
Councillor
Town of Aurora

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Your taxes could increase

From page 1
have been included in the base budget costs," Mr. Elliott noted. "These staffing cost increases result in a 3.7 tax rate pressure. There are no other significant base budget pressures. Net of new revenues, all other items in the base budget result in a .5 per cent tax rate pressure. Combined, net of new revenues, the entire base budget represents a net tax rate pressure of 4.2 per cent without consideration for growth revenue."

In addition to these pressures, the Library Board has approved a budget funding requisition of just over \$3 million, which is 8.8 per cent higher than last year's tax funding, according to Mr. Elliott.

"The 2011 draft operating budget proposes a 7.82 per cent tax rate increase on the Town portion only of the tax billing, which translates into an extra 23 cents per day, \$7.07 per month, or about \$84.83 per year for a home assessed at \$300,000," said Mr. Elliott.

A healthy portion of the public have turned out for the first two budget meetings so far, with a number of them delegating to make their concerns known or request funding for a particular organization.

Members of the Aurora Historical Society, for instance, turned out last Monday to make financial requests for initiatives they have planned throughout the year as well as to provide "enhanced heritage services" for the Town.

"With an additional investment of \$50,000 from the Town of Aurora, [the Aurora Historical Society] would be able to purchase conservation supplies, exhibition and programming materials, and hire a Curator of Collections and Programs," said AHS president Suzanne Reiner.

"Located at the Cultural Centre, this individual would take over the Aurora Collection-related responsibilities from the current 'Curator/Manager' and would expand on current program delivery and collection practices."

The AHS also proposes a \$10,000 grant for the first planning phase of a series of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Hillary House, and the

removal of the funding for the historical society as a simple "grant", to a more secure form of funding, as enjoyed by the Aurora Cultural Centre and Farmers' Market.

"This will allow AHS some level of stability and long-term planning capability," she said. "Permanent, stable and on-going funding ensures that the Town of Aurora and its residents continue to have access to and enjoy heritage services."

Others appearing thus far include Susan Morton-Leonard, representing the newly formed ratepayers association Heritage East Aurora Taxpayers (H.E.A.T.), to request funding for a heritage study for the area, and Gordon Barnes on behalf of the Aurora Community Arboretum.

The ongoing budget process is also being followed by former Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas on her new online program "Our Town", which can be seen Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on www.theauroran.com.

Ms. Collins-Mrakas has broken down and analyzed the budget in the latest two instalments of her series which can be seen in The Auroran's video archive at www.livestream.com/theaurorancom.

There's not much chance residents will get a park

A proposal from Aurora residents to convert a portion of land owned by the Daniels Corporation at Bayview and St. John's Sideroad to a community park is not likely to come to fruition, despite a delegation to council last month.

At the January 25 meeting Svetoslava Topouzova and George Topouzova appeared at the podium to make their case.

Showing photos of the lot, they pointed out the mature trees in the area to highlight the need for preservation.

"The idea has already been presented to the Town of Aurora at the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting in October 2010, requesting support of the members of the committee," said Ms. Topouzova. "We also gathered support in the Region by collecting signatures. We established community favour in the Superstore which is just across from

this area, asking local neighbours for support and we managed to gather more than 250 signatures."

Ms. Topouzova said she had been in contact with Daniels asking what they could do together to prevent the trees from being cut down and stressed they were interested in preserving only a small segment of the development area.

"We would like to point your attention to the fact that now is the time to revisit this topic," she said. "Our suggestion is to focus again on this commercial quarter and to evaluate the options that we have as residents of the Town of Aurora and developer to build a theme which can work together with a better proposal than building a commercial area with these mature trees."

A report to Council released Friday, however, indicated that Ms. Topouzova's efforts will

likely come to naught.

"Staff have required the applicant (Daniels) to provide compensatory tree and vegetation within the proposed development and specific conditions of approval were imposed to this effect," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, in the report. "As part of the subdivision process, Parks and Recreation staff are currently negotiating the level of compensatory planting to be included on the subject property."

"In recent discussions with the applicant, they have advised of their commitment to pursuing the development proposal for the subject property based on the approvals in place. Agreements for both the subdivision and the residential site plan are expected to be finalized and executed this Spring and subsequently construction will start."

"The applicant has also indicated no interest in selling the property."

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HOUSE LEAGUE

102 Timbits Gold 6 - Hunter Kolm 2G, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G, Melanie Nicholson 1G, Jordan Dimatulac 1G 1A, Andrew Van Dalen 1G, **107 Timbits Kelly Green 2** - Jadyen Keeler 1G, Adrian Baggetta 1G.

101 Timbits Red 2 - David Iacovetta 1G, Bryan Cook 1G, Ayden Whibly 1A. **105 Timbits Black 1.**

102 Timbits Gold 2 - Dylan Andersen 1G, Liam Morassutti 1G.
101 Timbits Red 2 - David Iacovetta 2G.

108 Timbits Grey 4 - Nicholas Pisapia 3G, Riley Pearl 1G. **103 Timbits White 0.**

104 Timbits Blue 7 - Anthony Archibald, shutout, Gavin Loria 3G, Emmett Ross 2G 1A, Aidan Quinn 2A, Glenn Steward 1A, Kai Sillcox 1A, James Boland-Wall 1A, Matthew Collins 1G 1A, Macisaac Eveleigh 1G, Noah Bobrow 1A. **107 Timbits Kelly Green 0.**

106 Timbits Powder Blue 3 - Christian Troubitsin 1G, Justine Chu 1G, Nicholls Young 1G, Lucas De Palma 1A, Michael More 1A, Ryan Dunbar 1A. **105 Timbits Black 1** - Matthew Reid 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A, Philip Lamparter 1A.

206 Caravan Kids Powder Blue 8 - Christopher Marton, shutout, Ian Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Jack Nicholson 1G 2A, Joshua Anselmo 2G, Griffin Charnley 2G 1A, Mark Clutterbuck 1G, Alexander Ko 1G, Ethan Edwards 1A, Matthew Pelan 1A. **203 Caravan Kids White 0.**

201 Caravan Kids Red 8. 202 Caravan Kids Gold 5 - Giancarlo DeAppollonia 1G 1A, Brennan Powell 3G 1A, Ryan Fowler 1G 2A.

205 Caravan Kids Black 9 - Matthew Cowl 2G, Nathan Clark 1A, Jackson Galbraith 2G 1A, Rory Callaghan 1A, Evan Lajoie 1A, Ethan Joiner 2G 1A, Andrew Laguardia 1A, Gianluca Rotondi 3G. **204 Caravan Kids Blue 7** - Logan Kidder 4G 1A, Mitchell Weatherall 2G 4A, Liam Graham 1G 1A.

401 Chouinard Bros. Red 7 - Colin Windle 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 2G 1A, Raffaele Parente 2G, Dylan McFee 1G, Dalton Slind 1G 1A. **407 H.J. Pfaff Audi Kelly Green 2** - Shayne Colin 1G, Jack Viney 1A, Evan Kiah 1G, Nicholas Robinson 1A.

407 H.J. Pfaff Audi Kelly Green 3 - Andrew Schaus 1G, Evan Kiah 2G, Christopher Siarkas 1A. **408 Crabby Joe's Grey 2** - Callum Gorrell 2G.

402 Omar's Shoes Gold 2. 405 Novintro Black 1.

406 Mastermind Toys Powder Blue 5 - Cody Fisher 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 3G, Matthew Winters 1G, Kyle Gillies 1A. **410 HS Financial Orange 2** - Cameron Lang 1G, Louis Wood 1G, Colby Harrison 1A.

407 H.J. Pfaff Audi Kelly Green 6 - Mathew Hastings 2G 1A, Nicholas Robinson 1G 1A, Christopher Siarkas 3G, Sean Kiah 2A, Evan Kiah 1A, Jack Viney 1A, Andrew Schaus 1A, Justin Carcone shutout. **409 Pfaff VW Teal 0.**

404 Tilemaster Blue 3 - Dillon Varone 1G, Aaron Preiano 1G, Claudio Basso 2A, Giuliano Iervasi 1G. **403 Optimist Club Of Aurora White 2** - Chris Sands 1G, Ayrton Ochab 1G.

608 Crabby Joe's Grey 3 - Jack Dion 2G, Connor Tripp 1G, Merrick Kirby 1A, David Robertson 1A. **604 Orr & Associates Insurance Brks Ltd. Blue 2** - Ben Kissack 1G, Matthew Rotman 1G, Justin Miller 1A, Sean Nguyen 1A, Adam Wilson 1A.

609 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 1 - Evan Lambert 1G. **603 Diamond Groundskeeping Services White 0.**

601 Municipal Engineering Solutions Red 3 - Nicolas Pearce 2G, Owen Bourrie 1G 1A, Tyler Justice 1A. **402 Wedi Corp.Com Waterproof Tile Solutions Gold 2** - Ted Baek 1G, Aidan Burbank 1G, Ryan Cameron 1A, Matthew MacDonald 1A, Sean MacKrell 1A.

605 Lakeshore Valu Mart 0. 606 Aurora Chrysler Powder Blue 0.

810 Pizza Pizza Orange 3 - Nicholai Pileggi 1G,

Ryan Owroules 1G, Joshua Lye 1G, Carson Elliott 1A, Jesse Joynt 2A, Jonathan Jin 2A, Mitch Palmer 1A. **811 Caruso & Company Purple 2** - Victor Chadarov 1G, Andrew Foresi 1G, Daniel wochenmarkt 1A, Omar Rahal 1A, Matt Walker 1A.

806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 2 - Tyler Abushinov 1G, Sean Foxwell 1G, Evan Nichols 1A, Mitchell Lamantia 1A. **804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 1** - Brenden Elliott 1G, Zack Keller 1A, Jerryd Jensen 1A.

808 Crabby Joe's Grey 11 - Michael Walsh 1G 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 2G 1A, Morgan Walker 2G 3A, Mivhael DiLosa 2G 2A, Elias Jeries 1G, Tyler futterer 3G, Tyler George 1A, Nathan Dinatale 1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 6** - Neil Duggan 1G1A, Mitchell Arnold 2G, Ian Dunlop 1G, Landon Kirby 1G, Michael Imesis 1A, Mackenzie Smith 1A.

812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 8 - Josh Bell 5G, Patrick Bourrie 1G, Derek Capone 1G, Luc Martineau 1G. **809 AHPA Teal 2** - Jake Arcangeli 1G, Bradley Snoutlen 1G, Brayden Babineau 1A, Joey Stel 1A.

808 Crabby Joe's Grey 6 - Cody Child 2G, Jeff Stobo 3G, Tyler Futterer 1G, Michael Walsh 1A, Nicholas Romano 1A. **812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 6** - John Sherwood 1G, Luc Martineau 1G 1A, Josh Bell 3G 1A, Patrick Bourrie 1G, Justin Chalmers 1A, Ryan MacMillan 1A.

809 AHPA Teal 4 - Bradley Snoutlen 3G, Joey Stel 1G, David Leeper 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A, Michael McKerracher 1A. **811 Caruso & Company Purple 3** - Victor Chadarov 1G 1A, Rory Hamilton 1G 1A, Ryan Batten 1G, Riley O'Brien 1A, Omar Rahal 1A.

803 Rotary Club Of Aurora White 3 - Francois Bicego, shutout, Matt Sanita 1G 1A, Lockhart McMann 1G, Chris Sanita 1G, Aaron Rival 1A. **806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 0.**

805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 4 - Sam Mason, shutout, Harris Riopelle 1G, Yosif Kakush 1G 1A, Thomas Mason 1G, Austin Waite 1A, Michael Tanel 1G 1A, Joshua DiVincenzo 1A, Ben McGowan 1A. **804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 0.**

807 Danny & Scotties Boys Kelly Green 4 - Scott Dunlop 1G, Joseph Hodgson 1G, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Alex Negri 1G 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A, Michael Hosmer 1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 2** - Mackenzie Smith 1G, Landon Kirby 1G, Taylor Gadsby 1A.

804 Frontline Fire & Safety Blue 3 - Brenden Elliott 1G, Paul Mason 1G, Adam Ashraf 1G, Kevin Siery 2A, Matt Pelkola 1A. **802 Manhattan Trophies Gold 2** - Taylor Gadsby 1G 1A, Neil Duggan 1G 1A, Ian Dunlop 1A.

806 Laurion Law Office Power Blue 6 - Chris Sutherland 3G 1A, Matt D'Allessandro 1G, Tyler Abushinov 1A, Alec Barnett 1A, Christopher Ottman 1A, Sean Foxwell 1G, Zac Kroll 1G 3A. **811 Caruso & Company Purple 3** - Matt Walker 1G, Victor Chadarov 2G, Riley O'Brien 2A, Omar Rahal 1A, David Kangas 1A, Andrew Foresi 1A.

805 Aurora Home Hardware Black 5 - Sam Mason, shutout, Ben Ashton 3G, Thomas Mason 1G 2A, Joseph Veneziano 1G, Harris Riopelle 1A, Lucas Marek 1A, Joshua DiVincenzo 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A. **812 Municipal Engineering Solutions Burgandy 0.**

809 AHPA Teal 6 - Bradley Snoutlen 2G 1A, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1G, Tyler Bundy 1G, Michael Bitzos 1G, Jake Arcangeli 2A, Jake McGann 2A. **808 Crabby Joe's Grey 3** - Tyler Futterer 1G 1A, Cody Child 1G, Andrew Kaszuba 1G, Elias Jeries 1A, Morgan Walker 1A.

801 Rogers Red 3 - Jamie Wilson 1G 1A, Keith Jarvis 1G 1A, Brett Bond 1G 1A, Brady Wilson 1A, Erick Bortolotti 1A. **803 Rotary Club Of Aurora White 2** - Zac Landry 1G 1A, Chris Sanita 1G, Aaron Rival 2A.

904 St. Louis Blue 6 - Matthew Warner 2G, Jim Tatum 2G 1A, Braedon Mackenzie 1G 1A, Jordon Caruso 1G, Nicholas Reinholdt 3A, JP Hudon 2A, Andrew Gibbs 1A. **908 Crabby Joe's Grey 1** - Quinn Harris 1G, Jamie Poutney 1A.

903 Optimist Club of Aurora White 4 - Quinn McGowan 2G 1A, Kelly Hudson 2G, Kyle Coughlin 1A, Andrew Walter 1A, Scott Cosentino 1A, Mitchell Waite 1A. **909 North York Plumbing & Heating Teal**

2 - R. McDonald 1G, T. Thiessen 1G, Matthew Roach 1A, Justin Stevens 1A, Drew Davison 1A, E Foxwell 1A.

902 Boston Gold 3 - Trevor Rice 3G, Jesse Borin 2A, Dylan Indos 1A, Graham Joiner 1A. **910 Philly Orange 1** - Stefan Richardson 1G, Alexander Deblasis 1A.

906 Ruff-N-Redi Powder Blue 4 - Jonathan White, shutout, Chris Falfalios 3G, Nick Theorodopolous 1G, Josh Lawlor 1A, David Marsillo 1A, Mathew Stewart 1A. **901 Graystones Restaurant Red 0.**

905 ATS Healthcare Black 3 - Vince Duggan 2G, Michael McCreesh 1G 1A, Zachary Cook 1A. **907 Wooder Food Safety Consulting Kelly Green 2** - Daniel Antoniel 1G, Gabriel Bauset 1G, Stephen Cantarutti 1A.

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select - Aurora 2 - Nicholas Giorgio 1G, Todd Cook 1A, Anton Sopov 1G, Ryan Bryden 1A, Parker Holmes, shutout. **TNT 1.**

Tyke Select - TNT 3. Aurora 2 - Todd Cook 1G, Anton Sopov 1G, Charles Huxley 1A.

Novice AA - Aurora 1 - Dylan DaCosta 1G, Daniel Gaeta 1A. **Georgina 0.**

Novice AA - Georgina 2. Aurora 1 - Samuel Morin 1G, Josh Lombard 1A.

Novice AA - Aurora 3. Georgina 2.

Novice AA - Georgina 4. Aurora 1.

Novice AA - Aurora 2 - Anton Thompson 1G, Daniel Gaeta 1A, Carter Beswick 1A, Dylan DaCosta 1G, Alexander Imperio, shutout. **Newmarket 0.**

Novice A - Aurora 3 - Kazuki Negishi 1G, Harrison Bennett 1G, Carson Maybury 1G, Riley Klugerman 2A, Liam Mahoney 1A. **Barrie 2.**

Novice A - Aurora 2 - Justin Hicks 1G, Jake Piper 1G, Riley Klugerman 1A, Liam Mahoney 1A, Brandin Harris 1A. **Barrie 1.**

M Atom AA - Aurora 4 - Tyler Sawyer 1G 2A, Harris Goan 3A, Anthony DiPietro 3G, Andrew Wolanski 1A. **Barrie 3.**

M Atom AA - Aurora 4 - Tyler Sawyer 2G, Anthony DiPietro 1A, Myles Vasilevski 1A, Harris Goan 1G 1A, Andrew Wolanski 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Andrew Park 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 1A. **Barrie 2.**

M Atom A - Aurora 3 - Cory Read 1G, Jason Gage 1G, Sam Ashton 1G, Ryan Cunniam 1A, Matthew McConnell 1A, Matthew Gram 1A. **Bradford 2.**

Atom AA - Aurora 1. Barrie 1.

Atom AA - Barrie 4. Aurora 2.

Atom A - Newmarket 7. Aurora 2 - Andrew Buffa 1G, Jaedon Jackson 1G, Ben Spittle 1A, Jason Cox 1A.

Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Braeden Joynt 1G, Lucas Surace 1G, Justin Evans 1G, Finn Reeves 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1A, Michael Fodero 1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Jacob Levy, shutout. **Richmond Hill 0.**

Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Nicholas Keller 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 2G 1A, Finn Reeves 1G 1A, Thomas Morra 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Parker Lantz, shutout. **Richmond Hill 0**

Atom AE - Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 2 - Braeden Joynt 1G, Adam DePiero 1G, Finn Reeves 1A.

M Peewee AA - Aurora 5. Georgina 1.

M Peewee AA - Aurora 4. Markham 1.

M Peewee A - Aurora 3 - Eric McGhie 2G 1A, lexander Simardone 1A, Stewart Gable 1G, Ryan Thornhill 1A. **East Gwillimbury 0.**

M Peewee AE - Markham 2. Aurora 1.

M Peewee AE - Markham 2. Aurora 1.

Peewee AA - Aurora 2 - Keegan Matthew 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Evan Woodhead 1G, Tyler Williams 1A. **Markham 1.**

Peewee AA - Aurora 3 - Evan Woodhead 2G, Cameron Morrison 1G 2A, Tyler Williams 1A. **Markham 0.**

Peewee A - Aurora 5 - Cameron Zinner 2G 1A, Daniel McConnell 1G, Evan Cherubini 1G, Alistair Johnston 1G, Tristan Kuchar 2A, Colin Kostin 1A, Eric Shennan 1A, Bryan Manweiler 1A, Matthew Liscio 1A. **Bradford 1.**

Peewee A - Aurora 3 - Mathew Tyndall 2G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Ryan Coveart 1A. **Bradford 2.**

Peewee AE - Aurora 6 - Brendin Ramsay 2G, Christian Arcuri 1G 1A, Michael DaCosta 1G, Nick Sansalone 1G, Nick Pearce 1A, Connor Downs 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1G, Adam Leader, shutout. **Beeton 0.**

Peewee AE - Aurora 4 - Christian Arcuri 2G, Brendin Ramsay 1G1A, Connor Downs 1G, Nick Sansalone 1A, Cameron Anderson 1A. **Beeton 3.**

M Bantam AA - Aurora 3 - Andrew Klinowski 1G 1A, Eddie Duffy 2G 1A, Lucas James 1A, David O'Connor 1A, Steven Tsianos 1A. **Barrie 0.**

M Bantam AA - Aurora 3 - Andrew Klinowski 1G, Chris Klinowski 1G, Matthew Leroy 1A, Nick Papousek 1G, Austin Riswick 1A. **Barrie 3.**

M Bantam AA - Barrie 1. Aurora 0.

M Bantam A - Newmarket 1. Aurora 0.

M Bantam A - Newmarket 6. Aurora 1.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 8 - Konner McMillan 2G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 2G 1A, Austin Lane 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Nick Scott 1G, Brett Thiessen 1G 2A, Spencer Green 2A, Jordan Nanos 1A. **Barrie 3.**

Bantam AA - Aurora 6 - Konner McMillan 3G, Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, Matt Iwai 1G, Blake Wallace 1G, Quentin Campbell 3A, Jake McKee 2A, Jordan Nanos 1A, Connor Cowl 1A, Spencer Green 1A. **Barrie 2.**

Bantam A - Aurora 5 - Shadoc Storm 2G, Liam Beresford 2G, Jack Caldwell 1G, Liam Coll 1A, Alec Ground 1A, Graham Robinson 1A, Gabe Oulahan 1A, Erik Balkovec 1A. **Bradford 4.**

Bantam A - Bradford 4. Aurora 2 - Graham Robinson 1G 1A, Liam Coll 1G, Jack Caldwell 1A, Robert Stokes 1A.

Bantam A - Aurora 3 - Paul Neophytou 2G, Gabe Oulahan 1G, Liam Coll 3A, Liam Beresford 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A. **Bradford 1.**

Bantam AE - Barrie 3. Aurora - Brett Bond 1G, Kyle Nice 1G, Joel Gouveia 1A, Nathan Sinclair 1A.

Bantam AE - Aurora 4. Barrie 1.

M Midget AA - Aurora 4. Markham 3.

M Midget AA - Markham 3. Aurora 0.

M Midget AA - Aurora 1. Markham 0.

M Midget A - Aurora 6. Newmarket 3.

M Midget A - Newmarket 6. Aurora 3.

M Midget A - Aurora 3. Newmarket 0.

M Midget A - Newmarket 2. Aurora 1.

M Midget AE - Quinte West 2. Aurora 1 - Collin Laird 1G.

M Midget AE - Quinte West 2. Aurora 1 - Eliot Harkin 1G, Matthew Reeves 1A.

M Midget AE - Aurora 2 - Connor Moody 2G, Eliot Harkin 1A. **East Gwillimbury 1.**

Midget AA - Aurora 4. Barrie 1.

Midget AE - Aurora 3. Whitby 2.

Midget AE - Aurora 5. Whitby 3.

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Tigers need three wins

By SEAN CASEY
Auroran Sports Writer

"If we don't win today, we're out of the playoffs," said James Richmond, Head Coach and General Manager of the Aurora Tigers prior to their game Sunday afternoon in Aurora.

So, win they did. In their match-up against the north division's second-place team, the Markham Waxers, the Tigers were in a battle of survival.

Getting two goals in the second gave Aurora a head start against the Waxers who only scored one goal in the third, giving the Tigers a 3-1 final score over Markham.

Aurora led the game with the most shots on net and the most chances.

With 30 seconds remaining in the game and trailing by a goal, the Waxers pulled their goalie allowing Tiger player Tyler Zeggil to get his first goal of the season.

"If you show up to win, you can win," said Richmond. "The final result is all up to you."

The empty-net goal backfired on them in Newmarket Thursday night when Aurora met their ice-rivals and the number one team in the league, the Hurricanes.

It also didn't work the next night against the Stouffville Spirit.

"We played the game well against Newmarket, but we dug ourselves into a bit of a hole," the coach said.

Newmarket remained ahead of Aurora throughout the first and second periods.

With 20 seconds left in the game, the Tigers pulled their goalie to gain the extra man advantage, but Newmarket's Tyler Sikura scored in the empty net.

Sikura scored two goals against the Tigers contributing to their 5-3 win over Aurora.

Richmond said the team put in the effort against Newmarket, but lacked effort in their game against the Stouffville Spirit.

He said the lack of effort is the reason they lost.

The Friday match-up between the Spirit and the Tigers left Aurora down another game with a final score of 6-3, in front of fewer than 150 Aurora fans.

The Tigers game turned around briefly in the second, when they scored two goals against the Spirit.

One goal early in the third and the empty netter in the last minute of game-play made this the fifth game in a row that the Tigers had lost.

In Newmarket Thursday, Aurora dominated play for the first five minutes of the game, but a few penalties early on gave the Hurricanes the advantage over the Tigers.

Newmarket's power play unit went into full effect, giving the Hurricanes their first goal of the night thanks to Sikura.

An interference penalty against Newmarket allowed the Tigers power play unit to take to the ice and tie the game with a goal by Brett Priestap.

Thirteen seconds later the Hurricanes responded to that one when Braeden Rigney

scored.

Beginning of the second, the Hurricanes came out strong and put another puck in the net, this one by Jeff DiNallo.

Three minutes later a goal by Morgan Bonner gave Newmarket a 4-1 advantage.

With five minutes left in the second the Hurricanes were dominating the shots on goal and the ice, but with just one minute remaining in the middle frame, Tigers players Brendan Bell and Kyle McLaughlin scored to cut the Newmarket lead to 4-3.

For much of the third period both teams evenly controlled the ice action and with just over a minute left in the game the Tigers called a timeout.

Looking to tie the game and force the match into overtime, Tiger goalie Dylan Ellis was pulled from net.

But the move backfired when an intercepted pass allowed for the Hurricane's Sikura to score in the empty net, with just 20 seconds left in the game giving Newmarket the 5-3 win.

Newmarket outshot the visitors 35-33.

Richmond said the team put in the effort against Newmarket, but lacked effort in their game against the Stouffville Spirit the next night and that was the reason they lost, he said.

The match-up between the Spirit and the Tigers left Aurora down another game as they got beat 6-3.

The Tigers game turned around briefly in the second, when they scored two goals against the Spirit.

One goal early in the third and an empty netter in the last minute of game-play made this the fifth game in a row that the Tigers have lost.

"You need to come out thinking about today, you can't be thinking about tomorrow."

Richmond said the team's age is the reason behind the inconsistency on the ice.

"We're one of the youngest teams in the league, we had to add 18 new players this season."

The next three games for Aurora are on the road, the first being on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. in Huntsville for a game against the Otters.

That game makes up for the one cancelled a couple of weeks ago, when bad weather forced the Tigers to postpone the match.

On Friday the Tigers meet the Collingwood Blackhawks in the ship-building town with the puck dropping at 8 p.m.

The last regular season game is against the pesky Orangeville Flyers in that town,

Orangeville currently is five points ahead of Aurora in the standings.

That one starts at 7.30 p.m. The Tigers need to win all three games to make the playoffs.

NEWMARKET 5 AURORA 3

First Period
N - Tyler Sikura (Davies, Webster) PP 6.17

A - Brett Priestap (Moody, Moran) PP 9.01
N - Braeden Rigney (unassisted) 9.14

Second Period
N - Jeff DiNallo (Maw, Balas) 1.21
N - Morgan Bonner (Webster, Woodyatt) 4.33
A - Brendan Bell (Moran) 18.51
A - Kyle McLaughlin (Bouchard) 19.34

Third Period
N - Tyler Sikura (unassisted) SH EN 19.40

STOUFFVILLE 6 AURORA 3

First Period
S - Matt Neal (vonEngelbrechten, Geiger) PP 3.28
S - Christian Finch (vonEngelbrechten, Neal) 5.18
S - Jordan Bean (Serville, Gunovski) 9.16
A - Jeff MacPherson (Penera, Lisi) 14.03

Second Period
S - Kory Kennedy (Caradonna) 11.40
A - Kyle McLaughlin (Prinsen, Purvis) PP 16.41
A - Ryan Purvis (Moran, McLaughlin) 18.49

Third Period
S - Tyler vonEngelbrechten (unassisted) 5.42
S - Chris Porter (Hall) SH EN 18.42

AURORA 3 MARKHAM 1

First Period
No scoring

Second Period
A - Brendan Bell (Johnson, Lisi) PP 11.43
A - Justin Penera (Shannon, MacPherson) PP 17.33

Third Period
M - Tyler McCarthy (LaRue, Liukkonen) PP 8.31
A - Tyler Zeggil SH EN (unassisted) 19.28

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Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	8	6	4	57	54	20
Baldwin's	9	8	1	76	78	19
Copper Creek	9	8	1	71	65	19
Rec Cycle N' Sports	8	7	3	55	52	19
FPL Aggregates	7	9	2	57	68	16
Priestly Demolition	5	11	2	60	77	12
Tom & Jerry's	5	11	2	53	61	12

WEEKLY RESULTS

Rec Sports	4	Masterclean	6
FPL Aggregates	1	Copper Creek	2
Priestly Demolition	2	Baldwin's	2
Highlands Chev	2	Tom & Jerry's	0

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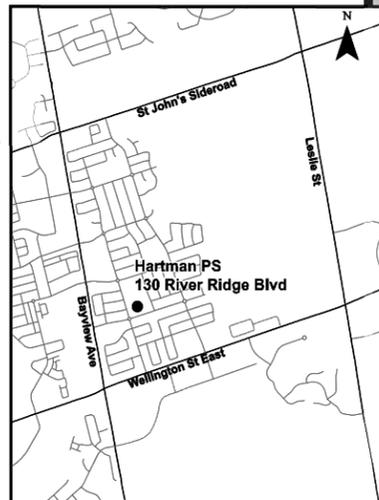
Important Notice

Public Information Session Town of Aurora - Hartman PS

The York Region District School Board will be hosting a Public Information Session to share information regarding the boundaries of Hartman PS and the Unnamed Bayview Northeast ES.

Public Information Meeting will be held:
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
7pm - 9pm
Hartman PS
130 River Ridge Blvd,
Aurora

Further information:
Planning Services at
(416) 969-7170 or
(905) 727-0022,
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Go to: www.theauroran.com home page. Then click on the big video screen toward the left side of the page. The video will begin.

If you click again it will take you to TheAuroran.com television station 'TVA', here you will see the video screen with thumbnails below -- select the episode you would like to watch.

If you have any questions or suggestions please forward them to alison@theauroran.com

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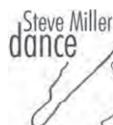
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Senior Scape



By BRIAN WARBURTON

Square dancing March 7th

Square dancing will start March 7th, every Monday at 12.15 p.m.

Square Dancing is a former activity appealing strongly once more to seniors.

This has caught the attention of former adherents.

Come over to the Seniors' Centre as square dancing does permit a good dancer to demonstrate how to dance, in rhythm with the right music and presented with classy moves.

Singles are welcome since you will find somebody to team with quickly, and if you are new to Square Dancing, do not let that be a deterrent, because somebody will be happy to show you how it is done.

To learn the square dance steps and then progress to the next level of competence requires some fun time.

Square Dancing is fun for everybody; it is moderately active and a good way to start getting senior bodies ready for spring.

Personal recording of volunteer hours is a simple task when completed on the sign in sheet, which is a requirement each time one attends.

The Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) board provides guidance on what constitutes volunteer hours, and lists in the newsletter, a group of services provided by volunteers.

One great and vital

source of volunteer hours consists of hours expended outside of the Seniors' Centre, usually at home.

Recognizing the value of volunteer work is important although many volunteers go about their business quietly and happily and prefer not to receive any attention for what they accomplish.

Bill Higgins has resigned as coordinator of the Food Services Committee, effective immediately.

Bill and Mary Higgins served industriously and what they accomplished over the years sets the standard for those who follow.

Three members of the Silver Stars will entertain with comedy and music and dance routine, at the 'Men Cookin' dinner dance Friday, February 11th.

A cash bar opens at 5.30 p.m., dinner is at 6.30 p.m. and the dance commences at 8. Admission, if you're lucky enough to get a ticket, is \$10.

The Silver Stars will present two more shows, one a comedy show later in February and the other is the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Party, in March, and more information will be offered closer to the performances.

Aurora's Borealis is located in the Town Park on Wells Street, and is the subject of a project to illuminate the Town Park trees. The ASA is among the sponsors of the

project, which will remain open until February 21st.

The skating rink is open to families and that gives everybody, including seniors, the opportunity to get out for some gentle exercise.

Aurora Town Council has extended an invitation to attend the meeting February 22nd, at 7 p.m. to allow personal recognition for seniors' contribution to the first Aurora Borealis Tree Project.

Seniors do a lot for seniors and for the community, and attending in person for recognition for contributions reflects well on councillors who strive for the good of the community at large.

Many ways exist for seniors to better their chances in this world and good luck commonly goes hand in hand with good sense.

By taking basic precautions, particularly by refreshing driving skills, upgraded driving knowledge will enhance your driving skills.

Incremental physical and mental changes occur in everybody with aging, so a review of driving skills will bring attention to this matter and harness good sense to the good course of senior road safety, with the added potential benefit of keeping car insurance within bounds.

Seniors may attend a driver refresher course in a classroom setting without driving, Mondays and

Wednesdays, 9.30 to noon, February 28th, and March 2nd, 7th, and 9th. More information is available at the front counter.

Carol Hedenberg has aroused the Aurora Seniors' Annual Spring Sale from winter's slumber, and Carol has the task of nurturing the Sale to maturity.

Articles and merchandise that sell well include jewelry, which forever attracts women of every age.

Freshly baked goods, sale after sale, constitute a solid pillar of spring sale commercial success, and a steady supply of freshly baked goods during the sale, contributes that success.

The Book Tables attract readers as though drawn by a powerful magnet, little wonder since selling books at a discount maximises revenues over the course of the sale, and a new home must be located for any books left over.

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Aurora residents will pay percentage of Region bill

It will cost Aurora residents a portion of \$916.8 million in capital and \$1.5 billion in operating funds if a Region of York budget, presented last week, is approved.

In a presentation to York Regional Council, Finance Commissioner and Treasurer Lloyd Russell outlined the proposed business plan and budget for 2011

The draft business plan proposes a \$916.8 million capital budget for additional multi-year projects and a \$1.5 billion operating budget.

The proposed Capital budget considers York Region's growth-related capital infrastructure and replacement needs for roads, transit/rapid transit and water/wastewater projects as identified in York Region's 10-year capital and regional master plans.

It is funded primarily through a combination of Development Charges (which are one-time fees charged for developing a property), property taxes and provincial and federal government support.

The Operating budget proposes \$17.3 million in growth and service enhancements for York Region residents, including: Emergency Medical Services, York Regional Police, Solid

Waste Management, Regional Roads Enhancements, Transit and non-profit housing.

The Operating budget is primarily funded by property taxes, provincial and federal government funding and user fees.

To help fund growth and service enhancements, the draft budget proposes a 1.9 per

cent tax levy increase representing \$37 for a residential property assessed at \$400,000.

On the Aurora tax bill, the percentage of money due to the Region and the York Region Board of Education is included.

It is expected the budget will be approved by York Regional Council March 24.

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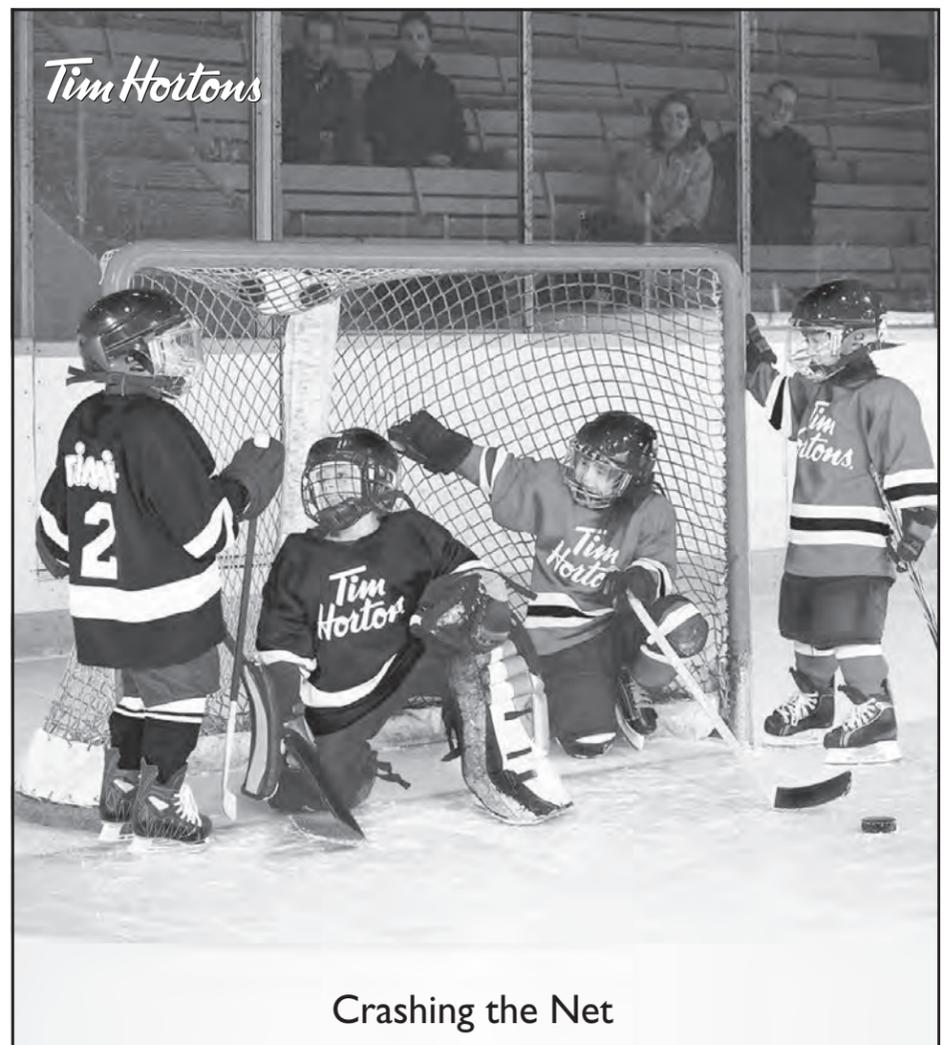
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The first goal is having fun.

Don't miss "streetcar" now playing at TA

It may be cold in Aurora, but it's steamy in New Orleans, as portrayed on the stage in Theatre Aurora's current production of "A Streetcar Named Desire".

The famous play by Tennessee Williams tells the story of southern belle Blanche Dubois, who arrives unexpectedly at the New Orleans home of her sister, Stella Kowalski, and brother-in-law, Stanley.

It is soon apparent that Blanche has brought with her not only a steamer trunk full of clothes, but a lot of personal baggage, as well.

This, coupled with the immediate friction during her

first meeting with her brother-in-law, suggests this visit will be less than smooth.

The cast of this production is one of the best seen on-stage at the Factory Theatre in years, and is led by a stand-out performance by Deborah Wyman, as Blanche.

This 27-year theatre veteran, making her first, hopefully of many, appearance at Theatre Aurora, brings great depth, angst, and sympathy to her character.

Assuming the brutish role of Stanley, Sal Aguila does a great job playing this primal and unsympathetic man, who must continually domi-

nate everyone around him.

Kerrie Lamb brings great sympathy to Stella, who is torn between her loyalties to her sister and husband, as those two antagonists continually collide within the close confines of the apartment, each trying to expose the flaws in the other.

These main actors are complemented by several great supporting players, including Lori Moritz and Chuck Therrien as neighbours Eunice and Steve Hubbell, and Theatre Aurora veteran Mark Rival, as Mitch, Blanche's would-be suitor.

Apart from the acting, the entire company, under the direction of Peter Kerenyi, has done a terrific job, from the costumes, to the many sound effects, to the choices of music between acts, to the detail and functionality of the set.

This is a fairly serious play, and one likely to bring forth a variety of strong emotions. Based on the quality of this production, and the enthusiastic reaction of the preview audience, this is not one to be missed.

Evening performances of "A Streetcar Named Desire" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, February 10, 11 and 12.

Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.



Sisters Stella Kowalski (Kerrie Lamb, left) and Blanche DuBois (Deborah Wyman) catch up over drinks in steamy New Orleans in Theatre Aurora's production of "A Streetcar Named Desire", now playing at the Factory Theatre.

Auroran photo by Holly Todd Williamson

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