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Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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Week of April 12, 2011

Election could be a personality battle

When Aurora residents go to the polls on May 2 to cast their vote in the Federal election, voters could be marking their ballot in a battle of personalities and styles both nationally and here in Newmarket-Aurora.

The Auroran had the opportunity to sit down with both Conservative candidate and incumbent Member of Parliament Lois Brown and Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson at their respective campaign offices last week.

While both were keen to discuss their party policy, it became clear that perception might be something to watch for in the debates scheduled for the days ahead.

"People should vote for me because I will speak up for our community and I will make sure that families in Newmarket-Aurora are well served by the Federal government," said Kyle Peterson on Tuesday, when asked why residents should cast their vote in his favour.

When asked if this was indicative of his opinion on the riding's current representation, he replied in the affirmative.

"I see the primary role of a Member of Parliament is to serve the community and that is it, that is the bottom line," he said. "That is why we are elected by the voters and that is what we are paid to do. That being said, you have to be

able to listen to the voters to know how to represent them. I was taught there is a reason we have two ears and one mouth - you should listen more than

you talk so I would be happy to listen to voters at all times."

In examining the representation
Please see page 19



Popular chef Michael Smith was the guest at Regency Acres Public School Thursday and he told students about his cooking at the 2010 Olympic Games. The host of Chef at Home on the Food Network sold copies of his cookbook "The Best of Chef at Home" while in Aurora. Here, he is with Regency principal Cathy Martino-Porretta, left, and Pat Morton, who organized the event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Budget goes up 3.79%...

The 2011 Aurora tax increase now sits at 3.79 per cent following a final budget meeting last Tuesday, which saw the final figures go back to Town Staff for the preparation of a formal presentation to Council.

The 3.79 tax increase, reduced from the proposed 7.82 per cent hike floated in late January, combined with the Regional tax rate, means Aurorans will see a 2.13 per cent impact on their overall tax rate.

For taxes on an average property assessed at \$300,000, the combined annual impact will come to \$68.70.

At Tuesday's meeting, which started just prior to that evening's regularly scheduled general committee meeting, councillors continued on a theme started at the previous week's meeting which focused heavily on salary gapping for Town positions.

Positions on the block at the

final discussion included filling the proposed position of a Manager of Customer Services using temporary staff on an interim basis, resulting in a \$55,000 reduction, and five months gapping for a records management clerk, saving \$21,800.

Councillors also reduced the requisition proposed by the Aurora Public Library by \$30,500, gapping a proposed new position for the organization.

But, as Councillor Michael Thompson noted, it would be up to the Library how it would balance things with a \$30,500 reduction.

Library CAO Louise Procter-Maio was in attendance for Tuesday's meeting and she concurred that it would be the decision of the Library Board whether to gap the position and take the money from elsewhere in their budget.

"We would obviously have to work within the time frame and the monies available," she said.

At a March budget meeting, councillors went through the budget line by line, tweaking several items to bring the budget down, however slightly.

Such items contributing to the

ing at reducing our estimate by 500,000 cubic metres."

Bearing in mind last year's water

Please see page 8

Please see page 8

...and you'll pay more for water

Aurorans should expect a 9.95 per cent increase on their water bill this year, according to a report presented last week by Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure; a hike which Councillor Evelyn Buck said would be "devastating" to the taxpayer.

The 2011 retail water rate will now be \$1.4359 per cubic metre, an increase from last year's rate from \$1.3055.

That equates to a 9.99 per cent increase to the rate, of which the Region's share accounts for 5.53 per cent

Combined with a 9.89 per cent increase in the Town's 2011 wastewater rate, it comes to a 9.95 per cent overall tax increase.

According to Mr. Simanovskis, the typical residential user uses an average of 400 cubic metres of water annually.

Under the new rates, an annual bill would come in at \$1,023.52 (up from \$930.85 in 2010), and quarterly at \$255.89.

The average annual net increase is estimated to be \$92.59.

Part of the increase for the 2011 rates is attributable to a shortfall from

2010 water use projections, said Mr. Simanovskis.

"For 2010 we projected 5.4 million cubic metres to be purchased," he said last week. "If we sell less than that water there will be a shortfall in net revenue and that goes into a negative revenue stream. If we sell more water than projected that puts us into a positive revenue stream, which is a good position to be in."

"In 2010, we ended up selling 4.8 million to the community which puts us in a \$400,000 budget shortfall. In 2011 we are looking at, comparing our 2010 target, we are actually look-



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COMING EVENTS

APRIL 14-15

The Aurora United Church Spring annual rummage sale starts Friday at 1 p.m. and continues until 8 p.m. for the individual sale then resumes Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon for the bag sale. For further information call 905-727-1935.

APRIL 15-17

The 25th anniversary of the Aurora Home Show takes place at the Aurora Community Centre. The two arenas will house more than 150 exhibitors. Back again this year are many popular activities including the garden feature area, live entertainment, the Optimist beer garden with great barbecued food and refreshments, face painting and mini-putt.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., at 7.30 p.m. tonight. For further information call 905-727-8671.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the "Lillian Michiko Blakey: Who Am I? In Search of an Answer" solo art exhibition. Aurora-based Michiko Blakey explores the notion of identity as a Japanese Canadian growing up in World War II, through her mixed media collages, archival photos and pen and ink drawings. Artist reception at 1 p.m. the show runs until April 30. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario is planning a Selkies Swim for Heart involving the Aurora Selkies master swim club. The swim-a-thon will take place at St. Andrews College, 15800 Yonge Street, between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

The annual Rotary Club of Aurora Frog Race takes place today in Tannery Creek. Money raised is going to Easter Seals Camp Merrywood in support of a Family in Aurora with three disabled children. Tickets will be available at the Home Show or through any Rotarian.

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.

An eclectic cultural salon here in Aurora! Inspired by Margaret Webb's book "Apples to Oysters: A food lover's guide to Canadian farms", there will be a reading and book signing by the author, and food and drink served at intermission. Musical performances will include music from the films "Forrest Gump" and "The Mission" performed by a chamber orchestra, and conducted by a farmer. Michael Schmidt, biodynamic farmer will share his musical side with the audience. Handel's Harp Concerto and Mozart's Oboe quartet will usher in the Spring. There will be a guest appearance by local dancers Radley August and Emily Gould. Activity starts at 2.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Movie at the Seniors' Centre tonight is "The King's Speech", starring Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter. It is the story of King George VI, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it. Movies start at 6.30 p.m. and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members. Admission price includes the movie, refreshments and treats.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Terry Kelly of Ontario Early Years returns to Aurora Public Library to discuss what the latest research is saying about boys and literacy and how best to support your boy's learning. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room and it's free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast will be held this morning from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail. The event is sponsored by Thompson Funeral Home and includes a hot buffet breakfast and formal networking. \$20 for members.

The Third Annual Runway to Spring Charity Fashion

Event will be held this year at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street, just minutes from Aurora. All proceeds go to benefit the Easter Seals "Send a Kid to Camp" program. The gala evening includes a Fashion Show featuring haute couture, upscale casual, evening wear, street wear and more for women, men and children. Also included are food and beverage tastings, silent auction and raffle, cash bar and live performance by Aurora's The Thursday Night Jam band. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at many Aurora locations or contact l.mcmahon@rogers.com. A great Girls' Night Out or bring a date to share the fun. Aurora - let's together send 10 children to camp.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Annual Easter Egg hunt happens at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. presented by the Town of Aurora and the Maple Key Girl Guides. For further information go to www.e-aurora.ca/easteregg hunt.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Movie at the Seniors' Centre tonight is "Little Fockers", starring Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Nero. It has taken 10 years, two little Fockers with wife Pam and countless hurdles for Greg to finally get "in" with his tightly wound father-in-law, Jack. Greg must prove to the sceptical Jack that he's fully capable as the man of the house. But with all the misunderstandings, spying and covert missions, will Greg pass Jack's final test and become the family's next patriarch...or will the circle of trust be broken for good? Movies start at 6.30 p.m. and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members. Admission price includes the movie, refreshments and treats.

APRIL 26-29

For the third consecutive year, the Dr. G.W. Williams Students' Council will hold a spring rummage sale and will accept donations of used or new books, toys, appliances, furniture, games, and more (excluding clothing) for the sale. Drop Off time is 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, in the front foyer.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the first of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Hillary House: A Glimpse of Everyday Life in Old Aurora." The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Rummage Sale today from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.

The Aurora Community Arboretum, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, will hold their annual tree planting event today from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring the whole family and plant a tree. The group will meet at the intersection of Birshire Drive and Somerton Court in the north east area of Aurora. Please see the website www.auroraarboretum.ca for more information.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the heritage lecture "The Queen's York Rangers: Their 200+ Year Linkage to York Region." Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Corkery, former Commanding Officer from 1989 - 1992, and current Chair of the Regimental Council of the Queen's York Rangers will give an overview of this historic regiment. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For more information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MAY 5-7

The Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale will be held on the above days at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, formerly Church Street School. May 5 and May 6 the sale will begin at 10 a.m. and continue to 9 p.m. and on May 7 it will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. There is free admission and a door prize. Call 905-727-1278 for further information or visit http://www.pinetreepotters.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Join local resident Phillip Hodgson for an interactive seminar to learn about today's popular youth drugs, the impact on the individual, the family and the community, warning signs, and where to go for help. Phillip is a psy-

chotherapist and counsellor who works and lectures in the field of addiction. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Library.

Wesley United Church, located at the intersection of the Aurora Road and Woodbine Avenue, will hold its annual roast beef dinner this evening. There will be two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. It will cost adults \$15, while children between six and 12 will pay \$8. Children under six are free. but they must have a ticket. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

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 are available at Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street. Proceeds go to the Aurora-Newmarket District of Community Living.

The Aurora Historical Society is looking for volunteers to join their Hillary House Outdoor Spring Clean Up, today from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a chance to enjoy the outdoors while working on the grounds of a 150-year-old home and is an opportunity for students to complete community hours. A barbecue lunch will be provided. For more information or to register contact Sandy at 905-841-4035 or ssbundy@sympatico.ca.

MONDAY, MAY 16

The 16th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters charity golf tournament will be held this year at Station Creek

Golf Club on Woodbine Avenue in Gormley. The \$200 per golfer fee includes a four-person scramble format, lunch, golf, cart, dinner and prizes. For further information contact Rhonda at 905-726-2149, extension 316.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

At 7.30 p.m. the Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinze, invites you to join them for their Spring concert at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way, when they present "We'll Sing you a Song". Admission is \$10 for adults, while children, 14 and under, are free. Tickets are available in advance at the Seniors' Centre and they'll also be on sale at the door. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the second of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Aurora's Heritage of Artifacts and Documents: Treasures from the Aurora Historical Society's Collections." The lecture begins at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration is required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For additional information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MAY 29-31

Another historic walk is planned on each of the evenings listed above beginning at 7 p.m. Brought to you by A Step In Time, the walks will present data about where ghosts used to hang out in Aurora. Advance tickets are \$20 and 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the Heart and Stroke and Crohns and Colitis Foundations.

Enjoy the Warmth!

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House gets heritage designation

At the time the view to St. Andrew's from Old Yonge Street was clear. His widow sold the home in 1962.

Less parking on Murray will improve sightlines

The recommendation from Town Staff was approved without comment at last week's general committee meeting. The matter comes up for final approval this week at the formal council meeting.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

How I “knew” Elizabeth Taylor

Liz Taylor died last month at the age of 79 from congestive heart failure.

Seems like I knew her personally, even though I didn't.

She came to Trawna with her husband (first time they had been married) Richard Burton sometime between 1965 and 1968. They were divorced and remarried in 1975.

And the two of them stopped at Steele's Tavern, which was located on the second floor over Sam The Record Man on Yonge Street, just north of Gould.

I was a student at Ryerson Institute of Technology or Ryerson Polytechnical Institute - take your pick, before it became a university.

Steele's was a favourite place to go.

Hey, you could walk there from the campus.

From her early years as a child star with MGM, Liz Taylor became one of the great screen actresses of Hollywood's Golden Age, and one of the most famous film stars in the world.

National Velvet, filmed in 1944, was her first success.

So, when she and Richard wound up at Steele's, it was a big deal.

So big, in fact, that management printed their names on the back of the chairs they sat on.

Every time I went to Steele's, I would always look for the chair with Liz's name on the back and sit in it.

At the time, if you can imagine, I was a “brother” of Rho Alpha Kappa fraternity, a frat set up for journalism and radio, television students. I even have the tie (ugly thing that it is) to prove it.

While the frat is no longer in existence, there is an Alumni Association. You can see what they're up to at www.rhoalphakappa.ca.

Our “house” was on Earl Street, and that's where I lived.

So, there were a bunch of us “brothers” sitting at Steele's one evening...probably drinking.

Someone got the bright idea that Liz's chair would look nice in the frat house.

So, with everyone, including waiters and bartenders, watching, we lifted the chair out the door and down the stairs to find a taxicab to take Liz's chair back to the frat house.

On Yonge Street, we even sat in the chair while someone hailed a cab. Must have been something to see for the passers-by.

I have memories of the chair being at the Earl Street location, but I have no idea where it is today.

Hey, that was 45 years ago, and my wife, Patricia, tells me if there is a statute of limitations on theft, it has long ago expired.

So, now the story of the missing chair and how close I was to Liz Taylor, can be told.

In my column last week, I suggested Vic's Shoe Repair and Henry's Fish and Chips were the only two places in Aurora where, even though the person was no longer involved in the business, the name didn't change.

I missed one, and Cliff Davies was quick to point it out: Moon Gardens Restaurant.

My apologies to Moon Ing who ran the restaurant for several years on Yonge Street. Moon was at his post Saturday, making pancakes for the Lions' Club, something he has been doing for years.

He now runs a restaurant on Yonge Street in Oak Ridges.

Now, answer this question: Where are all the elevators located in Aurora and who can name a place, if any, that has a revolving door or an escalator?

John MacIntyre also answered a question we asked last week: Who was D.W. Doan?

In part, John said: “David Willson Doan was the son of Charles Doan, Aurora's first postmaster, reeve, and the man who gave Aurora its name. He was named after his maternal grandfather, David Willson, founder of the Children of Peace who built the Sharon Temple.

“David succeeded his father as postmaster and also took over the Doan store, where the post office was located, at Yonge and Wellington where the Bank of Montreal now stands.

“He built the fine house located next door to Aurora's current post office, on Wellington Street. Until recently, this house was home to the Sormeh Spa.”

Thank you, John.



This small advertisement appeared in a local paper some years ago, advertising the “famous” Fleury Plow. It was so famous, in fact, there is one at the entranceway to Fleury Park, near the Aurora Community Centre. Plows were manufactured here and hold a place of honor on the Town of Aurora's Coat of Arms.

Letters to the Editor

Council directive vague, reader says

Open letter to Aurora Council and the citizens of Aurora:

Please help me understand how litigation against three Aurora citizens was approved.

Re: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Payment of legal expenses of Phyllis Morris and the defamation action of Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al.

I am writing this as an open letter to the current Aurora Town Council and to the citizens of Aurora as I believe others may have similar questions and concerns in relation to the defamation action of Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al.

I stand open to being corrected if anyone has any new information to be shared and I look to others for answers and clarification as I don't believe that the current information in the public domain is sufficient to explain how this action was authorized by the Town of Aurora.

It is only by sharing the following questions and subsequent answers (and any questions that other Aurora citizens may contribute) that we may all learn and come to understand how this action proceeded to its present state.

A considerable amount of Aurora tax money is now authorized for payment of external legal fees for this case but more importantly to me three private citizens of Aurora are still involved as defendants in this action which may take years to resolve and which may jeopardize the financial futures of their families.

I realize that there are those that support Ms. Morris' argument and reasoning for her defamation suit as equally there are those that support Richard Johnson, Elizabeth Bishenden and Bill Hogg (Johnson et al) and I respect their difference in opinions.

I was from the start and still remain in support of Johnson et al but it is not my intention here to argue the legal aspects of their case as this is now in the hands of our judicial system and the lawyers.

It is my intention to learn and better understand how this action was authorized by the Town and to understand how it was deemed to follow the proper legislative and administrative procedures.

I recognize that Mayor Dawe and some of the current councillors that ran on a platform that included stopping the Town's involvement in the lawsuit.

I commend them for following through on this promise once they were sworn into office. I also commend those councillors and mayoral candidates who also supported stopping the Town's involvement but who were not successful in the recent election.

I can appreciate that Mayor Dawe and the current Town Council has had to responsibly deal with the matters opened by the previous council and administration and were faced with the difficult decision to authorize the payment of external legal fees to December 14, 2010.

I further recognize that there may still be some legal privacy issues in answering some of my questions but that does not prohibit me from asking these important

questions and seeking these answers even if they may still be forthcoming in the future when this case is resolved.

In the following, I will reference the letter by George Rust-D'Eye of WeirFoulds LLP entitled EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Payment of Legal Expenses of Phyllis Morris (to be known as the “Executive Summary”). This letter was made public on March 30, 2011 as a Media Advisory by the Town of Aurora. It was authorized for release by order of the Aurora Town Council at its March 29, 2011 meeting and it can be found on the Town website at www.town.aurora.on.ca/aurora/index.aspx?CategoryID=27&lang=en-CA under 2011 Media Releases (March 30, 2011).

It was after reading George Rust-D'Eye's Executive Summary that I was compelled to ask the contained questions and to seek the assistance from others to help me and the citizens of Aurora better understand how Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al was initiated by the Town of Aurora.

It is the Executive Summary that makes me question past information and/or lack of information to the public in this matter.

I am numbering my questions so that anyone respond-

ing to this letter can do so accordingly by the question number.

1. Who has the legal authority at the Town to proceed on the Town's behalf with a lawsuit?

2. What are or in fact are there any legislative steps that must be complied with by the Town Council in order to initiate a lawsuit? What is the involvement and authority of the mayor and the Town's administrative staff, be it the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Town Solicitor or any other Town staff in initiating a lawsuit?

3. I recognize that this matter started with the council directive from the Closed Session of the Town Council Meeting of September 14, 2010.

From that point onwards what were the steps and who further authorized that this matter was to be handled directly as a lawsuit?

This matter started with the Council directive from the Closed Session of the Town Council Meeting of September 14, 2010.

The entry for this motion is as follows: Council recessed into closed session at 11.33 p.m. Mayor Morris left the meeting at 1.10 a.m. Council reconvened into open session at 1.11 a.m. with Deputy Mayor McRoberts in the

Please see page 7

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Glue from Vic's kept meets short

To the editor,

I was saddened to see the passing of Vic (Paraninfo) in The Auroran.

Flags flying

To the editor,

I just want to publicly say how I'm filled with national pride to see so many Canadian rags, I mean flags, fluttering in the wind at the Aurora Shopping Centre.

Stewart Ivol
Aurora

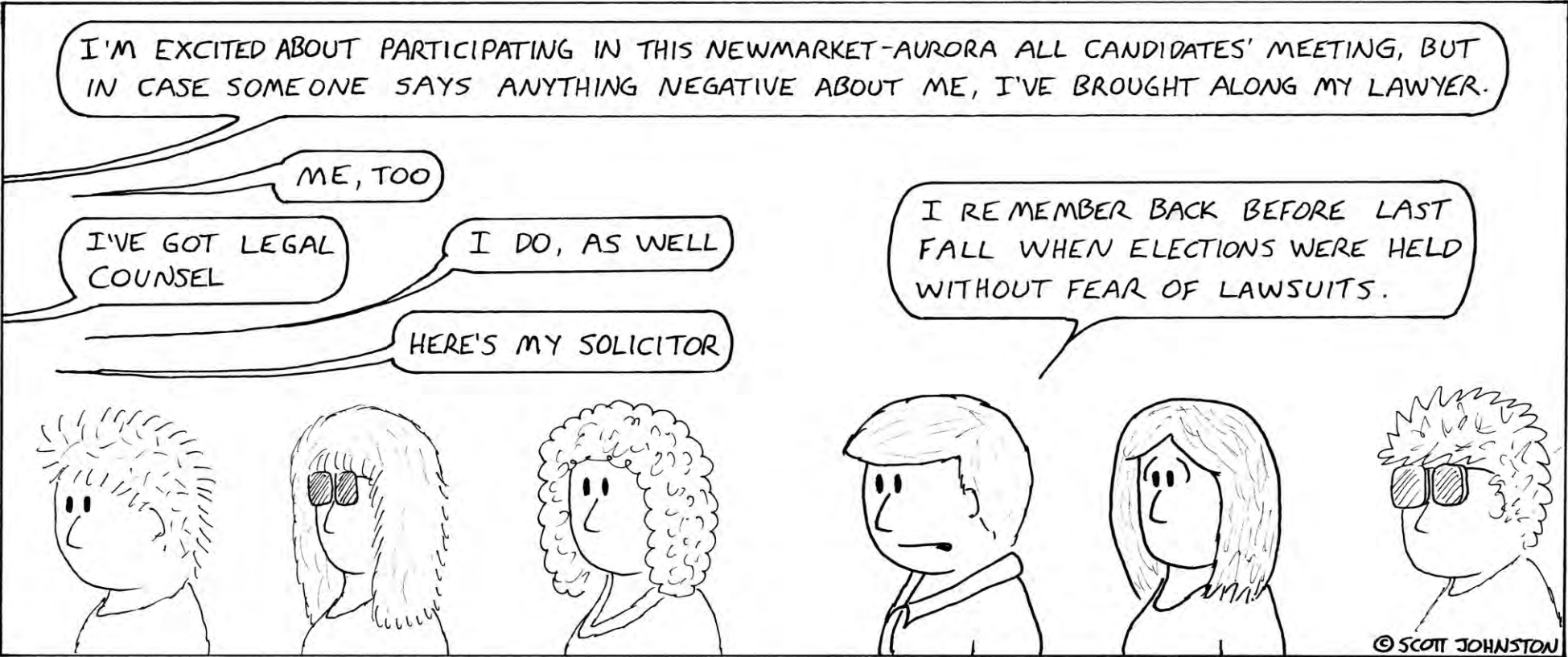
He was a nice guy and a credit to his adopted country.

In reading your editorial, my mind went back to the days when the late Aurora Banner was located next door to Vic's Shoe Repair.

When we had meetings in the small room, which was adjacent to Vic's, the odor of glue emanating from his shop was rather overpowering.

I suppose it was good in that the meetings didn't tend to drag on.

Bob Maxwell
Etobicoke



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

During the first week of the election campaign one of the pollsters that I was watching on television made two very interesting comments.

First, he said that nationally the Federal Liberals had garnered 835,000 fewer voters in the 2008 election than they had received in 2006 election.

This works out to an average of 2,711 less votes per each of the 308 ridings in Canada.

Furthermore, according to some information I gathered from a Simon Frasier University study, "the Conservatives won hardly any more votes in Ontario compared to 2006. Their gain in vote share came about because 500,000 Ontario voters went AWOL between the two elections, most of them Liberal, leaving the Conservative candidates better supported in comparison."

If you take the 500,000 voters and divide that by the 107 ridings in Ontario, that works out to a decrease 4,673 per constituency.

That's a lot of potential voters staying home!

Second, the pollster stated that - according to work that he has done - 62 per cent of people already know who they are going to vote for, even though it was only the second day of the campaign.

If this contention is true then the parties are fighting over the remaining 38 per cent of eligible voters.

The pollsters' points are intriguing.

Let's deal with both issues in order.

In the 2004 federal election, 51,435 people cast their vote in Newmarket-Aurora.

This increased to 58,799 in the 2006 election but declined to 53,227 in the 2008 election.

That is a drop of 5,572 votes from the 2006 election, which is a little more than the 4,673 national average.

Considering that the populations of both Newmarket and Aurora grew at a rapid pace over this time, this drop off in votes is astonishing.

Over this same period the Conservative vote in the riding went from 21,818 in 2004 to 22,371 in 2006 and to 24,873 in the last election.

The New Democrats received 5,111 votes in 2004, 5,639 in 2006 and 4,508 in the last election.

The decline in their vote - on a relative basis - was not that large.

It is the Liberals where the majority of votes were lost.

They received 21,129 votes in 2004, 27,176 in 2006, but then fell to 18,250 in the last election.

That is a decline of 8,926.

In other words, the Liberal share of the vote fell from 46.22 per cent in 2006 to 34.29 per cent in 2008.

This is mostly attributed to the campaign that former Liberal Leader Stephane Dion ran and also partly to the fact that Liberal Belinda Stronach did not seek re-election.

I was hoping to provide a similar comparison using the provincial election numbers.

However, we have only had one election - in 2007 - that utilized the present Newmarket/Aurora electoral boundaries.

Prior to this the riding was known as Vaughan-King-Aurora, so a comparison would not yield any meaningful results.

So what do these numbers mean?

The over-all decline in voters was totally at the expense of the

Liberals; not good news if you are traditionally a Liberal supporter.

To close this gap, the Liberals need three things; to regain past Liberal voters, to eat into "soft" Conservative voters and they need to attract a large majority of new voters.

Regarding the pollsters' second contention that 62 per cent of voters already know who they will vote for, this sounds reasonable.

The major parties have their traditional core of support that will always be with them, "come hell or high water".

Both the Liberals and Conservative can count on, I'd say, 20 to 25 per cent while the NDP has 7 to 10 per cent and the Greens and other parties say 5 per cent or so.

I would certainly love to see the details behind the pollsters' research.

I have posed the following question to others over the years - "when do the majority of people make their voting decision" and invariably I get one of three answers.

First, that voting decisions are made in the last seven days of the election because people are unwilling to focus before this time.

Second, other seasoned campaigners say that a lot of people make their decision soon after the Leaders' debates.

Still others say it is in the last 24 hours of the campaign.

My own observation is that - other than those who are traditional party supporters - it is an even split between those people who make up their mind in the day or two after the Leaders' Debate, based on the media's perception of what happened, and those who decide on the last day of the campaign.

Stephen can be contacted at:

stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Sky-rocketing hydro bills, the HST driving up prices on everything we touch, grocery bills that get higher by the week, gas pumps that seem on over-drive and the pay cheque or pension cheque that runs out before the end of the month for most families.

It seems that regardless of the level of income, families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

Is the Premier even aware of these pocket-book pressures?

Based on the budget that was presented in the legislature recently, apparently not.

Despite spending \$16.7 billion more over the next 12 months than the province will take in, and racking up the province's debt to almost \$260 billion by the end of next year, not one line in the budget provides any relief for families struggling to cope with ever increasing financial pressures.

Was there anything good about the budget?

Yes.

There are promises to reduce the size of government and to review agencies, boards and commissions to find cost savings.

A blue ribbon panel will be asked to make recommendations on how health care and other government services can be delivered more efficiently, and there's a promise for more accountability.

And there's a commitment to invest in a mental health and

addiction strategy recommended by the legislature's all-party Select Committee.

There's a promise to accelerate the implementation of the all day learning program, and to create more post-secondary school spaces.

Interesting though, that most of the commitments made in this budget are scheduled for implementation after the next provincial election.

So...can we believe Dalton McGuinty's promises?

Remember the 2003 election campaign?

No new taxes was the promise and it wasn't long before we were hit with the single biggest tax hike in the province's history - the \$3 billion provincial health tax.

The 'no new taxes' promise was made again in the 2007 election campaign, and it didn't take long before Dalton McGuinty forgot that promise and served up his \$3 billion HST.

Of course, the Premier told us that these taxes, along with the more subtle eco taxes and a basket of user fees are all for our own good.

You'll decide who and what you can believe.

For months leading up to the budget, my colleagues in the PC Caucus and I called on the McGuinty government to give Ontario families relief from the tax burden that's becoming increasingly more oppressive.

The Premier shrugged

We proposed specific measures such as exempting electricity, home heating bills and gasoline from the HST and getting rid of the eco taxes.

We called for the scrapping of costly bureaucracies such as the Local Health Integration Networks and the Ontario Power Authority so that more resources could be directed to front line services. These and other recommendations were ignored.

Not one found its way into the 300-page budget document.

The Premier Shrugged and Turned His Back on Families

As I listened to the Finance Minister read the final sentence of Dalton McGuinty's budget, I realized that Ontario families had been ignored.

Not one tax relief measure for them, no recognition of the struggles families face every day to make ends meet.

The Premier was smiling, the Finance Minister shook his hand and one by one, Liberal MPPs rushed to congratulate them both - apparently for a job well done.

I thought to myself, we'll see what your constituents think.

And please let me know what you think.

As always, I invite your comments and advice.

Please contact me through my website at www.frankklees.ca or call me at 905-750-0019.

Letters to the Editor

MPP answers York board chairperson

An open letter to Trustee Anna DeBartolo, Chairperson of the York Region Board of Education.

Dear Ms DeBartolo,

Your letter to the editor of The Auroran claims that my recent column entitled, "Who's in Charge at the School Board", unfairly characterizes what you refer to as 'common sense advice' to public school board Trustees.

Unfortunately, your letter is less than forthright and misrepresents the issue I was addressing in my column.

Specifically, my column referred to the fact that trustees were told it would be inappropriate for them to meet with parents in private to discuss board-related issues.

This is the issue I brought to the attention of the Minister of Education,

because as I stated, I found this to be an offensive undermining of the role of elected trustees.

You now represent that this direction to trustees was only common sense advice, and that it was in response to a parent group's request that a 'meeting of the board' be conducted in private. That was not the case.

Rather, the request was specifically for an informal meeting with trustees to discuss a contentious issue. There was never a request for a private 'school board meeting'.

Since you described my column as unfairly characterizing the board's so-called advice to trustees, I will remind you of the contents of your e-mail to trustees dated January 10, 2011 and by way of copy to the editor of The Auroran, will allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

Your email reads as follows:

"Further to our discussions and e-mails regarding meetings with individual parent groups and trustees, as trustees we do not meet privately with persons, or group without Staff present. Anyone wishing to address the Board of Trustees may do so through the Delegation or Public forum process.

Therefore this evening there is no private meetings with parents or groups. Just a reminder that we will be meeting at 6.30 p.m. prior to our board meeting."

The specific request for a meeting that precipitated this e-mail, came from the parent group, York Region Families for French Immersion. The request was not to have a School Board meeting held in private. Rather, the request was for an opportunity to meet informally with the trustees prior to the Board's meeting scheduled for January 10, 2011. This was made explicitly clear in the

group's e-mail dated January 7, 2011 addressed to one of your trustee colleagues. It reads as follows:

"Firstly, the group would like to request a meeting on Monday, Jan.10 at 6 p.m. with all 12 York Region trustees. Hopefully, this is a convenient time for trustees as it is just one hour prior to the School Board meeting in Aurora. We request that no School Board members attend this particular meeting."

This is a reasonable request. There are no legislative restrictions that would prevent either one or all 12 trustees to attend such a meeting. It is not a formal meeting of the board, and as such no decisions would, or could be made at this meeting.

All that was being requested by a group of concerned parents, was an opportunity to discuss their concerns with the people

elected to represent them.

Your letter refers to Ontario's Education Act, (with which I am quite familiar) and your letter implies that legislation prohibits trustees from participating in the kind of meeting requested by these parents.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The section of the act under which you are seeking cover, refers to the conducting of school board business.

That was not the purpose of the meeting that was being requested.

I would have expected that as an elected trustee, with the additional responsibilities as Chairperson of the Board, you would defend the role of trustees rather than attempt to defend the undermining of their responsibilities.

Frank Klees, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

If you support Aurora trails, go to town council meeting

To the editor,

The Aurora Trails Master Plan now exists in draft form.

The plan is a long term planning tool, and includes a trails planning map.

This plan and the map are based on a vision that Aurorans should be able to walk and cycle to everywhere in town, along off-road greenway corridors, without having to worry about any major

motorized traffic.

Aurorans of any age and ability could use such trails any time of the year, whether they want to use the trails just to get out into nature or to exercise or to safely commute

to some place or friend.

Aurorans have overwhelmingly favoured trails during surveys.

They would like to see more trails and support paying for more of them out of tax dollars.

The draft Master Plan and the trails planning map will be presented to Aurora Town Council by the Master Plan consulting team.

This presentation is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 19, in the council chambers, starting at 7 p.m.

Since Aurora does not have a trails club, and since Aurora's politicians often judge support for any such undertaking a lot by how many Aurorans show up in the council chamber galleries, it would be helpful for trails supporters to come to next Tuesday's meeting.

This is an opportunity for Aurorans who appreciate trails, more trails, to stand up for trails, through their physical presence.

If Auroran columnist is correct, how come May can't debate?

To the editor,

Re: Stephen Somerville's open letter to the mayor

I totally agree with Mr. Somerville's contention that we need more debate between the candidates for Member of Parliament in our riding, and I would love to see our new mayor accept the challenge of moderating it.

What I don't understand is how this washes with his previous contention in the same article that Elizabeth May should not participate in the national leaders' debate.

Surely if debate is good for our local candidates, it must also be good for the party leaders, too.

Mr. Somerville adopts the media consortium's rationale for not allowing Ms. May to debate because her party does not

have a seat in the House.

This, however, must be recognized as a totally arbitrary rationale.

There is nothing written anywhere which requires this to be the litmus for eligibility, and therefore it should not be accepted by anybody without qualification.

What makes having representation in Parliament any better a criteria than having 5 per cent of the vote, or candidates in all ridings across the country?

Answer. Nothing.

But it is convenient to use for a media consortium that wants to limit participation so as to maintain the momentum of the debate and therefore its entertainment value.

What we really need is a election debate commission to take this responsibility and its inherent conflict of interest away from both the media and the

candidates.

Maybe next time.

This time, I think Ms. May should be in the debate because every voter across this great country will have the opportunity to vote for a member of her party.

That alone should be sufficient qualification to participate in a national debate.

I hope Mr. Somerville does not want to employ his stated criteria for participation in the local debate as well.

It would indeed be a dull debate with Lois Brown being the lone candidate at the podium.

Darryl Moore
Aurora

Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Council directive is vague, reader maintains

From page 4
Chair.
Moved by Councillor MacEachern Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

THAT the Council rise and report from the closed session to confirm the direction from closed session regarding the potential defamation; and
THAT the Town Solicitor be directed to retain external legal counsel and to take any and all actions to bring resolution to this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The September 14th council meeting initially had Mayor Morris and all eight councillors in attendance. In the minutes it is noted that Councillor Collins-Mrakas left the meeting at 10.16 p.m. and Councillor Buck left the meeting at 11.01 p.m. The closed session would then have included Mayor Morris (who subsequently left at 1.10 a.m. just before reporting out and before the vote) and Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Granger, MacEachern, McRoberts and Wilson. There is no indication in the minutes as to if any Town staff may have been involved in the closed session but since it involved litigation I would assume that the Town's CAO and the Town Solicitor would be present, though I stand corrected if they were not present and/or if others were present.

From the Executive Summary (after the September 14th Council Meeting and after the Town retained Aird & Berlis LLP ("AB") as its external legal counsel): "Then-Mayor Morris requested the Town to pay for the litigation, following the receipt of a legal opinion from AB in which it was advised that the comments were made against the mayor, as well as the Town Solicitor and the Integrity Commissioner, in their capacity as elected officials or employees of the Town."

4. Given the answers to the above questions 1, 2 and 3 and the statement "Then-Mayor requested the Town to

pay for the litigation", were the steps taken by the Town in accordance to the accepted procedures and in such a way that Mayor Morris could not be seen as having a conflict of interest as she had direct involvement in the case being that she would be the plaintiff, that the Town would be financing this action and that she would be the sole beneficiary of any awarded damages?

5. As I see no further reference to this action in any other subsequent council meeting in the above statement "who" is the Town? Was this a Town staff member with authority to authorize payment for the litigation?

6. Again, who at the Town had the authority to proceed with litigation? If it was the mayor was it not a conflict of interest for the mayor to request the Town to proceed? If it was the mayor, should not another person (be it elected or Town staff) have taken the lead to this action?

7. Was there a reason why this matter was not taken back to council be it in a closed session to authorize such litigation and the accompanying expenditures?

From the Executive Summary: "The retainer letter signed by the mayor and the Town on October 6, 2010 leads to the conclusion that both are jointly and severally liable for paying the legal expenses incurred for the defamation action."

8. Thus the Town and Ms. Morris were equally and separately responsible for the full amount. The Town has now authorized payment of legal fees to December 14, 2010. Should the Town not be demanding that Ms. Morris reimburse the Town now for at least half of the Town's external legal fees instead of as recommended in the Executive Summary "that the Town give notice to Phyllis Morris of the intent by the Town to look to her for indemnity in respect of legal services paid for by the Town out of any damages or cost recovered by her in the proceed-

ings"?

The only way that the Town will be reimbursed will be if Ms. Morris is successful and the three Aurora citizens are not and this does not guarantee any funds to the Town as there is no signed agreement for this option.

9. Would the mayor have proceeded or initiated such action given that she would have to pay half the current legal expense?

(This is now a hypothetical question and does not require an answer).

From the Executive Summary: "it appears that, at the time of the meeting of the Town Council on September 14 and 15, 2010, it was accepted by all concerned that the abuse being heaped on the mayor and other municipal officials by third parties, was seen as an attack on the reputation of the Town itself, affecting the reputation and perceived integrity of council and staff, and that there was an agreed-upon strategy to vindicate the Town's name and reputation, which was seen at least as much the target as was the mayor herself."

10. Are we to understand that the "agreed-upon strategy" that Mr. Rust-D'Eye writes of was simply the wording in the council meeting minutes of September 14, 2010 "THAT the Town Solicitor be directed to retain external legal counsel and to take any and all actions to bring resolution to this matter"? And that it was this directive that gave authorization to an open-ended mandate and a blank cheque to external counsel without further advice, consultation or authority from council. (A separate rhetorical question but if there was not an election and a change of council to stop payment to AB how high would the lawyer's bill have gone?)

11. If it was an "agreed-upon strategy" then why if I recall correctly were some councillors apparently surprised when the news of the litigation came forth?

12. Were these instructions sufficient to proceed

with the defamation suit? (Thus my earlier questions on legislative procedure).

13. Did the Town Solicitor or whoever instructed the external legal counsel of Aird & Berlis have the authority to proceed with litigation without further approval from council?

14. Was the motion from the September 14th meeting so broadly worded that it could be ambiguous enough so that legal proceedings could commence without further authorization or approval from council?

15. Did council discuss litigation as part of their closed session meeting? Was it understood that litigation was the only option that external legal counsel should pursue? (I realize that this may never be known as it was a closed session). If so, then they knew it could proceed to the current situation along with the financial burden to the Town. If not, then did someone at the Town over-step their authority (thus my earlier questions as to procedure in authorizing litigation)?

Please help me understand how we arrived at the current state of affairs.

It is my opinion that the council directive was far too vague and could be viewed as irresponsible as it did not provide specific direction and limitations and any need for the external legal counsel once engaged to seek further direction and authorization from council. Given the particular care that councillors take in wording their motions and given the fact that this was done at the end of term with councillors having a minimum of four years of experience (excluding Councillor Gallo) in their seats as opposed to being inexperienced councillors at the beginning of term it is surprising that this motion as worded was ever approved. It makes me wonder whether there is any part of this incident and/or subsequent actions that could be deemed in any way to violate the Municipal Act and/or the Town's business and legisla-

tive procedures and if so who are we to hold accountable for their actions.


I note that Councillor Bob McRoberts disavowed his approval of the September 14th motion at the September 29, 2010 council meeting and stated on October 14, 2010 on Rogers TV First Local News, "The arguments presented by town staff and council members didn't match my understanding of the Municipal Act. I do not agree with the rationale provided. I do not agree that the matter is a matter for council".

I have to ask - what would have happened to the Town of Aurora if this past council

were to have directed other external contractors "to take any and all actions" for litigation against land developers in Aurora or for the repair to all roads or to improving Aurora's water and sewage systems or to providing recreation facilities?

I believe that there is still much to be disclosed to the citizens of Aurora so that we can all understand how Phyllis Morris v. Johnson et al was authorized by the Town of Aurora. I should think that the answers would be simple and straightforward.

**Paul Sesto
Aurora**



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Where are the birds?

To the editor,

Unbelievable.
The Tim Jones council gave away land to development, mostly done by DeGasparis, who boasts he makes \$18 million a year.

So more than 60 per cent of raw land that was moraine and shouldn't have been developed destroyed Aurora's nature.

And now we hear the five per cent that was to go into parkland was taken in cash.

What happened to the 41 species of migratory birds as counted by David Tomlinson, and countless other wild land destruction?

'Tis so sad.

And still our taxes go up.

**Gail McIntyre
Aurora**

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Lifestyle Windows and Doors officially opened for business recently, and Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, left, made it all legal by cutting the ribbon. With him is owner George Hughes. The new firm is located on Industrial Parkway South.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Councillors hold budget to 3.79 per cent

From page 1
Such items contributing to the budget reduction decided that evening included six months gapping for select new positions coming onto the staff complement as well as turning some into contract positions.
Councillor Evelyn Buck proposed the removal of funding from several projects and programs, including the Aurora Community Arboretum and the Town's use of Bullfrog Power, but these motions were defeated by council.
One area, however, that was accepted was an additional \$50,000 allocated "for the use of heritage issues".
Council accepted this recommendation with the provision that this money, if it is to be allocated, must come from somewhere

else within the budget, and not in addition to what was already on the table.
The item was originally proposed as \$50,000 to facilitate a curator for an Aurora museum.
"Perhaps the motion just needs to be an additional \$50,000 for council to address the museum and heritage issue, subject to discussions with the parties," suggested Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott.
"That way it is open-ended; whether it's for a curator or consultant, staff have a pretty good idea of what needs to be done."
After last week's meeting, however, it was noted that the salary gapping in the 2011 budget would have an impact on next year.
"Not funding the gapped portion this year, it affects the opening posi-

tion for next year's budget," said Mr. Elliott. "Yes, we are assuming those positions are in there and if we had budgeted for the full year this year there would be no impact next year, but since we are budgeting for, say, three quarters of the year, for example, the one quarter still has to have an impact on the taxpayer and that will come next year."
Mr. Elliott noted that his department will soon be developing the 2012 budget schedule and bringing that to council for information in the coming weeks.
"We're tentatively thinking to give it to you and perhaps even approved before Christmas," he noted.
This would fit into plans to begin the process much sooner, said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

"It is certainly my goal to be doing this much sooner in the process this coming year and hopefully to have far more intelligent forecasting and I know we have been working towards that."
Mr. Elliott forecasts budget pressures in the year ahead to be 7.2 per cent in 2012, 3.6 per cent in 2013, and 2.2 per cent in 2014.

From page 1
rate increase, Councillor Buck said the 2011 hike was unacceptable.
"We had a substantial increase last year," she said. "Fourteen per cent last year and 9.95 per cent this year is 23 per cent in two years. That is \$1,100 in the year of residential water rate. I defy anybody around this table to say that they have made any sense of what you were telling me."
"When you talk about having lower sales therefore you have a deficit in your revenue because people didn't buy enough water, but if people didn't buy enough water then it shouldn't have cost us to buy it from the Region. We are clients from the Region. They supply the water, we buy it from them, and we get their wholesale rate. If people in the homes don't use the water then we shouldn't be buying it, we shouldn't be paying for it, so why does it come up with a deficit because they didn't buy it?"
Proper projections are "a difficult thing at best", replied Mr. Simanovskis but conceded that was "no excuse."
"The Region provides projections to all the local municipalities based on their

forecast of what they believe they need to make available in the system because part of the Region's responsibility is to ensure an adequate water supply," he said. "The challenge is they then turn around and provide that forecast to municipalities more as information."
According to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, water rates have been the subject of "contentious" discussion at the Region over the past few years because they are the driver of the water rates.
"There have been discussions on whether we are still getting a good deal on water but there is no empirical data to back that fact up one way or the other," he said.
This view was reiterated by Aurora CAO Neil Garbe who said similar discussions had taken place amongst Regional CAOs.
"We did voice some cause for concern that the local municipalities are bearing the brunt of these increases," he said, adding that there has been a push for better measures to track what is now unaccounted for water.
"There are a number of issues and what I want to convey is that it is shared by local staff," he said.

Region ups town's water rates

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Home Show Pull out section

Aurora Home Show 2011

25th ANNIVERSARY

Celebration of Style



Jack Roeleveld of Jack's Landscaping, left, and his staff have been busy again this year getting things organized for the Feature Area at The Aurora Home Show which runs this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Aurora Community Centre.

Home show opens Friday

Let's celebrate! It's the 25th Anniversary of the Aurora Home Show this year. That's 25 years of planning, sponsoring, creating and exhibiting at a fabulous three-day event. And with each passing year, the show keeps getting better and better. Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 15-17.... and join the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at this year's Home Show – A Celebration of Style!

"There's so much to do at the show this year," says Home Show

Committee Chair Bob Ince. "Whether you're looking for home improvement ideas or for family entertainment, we've got it. And we've kept the admission at a toonie."

The Feature Area is always popular. Whether it's a full home or a spectacular water feature, creativity and craftsmanship are always well displayed. This year the Feature Area will provide you with some great front yard ideas, all with a European flair.

You'll have the opportunity to check out over 150 exhibitors, each ready to show you great home and lifestyle ideas. You'll have the opportunity to listen to folksinger John Lemme as he entertains from the Feature Area. History buffs will enjoy a photo exhibit prepared from 25 years of Aurora Home Show pictures. There will be the ever-popular face painting and mini putt for the kiddies. Don't forget to make a trip to the Optimist's Beer Garden for

great barbequed food and refreshments.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is grateful to the sponsors and volunteers who make the show a success every year. This year a special shout out goes to sponsors L.H. Lind Realty Inc., van Nostrand & Partners, Pace Credit Union and iNetAgent. Grateful thanks go to the Home Show Committee volunteers Bob Ince, Robin Taylor-Smith, Diane Buchanan, Robin Hardman,

George Hughes, Brian North, Jack Roeleveld, and Chamber staff Judy Marshall and Nancy Eveleigh Browne.

The 2011 Aurora Home Show – A Celebration of Style – opens Friday, April 15th from 2 to 9 pm and continues Saturday, April 16th from 9 am to 6 pm and Sunday, April 17th from 10 am to 5 pm at the Aurora Community Centre, just off Aurora Heights Drive. For more information check out www.aurorahomeshow.ca.

**Friday April 15, from 2 p.m. – 9 p.m., and continues
Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

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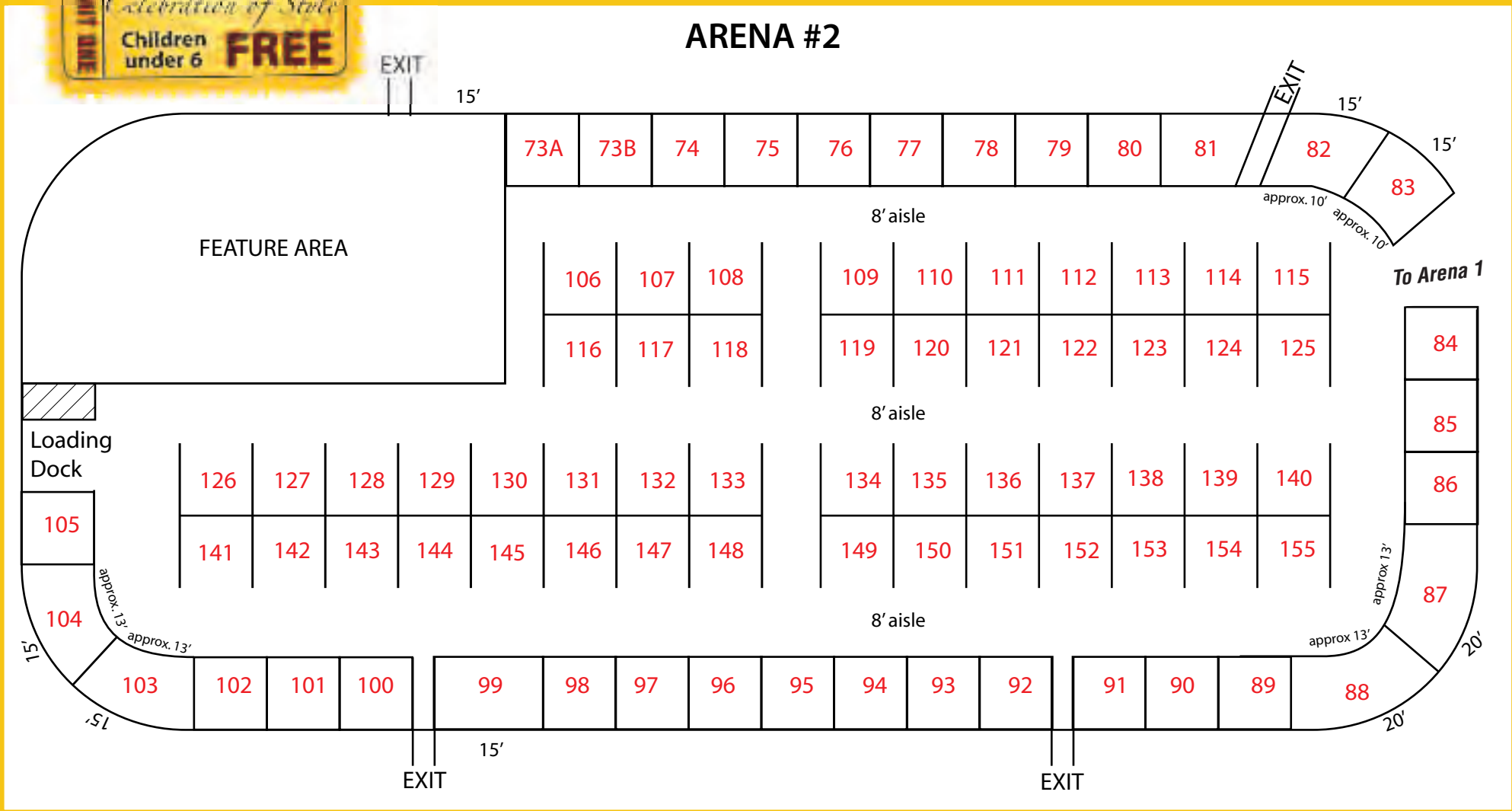
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Aurora Home Show 2011



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79	A1 Granite Countertops	147	Garage Pro Flooring
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23	Advanced Tree Care	144	Glenway Country Club
121	Agincourt Travel Services	Z	Glidden Plumbing and Renovations Inc.
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10 & 11	Bath Solutions	59	Hickory Dickory Decks
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Z6	College Pro Painters	120	Jones Pools
H	Cooper's CSA Farm & Maze	100	Kwik Kerb Creations
K	Costco Wholesale	143	Kyle Peterson, Liberal Candidate, Newmarket-Aurora
149 & 150	Cougar Iron Fence	82 & 83	L.H. Lind Realty Inc.
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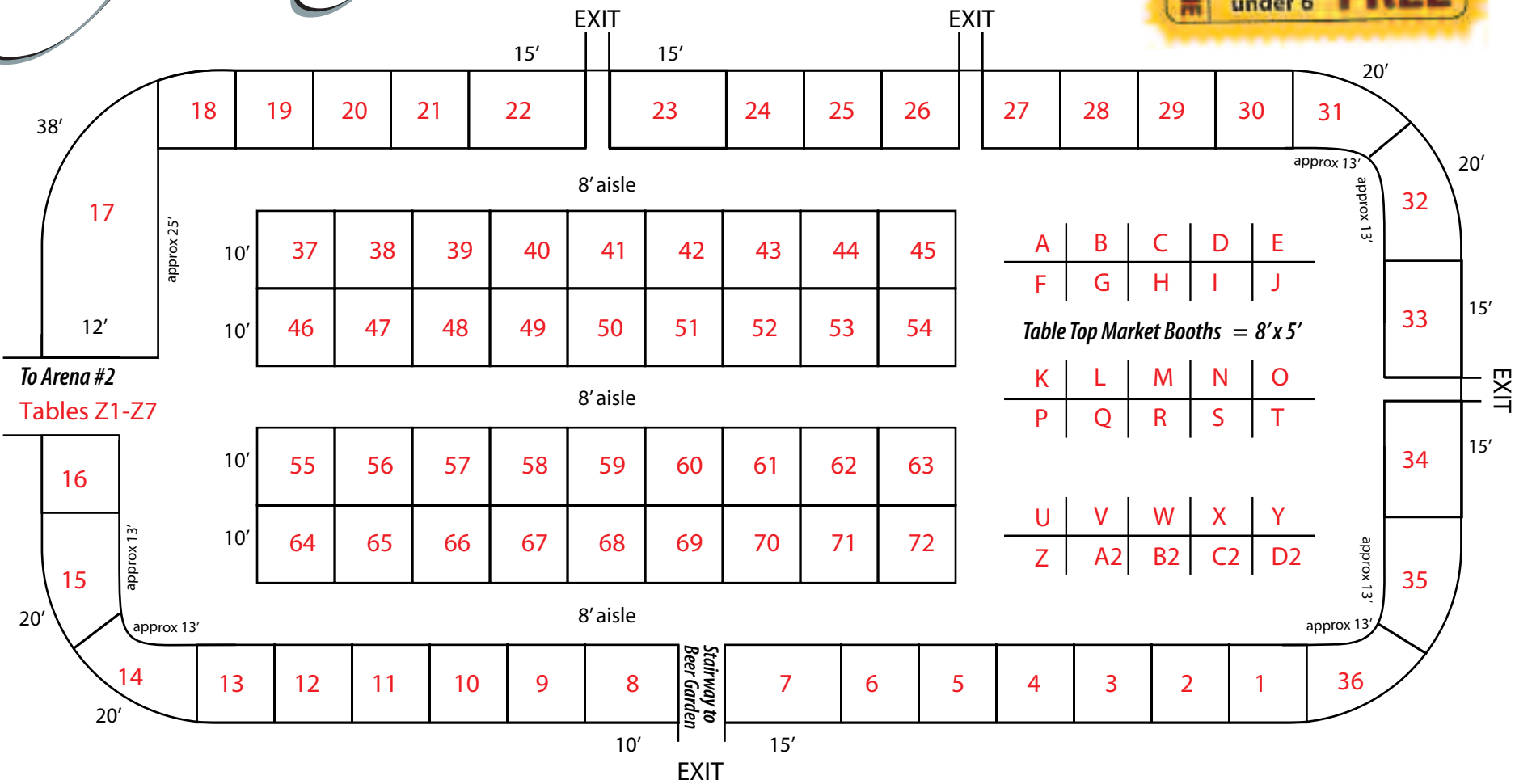


25th ANNIVERSARY

Celebration of Style



ARENA #1



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67	Owens Corning Basement Finishing Systems of Southern Ontario	123	U Weight Loss
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Lois Brown, the incumbent Member of Parliament for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, opened her election office in Aurora recently. The office is in the former location of Thompson's Furniture on Yonge Street, south of Wellington. Above, the Progressive Conservative candidate for the May 2 election sorts through signs which have been erected throughout the riding. The riding boasts a full slate of candidates for the election.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Local Conservative candidate has never stopped door knocking

This will be the fourth local campaign for incumbent Conservative candidate Lois Brown if one counts her 2004 challenge against Belinda Stronach for the local riding nomination, but this is her first time pounding the pavement for re-election.

Although Ms. Brown said in her interview with The Auroran on Thursday that she has "never stopped knocking on doors" she conceded that while the "flavour" of each campaign is different, the issues greeting her at the door remain very similar.

"I think it has been an unusual two years because of what we have been through globally," said Ms. Brown, reflecting on her two years as Member of Parliament. "I was elected just as we were starting into this economic recession so there were a number of decisions that had to be made quickly in order to ensure that we stayed stable, that people stayed working, that our economy stayed strong."

"It's probably been a slightly different two-and-a-half years than most newcomers would have experienced, but I am proud to say that our government has stayed the course on the decisions that we made."

Consistent issues heard at the door include the economy and job creation, she said, noting she spoke to a young woman the previous evening who told her she lost her job and was still looking for work.

"Even though we have created 460,000 new jobs since the recession hit, we still know there are too many people not working. We need to stay focused on creating jobs, being sure the economy is strong."

According to Ms. Brown, the best way to achieve this is to ensure Canada's economic climate is one conducive to growth and that, she said, includes reducing corporate tax rates.

"We know that gives corporations room to grow more jobs, more jobs means more people that become taxpayers who are sharing the load of all services that Canadians want and expect," she said. "We need to continue to lower those corporate tax rates and our government has been consistent at that. These corporate tax cuts are not

something that is new in this 2011 budget."

When asked how a vote for the Conservative party would affect the bottom line of voters, Ms. Brown cited the Conservative economic action plan.

Although the funds finished on March 21, 28,000 projects across Canada "have kept people working these past two years", she said.

"This new budget, which is the next phase of our economic action plan, builds on all those initiatives, so we are putting in a lot of those initiatives that are for families."

Additional initiatives for families include extending tax credits for children, and for those in arts and music programs.

"Not all children are going to be actively interested in sports, but they are very musically inclined," she said. "As a musician myself, I know that parents spend inordinate amounts of money on educating their children for the arts, which is very necessary in our society. The Prime Minister has extended that credit as well."

"Any way that we are giving money back to families, we are

doing that because we believe that money in the hands of families is better spent in the economy than money in the hands of the government."

Seniors would also benefit under the Conservative party's plan, according to Ms. Brown, including those who are dependent on the Old Age Supplement, as well as the New Horizons program for seniors, which directs funds to seniors' centres and similar programs.

"I am pleased to say that the Aurora Seniors' Centre was the recipient of close to \$5,000 and they used that over there for purchasing more computers and they purchased new equipment for their workshop. They are using it for productive means both in a teaching capacity for seniors to have access to IT instruction and for the workshop where many of them are producing products that they are able to sell."

"The Government of Canada has been very active in contributing those funds because we believe that helps create a healthy community."

In addition to programs for seniors, Ms. Brown said the

Please see page 18



Federal Liberal Candidate Kyle Peterson, pictured after speaking to The Auroran at his campaign office last Tuesday. Mr. Peterson's campaign office, located on the southeast corner of Davis Drive and Yonge Street in Newmarket, officially opened the previous Saturday and the event doubled as his official campaign kickoff. It was followed by a canvas blitz throughout the riding. The event attracted numerous residents of both Aurora and Newmarket.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Liberal candidate having fun talking to riding voters

Electing Kyle Peterson to Ottawa would ensure families and the community at large are "well served" by the Federal Government, said the candidate in a sit-down interview with The Auroran last week.

In the discussion about the election both locally and nationally, and of policy in particular, Mr. Peterson said that as he has pounded the pavement talking to voters and knocking on doors, an emerging theme coming up was that families are feeling a "sense of struggle".

With prices going up and uncertainty on the rise, Mr. Peterson said he has found that "little things would make a big difference" right now for struggling families in Newmarket-Aurora.

"I'm getting that a lot," he said. "People are always worried about education, especially families with children that are either in university or about to go onto university, it is expensive, and the Canada Learning Passport has resonated a lot with those voters."

Expanding on the Liberal platform plank which could see \$4,000 being invested in individual university students into

RESPs over four years, Mr. Peterson said that health care is another issue that keeps cropping up especially considering Canada's aging population.

"Our seniors are concerned about their health care, so when they hear about being able to take time off work and still qualify for benefits to be able to take care of a sick loved one, that is also something that resonates with a lot of voters because people are living this every day."

"It is not something abstract or some concept, these are people who are struggling every day who would love this break, just this little help to make their lives that much easier."

Seniors and families will also be helped with an increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement with \$700 million being put into the system ("more than twice as much as the Conservatives are offering", Mr. Peterson noted), expanding childcare and daycare programs ("That is great for someone like me - I have a young child at home and another on the way; finding day care is difficult in this community") and ramping up the dialogue between the Federal government and munic-

ipalities in helping to eradicate poverty.

"I don't think the Federal Government sees itself as having a role at all in this, which is wrong," he said, "and a Liberal government would shift fundamentally from that mindset."

While the Conservative party argues that Canadians want a "steady hand" for the economy and underscore their policies in that regard, Mr. Peterson rejects that argument.

"I want a steady hand, too, we haven't had one in five years," he said, citing last summer's "boondoggle" of a G20 Summit. "[Stephen Harper] has had five years to prove he is a steady hand. He isn't."

An economic platform Mr. Peterson said will have a particularly positive impact in the riding is the party's Global Incentives.

Pointing out the growing markets in China and India, such measures would restore Canada's position on the world stage.

"Canada needs to be a global player on the world stage again, and it is not just because it is the right thing to do, but also

Please see page 18

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Council reduces Library request for more money

While councillors reduced the Aurora Public Library's budget requisition by \$30,500 last week, the Library had previously requested a 7.9 per cent funding increase from this year's municipal budget amounting to \$2,983,861, a boost of \$220,360 from 2010 numbers, according to Library CAO Louise Procter-Maio.

Ms. Procter-Maio made her initial pitch for increased funding at a budget meeting last month, where she underscored the increased Library use over the past five years, with "double digit activity rate increases".

"I looked at the population growth rate and I understand over 2010 the population has increased by 2.6 per cent and

as the Director of Finance has noted, our assessment growth rate has also increased by 2.6 per cent," she said. "The volume of activity in the Library is greatly surpassing both the population growth rate and the assessment growth rate."

The development of the Library's 2011 budget was based on three principles, she said.

The first was to review the budget to "ensure validity and value", to maintain existing service levels for an increased population, to "maintain capacity to implement the library strategic directions", and to invest in the Library's general capital reserve, which is funded through an annual contribution from their operating budget.

Of the increase from 2010 numbers, \$175,579 was to go towards personnel and compensation, and the budget takes into account the creation for a new position in administrative services.

When asked by Councillor Evelyn Buck how a freeze to all new hires - as proposed by a delegate to Council earlier in the evening - would impact Library services, Ms. Procter-

Maio said a "number of drivers" are pushing for the position including legislative requirements.

"In order to deliver services effectively we need this one position," she said.

The "important value added service" the Aurora Public Library brings to the community "should be evident", Ms. Procter-Maio said.

Many people choose com-

munities to live in by the amenities it offers, and the Library is "an important asset" they consider," she said.

"[The Library] offers significant community value," said Ms. Procter-Maio. "On average, 100 people visit the Library every open hour. The annual operating costs for Library service per person is about \$51. The annual operating costs for Library service per

use is approximately \$1.56 and the annual library uses per person is almost 33 uses per person in our community on an annual basis and I find that number quite staggering.

"I would suggest that every dollar invested in the library is invested in every single resident. We cross all divides both socially and economically and assist our community in this development."

Lois Brown

From page 17
Conservative platform also provides for families, including income splitting for young families, building upon measures in place for seniors, by 2015 and small businesses. Small and medium sized businesses are the "backbone" of the economy, she said, that employ 80 per cent of employed Canadians. Hiring credits by the conservatives will allow these businesses to take on employees, particularly in IT and extending "the capital cost allowance for write-offs of new equipment."

"If you just look around here, we are sitting on Yonge Street, you can see how many people in our own community are people that are employed by their own small business," she said. "We need to give them the opportunity to be able to grow."

In the interview Ms. Brown took issue with several Liberal policies, including the Canada Learning Passport.

"What the Liberal leader has said is that he is going to cancel any of the other credits so it actually turns out to be \$400 that he would be giving a student," she claimed. "If you look at the credits that we have put in place, our system far outweighs the benefits that they would see from the cancellation of these credits going forward."

The Liberal Platform indicates it will end the "modest" textbook and education tax credits in lieu of the Canada Learning Passport, while the Tuition Tax Credit, Canada Student Loans program and

Canada Student Grant Program.

In regards to the long gun registry, an issue which seems to crop up in every Federal election, Ms. Brown said she believes it has been "ineffective" and wasteful.

"It is not the guns that are the problem, it is the people who are the problem," she said. "They are the ones that commit the crimes. We have Julian Fantino who was Chief of Police for three different police forces and he has run for our government and he supports our position on this."

When asked where to find the balance, however, considering Mr. Fantino's former counterparts, including former Police Chief Armand La Barge have been fulsome in their support for the registry, Ms. Brown replied, "Well, we don't believe it has been money well spent."

"It was money the Liberals promised was going to be \$2 million. We are now over a billion dollars and it hasn't saved one life."

In her time as Member of Parliament, Ms. Brown said it has been a privilege to be in Ottawa.

"I do believe the people have been pleased with the work that I have done for them in the past two and a half years," she said. "They do believe I have been a strong voice for Newmarket-Aurora in Ottawa and that we have been able to see the accomplishment of quite a number of projects in this area because of my advocacy to our Federal government."

Kyle Peterson

From page 17
because it is good for business for Canadians," he said. "If we can tap into these markets with the help of the Federal government we would be silly not to."

For Mr. Peterson, a key issue in this election will be one of governance - particularly open and transparent government.

If he was one of the people that voted for the Conservative government based on "their openness and transparency platform" he said he would be "completely livid right now and rightfully so."

"This is the least open and least transparent government that we have ever seen," he said.

Mr. Peterson said the Liberal government will be much more open, including making access to information requests available online in searchable databases for people to see ("rather than hidden by some Chief of Staff who doesn't want his boss' role in some decision to be made public"), and holding a "people's question period" where Canadians can email questions to government answers and get real-time answers.

"It is things like this that make governments more accessible," he said. "I think Canadians deserve that. I think it is time we did that. There are so many new technological advancements to make it possible. The Liberal Party is also considering Internet voting in the next election, so I think I think is something brand new and I can assure you will drive up participation, especially in the younger demographic."

Part of his commitment to being open and transparent is looking at new ways to engage the community.

"There are so many methods online now that just aren't being engaged by any politician really, so I want to make sure that every person in Newmarket-Aurora

who wants to get in touch with their Member of Parliament has the opportunity to do so at their convenience and by whatever means they choose to use," he said.

Some of these initiatives include "telephone town halls", a method which he plans on employing during the ongoing campaign, as well as using Facebook and Twitter.

"I think these are great means in starting a dialogue with the residents and voters and hearing what is on their mind."

That being said, while there are ways of increasing engagement, going door-to-door, Mr. Peterson has found that people are indeed already engaged in this election.

"I think a lot of people are starting to think and realize that the choices they make affect their lives and all the parties aren't the same," he said. "This election is clearly about two distinct options and the more people I talk to, the more people are coming to that realization. I think engagement is quite higher than it was early going in the last couple of elections."

As a veteran campaign manager of the last several Liberal campaigns locally, Mr. Peterson is an old hand at engaging volunteers. But now as the face of the campaign it is a different experience for him this time around.

"I get to speak to thousands of voters as opposed to hundreds of volunteers," he said. "I'm out there talking to the voters every day and it is quite invigorating. It's great to hear people from all different perspectives and points of view, but just being the sort of face of the campaign as opposed to maybe the brains of it is a role I enjoy. I am having a lot of fun talking to people both in Newmarket and Aurora about what is on their minds."

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Youth Centre may become a reality

A proposed Youth Centre for Aurora took one step closer to becoming a reality last week after council, despite some opposition from members, approved \$50,000 in funds for an architectural study to bring the plans forward.

If the recommendations coming out of last week's general committee are passed at council unchanged this week, the terms of reference for an architectural consultant study will be brought back to general committee for review and approval prior to issuing the request for proposal.

The resolution came after a lengthy discussion where councillors approved the recommendations contained in the youth needs analysis.

While most were comfortable in moving the recommendations forward, some, including Councillor Wendy Gaertner, pushed for the recommendations to be referred to an ad hoc committee for further discussion.

The items contained in the report involved "a lot of money," and the Town would benefit from further discussion, she argued. She also said it would provide council with an opportunity for further engagement.

"I am wondering what percentage of that youth population we were able to get in touch with just because it was summer," said Councillor Gaertner, regarding the methodology used in preparing the study.

Al Downey, Director of Leisure Services, said as much

information was gathered from the community as possible for the report, including telephone and online surveys, and polling youth already registered in Town programs.

"I am not in favour of spending any money until we have looked at this information that staff and the consultant have presented us and decide what it is in this study that we want to use because it is a very political decision," said Councillor Gaertner. "I would also like to look at the 12-18 year old age group. I am not convinced this is the right age group. Those kinds of things need to be looked into."

An ad hoc committee recommendation found support from Councillor Michael Thompson who said he wanted more information on operational and staff costs such a centre would entail.

"I would certainly like to see more information come from Mr. Downey or that ad hoc committee with regards to what are we committing to, not just the construction or design of this youth centre, but on an ongoing basis in terms of operating costs, and staffing," he said.

From Councillor Evelyn Buck's perspective, however, a pilot project was the way to go.

"Rent an empty unit on Yonge Street - there are plenty of them - let's see what we can get one of those stores for," she said. "It would be pretty convenient for those kids coming home from high school. I would be in favour of spending that money for a six-month pilot project to

rent an empty store on Yonge Street. Let's see how kids respond."

Councillor Gaertner agreed that a pilot project, or at least varying the services, might be better for Aurora's youth.

"Councillor Ballard and I had a long discussion and maybe what we need are satellite centres," she said. "Maybe to make it completely accessible we need to have facilities throughout the Town. If we build it and they won't come, we're all going to look pretty stupid."

Mr. Downey, however, said the best option would be to move forward with the architectural study for a possible youth centre in advance of a meeting in June when this and several other big ticket items are slated to be discussed.

"I think that those projects are better understood and discussed when we have at least some options before council because we all close our eyes and try to picture a youth centre we're all going to have different ideas so I think we need to focus a little more on going forward," he said.

This found agreement from other councillors, including John Abel, Sandra Humfries and Paul Pirri.

For Councillor Pirri, an ad hoc committee ran the danger of muddying the waters for staff to go about their jobs, something he said he was "vehemently against" during his council campaign.

"I think that staff have a good

grasp of what they would like to do," he said. "I think there are excellent opportunities for Council to give their input on this situation. I think there are excellent opportunities for staff to invite the public and get their

input on the situation and for those two reasons I don't think we will be shut out."

Councillor Abel, on the other hand, indicated that, for him, the word "ad hoc" was synonymous for "delay" and going that route

could cause undue setbacks for council and staff.

"If we don't start moving, we may miss opportunities to gain partners, to secure lands, to opportunities that may present themselves," he said.

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Battle of personalities?

that has been given by Ms. Brown since her election in October 2008, winning over Liberal candidate and former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, Mrs. Brown said in her time in Ottawa she has done little but repeat the opinions of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Citing her voting record, Ms. Brown said she has not once voted against the Prime Minister despite some of these votes being on issues "that weren't necessarily popular in Newmarket-Aurora."

"[She did so because] either (a) she was told to or (b) she thought she was supposed to," she said. "The long gun registry is a prime example."

When asked by The Auroran on Thursday how she would respond to Mr. Peterson's arguments, Ms. Brown said the initiatives of the Conservative government have been "extraordinary" in today's economic climate; hence her vote.

"I have voted in favour of those because I think they are good measures for our country, good measures for our community [and] good measures for the residents of Newmarket-Aurora," she said.

Upon being asked to point to an example of where she has diverged, she cited an idea she had when facing off against Belinda Stronach as Conservative candidate for Newmarket-Aurora in 2004 in pitching tax credits for adults for sports fitness, something they have since run with it.

"I am very pleased that the Prime Minister has picked up on my idea."

The idea of a coalition gov-

ernment formed by opposition parties has been lobbied around heavily in this election thus far, with the Conservative Party framing it as something the electorate should be concerned about, while the Liberal party denies it is a possibility.

When asked if she personally felt this was indeed a possibility, Ms. Brown said Canada was in an election right now due to "the coalition in action".

"We are in an election because the coalition acted together," said Ms. Brown, before going on to address the fact she is campaigning as an incumbent Member of Parliament from one that has been found in contempt of the very institution.

"There were more people on the other side of the table. It was a committee that was made up of six opposition members against five votes for the Conservatives," she said. "It was a foregone conclusion."

When asked how she would address the inevitable arguments that Stephen Harper had approached opposition parties for something similar as Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Brown said the discussion was about working together "on an issue by issue basis".

For Mr. Peterson's part, any ideas of a Coalition are dead in the water.

"There is not going to be a coalition," he said. "I will not be a part of a coalition government and I am certainly supportive of Michael Ignatieff who has clearly said time and again, 'No coalition' and I agree with that position."

With the Conservative Party releasing their platform Friday,

now both they and the Liberals have their policy planks in place as they continue the rounds knocking on doors, attending events, and addressing constituents concerns.


While they may be prepared and camera ready, however, there is still the lingering issue of leadership with people on either side of the debate - and even those sitting on the fence - to whom Mr. Harper and Mr. Ignatieff are seen as having less than sparkling personalities.

"I think Mr. Ignatieff is a great leader," said Mr. Peterson. "I think his platform shows what his priorities are and I think he has proven in the last 10 days...just how charismatic he is and how strong a leader he really is, and the fact he cares about Canadian families resonates even more."

During the last Federal campaign, Ms. Brown remarked during the candidates debate in Newmarket that with a couple of years of Conservative government behind them, people had found Stephen Harper to be a "compassionate leader".


Any audience applause at the time were drowned out by amplified chuckles. When asked if perceptions have changed locally since then, the pianist's answer was not surprising.

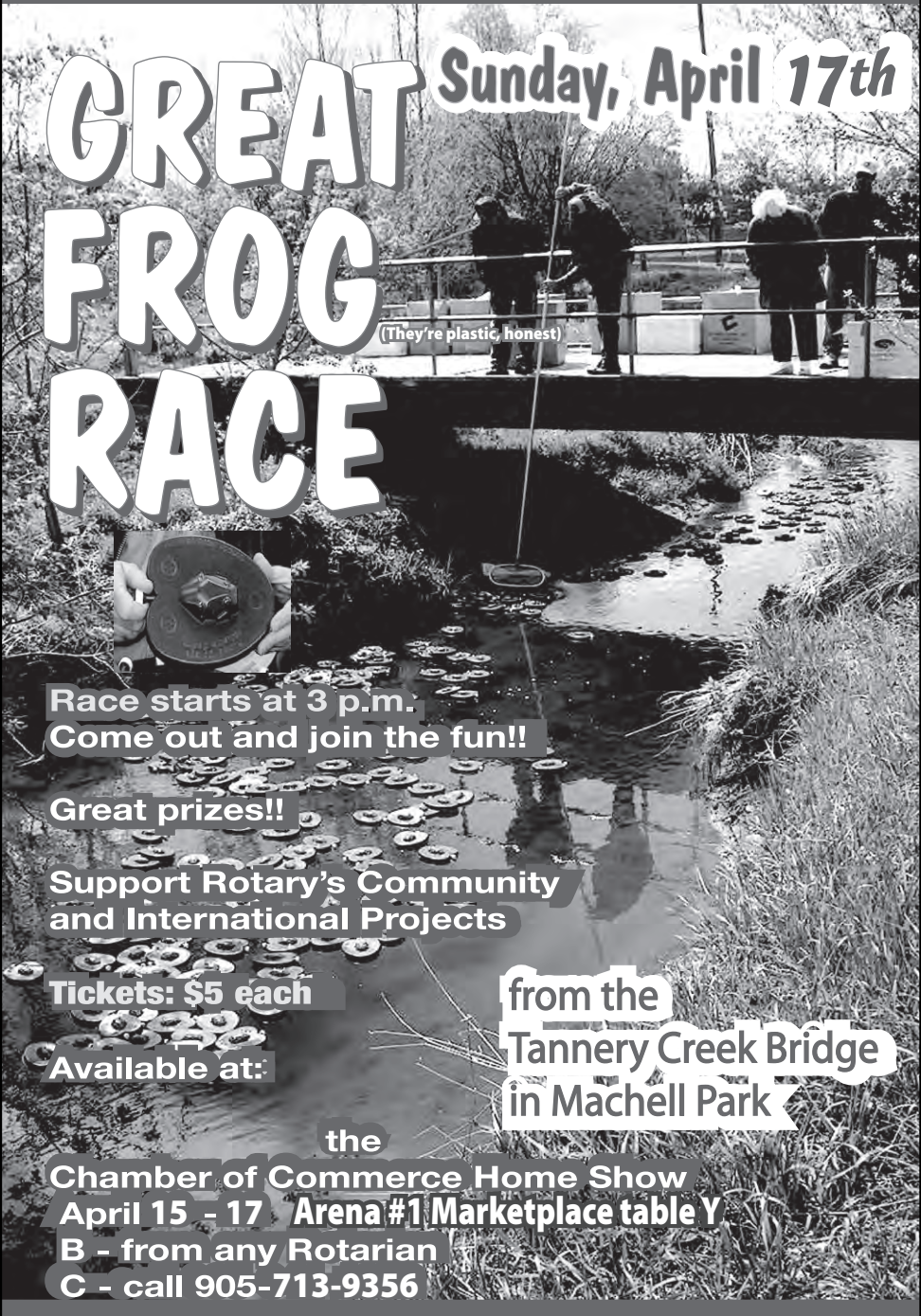
"I guess a few Beatles tunes have helped change the perception of the Prime Minister a little bit," said Ms. Brown. "I think most importantly it is what we've accomplished as a government. I do believe the Prime Minister has shown a softer side through his interaction with his music and actually he is



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Tyke Select A - Whitby 6.
Aurora 1 - Charles Huxley 1G.

Atom AE - Aurora 5.
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Atom AE - Aurora 6. Ajax
1.

Atom AE - Aurora 3.
Richmond Hill 3.

Atom AE - Aurora 1. Acton
0.

Atom AE - Georgina 2.
Aurora 0.

Minor Peewee A - Aurora 10
- Mark Kalmisto 3G 1A, Thomas
Kostoff 3G 2A, Ryan Thornhill 2G
3A, Jack O'Keefe 1G 2A, Stewart
Gable 1G, Alexander Simardone
1A, Max Goldman 1A, Colin
McGoldrick 1A, Matthew
Nitsopoulos 1A, Jordan Torres 2A.
Willowdale 0.

Minor Peewee A - Aurora 1 -
Jack O'Keefe 1G, Mark Kalmisto
1A. **Vaughan Panthers 0.**

Minor Peewee A - Stouffville
3. Aurora 2 - Thomas Kostoff
2G, Jordan Torres 1A, Max
Goldman 1A.

Minor Peewee A - Aurora 2 -
Thomas Kostoff 2G. **Clarkson 0.**

Minor Peewee A - Georgina
2. Aurora 0.

Bantam A - Aurora 2 - Liam
Beresford 2G, Liam Coll 1A.
Caledon Hawks 2.

Bantam A - Aurora 4 - Paul
Neophytou 1G 1A, Evan Jackson
1G, Liam Coll 1G, Austin Persaud
1G, Graham Robinson 2A, Erik
Balkovec 1A, Liam Beresford 1A,
Gabe Oulahan 1A. **Toronto 4.**

Bantam A - Cobourg 4.
Aurora 1 Liam Beresford 1G,
Austin Persaud 1A.

Bantam A - Aurora 4 - Jack
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\$100.00	Late fee effective July 1, 2011
\$ 50.00	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*Tyke players born in 2004 and 2005 must submit a copy of a birth certificate. It is recommended that 2005 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

Fees may be paid in 3 instalments of 1/3 each, dated April 15, 2011, June 15, 2011 and August 15, 2011.

Full refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2011.

Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team.

AMHA tryouts begin April 30, 2011.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

Guaranteed spots are available **ONLY** to players
registered on or before June 30, 2011.
We will not add teams in September
to accommodate late registrants.

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Members of the Priestly Demolition team won the Monday night hockey championship with a 7-5 victory over Copper Creek. Included in the victory are, back row, left to right, Adam Tzarik, Bill Fetherston, Julian Dalcin, Gerry Mackrell and Bill Collings. In the middle row, left to right, are Dave Maybury, Pat Davies, Mark Sedore, Dave Dewulf, Gareth McDonald, Ryan Priestly and Jason Moring. In the front row, sitting and laying on the ice are Phil Podstatzky and Walter Karabin. Scott Pogue is missing from the photo due to injuries. In the consolation game Tom & Jerry's edged FPL Aggregates 3-2.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

New signs will be installed near Sheppard's equipment

Additional signs will be erected near the exercise equipment in Sheppard's Bush in the interests of safety, after concerns were expressed by residents at council earlier this year.

At a presentation in February, Aurora resident Barry Wharton expressed his concerns over the signage and safety of the new exercise equipment, which was installed in Sheppard's Bush in 2009 to replace existing equipment from the early 1980s, something he said was not necessarily desired

by residents.

"The cardiac equipment was not welcomed by anybody but still approved," he said. "Apparently [Aurora's Director of Leisure Services] Al Downey and Brian Kemp of Lake Simcoe were behind this decision."

The equipment, he said, represented unsafe and dangerous conditions and were "totally unsupervised."

Labels and signs outlining the safety risks using the equipment are hard to see, he added.

"Two out of the nine labels

are showing presently where you can see them, and the other seven are on the side," he noted. "Who reads the instructions, not even visible in most cases, not to mention people, kids banging into the steel exterior of those posts and equipment. It should be removed, especially for safety, maybe to an indoor facility where they could be supervised."

"It is very dangerous."

"The soccer field location at Sheppard's Bush is used a lot by kids and a lot by adults, unsus-

pecting, who may not read the labels, and could be doing their heart very much danger and, again, it is not visible where you can see the labels."

Councillors were in receipt of a report addressing Mr. Wharton's concerns at the March 22 general committee meeting, which was ratified by council March 29.

The recommendations in the report called for the fitness equipment to remain in place, but with the addition or more visible "information to users" signs.

In his report, Mr. Downey said there was no significant or unique child safety risks associated with the outdoor fitness equipment.

"In consultation with the equipment representatives, [staff] is of the opinion that the risk of injury is low," he said. "This opinion is based on the fact there are no records or available history of personal injuries that were sustained by any users of the outdoor fitness system and each fitness device has appropriate labelling outlining the use instruction."

That being said, Mr. Downey reiterated that staff believe the existing labelling is sufficient but nevertheless said it would be "appropriate to supplement" the existing signage with the Town's standard signage used at all playground areas.

"The purpose of this signage would include information on appropriate age users, that the equipment is unsupervised and that any use should be restricted to users over the age of 13," he said. "Staff will also consult with our legal services department in determining the final content of these additional signs."

"As such, staff believes that the Heart Beat Fitness Trail Equipment is well within the applicable standards and that there are no undue or increased risks to our park users."



Panthers are champs

Panthers capture gold

Lindsey O'Neill's second period goal was all the offence the Aurora Panthers needed to take the gold medal with a 1-0 win over the Scarborough Sharks in the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial Championship last weekend at York University.

Ashleigh Smith was sharp in the Panther net preserving the win. She looked particularly good late in the third period when the Sharks pressed hard for the tying marker.

"As I've told the girls all season, offense wins games - but defense wins championships," said coach Dan Coldwell. "The quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals were all very close and we didn't give up a goal in any of those three games. That speaks to outstanding goaltending and defense, but also very disciplined play without the puck from our forwards."

The road to the championship saw the Aurora defeat Saugeen-Maitland 2-1, Cambridge 5-0,

Etobicoke 3-1, Haldimand 2-0, Whitby 1-1 and Scarborough 1-0.

So far the team has earned tournament victories in Clearview, St. Catharines, Barrie, Scarborough and the Sarnia Silver Stick.

In addition to the Provincial Gold, they took Silver in the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League Championships.

The team boasted a 61-6-8 record going into their final competition at the Brampton Tournament this weekend.

Swim team attends meet in Etobicoke

The Aurora Selkies Swim Team attended the 2011 Etobicoke Pentathlon swim meet Saturday afternoon at the Etobicoke Olympium.

Thirty Selkies swimmers participated in the meet and achieved many personal best times and Top 10 placements.

Selkies coach Yvonne Cattrell reports that 12 participants achieved "Top 3" place medals in their events:

They included: Carter Derbyshire, 9, 100m Backstroke (9 & Under Boys); 100m Breaststroke (9 & Under Boys); 100m Freestyle (9 & Under Boys), all firsts.

Wilson Derbyshire, 10, 100m Backstroke (10 Boys); 100m Breaststroke (10 Boys); 100m Freestyle (10 Boys), all firsts.

Myko Smid, 10, 100m Butterfly (10 Boys), 1st; 100m Backstroke (10 Boys), 2nd, 100m Breaststroke (10 Boys), 2nd, 100m Freestyle (10 Boys), 2nd.

Evan Holtby, 9, 100m Backstroke (9 & Under Boys) and 100m Freestyle

(9 & Under Boys), two 2nds.

Diego Carvalho, 9, 100m Breaststroke (9 & Under Boys), 3rd.

Valentin Sasarman, 11, 100m Freestyle (11 Boys) 3rd.

Megan Sidor, 9, 100m Breaststroke (9 & Under Girls), 1st; 100m Backstroke (9 & Under Girls) 100 Freestyle (9 & Under Girls), two 2nds.

Cassidy Whitmore, 8, 100m Backstroke (9 & Under Girls) 1st; 100m Freestyle (9 & Under Girls) 3rd.

Domenika Tinajero, 10, 100m Backstroke (10 Girls) 2nd; 100m Freestyle (10 Girls) 3rd.

Emilia Tinajero, 8, 100m Breaststroke (9 & Under Girls) 2nd.

Lauren Hemburrow, 10, 100m Breaststroke (10 Girls) 3rd.

Veronica Balzan, 9, 100m Breaststroke (9 & Under Girls) 3rd.

The Selkies Swim Team will attend the 2011 Hollandia Spring Invitational meet May 13-15 in London, Ontario.

Twenty-six qualified swimmers will participate.



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Senior Scape

Every Friday, the sewing group of ladies get together to sew a variety of projects for Aurora Seniors Association sales and for their own projects and in doing so also have some laughter and fun. Kitchen stove towels, wine bottle vests are some of their projects.

Their Easter projects are material Easter baskets and Easter Eggs with a stuffed chicken inside, all hand-made. These will be going on sale April 13th as long as quantities last.

Members are encouraged to participate in the fun with the sewing group.

Some recent refurbishing to our Pool Room snooker tables have shown some excellent improvements in the playing surfaces on the two large snooker tables.

The pool players are very appreciative and are a very happy group again and are thankful to the Board of Directors for approving this expenditure.

All members of the ASA are welcome to come in and play a game of pool.

Tuesday Night Movies at the Seniors centre continues to be a very popular evening out.

Movies start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and are shown on the big screen in the lounge.

Refreshments and treats are included (nominal fee applies).

Names of some of the movies are: April 12th The Tourist, April 19th The King's Speech, April 26th Little Fockers.

The Computer Club has organized a Digital cameras session by Tom Yates Tuesday, April 26th from 10 a.m. to noon.

Interested members should send up to three digital photos to, computer@auroraseniors.ca by Wednesday evening, April 20th.

We'll look and talk about as many as we have time for.

Photos should be sent as

attachments, recommended size: 200dpi and 1200px on the long side.

If time permits Tom will consider at least one aspect of taking pictures with a digital camera.

We would like to extend an open invitation to all the candidates running in the Federal election in the Newmarket/Aurora riding to a "Meet and Greet" session at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

This would be an opportu-

Sew much fun

By CHARLES SEQUEIRA

nity for the Seniors to get a clear understanding on related issues.

We encourage the respective Candidate's campaign office to please contact our Seniors Coordinator, Karie Papillon at 905-727-3123.ext 3610 to schedule a day and time that is convenient to you.

Taping of the Royal Wedding will be shown on our big screen in the lounge on Friday, April 29th starting at 11 a.m.

Seating is limited and will be on a first come basis.

Our Next Friday night dance is on April 15th not April 18th as mentioned in our last week's column. Hope to see you all there!!

On behalf of the Character Community Foundation of York Region, we wish to congratulate Charles Sequeira on being nominated for the Citizens of Character - Senior Award by Steve Hinder.

This award recognizes individuals in York Region who have demonstrated positive character attributes in their surroundings and/or community.

Lucille and I will be attending the Awards Celebration at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts Wednesday, April 27.

I am very Honoured to be nominated for this award and thank Steve Hinder for recognizing my voluntary contributions to our community.

Aurora-based artist has exhibit at Centre

The Aurora Cultural Centre opened a new exhibit featuring the work of Aurora-based artist Lillian Michiko Blakey last Tuesday and art lovers will have a chance to get up close and personal with the artist in a reception and "artist walk and talk" on Saturday, April 16.

"Lillian Michiko Blakey's fascinating - and moving - family story infuses this entire exhibition," said Jane Taylor, the Cultural Centre's Program Coordinator. "[During the Second World War] people of Japanese descent living in British Columbia were forced by the Canadian government to leave their homes and possessions behind, and were evacuated either to the interior of BC or to work on farms in Alberta.

"Michiko Blakey's family chose Alberta in order to stay together; her parents toiled in sugar beet fields for 10 exhausting years."

From Ms. Blakey's perspective, the exhibition, entitled "Who Am I? In Search of an Answer" is very much a personal journey, reflecting her "need to come to terms" with being a Japanese Canadian during the Second World War.

"I needed to undertake this search to confront and overcome the feelings of shame and dishonour which all Japanese Canadians experienced, even long after the calamity had passed," said Ms. Blakey in a statement. "This exhibition explores identity issues of the Sansei, third-generation Japanese-Canadians whose families were isolated from their community.

"I hope that my memories and the experiences of my people have a universal aspect. The suffering is not

over for any people, and we are all called upon to follow the hard road towards self-hood."

Who Am I? is spread over the Cultural Centre's two main-level galleries and runs until April 30.

"The artist walk and talk will provide a valuable insight into Michiko Blakey's experience growing up and how it shaped her artistic process," said Ms. Taylor. "The public is warmly invited to attend this day; complementary refreshments will be on hand."

Visitors to Ms. Blakey's exhibit will also have the opportunity to view the works of eight-year-old local artist Angel Antonio-Waskul.

As The Auroran reported last week, three of Angel's pieces will be on display near the reception area of the Cultural Centre to raise money for Japanese earthquake relief through the Canadian Red Cross.

"I was very excited to have the opportunity to actually hang this young man's work and help him raise funds for Red Cross," said Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre.

"What I found quite interesting [when talking to Angel] is that her son has always been more sort of arts minded rather than sports minded and this is sort of a great place for him to encourage and nurture his artistic spirit. We want to give him a leg up that way, plus the fact that it is his initiative to raise these funds. It is very cool.

"What I have committed to at this stage is to hang Angel's work in the hallway close to the reception area so volunteers and staff can talk to people about it," she said.

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