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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 12 No. 14 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of January 31, 2012




Brian Feddema, owner of Round the Bend Farm, hits the dance floor with his daughter Rachel on Friday night. Brian, his wife Sue, and their family were guests of honour at Raising the Barn 4 Round the Bend Farm, a fundraiser for the Kettleby landmark which was damaged in a blaze. The event at The Manor at Carrying Place was a sell-out, attracting over 400 revellers and well wishers from Aurora, King, Newmarket, and beyond. Please see page 22.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

YRT Buses could be on the road by Saturday

By Brock Weir

York Region buses could be rolling as early as Saturday after the end of the over-three month transit strike last week.

With new deals in place, York Region Transit is weighing a number of factors to determine which routes go back online first in a phased-in rollout. An announcement of which routes will be restored, and when, is expected this week.

By last Thursday it appeared the nearly 100 day strike was coming to a close. The first domino to fall was the ratification of an agreement with Veolia Transportation, an operator for YRT service, followed by the adoption of a new service contract for TOK Transit for YRT and Viva. The new contract with

TOK came after the Region terminated its contract with First Canada, which operated 29 Viva and YRT routes in York Region's northern tier.

Some details of the new contracts include the companies absorbing 75 per cent of benefit costs, up from a 50/50 co-payment arrangement, additional sick days ("a whopping four sick days annually", said a union rep), and a 10.8 per cent wage increase over four years for workers in Veolia's Viva operations.

"If you simply just look at the annual increases and you put that aside and look at the underlying issues - the working conditions, the hours of work, the lack of medical benefits, the lack of sick days - there were a lot of issues under-

Please see page 7

Aurora tax bills to rise 2.42%

By Brock Weir

Aurorans are facing a 4.77 per cent tax hike after the 2012 Draft Budget was finally approved at committee level last week.

If the budget is given final approval unchanged at Council on February 14, when combined and weighted with tax rate pressures from the Region of York, Aurorans will see an overall 2.42 increase on their annual tax bill for 2012.

Councillors went into their final budget deliberation meeting on Monday, January 23 with the Town's portion of the tax rate sitting at 5.18 per cent after additions and removals dating back to the first meeting on November 28.

Items removed from the 2012

budget include \$8,500 for the municipality's Employee Recognition Awards, a cost reduction in benefits for Town employees by \$139,500 and, as The Auroran reported last week, a reduction of \$100,000 by delaying funds to combat the emerald ash borer beetle for another year or two.

Deleting a \$125,200 contribution to Aurora's capital reserves, however, proved the last item removed on Monday night, knocking that 5.18 per cent down to 4.77.

"My rationale is we put together a great program to help us get our reserves onto the healthier side," said Councillor Michael Thompson who moved that the \$125,200 be removed. "We seem to be

Please see page 11



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COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 11

Theatre Aurora presents The Laramie Project written by Moises Kaufman and directed by Sergio Calderon. The show runs January 27, 28, February 2 to February 5, and February 8 through February 11. Tickets are available now from the Theatre Aurora website at www.theatreaurora.com, by phone at 905-727-3669 or by email taboxoffice@bellnet.ca. In addition to the performance, each performance night of The Laramie project will feature karaoke in the lobby before each show. Performances on January 8, February, 2, 3, 8, and 10 will feature a question and answer session between the cast, crew and audience.

JANUARY 28 - APRIL 22

Kleinburg's McMichael Gallery presents The McMichael Tree Project, a celebration of the artistic, cultural, and natural aspects of the tree with two breathtaking exhibitions, special installations, and a variety of programs. The programs start today and conclude on Earth Day, April 22. The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is located at 10365 Islington Avenue in Kleinburg. For more information call 905-893-1121.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Aurora Public Library presents Money Talks: Financial Planning in RRSP Season at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Admission is free. To pre-register, call 905-727-9493 and select option 4. You can also email fryork-mon-eytalks@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SchoolHOUSE Concert at the Aurora Cultural Centre, featuring vocalist Judy Marshak, whose CD A Matter of Time was chosen by JAZZ FM91 as one of their "Favourite Releases of 2009." With a charming combination of jazz standards and classic pop (from Bill Withers to Henry Mancini), and a voice compared to the Norah Jones, Marshak and her popular ukelele accompaniment promise a relaxing evening of music in the heart of Aurora. Tickets, \$15 plus HST - light refreshments included; available in advance or at the door. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The Writers Community of York Region presents author Bruce William Prowe, described as one of our finest cultural commentators by the Toronto Star. He will be sharing his journey of writing books of thoughts, essays and fiction (long and short) at our monthly meeting today. Registration begins at 12.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Cost to Writers Community members is \$20, while \$25 to non-members. Lunch is provided.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Roch Carrier, author of the famous children's book The Hockey Sweater will speak and hold a book signing at St. Andrew's College tonight at 7.30 p.m. The free event is open to the public and will include a reception at 6.30 and a book signing before and after event. Some of the topics Mr. Carrier will be addressing in his presentation include the benefits of bilingualism, the art of storytelling and personal anecdotes from his long and successful career as a writer. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favourite hockey sweater and bring books to sign. Copies may be purchased as well. RSVP at www.sac.on.ca.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Story Quilts: The Threads That Bind Us. A 40 Year Retrospective of Angela Krotowski in the Blue & Red Galleries. From traditional heritage-inspired designs, to contemporary commentaries, this collection of over 40 quilts gives voice to one woman's connection to the stories of her Canadian home. Artist Reception March 10, 1 - 4 p.m.; all welcome. Continues through until March 31; Gallery Hours Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m. and during special events. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Under Sacred Skies; panoramic oil paintings by Michael Fromowitz in the Great Hall Gallery. Artist Reception February 18, 1 - 4 p.m.; all welcome. Continues through until May 5; Gallery Hours Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m. and during special events; free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The Aurora Seniors' Association will host Men Can Cook.

The Mardi Gras Charity Casino will be held tonight at The Mansion at 400 Industrial Parkway South. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information contact Gerry Miller at 416-931-5863.

FEBRUARY 11 - 12

The York Symphony Orchestra is excited to present The Grand Tour, a pair of concerns based on what used to be a rite of passage for many young Europeans up to the early 20th century. The concerns present a flavour of Europe including pieces from the Austrian Mozart, the German Wagner, works from Spain including the work of Manuel de Falla, as well as music from Finland and Romania. February 11 concert will take place at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church at 8 p.m. and the following evening at 7.30 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Tickets for the Aurora performance are available by calling 416-410-0860.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents local historian John McIntyre with the illustrated heritage lecture "Antique Furniture From 19th-century Ontario." 7 p.m. start. Admission by donation gratefully received; complimentary light refreshments provided. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the first of four concerts in the 2012 Great Artists Piano Series, featuring great Canadian pianist Andre Leplante. Solo piano program will include works by Haydn,

Liszt, Ravel, and Bach. Doors open at 7 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. General admission seating. Subscriptions for all four concerts: \$95 for adults, \$80 for seniors and students. Individual tickets for each concert \$30 adult, \$25 seniors and students plus HST. Fully accessible building. For info please call 905 713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Family day at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drop by and create some fun heritage crafts, tour the historical buildings and visit the gift shop. A great experience for the whole family! Admission: \$2 per youth. 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

John McIntyre will lead a heritage discussion entitled "Antique Furniture from 19th Century Ontario" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. Furniture from pioneer Ontario to the days of the Industrial Revolution. Audience members are invited to also bring along questions about their own furniture. Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Bowl for Kids Sake 2012 will take place today at the Gateway Café and Lanes at 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Five and 10 Pin lanes are available. Call 905-716-2149 for more information. Pledge forms, location maps, fundraising tips and event updates can be found online at www.bbbsy.ca.

Aurora Farmer's Market at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Favourite market vendors with a wide selection of produce, bakery fare, jams & jellies, artisan goods - and more! Free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance.

History Hands-On (H2O) in Winter at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. 12 noon - 4 p.m. Visit the Log Cabin and try your hand at some Pioneer chores. Help prepare treats in the Farmhouse kitchen and complete your lessons on a slate in the 19th century classroom. Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted. 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley.

Residents are invited to participate in the Freezin' for a Reason Polar Dip to raise money to protect the Lake Simcoe Watershed. Participants must raise at least \$200 per person in pledges or \$600 for a team of four. Organizers promise awards for top fundraising individuals and teams, as well as for the "zaniest individual and team costume." To sign up, visit www.lakesimcoefoundation.ca and click on Events. The goal is to raise at least \$150,000 to "ensure our air, land and water are cleaner and greener for future generations to enjoy."

MONDAY, MARCH 12

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK - SUPER SCIENCE from 2 - 2.45 p.m. in the Magna Room. Bubbling potions, air pressure experiments, cool chemical reactions and more! Come out for this Super Science program that will both entertain and educate children. Ages 7+. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK -MUSIC WITH RUSS! from 10 - 10.45 a.m. in the Magna Room. Join Russ Clayton for a family-fun concert! Russ will sing and play instruments, making this an upbeat, high tempo musical adventure for families! Ages: Families. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK - MAGIC SHOW: I LOVE TO READ! from 2 - 2.45 p.m. in the Magna Room. Join "Lofty" in this magical and entertaining show! A blend of magic, juggling, storytelling, jokes and of course participation, children will have a hollering good time. Ages 6+. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK -CINDY COOK FROM POLKA DOT DOOR from 10 - 10.45 a.m. in the Magna Room. The Sing and Spell Show with Cindy Cook from Polka Dot Door. In this musical participation concert, Cindy will use puppets, songs, spelling games, riddles and different languages to show children that reading is FUN! Ages 3-6. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

The Aurora Public Library presents MARCH BREAK -ANIMALS @ THE LIBRARY from 10 - 11 a.m. in the Magna Room. WHIMZ Animal Fun! Join us for this fun, dynamic and educational presentation about the animals you may or may not see in your backyard! What animals will WHIMZ bring? Come and see for yourself! Ages 7+. Free tickets are available in advance by contacting Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Jacqueline Stuart will lead a heritage discussion entitled "The Worst Place Inside the Corporation" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. Where in Aurora could this building - and area - possibly be? Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

The Aurora Public Library presents MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS from 7 - 8 p.m. In the Middle Ages, stained glass windows decorated churches and cathedrals. The light streams through in different colours for a beautiful glow. In this exciting workshop, we will replicate stained glass by using tissue paper to create our own Medieval windows. Ages 7+. Registration is

\$7.50. For more information contact Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x208 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Bob McRoberts will lead a heritage discussion entitled "Postcards of Old Aurora: The McRoberts Collection" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. A digital unveiling of his vast and unique collection of local postcards, alongside current photos. Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

The Aurora United Church will hold its Spring Rummage sale today from 1- 8 p.m. with today being the individual sale. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

The Aurora United Church continues its Spring Rummage sale - this time its bag sale - today from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

2nd annual "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" dinner dance will be held at the Mansion (formerly Dinardo's) tonight. A website www.iloverockandroll.ca is also up and running for further information. Tickets are available now by calling 905-727-8600 and expected to sell out fast so if you are planning to attend and don't want to be disappointed, get your tickets soon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Ron Wallace will lead a heritage discussion entitled "How the Word Got Around: A Historical Look at Local Newspapers" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. A glimpse into past days of news media in Aurora - from an expert in the field. Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

The 2012 Upper Canada Mall Easter Seals 10k Run and 5k Run & Walk will take place today in a new location - the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons in Downtown Newmarket and is expected to draw nearly 1,000 participants. The new venue located on Doug Duncan Drive offers a beautiful, flat and scenic run course through Fairy Lake Park and the Tom Taylor Trail System. For more information visit www.eastersealsrun.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Doane House Hospice will hold its third annual Unique Craft and Gift Show today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Newmarket Community Centre (200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket). For more information, call 905-967-0259.

CONTINUING

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS people, hence the name Probus. It is a fun fellowship with well-chosen speakers. New memberships are welcome. For more information call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society is always looking for new members of all ages. Monthly meetings with guest speakers are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. (youth meet at 6 p.m.) at the Royal Canadian legion in Aurora. For more information call Cindy at 905-713-6660.

York Regional Police Venturers have openings for boys and girls aged 14 to 17. Police Venturers meet every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 240 Prospect Street, 1 District police station community room. This is a joint program between York Regional Police and Scouts Canada. There is a Scouts Canada membership fee. Service uniforms are provided. High school students can earn community service hours through the program. If interested visit a meeting. For further information visit York Regional Police

Please see page 18

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The George Browning House, pictured above on Sunday, currently sits on Yonge Street near Reuben. It is set to be demolished to make way for a new Montessori school with access from Yonge Street. Councillors adopted a recommendation from the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee last week to remove the building's heritage designation paving the way for demolition. Auroran photo by David Falconer.

It's the end of the line for the Browning House

By Brock Weir

The George Browning House on Yonge Street just north of Reuben was given its marching papers on Tuesday.

Town Council approved 7-2 to allow the demolition of the historic home to make way for a new Montessori School development after a lengthy final debate at the table.

The building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2009 at the request of the owner who intended to refurbish the building for the school and use an adjoining laneway for vehicle access. Council previously, however, blocked the use of the laneway for that purpose and the owners applied to have the heritage designation removed to demolish the building, making way for access from Yonge Street.

Their request to have the property delisted was approved

by the Heritage Advisory Committee last month and the demolition was approved by Council at the committee level after an equally lengthy discussion on January 17. By the time Councillor Chris Ballard moved to give the building a reprieve and send it back to the Heritage Advisory committee last Tuesday to get a different recommendation, it was clear that some Councillors were growing weary with the building's fate.

"It has been to committee, it has been to public planning, it has been to general committee, and unless I hear something new...I don't see the rationale to putting it back down to committee," said Councillor John Gallo.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Ballard said that he wanted assurances the Heritage Advisory Committee knew "what their rights and abil-

ities are under current legislation with regards to this designated historic property" in order to "fully understand what their authority is [to preserve a] very rare, historic, and valuable piece of property in this Town.

"As chair [of the Heritage Advisory Committee] I find those comments quite concerning," said Councillor Sandra Humfries. "[Committee members] knew clearly what they were voting for and the rights relative to this serious topic. I will not vote to defer because I think everyone clearly knows what their responsibilities were in that session and we heard clearly what those issues were."

Councillor Ballard's motion to defer failed with only him and Councillor Wendy Gaertner voting in favour of it, but he pressed on, noting the house scored a 91.2 out of a possible

100 points under heritage significance evaluations. He added he saw the decision to knock it down as "breathtaking."

"Our responsibility, while we have responsibility to businesses and developers in this Town, we also have a greater responsibility to the community at large to preserve our heritage," he said. "To knock it down is something that is, quite frankly, awful. People will look back on this decision of Council to allow the destruction of a heritage property in shock and there is just no way I am going to vote to allow that property to be demolished."

Setting aside her role as Councillor for a moment, Evelyn Buck said that as a member of the public she would have no qualms looking back on the decision of Council

Please see page 17

Mayors get ready for Southlake run

York Region's mayors could be cutthroat in the weeks ahead as they battle to take home the cup in the A & B Courier run for Southlake.

The Mayors – including Aurora's Geoff Dawe – gathered at the York Region's municipal headquarters in Newmarket Thursday morning to take up the challenge on who can raise the most money with their teams in the fundraiser, which was formerly known as the Hartwell Run – and put their best foot forward.

"The goal is to make sure the cup comes to Aurora," said Mayor Dawe at the kickoff. "We have our best person on it – [Councillor] Sandra Humfries is the person behind organizing the team and getting everybody signed up. She is very enthusiastic and does a great job.

The A & B Courier Run or Walk for Southlake takes place April 29 at the Aurora Community Centre. According to Southlake Regional Health Centre, the challenge is a win-win for everyone as the winning team gets "bragging rights for the year and the residents of York Region benefit from the important hospital projects supported by the Run, like a new MRI unit and an upgraded Interventional Radiology Suite," said Carrie Gabla of the Southlake Regional Health Centre foundation.

In the meantime, the Mayors are warming up for what promises to be a battle of honour and pride. Mayor Dawe, however, said he has his work cut out for him.

"I'm trying to walk more and trying to get some exercise in before the run which is proving difficult!" he said.

The former Hartwell Run was named after the late long-time community advocate and avid runner Bob Hartwell, who also served on Aurora Council. Mr. Hartwell died in October 2001 while doing the Toronto International Marathon.

For more information on how to register yourself, your team, or make a pledge, visit www.runforsouthlake.ca.



York Region Mayors kick off the competition at the York Regional Offices on Thursday.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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Briefly

ARCTIC ADVENTURE

A number of activities are planned in and around Aurora to mark Family Day on February 20 – including the 2012 Arctic Adventure, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Town Park. All events are weather permitting and, at press time, were scheduled to include outdoor public skating, Siberian husky dogsled rides, professional ice carving, games including a hockey shoot-out, ice fishing and face painting, snowshoeing, the making of a real igloo and live entertainment featuring the Aurora Teen Idols and McLaughlin & Friends.

TOWN SEEKS TREE INPUT

Aurora Council voted to take the first steps strengthening its tree protection measures last week. Measures could include tighter regulations for the number of trees residents can remove from their properties and restrictions on tree removal for golf courses. The Town, however, is seeking public comment on the Draft Tree Permit Bylaw. To make your feelings known, visit www.aurora.ca/drafttreebylaw. Submissions will be received until April 3.

POLICE BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIR

Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti has been appointed the new Board Chair for the Regional Municipality of York Police Services. He was named to the post on January 25. He has served on the Board since 2007. Barbara Bartlett was re-elected Vice Chair of the Board, having been first appointed in 2008 and elected Vice Chair in November 2010, and again in January 2011. Mayor Scarpitti replaces Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler as Board Chair. He had served in the post since 2007.

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Brock's Banter

By BROCK WEIR

Pumpkins, privies, and Diamonds

When nearly 400 patrons and friends of the fire damaged 'Round the Bend Farm turned out at The Manor last week to "Raise the Barn", each person had their own story of their time on the Kettleby property.

The Mayor of King Township was right - the Farm is a landmark not just for people in this area, but for people beyond York Region. If one passes it at the right time of year for the very first time, the colourful scarecrows, hay bale sculptures, and orange pumpkins growing just a hop, skip and a jump from the road ensure that it will become a landmark for them as well.

The green and eventually orange orbs were certainly what caught my eye the first time I rounded the bend. Cut me some slack - I was young and sat low in the car. We often passed Round the Bend on our way to the 400 to visit my grandmother who then lived in Etobicoke. Having a keen eye for pumpkins after winning a 200-pounder in a car dealership contest guessing its correct weight, I fancied myself a pumpkin aficionado and asked to stop on the way back from the city. That wasn't about to happen so we struck a deal for the following weekend.

And so we went - and I felt my very first warty pumpkin and never looked back. Since then it has been a point of destination nearly every fall season after that.

Passing the farm is a good barometer of the season. The increasing hustle and bustle at the farm is a good way to tell spring is nigh. The fields getting progressively greener indicates for some that summer is coming to an end - or the inevitable start of school is closing in on you. The green on the fields is matched by the green on the trees and as the trees turn orange signalling the start of autumn so too do the fields. When the orange on the fields harvested, carved, or painted, you know it's the last hurrah of fall before settling in for the long Canadian winter.

The seasons come and go but 'Round the Bend remains and judging from the 400-strong crowd at The Manor on Friday night, Aurora, Newmarket, King, Bradford, and East Gwillimbury wouldn't want it any other way.

Owners Brian and Sue Feddema told crowds assembled in their honour that this week's expected arrival of a roof for their new barn as the starting anew. But for many I suspect it will be the continuation of a great tradition. The fact the first new barn is being built on the foundations of one of the originals is not merely coincidental.

When one attends Council and General Committee meetings week after week, you often get asked to give a brief recap to people the next day before you sit down to recap it for readers. After mentioning to someone that from the press box one could see the shoulders of more than one Councillor almost shudder at the mere mention of "salt," they asked why. It seemed plain to me, but it got me thinking - if you happen across a broadcast of the regular Council meetings or stumble into the Council chamber (if you're lost or have nothing better to do) it might be a good idea to have a primer for people jumping in midstream.

Below is the first instalment of a handy guide. Sometimes if you hear key phrases you can tell very quickly what is going on:

"Camel Climber, Two-Humped" - You're not watching a commercial for the Metro Toronto Zoo or a minimalist amateur production of Lawrence of Arabia. What's most likely going on is another battle to remove or preserve a piece of playground equipment that is either a great community asset or a death trap...depending on who you ask.

Equine Metaphors - Are you hearing "The horse has left the stable" or "Putting the cart before the horse"? Councillors are either washing their hands on a project or wanting to rein in a project, often involving consultants. Saddle up, folks. As soon as one phrase is uttered by one Councillor, the rest are chomping at the bit.

"Just for Clarification" - a Councillor is on a roll and wants to keep the momentum going. Or put the brakes on somebody else.

"Point of Order" - See above.

"Salt" - More likely than not, what is transpiring is a discussion about salt used to melt ice finding its way into water courses and whether or not it can be removed from water. This is liable to be a long one, folks, so get comfortable.

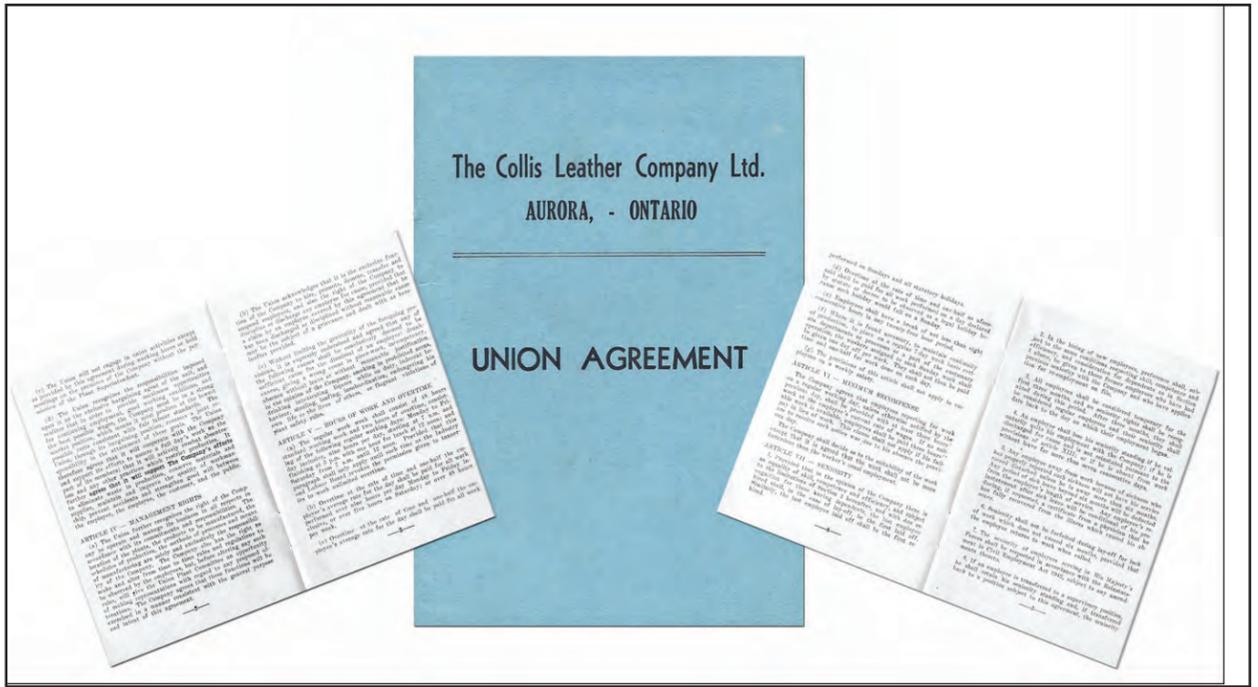
"Snow" - Snow is a fact of life, but if you flip onto Rogers and hear the word "snow" used in a raised or questionable tone of voice, chances are the discussions do not relate to weather conditions but Aurora's oft-mentioned, long-proposed, but yet-to-materialize snow disposal site at Lambert Willson Park.

"Snow Dump" - A less eloquent, but equally used term for the snow disposal area.

"That doesn't sound right." - Something with an unfortunate title is being discussed to the weakly disguised glee of Councillors. (See: Two Humped Camel Climber)

"Three Hole Privy" - Did a Councillor request a five minute recess to answer nature's call? No. You've almost definitely stumbled into a discussion about the Petch House, a building about to keel over, or sticking a heritage designation on something in Town. (Related: Blight, Eyesore)

This Monday, February 6, marks the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, her 60th anniversary on the throne. All next month the space on the top right of the page will illustrate how Aurora celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 115 years ago and subsequent events related to both jubilee queens.



SPEAKING OF LABOUR AGREEMENTS...

The documents above form a 1945 handbook outlining a labour agreement between factory workers represented by the National Union of Shoe and Leather Workers Local 27 and Aurora's Collis Leather. It outlines the responsibilities of the union and employer including management rights, hours of work and overtime, minimum wage, seniority, grievance procedures, safety and health, and arbitration.

"The Company agrees that employees reporting for work on a regular working day, unless otherwise notified by the previous day, shall be provided with at least three hours' work at the employee's current rate of wages," reads the agreement. "If no suitable work is available, employees shall be paid three hours' pay in lieu of work. This clause shall not apply if his failure to receive notice was due to his absence the previous day. The company shall decide as to the suitability of the work except that it is agreed that the work shall not be more hazardous than the worker's usual employment.

"Without limiting the generality of the foregoing provisions, it is expressly understood and agreed that any of the following clauses shall be conclusively deemed to be sufficient cause for the dismissal of an employee: drunkenness; giving a wrong count in piece-work; incompetency; absence without leave or without reasonable justification in the opinion of the Company; smoking in prohibited areas; drinking intoxicating liquors while on duty; indecent behaviour; stealing; loafing; insubordination; endangering his own life or the lives of others; or flagrant violation of plant safety rules."

To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to letters@auroran.com

Letters to the Editor

We live in a Dysfunctional Society: Reader

To the editor:

The present transit labour conflict in York Region illustrates that our society is dysfunctional.

The YRT has been privatized and the local governments are bickering as to who has the legal authority or the moral right to get the conflict settled. It seems the transit companies, which have been given the contracts by our local municipal government are penny pinching and telling the striking bus drivers that they cannot really offer them any better wages now.

For over three months,

one of Ontario's largest municipalities and also one of the wealthiest the population has been without public transit. It seems that the students, workers and senior citizens who rely on public transit for commuting that they just do not matter. We need to get people back onto the buses and somebody out there needs to step up to the plate and offer some leadership! Is anybody listening?

A tax rebate should be mailed out to the tax payers in York Region, since these important public services have been not been available to us!

Maybe a tea party of a different sort is needed in York Region!

Jim Jackson
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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Deputy Mayor thanks Aurora for Salvation Army Support

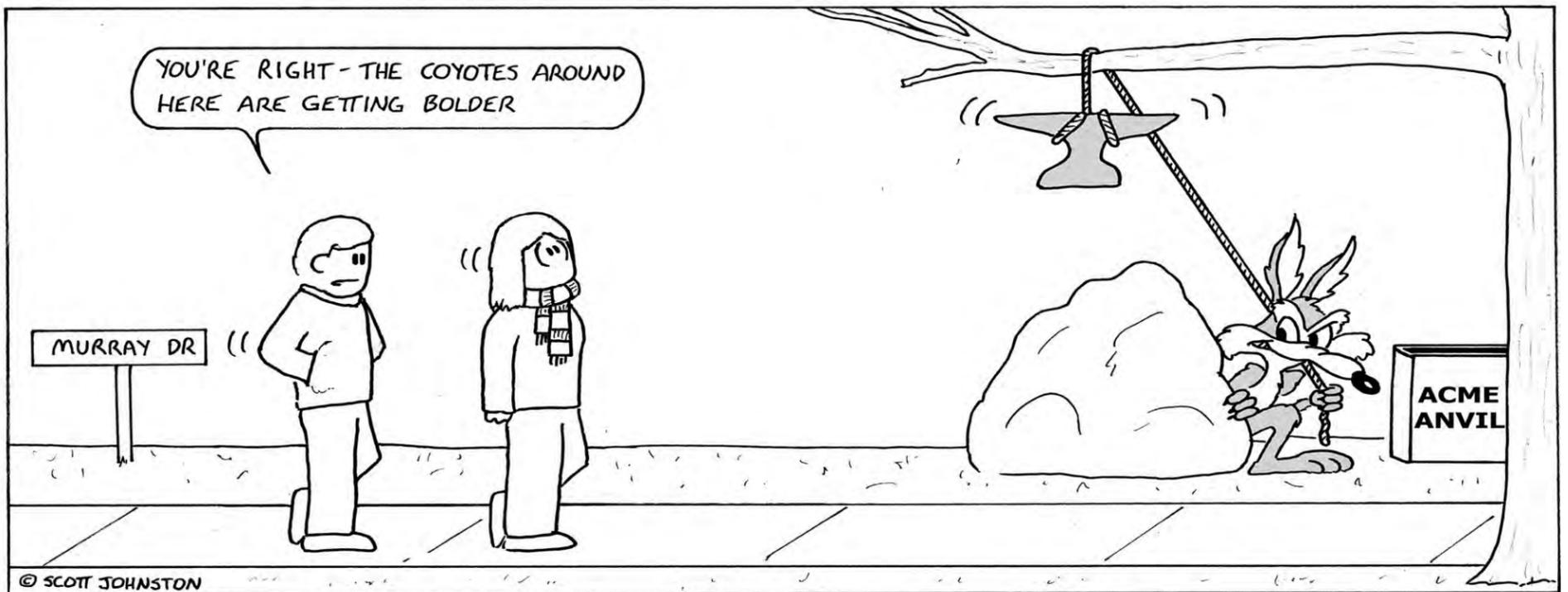
To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who staffed the Salvation Army Kettles in Aurora, to the stores who allowed us to use their premises, and to the staff of Corporate and Financial Services, Info Aurora and Neighbourhood

Network who, without any of their help, the sum of \$51,938.16 would not have been realised.

I would also like to thank all those who gave so generously to help those less fortunate in our community.

John Abel
Deputy Mayor, Aurora



Frankly Speaking

By FRANK KLEES
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

I often get asked what kind of issues I get called about as MPP. My response is always the same. If you can think of it, I get called about it.

Coyotes in Aurora !

I must admit that even after 16 years of taking calls from constituents about everything from school yard bullying to gaps in health care and countless other provincial issues, I was caught off guard when I started to get calls and emails about...coyotes!

One thing I've learned in my time in public office is never to minimize a call from a constituent. It is understood that every call is important and demands our attention. That's why, when we started hearing about encounters with coyotes, I felt compelled to take their concerns seriously.

Coyote Public Information Meeting

As the calls continued to come in, I contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources to advise them of residents' concerns. After a very informative discussion with John Almond, the MNR Area Supervisor, I realized that two things needed to happen. One, residents needed to be informed about the habits and behaviour of coyotes and what they can do to avoid conflicts with these animals. Second, the MNR needed to hear from residents about their encounters with coyotes to ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

Mayor and Local Media Was Responsive

Most of the calls I had received were from Aurora residents, so I called Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe to let him know of my plans to host a public information meeting with the MNR on the coyote issue. I want to thank him for his assistance in facilitating the meeting at the Aurora Town Hall on very short notice.

My next call was to our local media to alert them to the

issue. I want to thank The Auroran for the story it carried that not only helped raise public awareness of the issue, but also helped to get the word out about the public information meeting.

Standing Room Only...

Despite the short notice, more than 200 people attended what proved to be a most informative meeting. MNR biologist John Pipasio gave a compelling presentation on coyotes, their habitat, behaviour and valuable advice on how to avoid coyote conflicts. A summary of the key points of the MNR presentation can be found on my website.

Avoiding Coyote Conflicts

What the MNR made clear is coyotes are here to stay, and it's up to us to learn how to live with them and avoid conflicts.

"In almost every case where coyotes are found to be aggressive towards humans, our research has shown that someone was feeding them" said Mr. Pipasio. His message was clear.

Never feed coyotes!

Feeding coyotes makes them less fearful of humans and habituates them to foods provided by humans. Once they identify humans as a source of food, they will approach them looking for food and when it's not made available, anything can happen.

Another stern warning:

Don't let pets chase coyotes. Chances are that the pet will not fare well. Cats are especially vulnerable.

Finally, if you happen to encounter a coyote, here's some practical advice:

- 1) **Never approach the animal;**
- 2) **Do not turn your back or attempt to run from a coyote;**
- 3) **Back away from the coyote while remaining**

calm;

4) **Stand tall, wave your hands and make lots of noise;**

5) **If walking or jogging at night in areas frequented by coyotes, carry a flashlight to scare them off.**

And if a coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, CALL 911!

Next steps resulting from the Information Meeting:

1) MNR recommended that municipalities post signs in areas where coyotes are known to frequent. Mayor Dawe agreed to follow up on this advice.

2) I requested that the MNR keep a record of calls from residents reporting aggressive coyote behavior in order to track their location and to ascertain what further steps may be necessary to ensure the safety of residents;

3) The MNR advised that No Feed By-laws are in place in many municipalities. As the feeding of coyotes is a major contributing factor to their aggressive behaviour towards humans, I would encourage Aurora and Newmarket Councils to implement similar By-laws.

MNR Hotline to report coyotes exhibiting aggressive behaviour:

Call 905-713-7400 and select (5) to speak to the agent. Ask the agent to make note of your call for tracking purposes as recommended by your MPP.

I want to thank the MNR for agreeing to attend the meeting on very short notice and for delivering such an informative presentation. Much was accomplished by simply providing factual information and advice to residents about an issue that may otherwise have caused unnecessary and unfounded concern.

As always, I welcome your comments and advice. Please call me at 905-750-0019 or visit my website at www.frankklees.com.



Inside Aurora

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

This is the fourth in what has become a continuing series, because there are just so many unanswered questions in Aurora, such as ...

Do other towns snicker when they hear that Aurora's tagline is "Urine You're in Good Company"?

Does anyone else find ironic that Aurora's ponds are frequently drained and graded to make way for development, which usually includes spending millions of dollars to re-create these catchment ponds to better filter runoff?

Was the Aurora Street Sale renamed the Aurora Street Festival due to the former's unfortunate acronym?

With the town so diligent in burying all its hydro wires over the years to assist in the beautification of the city, why they are the newest and most unsightly hydro poles and lines located along Wellington Street East, which is supposed to be the visibly pleasing gateway to Aurora?

Why is the word "fraktals" spelled with a lower case "f"?

When you see the backlash from average Torontonians about a proposed one-time 2.5% tax increase, does it make you wonder why Aurorans are so apathetic about our annual 6% increases?

If all of the funding spent over the years on traffic flow studies

at Yonge and Wellington had actually been used for construction at that intersection, would we not have improved lanes and signals by now, instead of binders full of reports?

With TVs, computers, printers and other electronics becoming obsolete within an average of 18 months due to changing technology, why are electronic recycling days only held in town once or twice a year?

With all day GO train service through town inevitable, does anyone really think the anti-train whistling discussions are dead?

Since they seem to spend all of their time calling you during your supper hour, when do telemarketers eat their own dinners?

If the town is serious about preventing the public from skating on unsafe frozen ponds in the winter, then why don't all roads next to ponds have parking restrictions, and not just St John's Sideroad at McKenzie Marsh?

Why aren't there any street names in town that begin with the letter "X"?

With the current focus on establishing a wildlife park in town, and there being so many different animal species in our municipality, why is the animal most associated with Aurora through its hockey teams a non-native species; the tiger?

Has an Aurora budget ever been approved that did not include

deferring at least three major projects to the following year?

And what is the record for the number of times a single issue has been deferred by Council?

Why does the town and region spend tens of thousands of dollars filling in pot holes and re-paving streets to speed up traffic, then in turn spend tens of thousands of dollars to install speed humps and other traffic calming measures to slow it down?

Will the term "Letter to the Editor" ever be replaced with the more accurate "E-mail to the Editor"?

Why is it that the paint on the mural at Yonge and Wellington still looks fresh after ten years, but any surface exposed to the same elements around your property, such as a deck, garage door, or fence, has to be repainted every year?

When our council members are elected on platforms of working together, why is there always at least one who refuses to attend the initial off-site team-building exercise?

Will "Weather Permitting" be the theme of this year's 2012 Arctic Adventure?

Just asking ...

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



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Letting pneumonia get in the way of a good party

So, I have pneumonia but, hey, it isn't catching...so they tell me. It's a long story, one that began about two weeks ago, prior to us going on a seven-day cruise to the western Caribbean with the Marsh couple, Grace and Bren.

The craft, it held close to 3,000 people, did not run aground, flip over, or lose any of its passengers, although, Patricia, my wife, got a note from the captain saying how safe it was to travel on his line, Celebrity, and the ship Solstice.

While I coughed throughout the trip, no one else at our dining table seemed affected by it...Lord knows I was watching.

When I returned home – the plane was several hours late – thanks to a flight attendant who decided to get sick on the way to Florida and to the chagrin of Alan Hayes, whose Aurora Limo Service we had booked to pick us up - Patricia took me to Southlake Emergency a week or so ago.

They made me wear a mask that made me feel I could rob the 3.10 to Yuma and get away with it, but hey, they knew what they were doing.

Seems the ward was going through a new format at the time, so it appeared I was there for days.

"You have a touch of pneumonia," said a doctor after hours of probing and touching.

"That's like saying you're partially pregnant," quipped Sean Herbinson, when he called after learning I wasn't feeling all that great. "Either you have it or you don't".

My guess is I had it, so I went to see my doctor, Dr. Sam Naghibi, who operates out of an office close to the Town Hall.

He sent me for X-rays to a place just off Bayview Avenue and after a 90-minute delay I was back in his office Friday afternoon.

My apologies to Diane Buchanan who attempted to organize a "retirement" party for me at the Legion last week and used the world's greatest newspaper to get the word out.

Apparently close to 70 people showed up. Everyone was there except me.

As far as I am concerned, that's a good reason for doing it again.

In my next adventure, I'll tell you about our time at the Aurora Farmer's Market held at the Aurora Cultural Centre, better known as the Church Street School.

Letters to the Editor

Don't complain, enjoy what you have: reader

To the editor:

I may as well live in Aurora, not in its southern suburb, as evidenced by last week-end. Unfortunately, I could not attend the coyote information session that Frank Klee's facilitated but according to those (and the parking lot of Town Hall was packed) who were in attendance on Thursday, January 19, 2012 the presentation was most informative, (Did you know that coyotes are attracted to dog feces? - good thing I keep up on that daily special job in my backyard), timely and produced some preventative measures for the Town of Aurora to implement.

There appear to be individuals in Aurora, including Mr. Klees, who don't just complain but act! In my part of Oak Ridges, I have seen two foxes across the street from my home

but when they saw me, they fled. So far this year I have not seen evidence of the deer family that normally visits. No coyotes, yet!

On Friday afternoon I attended an advertised public retirement party for Ron Wallace. The retiree was not in attendance due to illness which he has apparently recovered from, but those of us who came to the Aurora Legion had a good time anyway!

We lifted a few pints, toasted Ron's health, and related some stories in his absence. It reminded me of some Friday afternoons at the Legion in what seems like "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...."

Afterwards, I went to The Aurora Cultural Centre (whew! a lot of stairs) to attend the CHATS fundraiser. I attempted to make my contribution to this worthwhile, non-profit organiza-

tion by placing a number of bids on their silent auction items. I ended up with one small item. Someone outbid me on everything else, especially the golf packages I had my eye on. I tried! Had to get home at a reasonable time as I knew I would be up late on Saturday.

At 6 p.m. Saturday I was back at the Aurora Legion for their annual Robbie Burns dinner. This time I invited my sister to attend, thinking that this was not "her cup of tea". However, I was pleasantly surprised that she enjoyed herself as much as I did. Once again, the Legion supplied the best roast beef dinner, the White Heather Pipe & Drums awed me with their expertise, and Hadrian's Wall got me tapping my feet, dancing in my chair to their East Coast-type music. Some Legion members provided an accurate and superb rendition of "the ode

to the Haggis" and the "toast to the Laddies and Lassies" brought forth regales of laughter.

We had such a good time that I think we almost stayed to the end! It took me most of Sunday to recover - otherwise I would have participated in the Euchre tournament at the Legion on Sunday.

Aurorans, you are very lucky to live in a Town that has so much to offer and I am lucky to live close enough to join in too! Just a note for the reader(s) who seem to enjoy in what appears to be complaining for the sake of complaining, I offer the following quote from Dale Carnegie: "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain but it takes character and self control to be understanding and forgiving."

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

York West MP rejects Feds' "dumb on crime" plan

To the editor:

How much does a bad idea cost?

If you are a taxpayer in Ontario, the answer is a billion dollars. That's how much Harper's omnibus crime bill is going to cost Ontario taxpayers, according to the provincial government. Rightly, the Ontario government is fighting back, telling Harper to foot the bill himself if he wants it.

The crime rate is falling, but Harper's dumb on crime approach will actually make more criminals. Youth offenders will face longer terms in prison

and will come out hardened criminals. These kinds of laws have failed in the US and have almost bankrupted some states, spending more money on jails than schools.

Longer sentences means more beds. That means more prisons. That means your tax dollars to pay for those beds and those prisons. A billion dollars spent on a failed US-style system. A billion dollars not helping the economy. A billion dollars not helping Ontarians find and create jobs.

Conservatives love to preach fiscal responsibility in their expensive television ads.

But we know that ideologically rules in Harper's world, no matter how much it costs us.

A billion dollars. How would

you rather spend it?

Judy Sgro, MP
York West (Liberal)

Lois Brown responds to Sgro

To the editor:

Canadians are concerned about crime, which is why they gave our Government a strong mandate to keep our streets and communities safe.

In fulfilling that promise, we introduced Bill C-10, the Safe Streets and Communities Act. This comprehensive bill addresses a wide range of criminal behaviour while delivering on our pledge to get tough on crime and stand up for victims and law-abiding Canadians.

Our legislation contains targeted measures which will introduce mandatory penalties for pedophiles who sexually exploit children and drug dealers who sell drugs to youth. In 2010, child pornography offences were up by over 30 percent, while drug crimes have been on the rise since the early 1990s. Bill C-10 will ensure that those who engage in this kind of activity serve sentences which reflect the severity of their crimes.

Our experience shows that toughening sentences doesn't create new criminals; it simply keeps criminals in jail for an appropriate amount of time.

The fact is the cost of crime on society far exceeds the cost of fighting crime. The Department of Justice estimates that for 2008 the cost of crime on Canadian society was nearly \$100 billion.

In Canada's parliamentary democratic system, there are

constitutional responsibilities for all governments to enforce laws and protect its citizens. To assist provinces in carrying out these responsibilities the federal government transferred \$54 billion to the provinces and territories in 2010-2011, an increase of over \$2.4 billion from the previous year. Indeed since we have taken office, support payments to the Government of Ontario have increased by 77%.

The federal government is responsible for criminal law and the provinces are responsible for the administration of justice. Canadians expect their provin-

cial governments to work with the federal government to make sure we have safe streets and communities.

Provincial governments from across the country, including the Liberal Party in BC and the NDP in Manitoba, support these important measures to fight crime. In Ontario however, statements from the provincial government are confusing. The Ontario Correctional Minister has stated that prisons are near capacity; yet a mere two months ago moved towards closing three prisons in Owen Sound, Walkerton and Sarnia, as well

as a 200-inmate wing at the Toronto West Detention Centre.

Our Government is committed to ensuring criminals are held fully accountable for their actions and that the safety and security of law-abiding Canadians and victims comes first in Canada's judicial system.

As we move quickly to implement the Safe Streets and Communities Act, Canadians can rest assured that we are putting the rights of victims before the rights of criminals.

Lois Brown, MP
Newmarket-Aurora

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Cultural Centre remains in 2012 budget despite concerns over agreement

By Brock Weir

Withholding municipal payments to the Aurora Cultural Centre from this year's budget could have resulted in some legal wrangling, according to Town Staff.

Aurora CAO Neil Garbe and Treasurer Dan Elliott fielded the issue last week in budget discussions. At last Monday's meeting, Councillor Evelyn Buck moved to remove the \$353,400 for the Cultural Centre from the 2012 budget.

One of her objections, she said, stemmed from the Town's current agreement with the Cultural Centre which maintains the organization at arm's length from the Town.

"[The consultant's idea] was that this facility...would end up being a sinkhole for public funds and the best way to manage it would be to create a board and make that board responsible for making the facility self sufficient from public funds," said Councillor Buck.

"The way we had to do this was provide some seed money at the beginning and it would be reduced annually by \$100,000. [The former Town Treasurer] had experience in these matters and I allowed myself - because I had no experience in the matter - to be convinced that this was a sensible way to go."

The agreement, she argued, was not in the public interest and could be "easily" managed by the Town as Aurora's Leisure Services department has been programming activities and have proved their capability.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, said she had previously asked Aurora's Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey if he had any experience running a Cultural Centre such as the Church Street facility and he said he did not.

"That would mean we would have to hire staff," said Councillor Gaertner. "I don't think we could expect Mr. Downey to be able to do this by himself."

Mr. Garbe cautioned Council, however, that the Town has an obligation to the Aurora Cultural Centre under their contract and 12 months' notice would be required to terminate the deal. 12 months' notice, as it hap-

pened, would have taken the agreement through 2012 anyway, he added.

"The extension of that is if we don't provide [the funding] we will be in violation of the agreement," said Mr. Garbe, "Whatever actions someone takes is entirely their choice."

This was a sticking point for some Councillors when weighing whether or not to support Councillor Buck's motion, which was ultimately roundly defeated.

Councillor Michael Thompson, for instance, said he was not in favour of "any action that would put the Town in jeopardy," and that would be the case unless the 12 months' notice was given.

"We had much discussion around this table and it is my opinion that there is a willingness on the part of the Cultural Centre to address some of the issues that are on the table and I continue to be hopeful that we, as a group, can continue to collaborate with them and address some of the issues on both sides to have a working relationship. I wouldn't be in favour of terminating the agreement at this time."

Council has already directed staff to work with the Cultural Centre on developing key performance indica-

tors and other issues that were identified last year by solicitor Warren Mar in his review of the Town's cultural services agreement. One shortfall Mr. Mar identified in his report was a lack of Council representation on the Cultural Centre's board. That is something that is being worked on, said Mr. Garbe, but from the perspective of the Cultural Centre it is a complicated matter.

"Their perspective is involved because they would have to change their constitution and bylaws so it is probably wrapped up in the wholesale changes that the Town is looking for," said Mr. Garbe. "Representation is front and centre on both the agreement side of things and the audit side of things. I personally am not satisfied with how that has gone but it is wrapped up in other discussions that have to take place."

It wasn't all negative at the Council table, however, as Councillor John Gallo, for instance, said that while he does not object to Councillors wanting to tweak the existing agreement "a bit" he has not been given a reason to think the Cultural Centre is doing a bad job.

"I have yet to hear they're

mismanaging, they're not spending it properly, or they're doing a poor job of administering that money," he said. "If the philosophy is 'let's cut funding because we don't like the contract,' are they doing a good job? Are they spending the money appropriately? Those are the kinds of things I want to hear."

"Until I hear a lot of those other things that this organization is doing a bad job with what they are doing I have no issue with it. I am open to reviewing the contract. I am open to having some more communication to deal with the whole museum issue, but those are not deal breakers. Those are part and parcel of the organization that we fund

and we want to have it in a different direction."

For Councillors Buck and Abel, however, terminating the contract was a matter of being accountable to the public. Councillor Buck said she did not accept arguments from Town Staff and Councillors that the Town was contractually obligated to the group as the Town provided the initial funding to incorporate as a board.

"You first have a contractual obligation to the people who elected you to this office to correct mistakes that were done before," Councillor Buck told fellow Councillors. "This is a monumental mistake that was done. You had a report from our Town Solicitor

pointing out all the weaknesses in this agreement and where the Town is not well served. You are talking about hopes for the agreement that things will change, you're talking about making an amendment to allow Council representation to be on that board. There is no obligation for that board to agree or discuss any amendments."

"The obligation is not to the contract and the cultural centre, the obligation is to the Town," added Councillor Abel.

In 2012 so far the Town has already sent its first pay instalment to the Cultural Centre for January 1. Aurora has \$275,000 left to pay for the calendar year.

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Valentines for feline friends

By Brock Weir

You can send a Valentine to your furry feline friends this week as Aurora's Global Pet Foods raises funds for the North Toronto Cat Rescue.

The pet food store, which is located at the Zellers/Sobey's plaza on Bayview Avenue north of Wellington, has been participating in the annual fundraisers with their parent company since 2005. In that time, each store in the Global chain selects a charity of their choice to raise funds and this year the North Toronto Cat Rescue is the focus of Aurora's efforts.

"This is the first year I have done the North Toronto Cat Rescue but in the past we have done Kennel Inn, and the OSPCA," said Scott MacLennan, owner of the Aurora store. "With the Cat Rescue I have a customer who is a volunteer there and it is all run by volunteers."

When asked what made

the North Toronto Cat Rescue a good fit for the fundraiser, Mr. MacLennan highlighted the volunteer aspect of their program.

Through the fundraiser, store patrons are invited to buy hearts either for \$1 or \$5 to put their name on and all funds will go to the Cat Rescue. Proceeds collected will be matched by Global Pet Foods with the support of Science Diet.

"It is just a fun program and everybody just enjoys doing it," said Mr. MacLennan. "Each year, the fundraiser has become more and more popular and has become an annual event that people know about and look forward to. Last year, our company as a whole raised \$100,000 in donations and then that was matched as well. We have raised \$250,000 since 2005.

"I think our store did about \$800 last year so, matched, that came to about \$1,500. Each year we hope to do more and more and we hope to get over \$1,000 this year."

The Cat Rescue began 19 years ago as a small scale operation and gradually morphed into a charity, according to the group, which added their organization is the only no-cage, no-kill facility in the Greater Toronto Area. They house nearly 150 cats rescued from streets and ravines. The group offers cats for adoption as far north as Newmarket and as far south as Thornhill.

"Most of our cats have either been evicted from their homes or are children of 'evictees,'" said the Cat Rescue on their website. "They arrive after having experienced varying degrees of hardship, both at the hands of uncaring and abusive owners, and while trying to cope on their own out in the hostile street environment, where they suffer hunger, frostbite, injuries - often fatal, and even poisoning - by humans who view them as mere pests. "Our no cage policy means our kitties are free to romp and play, they are provided with the opportunity

to learn to 'play nice' with others, animal and human, and to experience a lifestyle that is as close to the home life they will have when they find their forever homes."

Mr. MacLennan opened the Aurora Global Pet Foods Store about 12 years ago, shortly after the plaza was built. Upon moving to Aurora with a golden retriever in tow near the current store, he said there were no pet food stores on that side of Aurora and sought to remedy the issue. Moving away from electronics sales, he picked up the franchise.

"It was a simple transition and the best decision I ever made," he said. "There's a lot of stuff I have learned from the very beginning, but being a pet lover I have always had that certain kind of relationship where having a dog is a big part of my family.

"Seeing how much people love their pets and how much people love to talk about and care for their pets constantly amazes me."



Scott MacLennan, owner of Aurora's Global Pet Foods store, will lead a fundraising drive at his store in aid of the North Toronto Cat Rescue beginning this week and running through February 14.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Grocery shoppers support Canada's troops

By Brock Weir

Local Sobeys shoppers helped raise over \$100,000 worth of cash and product donations for Canadian troops through the 2011 Operation Santa Claus campaign.

Aurora's Sobeys store at Bayview and Hollidge, was one of 29 Sobeys stores in Ontario that participated, raising funds through the sale of \$2 "Support Our Troops" ribbons at checkout. The initiative was the brainchild of Aurora Sobeys Manager Matt Derouin when he headed up the store in Angus, ON.

"I started the program five years ago and it was just from being in Angus so close to CFB Borden that it was just an effort to get involved with the community and, at the same time, give back something I thought was worthwhile," Mr. Derouin told The Auroran on Friday. "What better way to give back to your troops?"

"Troops deployed overseas all pass through Borden and that's why I looked at Operation Santa Claus because there are four or five different programs you can go with when you're sending care packages to them while they are overseas. Maybe they're not here now, but they were here six

months ago and they shopped in my store, so we sent them a care package and a banner."

As a result of the campaign 3,500 care packages were put together with the donations and 30 large banners filled with greetings and thanks from customers and employees were sent to troops deployed in Afghanistan, Libya, Kuwait, and Cyprus.

It was the third year Aurora Sobeys has participated in the initiative.

"I think it was more successful this year as far as the campaign goes," said Mr. Derouin. "Dollar-wise it was less than last year only because there were less troops, but each troop received drastically more than they did in previous years per troop. It was a very successful campaign."

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Town reduces cash to capital to lower tax impact

From page 1
benefiting from a surplus that was not budgeted for and that money is then deposited into the reserves to accelerate that rise to a healthy reserve fund. I look at that and I say I would like to reduce the tax burden to the residents by that inflationary amount because the surplus we had in 2011, in my mind, offsets that."

According to Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, Aurora has between \$58 million and \$60 million in total reserves, \$33 million of which sits in the Town's hydro reserve fund. The remaining \$27 million or thereabouts comes from a combination of development charges and reserves for future capital.

"Some of them are for

special purpose reserves, some are stabilization reserves and some are for repair and replacement," he said

While Councillor Evelyn Buck said she supported Councillor Thompson's motion because she did not see "any justification at all for increasing the tax rate in order to add to those already very rich reserves," the idea did not find favour with Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

"Mr. Elliott gave a clear and good reason for it at the last budget meeting when he was talking about putting money aside that will earn interest before we need to use it versus debt financing which we will have to pay interest," she said. "I know not everybody

agrees with me, but to me that makes sense. The other part of that that makes sense is that we have to live with inflation.

"I agree we should be accommodating inflation as well by putting in that extra money. The next couple of years are going to be very dry years with respect to the supplementary taxes as far as I know because [properties in the 2C area east of Bayview] won't be coming on board until 2015, so I would like to do that this year. To me, it makes sense financially."

Supplementary taxes are taxes that come onto the Town's radar over the course of the year for properties that had not been assessed by the previous year's end - such as new residential or business developments.

Although Mr. Elliott said comments and observations around the table were fair, he still had concerns.

"My concern and my focus on the increase in the contribution annually is because of the premise that the current taxpayer is not funding enough of the depreciation that is occurring today," he said. "Yes, the supplementaries are fortuitous at this point in time. They are going in, they are helping keep those reserves going [and] it essentially gives us a cushion before our capital program draws them dry.

"Our capital program has been running at a much higher level annually on average than our taxpayer is funding for the consumption of those assets. The capital pro-

gram is replacing them as they are being consumed and as they need to be replaced. The contribution is not near that level and it needs to get much closer."

While Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said he was a great believer in putting cash to capital, he said he was prepared to support Councillor Thompson's motion on the basis that the Town might reinstate the Finance Committee which would look over these matters throughout the year.

"I know Councillor Thompson from the

Library Board meetings is certainly a great advocate of cash to capital and putting money in reserves, and I also know he is fairly conscious in terms of the load on the taxpayers," said Mayor Dawe.

"I am very much in favour of building up our reserves because that is how I think. It's quite important to me...so I would support Councillor Thompson's motion based on the fact that we are indeed developing a Finance Committee that this would be an issue I think would come before it to give it a good airing.

Aurora Sparks think about founding a town

By Brock Weir

Aurora girls had the chance to learn how to build a town from the bottom up during a tour of Aurora Town Hall on Tuesday night.

Girls from the Aurora Sparks came to Town Hall for a tour and discussion lead by the Town's Carrie Eastwood. They visited the Council Chamber just

prior to the evening's Council meeting to talk about how the Mayor and Councillors are elected.

When asked by Ms. Eastwood what would be the first thing they would do to build a town suggestions ranged from "find a mayor" to "put pavement on the dirt."

"You pick the place, right?" agreed Ms. Eastwood. "[You have to

think about] where's the Town going to go and then you have to pick a spot. Then the next thing you do is start planning it and that's a big job - you have to plan a whole Town."

At this moment, the girls were greeted by Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, fresh off the previous evening's final budget deliberation. On his arrival, Ms. Eastwood asked the troop if they all knew what taxes were. Not surprisingly, every hand in the audience shot up.

"I keep the piggy bank here," explained Mr. Elliott. "Council has been thinking about you guys and they're building some trails, they're going to talk about a new skateboard park sometime soon, they're talking about a youth centre where you'll get to go when you're a little older and hang out with your friends, and I give Council the information they need to make

decisions about that."

After their tour, Ms. Eastwood told The Auroran that more and more groups like the Sparks have been requesting Town Hall tours and she often tries to plan it around a Tuesday night so they get the full tour of the building, as well as a taste of the activities in the Council chamber past 7 p.m.



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Spotlight on *Our New Partner*

Stewart Esten is pleased to announce that Ashley McInnis has become a partner of the firm effective January 1, 2012



Ashley's Partnership represents Stewart Esten's forward-looking perspective to continually meet our client's legal needs. Senior Partner Bill Leslie states, "Ashley is a bright, knowledgeable, client-centred lawyer. Her appointment will further deepen the services and expertise offered by our partners and senior lawyers"

Ashley is a graduate of Osgood Hall Law school and the University of Guelph. She was called to the Bar in 2007. Ashley is a strong advocate with a preferred area of practice in medical malpractice and personal injury law. With a diverse practice, Ashley also represents clients in respect of contract disputes, negligence issues, property matters, equine disputes, and creditor's remedies. Ashley is an active member of the community and serves as the legal representative of the Royal Victoria Hospital Research Ethics Board. As a resident of Aurora, Ashley is pleased to meet with clients in both York Region and Simcoe County.

When Ashley is not at the office, she can be found at the farm enjoying the company of her two horses and competing in show jumping events.

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Week of January 31, 2012

Aurora Tigers face three games this week

By Kevin Michie

After a victory in Huntsville on Sunday, the Aurora Tigers are wrapping up their regular season in rather uneventful fashion.

It was 10 games ago that the Tigers were battling for second spot in the North Division of the OJHL, the toughest division in the league, but after some ill-timed losses to Newmarket, Markham and even Huntsville, the Tigers can now only realistically hope for third spot.

Tigers head coach James Richmond said that his team had to win at least ten of their 15 final games to reach second place and a first round buy, but after going 6-4 through the first ten games, the Tigers let Stouffville grab a firm grip on

second and allowed Markham to slip five points in front of them currently.

As it sits, Aurora will most likely play Orangeville in the first round of the playoffs, which is favourable as the Tigers hold a 4-1 record on Orangeville through their first five games of the season. Aurora's final game of the season is against the very same Flyers, so that could very much be like a playoff game for both squads, trying to showcase their dominance.

The toughest test yet in the final stretch of the regular season comes this weekend for Aurora, as they play Stouffville, Newmarket and Oakville consecutively. The Tigers are 0-5 on the season versus Stouffville so a victory at home over the Spirit on Friday night would be both a

huge confidence boost as well as proof that Tigers are capable of beating any team heading into the playoffs.

The Tigers last home game of the season comes this Saturday in the final edition of the Battle of Yonge Street, against the Newmarket Hurricanes. The Hurricanes, for the most part, have held an advantage over the Tigers this season, but the Tigers will be looking for momentum heading into the playoffs, so the game will most certainly be very competitive.

If the first round of playoffs go accordingly, then Aurora would meet Newmarket in the divisional semi-final, making for a very intense and aggressive series. The game on Saturday could be just the beginning.

Puck drop for Saturday's game is scheduled for 7:30 at the Aurora Community Centre.

AURORA 4 HUNTSVILLE 3

First Period

H - Jake McLaughlin (Eden, Young) 7.14 PP
A - Andrew Goldberg (Tanev, Cook) 12.28
H - Joe Spitzer (Minello, Ackerland) 14.43PP

Third Period

A - Chad Bennett (Wallace, MacPherson) 7.58
A - Nick Angelo (Shier) 13.55

H - Daniel Clairmont (Eden, Young) 17.47 PP
A - Taylor McCloy (Shier, Angelo) 18:33

AURORA NOVICE AE SCORES:

Saturday, January 28:

AURORA 4 MARKHAM 1

77 David Iacovetta 2G, 2 Matteo Rossi 1G, 83 Lucas DePalma 1G, 1A, 87 George Rappos Jr 1A.



Four girls from the Aurora Youth Soccer Club have been selected to play for the Provincial team. Pictured above, left to right, are Selena Mangoni, Sierra Henderson-Muschett, Alessia Mangoni, and Rio Speller-Drewes. Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

Gymnasium, community spaces part of building plans

By Wendy Soloduik

Doing God's work: \$8.5 million. Serving Central York Region: priceless.

Following a successful Christmas campaign, The Salvation Army of Central York Region (SACYR) has quietly resumed its fundraising efforts to build a 26,000 square foot community centre in Aurora.

Funding sources for the

massive multi-use building, which will also serve as the Northridge Community Church, have been identified from a variety of sources including liquidating the current Salvation Army (SA) headquarters in Newmarket (for an undisclosed amount), corporate donations totalling \$750,000 and \$1 million from the SA's national office. The remaining \$1.5 million (up

from the \$1 million previously forecast due to an expanded gymnasium and additional change rooms) required to complete the project will be raised through the capital campaign 'Hope for Others'.

"For more than 125 years, The Salvation Army has played a pivotal role helping people in communities across the country. Through a steadfast commitment to our mis-

sion, and willingness to be of service to anyone in need, The Salvation Army is the largest non-governmental social service provider in Canada with an exemplary legacy of service to humanity," reads a statement on the Hope for Others website. "Here in Central York Region, we have grown to be a significant and critical community Please see page 15

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106 Timbits - San Jose Teal 13 - Bradley Gardiner 4G, Joshua Mcleod 4G, Ryan Blakley 5G. **108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 6** - Thomas Bradley 2G, Ben Hilgendorff 1G, Nathan Mochizuki 1G, Mitchell Abrams 2G.

107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 9 - Andrew Parsons 5G, Jack Hunter 2G, Noah Bobrow 1G, Ben Cordingly 1G. **106 Timbits - San Jose Teal 9** - Sam White 3G, Adriano Fanuzzi 2G 1A, Ryan Blakley 1G, Vince Russo 1G, Bradley Gardiner 1A.

108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 9. 101 Timbits - Calgary Red 6 - Kellan Sherman 3G, Adam Rame 2G, Stephen Gummersall 1G.

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal 6 - Joshua Mcleod 1G 2A, David Durbano 1G, Adriano Fanuzzi 2G, Ryan Blakley 1G. **103 Timbits - Toronto White 5** - Kevin Wasserman 3G 1A, Justine Chu 1G, Luke Bonellos 1A.

104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 5 - Norbert Kristof 1G, Andrew Aikins 2G 1A, Matthew Song 1G, Jacob Madore 1A, Aidan Edmunds 1A. **105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black 4** - Hayden Klugerman 2G, Ethan Powell 1G 1A, Tyler LeBlanc 1A.

101 Timbits - Calgary Red 9 - Isabelle Mouratidis 1G, Stephen Gummersall 2G, Adam Rame 2G, Kellan Sherman 2G 1A, Matthew Keizer 1G, Anthony Archibald 2A, Brent Davison 1A. **108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 6** - Malcolm Parkinson 2G 1A, Thomas Bradley 1G, Ben Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Nathan Mochizuki 1A, Noah Smith 1A.

203 Caravan Kids - Toronto White 6 - Aidan Quinn 3G 2A, Kai Silcox 1G, Stefano Iervasi 1G, Remy Pietrangolo 1A, Matthew Collins 1A. **204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue 4** - Liam Morassutti 2G, MacLissac Eveleigh 1G, Andrew Flores 1G.

202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold 6 - Rory Callaghan 1G, Cristian Troubitin 1G, Sebastian Santagato 1G, Cameron Mills 1G, Nicholas Young 2G, Jackson Maclean 1A. **201 Caravan Kids - Calgary Red 5** - Omar Ozturk 2G, Jonah Spataro 2G, Marchel Woods 1G, Liam Parris 2A, Christian Bryan 1A, Alexander Mascioli 1A.

404 McDonald's - Blue 7 - Ryan Funston-Clarke 1G 2A, Matthew Cowl 1G, Johnathan Avgousti 4G 1A, Zachary Diaz 1A. **410 McDonald's - Orange 4** - Evan Robertson 1G 1A, Garrett Kohler 1G, Jack Gautier-Moulton 1G, Tommy Green 2A, Erik Dubeau 1A, Steven Seitz 1A.

401 McDonald's - Red 5. 403 McDonald's - White 3.

405 McDonald's - Black 5 - Ian Hilgendorff 3G, Holden Murphy 1G, Joshua Anselmo 1G, Eric Flicker 1A, Carson Purcell 1A, Jack Nicholson 2A. **410 McDonald's - Orange 2** - Giuliano Iervasi 2G, Sebastian Brstilo 2A.

402 McDonald's - Gold 6 - Andrew Pignatelli 2G, Ethan Richie 1G, Michael Kieffer 1G, Cameron Lang 1G 1A, Devon Bourrie 1A. **404 McDonald's - Blue 6** - Greg Gatzopoulos 1G 1A, Ethan Edwards 1G, Johnathan Avgousti 1G, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1G 1A, Cole Spragg 1A, Evan Lajoie 1A, Matthew Cowl 1A.

406 McDonald's - Purple 4 - Griffen Charnley 2G, Cristian Franze 2G, Dylan Anderson 1A, Gianluca Rotondi 1A, Jacob Lopez 1A. **409 McDonald's - Teal 1** - Brendan Sanford 1G.

408 McDonald's - Grey 4 - Nathan Smith 1G, Jack Viney 1G 1A, Andrew Schaus 2G, Brennan Powell 1A, Matthew Pelan 1A. **407 McDonald's - Kelly Green 2** - Mathew Matton 1G 1A.

610 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 3 - Chris Sands 1G 2A, Aidan Burbank 1G. **609 Kumon Aurora-East 3** - Stanley Volchok 2G, Cameron Bourne 1G, Jack Mayo 1A, Patrick Facca 2A.

606 Dr. Weaver's Drillers 5 - Kyle Wulle 2G, James Samson 1G 2A, Dillon Varone 1A, Matthew Leclair 1A. **602 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr 1** - Tristan Hicks 1G, Kyle Dungey 1A.

603 Optimist Club of Aurora 8 - Elias Pasani 2G, Jason Cox 1G, Jayson Perkins 3G, Scott Rumble 2G. **605 Crossley Contracting Ind. Restoration 5.**

608 Mastermind Toys 5 - Evan Lambert 4G, Nolan Roy 1G, Ryan Mascarenhas 1A, Christian Loria 1A. **611 Rotary Club 4** - Connor DeVogel 2G, Liam Vanderploeg 1G 1A, Benjamin Godber 1A, Christopher Kehren 1A, William Reid 1A.

612 H.J. Pfaff Audi 2 - Jack Camplin 1G 1A. **604 Omar's Shoes: 2** - Joshua Fallavollita 1G, Jacob

Leblanc 1G, Andrew Warner 1A, James Kypreos 1A.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 8 - Joey Hodgson 2G 2A, Jeff Stobo 1G 2A, Colin Dyer 1G, Jordan Screech 1G 1A, Calem Pollock 1A, Cameron Screech 1A, Alex Negri 2A. **808 Laurion Law Office 4.**

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 4 - Tyler Bundy 2G, Cameron Screech 1G, Greg Rutherford 1G, Alex Negri 1A, Colin Dyer 2A, Brett Diamond 1A, Liam Richardson 1A. **805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 1.**

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 12. 803 McAlpine Ford - 5. Adam Ashraf 3G, Emerson Cepelak 1G, Connor Tripp 1G.

803 McAlpine Ford 11 - Michael Walsh 2G, Alex Sesto 2G, Adam Ashraf 2G, Connor Tripp 1G, Grant Kavanagh 1G, Liam Gray 3G. **805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 7.**

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 15 - Greg Rutherford 1G, Cameron Screech 2G, Jordan Screech 3G, Joey Hodgson 2G, Jeff Stobo 2G, Brett Diamond 2G, Josh Mohabeer 1G, Colin Dyer 2G. **805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 6** - Jesse Joynt 2G, Ben Kissack 1G, Daniel Della Rocca 1G, Daniel Fazari 1G, Troy Foster 1G 1A.

803 McAlpine Ford 15 - Connor Tripp 4G, Adam Ashraf 2G, Michael Walsh 4G 1A, Liam Gray 2G, Alex Sesto 2G. **804 Optimist Club of Aurora 8.**

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 10. 803 McAlpine Ford 9 - Michael Walsh 3G, Adam Ashraf 2G, Emerson Cepelak 2G, Alex Sesto 1G, Connor Tripp 1G.

807 Crabby Joe's 2 - Peter McKerracher 1G 1A, Adam Wilson 1G, Michael Dowling 1A. **803 McAlpine Ford 1** - Alex Sesto 1G, Connor Tripp 1A.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 4 - Michael Imseis 2G, Greg Rutherford 1G, Joey Hodgson 1G, Colin Dyer 2A, Alex Negri 1A, Matthew Hall 1A. **805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 0.**

804 Optimist Club of Aurora 8. 806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd. 2.

808 Laurion Law Office 8. 802 Aurora Home Hardware 1.

908 Benson, Kearley IFG 6 - Mark Presacco 3G 1A, Kentner Arkell 1G, Mitch Lamantia 3A, Zackery Landry 1A. **905 Continental Ingredients 1** - Kyle Fedec 1G, Christopher Cherubini 1A.

912 Pizza Pizza 4 - Tyler Indos 1G 1A, Tyler Harris 1G, Casey Severini 1G, Dylan Indos 1A, Quinn Harris 1A, Michael Liscio 1A. **901 Rogers TV 3** - Ryan Dowling 1G 1A, Mitchell Waite 1G, Carson Elliott 1A, Andrew Walter 1A.

907 Crabby Joe's 4 - Joshua Bell 2G, Sean Foxwell 2G, Tim Pare 2A, Austin Megit 1A. **906 ATS Healthcare 3** - Eliot Harkin 1G 2A, Dylan Lyons 1G, Braydon Babineau 1A, Sam Steenhorst 1A.

903 A.D.C. Aluminum 6 - Trevor George 2G 1A, Michael Tanel 1G, Thomas Scougall 1G, Michael DeCesare 1A, Franco Porano 2A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A, Nicholas Chethuan 1A, Matthew Sanita 1A. **910 INARIA 3** - Peter Sandwell 1G 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1G, Andrew Hall 1A, Lucas Brutto 1A, Daniel Bresolin 1A.

911 AHPA 4 - Paul Neophytou 2G 2A, Ethan Cullen 2G, Michael Bitzos 1A, Austin Tanaka 1A, Leon Vizkin 1A. **902 Aurora Chrysler 2** - Cody Mulhern 1G, Ben Hankins 1G 1A, Connor McQuillan 1A, Andrew Staples 1A.

904 North York Plumbing & Heating 5 - Josh Lawlor 2G 1A, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Keinan Osborne 1G, Matt Reeves 1A, Jason Glionna 1A, Omar Rahal 1A. **909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 3** - Eric Bulloch 1G 1A, Brian Pedron 1G, Ian Coschi 1A.

909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 3 - Michael McCreesh 2G, Eric Bulloch 1G 1A, Mackenzie Smith 1G, Andrew Stobbe 2A, David Gonder 1A. **903 A.D.C. Aluminum 3** - Jesse Borin 1G 1A, Harris Riopelle 1G 1A, Tyler George 1A, William He 1A, Nicholas Chethuan 1A.

910 INARIA 5 - Cody Child 2G, Scott Wheeler 2G, Peter Sandwell 1G, Lucas Brutto 1A, Bailey Miller 1A. **902 Aurora Chrysler 1** - Scott Dunlop 1G, Michael Hosmer 1A, Matthew Roach 1A.

912 Pizza Pizza 3 - Michael Liscio 1G, Mackenzie McIntosh 1G, Tyler Indos 1G, Andrew Kaszuba 2A, Casey Severini 1A, Seth Rogers 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A. **906 ATS Healthcare 0.**

904 North York Plumbing & Heating 2 - Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Graeme McDonald 1G, Matthew Iamonaco 1A, Josh Lawlor 1A. **908 Benson, Kearley IFG 0.**

905 Continental Ingredients 4 - Kyle Fedec 1G 1A, Austin Boudreau 1G 1A, Christopher Cherubini 1A, Paul Ashbourne 1A, Owen Nisbet 1A, Stephen Faiello 1A, Ben Goldman 1A. **907 Crabby Joe's 3** - Joshua Bell 2G, Sean Foxwell 1G, Tim Pare 2A, Kevan Cress 1A, Zac Kroll 1A.

911 AHPA 5 - Paul Neophytou 2G 1A, Russel Johnson 2G, Mitchell Carter 1G 1A, Leon Vizkin 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A. **901 Rogers TV 5** - Ryan Dowling 2G, Johnathan Hurtubise 1G 2A, Paul Louis Steiner 1G, Andrew Walter 1G, Carson Elliott 1A, Michael Perryman 1A.

1002 INARIA 3 - L. Ghegin 1G, A. Reid 1G, Cole Coffey 1G 1A, Josh Lopez 1A. **1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 2** - Kelley Hudson 1G 1A, Zachary Pyle 1A, Anthony DeCesare 1A, Alex Heintzman 1A.

1006 Caruso & Company 3 - Alex Woodward 1G, Tyler White 1G, Ryan Kennedy 1G, Braedon Casselden 2A. **1007 Crabby Joe's 2** - Matt Miller 2G, Taylor Brewda 2A, Chris Garagiannis 1A.

1005 BrokerLink 2 - Tom Hagias 2G, Eamon Reilly 1A, Robert Bradford, shutout. **1008 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 0.**

1001 Pizzaville Aurora 4 - Matt Hart 1G, Daniel LaFlamm 1G 1A, Chris Peron 1G, Vince Duggan 1A, Mike Nonnewitz 1A, Brandon Connolly 1A. **1003 Tom & Jerry's 3** - Scott Tenello 1G, K Piper 1G, D Kovac 1G, Trevor Rice 1A.

1008 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 3 - Ty Brochu 1G 1A, David Marshall 1A, Matt Stewart 1A. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora 1** - Vince Duggan 1G, Mike Nonnewitz 1A.

1005 BrokerLink 4 - Trevor Best 1G, Cooper Riswick 1G, Matt Clarke 1G 1A, Tom Hagias 3A, Kyle Coughlin 1A. **1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 2** - Justin Killens 2G, Ali Akbar 1A, Jesse Bentolilla 1A, Alex Heintzman 1A.

1007 Crabby Joe's 6 - Matt Miller 1G, Steadman Dinning 2G, Spencer Barker 1G, Chris Garagiannis 1G, Braydon Jackson 1G 2A, Stefan Richardson 1A, Evan Foxwell 1A, Nick Theodoropolous 1A. **1002 INARIA 1** - Cole Roffey 1G, M Bishop 1A.

1006 Caruso & Company 1 - Alex Woodward 1G, JJ White, shutout. **1003 Tom & Jerry's 0.**

REP LEAGUE

Novice AA - Markham 3. Aurora 0.

Novice A - Richmond Hill 4. Aurora 1 - Ethan Solilo 1G, Hunor Kristof 1A, Ryan Cariou 1A.

Novice A - Newmarket 6. Aurora 4 - George Rappos Jr 1G, Michael More 1G, Alex Morra 1G, Jake McMillan 1G 1A, Max Reeves 1A, Ryan Cariou 1A, Ryan Fowler 1A, Max McConkey 1A.

Novice A - Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 2 - Lucas De Palma 1G, Jake McMillan 1G, Max McConkey 1A, Gavin Loria 1A, Max Reeves 1A, Caydon Visser 1A.

Novice AE - Aurora 3. Markham 0. Novice AE - Aurora 1. Markham 0. Minor Atom AA - Aurora 4 - Daniel Gaeta 1G 2A, Jake Adams 1G, Harrison Bennett 1G, Evan Vierling 1G, Ethan Cameron 1A, Carson Maybury 2A, Carter Beswick 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Minor Atom AA - Aurora 4 - Daniel Gaeta 1G 1A, Carter Beswick 1G, Dylan DaCosta 1G, Andrew Langlois 1A, Sam Lombard 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Minor Atom A - Aurora 3. Richmond Hill 0. Minor Atom A - Aurora 7. Richmond Hill 1.

Minor Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Jonathon Gagnon 1G, Zachary Grant 2G 1A, Liam Graham 1G, Alexander Arcuri 1A, Carson Klein 1A, Sean Haw 1A, James Sproul 1A, Carson Tidd 1A. **Richmond Hill 2.**

Minor Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Curtis Manley 1G 1A, James Sproul 1G 1A, Carson Tidd 1A, Liam Graham 1A, Sean Haw 1A, Justin Lacroix, shutout. **Stouffville 0.**

Minor Atom AE - Aurora 2 - Jonathon Gagnon 2G, Zachary Grant 1A, Alexander Arcuri 2A. **Stouffville 1.**

Minor Atom AE - Aurora 3 - Curtis Manley 1G, James Sproul 1G, Alexander Arcuri 1G, Liam Graham 1A, Carson Tidd 1A, Jonathon Gagnon 1A, Zachary Grant 1A, Justin Lacroix, shutout. **Stouffville 0.**

Atom A - Innisfil 5. Aurora 2 - Andrew Park 1G, Blair Crabbe 1G, Anthony DiPietro 1A, Dylan Prescott 1A, Sam Ashton 1A, Craig Therikildsen 1A.

Atom A - Aurora 2 - Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Sam Ashton 1G, Dylan Prescott 1G, Adam Wloka 1A, Craig Therikildsen 1A, Warren Hill, shutout. **Innisfil 0.**

Atom A - Aurora 2 - Dylan Prescott 1G, Blair

Crabbe 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Sam Ashton 1A, Jason Gage 1A. **Innisfil 1.**

Atom AE - Aurora 3 - Jack Patterson 1G, Daniel Babcock 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1G, Russell Tanaka 1A, Matthew Gram 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Atom AE - Aurora 7 - Thomas Childerhose 2G, Matthew Gram 1G, Cooper Judson 1G, Luke Catania 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Daniel Babcock 1A, Owen Romano 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Atom AE - Aurora 5 - Matthew Gram 2G, Carson Williams 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1G, Luke Catania 1G 1A, Owen Romano 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Jack Patterson 3A, Alex Sandras 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Minor Pee wee AA - Stouffville 5. Aurora 3 - Carson Yeomans 1G, Julien Aben 1G, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1A, Jaedon Jackson 1A, Matthew Hollett 1A.

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora 2. Innisfil 1. Minor Pee wee A - Aurora 3. Innisfil 2.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 4 - Lucas Surace 1G 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Fin Reeves 1G 1A, Colin Windle 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 2 - Nicholas Vamvakaris 1G, Lucas Surace 1G, Carson Venneri 1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A, Mathew Hastings 1A, Joseph Grassa 1A, Anthony Palmieri shutout. **Richmond Hill 0.**

Minor Pee wee AE - Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 2 - Mathew Hastings 1G, Peter Chimienti 1G, Lucas Surace 1A, Braden Reid 1A, Fin Reeves 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora 1. Peter Chimienti 1G, Fin Reeves 1A, Colin Windle 1A. **Richmond Hill 1. Pee wee AA - Aurora 3. Richmond Hill 0.**

Pee wee AA - Richmond Hill 2. Aurora 0. Pee wee A - Aurora 8. TNT 4.

Pee wee A - TNT 4. Aurora 3 - Reid Carpenter 1G, Mark Kalmisto 1G 1A, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Stewart Gable 1A, Jordan Torres 1A, Chris Pettit 1A.

Pee wee AE - Aurora 3. Eric Pears 1G 2A, Jared Duthie 1G. **Barrie 2.**

Pee wee AE - Aurora 2 - Keaton Thompson 1G, Eric Pears 1G, Troy Lane 1A. **Barrie 1.**

Minor Bantam AA - Markham 4. Aurora 1 - Zack Phillips 1G, Graham Sanford 1A.

Minor Bantam A - Aurora 5 - Austin Kiraly 1G, Christian Arcuri 2G, Alec Magnante 1G, Cameron Zinner 1G 1A, Matthew Liscio 1A, Tristan Kuchar 2A, Connor Downs 1A. **Orillia 4.**

Minor Bantam A - Aurora 4 - Alec Magnante 2G, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Connor Downs 1G, Colin Kostin 1A, Cameron Zinner 1A, Will Ashton 1A, Austin Kiraly 1A, Christian Arcuri 2A. **Orillia 3.**

Minor Bantam AE - Barrie 2. Aurora 0. Minor Bantam AE - Barrie 5. Aurora 2. Bantam AA - Markham 3. Aurora 2 - Adam Newell 1G, Braeden Kublick 1G.

Bantam AA - Aurora 3. Steven Tsianos 1G, Kory Wansbrough 1G, Hudson Yeomans 1G. **Markham 2.**

Bantam A - Aurora 3. Orillia 2. Bantam A - Aurora 4. Orillia 3.

Bantam A - Orillia 3. Aurora 2. Bantam AE - Aurora 6 - Johnny Sherwood 1G,

Matthew Bellerby 1G 2A, Brady Mulhern 1G, Joe Battiston 2G 2A, Michael Fisher 1A, Austin Riswick 1A, Matthew Iezzi 1A, Hunter Jones 1A. **Innisfil 1.**

Minor Midget AA - Arvada, Colorado 5. Aurora 3.

Minor Midget AA - Aurora 6. TNT 3. Minor Midget AA - Aurora 6 - Connor Cowl 2G,

Spencer Green 1G 2A, Andrew Quattrin 1G 1A, Ty Varga 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 2A, Blake Wallace 1A. **TNT 4.**

Minor Midget A - Aurora 9 - Evan Jackson 3G, Kyle Nice 3G 2A, Jordan Nanos 1G 1A, Nathan Sinclair 2A, Brayden Bewswick 2A, Austin Persaud 1A, Robert Stokes 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A, Erik Balkovec 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Alec Ground 1A. **East Gwillimbury 1.**

Minor Midget A - Aurora 4 - Jordan Nanos 1G, Alec Ground 1G, James Thomson 1G, Robert Stokes 1G 1A, Evan Jackson 1A. **East Gwillimbury 2.**

Midget A - Aurora 2. Nobleking 0. Minor Midget AE - Whitby 4. Aurora 1 - Nathan Nealon 1G.

Minor Midget AE - Whitby 4. Aurora 3 - Graham Robinson 1G, Nathan Nealon 2G, Alexander Harrison 1A, Ryan McGolrick 1A, Robert Doswell 1A.

Midget AA - Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 0. Midget AA - Richmond Hill 3. Aurora 0.

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Aurora Baseball comes back from the brink

By Brock Weir

As the catch phrase of movies of yore goes, "If you build it, they will come" - and that is certainly the case in Aurora, according to the Aurora Minor Baseball Association.

According to coach Robert Seguin, the club's numbers have nearly quadrupled in size since being on the brink 10 years ago, and a contributing factor is the Town's investment in a new senior ball diamond for Aurora players at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

"Two years ago we didn't have the diamond available to us and I was coaching one of the teams that were trying to survive on the diamond," he said.

"There were 13 teams on that diamond and we had no

practice time. The diamond was always in rough shape despite a lot of volunteer effort from the coaches and people coming out and doing their best just to keep it in reasonable shape, but it meant our teams just really couldn't compete and we lost a lot of kids to other towns and municipalities who wanted to play on a really high level."

It will take Aurora a "couple of years" to recover from this delay and eventual loss of players, he said, but the Aurora Minor Baseball Association is now in "great shape."

"I just wanted to say on behalf of the Aurora Minor Ball Association, thank you to those of you who stood up and decided to make a tough decision and support the diamond," he said. "It has been extremely well used and appreciated."

Hope For Others resumes

partner, assisting thousands of people every year: providing the necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. Our programs also offer guidance and hope, and embrace deeper needs like language barriers, isolation, loneliness and family challenges. The common thread woven through all our programs and services is help for people to find hope and reclaim dignity on their path to recovery, healing and wellness."

Currently the SACYR is helping people find that hope in a 10,000 square foot building, hidden behind Newmarket High School just off of Mulock Drive.

Built in 1993, the SACYR has long outgrown the space, and the current lot does not allow for expansion. Larger initiatives, such as the Christmas Hamper program (which serves 700 families or thousands of people each year) have to be conducted off site.

"We have outgrown the building," Major Brian Bishop of the SACYR told The Auroran, adding the decision to move and expand is both proactive, and reactive. "This will help us meet the needs of the people we serve today, and the people we'll serve tomorrow."

"We're hidden here, and we are taking the steps to address that issue," Bishop adds. "Our new building is four kilometres away and serves as a great compliment to the neighbouring community."

Parking issues, also a problem at the current location will also be addressed, as the new community centre offers 178 paved spots.

Major Bishop, a former

employee of the City of Hamilton - who felt the call to serve God and become a pastor with the Salvation Army some 11 years ago - said the move is a "huge step forward in Central York Region".

The current building, which serves both the church and the SACYR, has been sold to another community service organization. Although Bishop would not confirm the buyer, he did confirm that the church/SA would remain in the space on a rental agreement until Phase I of the new community centre is complete, and ready for move-in. Funding to manage the lease has been included in the \$1.5 million capital campaign budget.

Although a ceremonial ground breaking took place in September 2011, "to recognize community gifts", earth works are expected to begin at the site of the new community centre in April or May of this year. Bishop is hopeful that Phase I construction will be completed by June 2013.

The centre itself, which backs on to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, is situated on 5 acres of land - purchased by the SACYR for \$1.7 million in 2006 - and will carry a mortgage of \$250,000 held by the national office of the SA.

Development of the acreage will include a network of trails, including links to the adjacent residential area (2C), and the Stronach Centre.

"Our building will complement, not compete with existing services," said Bishop. "We are not looking to duplicate any services that are already available, unless the

"It has taken us from being able to compete and up to snuff to a point where maybe we can become a world class centre for recreational sports in Ontario. I think with your leadership and the leadership of volunteers that is a definite possibility for Aurora."

For Mr. Seguin, baseball in Aurora had "fallen apart" by 2000 and he and a number of others took on the initiative to revive the game in Town.

"We went from less than 150 registrants in baseball to over 650 last year and six of the seven teams that were able to compete on the new diamond were able to win the York Region Championships and won on the all-Ontario championships as well," he said.

"The program was dying and there was no place to play. We got to the point where...you could see it coming like a

freight train that we were going to need that diamond because at the time Aurora only had one regulation size diamond.

"We lost a lot of children to other towns who had to leave and play somewhere else, but if not for the decision you guys took a couple of years ago the program would have gone backwards and our registration would have collapsed."

For Councillor Buck, the news that the Aurora Minor Ball Association had essentially come back from the brink was particularly satisfying.

"I'm sure it will be welcome news to the community because the controversy of whether or not it should be built was the low numbers of kids in the program," she said. "The argument was that it was low because we don't have the facility and we proved them right!"



Design for the new Northridge Community Church as it will be viewed from Leslie Street near Wellington.

demand is too great on any one agency. We are better together."

Designed to be as "multi-purposeful as possible", the new building includes a children's wing, high-school sized gymnasium, high vaulted ceiling atrium, administration offices and rentable medium sized rooms.

"We did our research," said Major Bishop. "According to the York Region Police, it can take up to 17 contacts before you can find certain services." He said he is certain the new building can help to mitigate this situation by accommodating any group to better serve the community - including "where to find" social service fairs.

Phase II, a 6,000 square foot auditorium that seats 500-600 patrons, "may not happen right away," confirms Major Bishop, but was included in the second set of drawings. "We will build the multi-functional space first."

A fine compliment to the

community centre, the auditorium features tiered seating, and a lit sound stage. Curtains that separate the body of the theatre from the side seating can also be used to make the space more "useful". Churchgoers will congregate in the gymnasium until the auditorium is open.

With the successful Christmas Kettle Drive now behind them for another year, the SACYR is getting down to business. To date, \$940,000 of the \$1.5 million goal has been realized. Major Bishop plans to meet with his "core group of 6 or 7" later this month to formulate strategies for moving forward.

"We wanted to show respect to those who contributed during our Christmas campaign," said Bishop, on the January break from fundraising.

Those wishing to contribute to the Hope for Others Capital Campaign can do so through the website (www.hopeforothers.com).



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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture

Theatre Review: The Laramie Project

By Scott Johnston

The Laramie Project, on stage now at Theatre Aurora, is part traditional play, part media presentation, and part documentary. The result is an absorbing, thought provoking, and overall terrific theatrical experience.

The play is based on the true events of the kidnapping, beating and eventual death in October 1998 of Matthew Shepard, a university student in Laramie, Wyoming.

Shortly after this event, Moises Kaufman and a team from the Tectonic Theatre Project travelled to Laramie, conducting over 200 interviews with its citizens. Their 1999 production, which is now one of the most performed plays in North America, was synthesized from the resulting material.

Through a series of short vignettes we get a feel for this town about half the size of Aurora, and share the varied reactions of the townspeople to events as they

unfolded.

This story generated a lot of media attention when it transpired, and this is brought into play through several TV screens, and the innovative and extensive use of live cameras both on stage, and even in the audience.

Producer Steve Wolfer and Director Sergio Calderon, and their team have done a terrific job adapting this play to the Factory Theatre through the use of music, sound and minimal, but effective, special effects.

Another way in which they have widened the experience has been to transform the theatre lobby into the "Fireside Bar", the last place Matthew was seen alive. If you arrive early, you can sit at a table, and listen to the live karaoke.

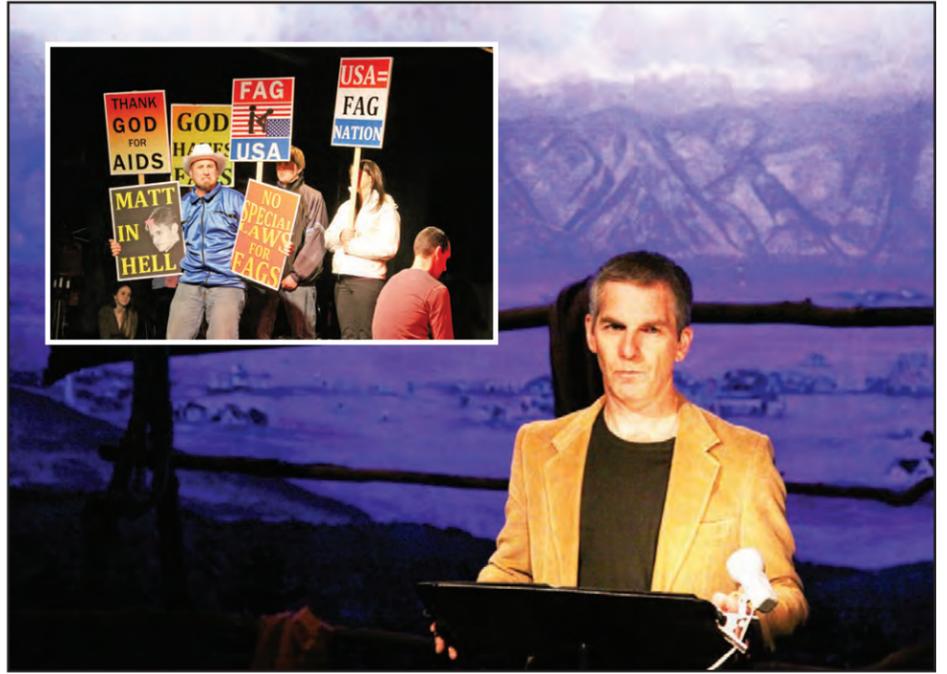
The stage itself is very monotone and simple. This allows for both rapid and seamless transitions between the various vignettes, and focuses attention on the characters.

One of the main reasons this play works so well is the terrific cast of five men and five women, who are a good mix of Theatre Aurora veterans and newcomers. Between them, they play dozens of roles ranging from bartenders, to police officers, to media, to grieving friends and family members, to average citizens, and even the members of the Tectonic Theatre Project themselves.

All of them play their parts perfectly, needing only very basic props and costume changes to transform themselves from character to character.

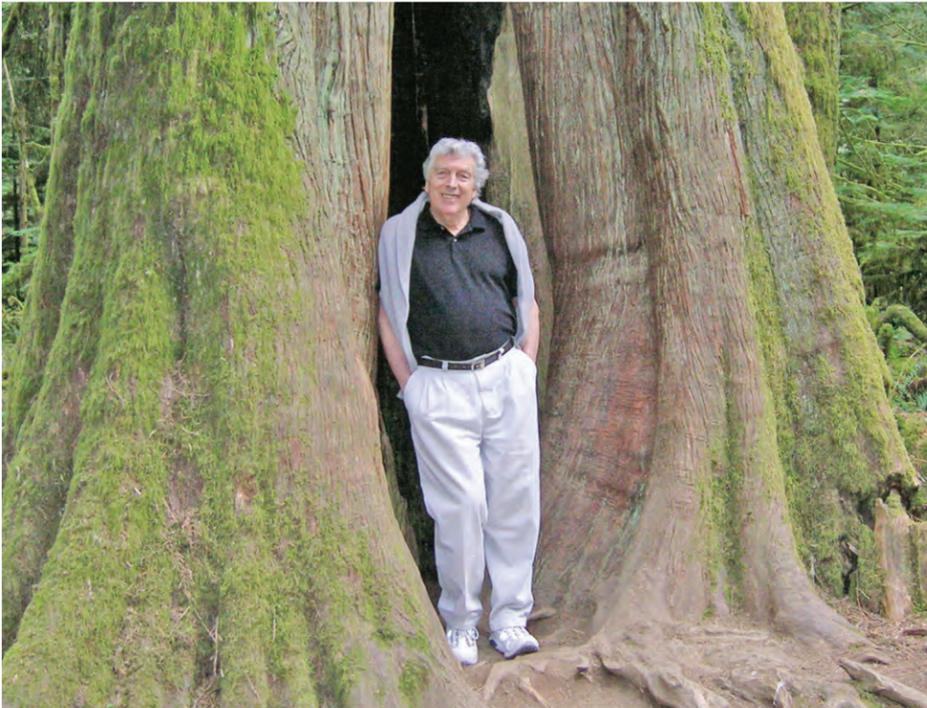
While the subject matter of this play is difficult, the play itself is thought-provoking, and this wonderful production will keep you engrossed until the very end.

Evening performances of "The Laramie Project" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, February 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 & 11 with a matinee February 5. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.



Peter Shipston is one of ten actors taking on over 60 roles in Theatre Aurora's production of The Laramie Project. Inset: Actors and placards capture the turbulence which followed the murder of student Matthew Shepard.

Auroran photos by David Falconer.



ROCH CARRIER

"Hockey Sweater" author to speak at SAC

The Hockey Sweater is arguably one of the best-known children's books in Canada - and its author is set to appear in Aurora for a discussion and book signing next Monday.

Author Roch Carrier will be a guest speaker at St. Andrew's College on February 6 at 7.30 p.m. in a free event open to the public. He is expected to speak about the benefits of bilingualism, the art of storytelling, and "personal anecdotes from his long and successful career as an author," according to SAC.

"Drawing on the charm

and nostalgia supplied by his birthplace (and still his favourite place on earth) several of his works have become classics and are studied and enjoyed in schools and universities around the world, in both French and English," said SAC's Kim Sillcox in a statement.

"His cherished children's story, The Hockey Sweater, remains a timeless favourite. It was made into a short film by the National Film Board, with a screenplay written by the author himself. This humorous and bittersweet tale of Roch's

childhood worship of his hero, Maurice Richard, laid the groundwork for his other book on the hockey legend, Our Life with the Rocket (2001), one that he would pen many years down the road."

If interested in attending, you are asked to RSVP by visiting www.sac.on.ca. Parents and kids are encouraged to wear their favourite hockey sweaters and bring along their own copies of the book to sign. Copies will also be available onsite for purchase.

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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture

Land will be used for new Montessori School

From page 3
to allow the demolition of the house and allow a new development on the land.

"I have possibly been looking at [the building] longer than anybody and as far as I am concerned it is a complete blight on the landscape and the sooner it disappears the better," she said. "I would remind Council that we have two responsibilities - one is the protection of our heritage and the other is to look to our future. That site hasn't produced a penny of assessment revenue. It doesn't even have [bills sent to it for services]. We surely are not in a position to turn our

backs on an opportunity for new assessment revenue that will reduce the burden on our taxpayers and share the cost of the expensive services we provide."

Before final approval for the demolition was given, Councillors also debated the merits of the building's structural soundness. The property owners said the building would be in the way of constructing Yonge Street access and the structure was too fragile to move. They have said, however, that materials and heritage features would be incorporated into the new development.

Councillor Ballard, however,

suggested investigating alternate uses for the property.

"I'm not convinced that other uses of the property would not allow that laneway to be used properly," said Councillor Ballard, suggesting the building be refurbished for professionals. "I don't want us to agree to demolition based on the idea that only one thing can go on that property. We may find out that it is not a good thing to do to allow access to this property from Yonge Street and I'm really worried that we may allow a heritage building to be knocked down only to find that...it was knocked down for a property

usage that ultimately just doesn't work there."

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said his department did not foresee any problems with Yonge Street access although a full transportation study to determine the feasibility of the idea will need to take place.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who had the last word, said he was "astounded" that it had taken three and a half years to get to this point.

"It is a wonder that anybody would want to develop in this Town taking so long to get a decision," he said.

"I believe the Town through

Council had firmly demonstrated its commitment to heritage in terms of the Petch House. It is unfortunate, but I don't think you can keep everything, nor should you keep everything. I wouldn't put any of my money into trying to restore that house because I think it would be like the movie *The Money Pit*."

Building's fate sealed, but not without fight

By Brock Weir

While the fate of the Browning House was sealed last week, it did not come without a fight from some residents.

The last two meetings at which Councillors beat this dilapidated horse came with one vigorous plea apiece.

The first one came at the general committee meeting held on January 17 from resident Graham Wride. He questioned the Heritage committee's recommendation to Council to delist the property when it only found its way onto the register in 2009.

"If you agree to this recommendation it sends a message that the program of awarding heritage designation to our historical buildings is meaningless," he said. "Given the very limited space available and the traffic and safety concerns, the property in question is, in my opinion, simply not suitable for use as a Montessori School of the size proposed."

"I do not see the necessity of any rush to un-designated this building. At the very least, could its status not be made conditional on the approval of any forthcoming plans? If the building is demolished now and the owners never receive approval for a school at this location we have not only lost a part of historic Aurora but also the opportunity to be able to incorporate this building in any other alternative developments that might arise in the future."

"After all, within two blocks of the Browning House, there are a number of examples of heritage buildings successfully converted to commercial properties for commercial purposes. I am just suggesting you keep the options open to give this building the same opportunity."

The second argument came last Tuesday from Christopher Watts. Mr. Watts pointed out that the building

scored a 91.2 on Parks Canada's Heritage Evaluation system and said it meant every attempt must be made to preserve the building.

"I don't see how the motion before you tonight reflects that," he told Councillors. "Here we are in the first month of 2012 and you have received a recommendation to demolish a building that was designated just over two years ago. What you should be asking yourself is why an Aurora landmark should be demolished simply because it can't be a Montessori school."

"The Town doesn't require

any additional tools or authority [to preserve the house], it simply needs to implement what it already has. Failure to do so questions the integrity of the designation process and it also questions the authority of the Heritage Advisory Committee as a whole.

"The Browning House doesn't need to become a failure for this Council to learn from and that is why I urge Council to pull the item this evening, defer it back to HAC so that proper assurances can be made [that] this decision is consistent with the Ontario Heritage Act."



The first significant snowfall of the year took place this Friday and Auroran photographer David Falconer captured some of its beauty on a walk through Sheppard's Bush.



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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

volunteer website or contact volunteers@yrp.ca.

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

At the request of its director, Richard Heinzle, the Evergreen Choir's time of practice will be increased to 90 minutes. Registration is now available at the front desk of the Aurora Seniors' Centre for the season until June 2012. The fee for the coming sessions remains the same: \$50 per member. New members are always welcome. It is not necessary to be able to read music, nor will you be asked to audition, to enjoy being part of this experience. In addition to its regular Christmas and Spring concerts, the group will also perform at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, January 29th, 2012. For more information call the seniors' desk at 905-726-4767.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

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

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

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

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

The Aurora Lions, have moved to their new meeting place at the Aurora Legion in the Coulson Hall where they have three meetings per month. The second Monday of the month is the dinner meeting at 7 p.m., the third Tuesday is the business meeting at 7.30 p.m. and the fourth Monday is a dinner meeting at 7 p.m. The club is welcoming people to come out to the meetings to see what the Aurora Lions are all about and consider joining the Lions and reach out to the community in many events. For further details go to their website at www.auroralionscanada.com.

The Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday night at Gabriel's Restaurant on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information, go to their website at www.rotaryaurora.com

Meet for lunch and a sense of community at Martha's Table, based in St. Andrew's Hall at Aurora's Presbyterian Church. The thriving, volunteer-run program reopens September 1. Lunch, featuring soup, sandwiches, and dessert, is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Net receipts go to local charities. The hall is on the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

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

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

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

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.

Scottish Country Dancing on Friday mornings at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley Varcoe at 905-953-9709.

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AURORAN POLL VOTE

Please participate in our POLL go to www.theauroran.com - scroll to the bottom right side of the home page to...

The Town of Aurora passed a Council resolution last year that would have allowed them to seek to recover the \$55,000+ of public money spent in former mayor Phyllis Morris' defamation suit against three local bloggers, among others, if she had been successful.

Now that Ms. Morris has dropped the suit, should the Town still seek to recover the money?

RESULTS AS OF JAN 30, 2012	YES, it was a misuse (129) of Public money	NO, it would cost more (55) money to pursue it	UNSURE (5)
	76.3%	20.7%	3%

Watch **OurTown** WEEKLY SHOW with Alison Collins-Mrakas



Alison Collins-Mrakas - THURSDAY nights at 7 p.m. **THEAURORAN.COM**
Go to the site using your smartphone. Here's how:
1. On your 'Smart Phone' browser go to getscanlife.com and download the free application Scanlife.com reader (or any app you prefer) onto your phone.
2. Press the download button when the site auto-detects your device.
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Click on the ScanLife icon to scan QR codes or barcodes.

"Our Town" with Alison Collins-Mrakas



If you don't have a smart phone, go to www.theauroran.com - click on the video - to go to TVA

Watch community Videos just posted

- St. Joseph's Catholic School 50th Anniversary
- Artists in the Valley
- Central York Fire Services Open House
- Sport Aurora Awards
- OJHL Highlights

& much more... go to www.theauroran.com
Watch for new community videos each week. If you have an upcoming event and would like it covered by theauroran.com please have your event co-ordinator email cynthia@auroran.com
Thank you to our videographers: Steve Mitchell and Sean Casey

Shows from the Market

K.O. Creations
Cocoa Cannelle
Chef: Mr. Spinners
Chef: Pascal
Jan's Country Pantry
FERRET GIRL - Colin Haskin
Nov 26 Indoor Farmers
Market - Cultural Centre

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Watch **OurTown** Thurs. 7 p.m.

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		PRINCESS ABIGAIL is looking for another Cavalier to be with through the day. Please call 905-751-6013.

FOR SALE

NORDHEIMER UPRIGHT ANTIQUE SIDEBOARD cabinet grand piano, with original stool. \$580. Please email bob@auroran.com.

Maple Queen Anne style Buffet, great condition. Mahogany inlay. \$750. Additional antiques for sale as well. Call 905-727-6497.

VINTAGE FURNISHINGS for sale. Couches, love seats, chairs from the 1950s and 60s. Good condition. Prices on enquiry. Call 905-727-6497.

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

EDITOR

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers is currently hiring for the position of Editor at one of our local newspapers.

The editor will be expected to:

- Produce several bylined new and feature stories each week
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication
- Take photographs
- Show proficiency at using social media, Mac computers, and QuarkXPress, InDesign, Photoshop and other programs necessary for the publication of a weekly newspaper
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

Qualifications:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
- Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

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Are you a multi-tasker? Creative thinker? Passionate about sales? This might be just the opportunity you've been looking for.

Responsibilities include:

- Service and expand existing accounts through maintaining good customer relations and developing sales programs that meet advertisers' business needs.
- Prospect for new accounts including researching advertisers in competing publications and reviewing new businesses in the area.
- Establish and renew advertising contracts.
- Collect, process, and proof Clients' ads for completeness and accuracy.
- Provide Composing with clear and organized instructions / designs for ads.
- Negotiate rates with Clients, subject to Department restrictions, and to assist Accounting with the collection of accounts.
- Accurately complete run sheets to ensure accounting maintains current files on all Clients.
- Respond to incoming telephone inquiries concerning advertising services.
- Address customer concerns in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Attain and/or surpass sales targets.

The successful candidate will:

- be action-oriented, creative, customer focused, result driven and have the ability to maintain composure at all times
- have sound knowledge of sales and marketing practices
- have excellent communication skills, verbal and written
- have the ability to work individually and as a team with minimum supervision
- have strong computer knowledge in Microsoft Office; experience with design applications an asset
- have the ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure
- be extremely organized and detail oriented
- have strong time management skills
- have strong presentation skills

Qualifications:

- College Diploma in business, marketing or related field preferred or 3 years sales experience.
- Valid driver's license and good driving record

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The purpose of this full time position is to develop the business by selling advertising and concepts to both new and existing clients.

To be considered for this role, you must have cold calling experience. You will possess a pleasant phone manner and excellent communication skills, initiative, self-motivation and a strong commitment to customer service. You need to have a consultative approach as the role is challenging and engaging. You will be able to pursue opportunities to reach set targets and goals.

Experience in publishing is advantageous, but not essential.

Interested applicants are invited to forward a letter of application accompanied by resume to rdrillen@mac.com

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Saturday February 11, 2012 at 10:00am

Antiques, Furniture, Collectibles, Household/Shop/Misc
Directions: 17869 Winston Churchill Blvd., Caledon. From the south end of the town of Erin come East on Bush St. to Winston Churchill. Then go North 1 mile to sale on East side OR From the town of Caledon come West on Hwy 124 to Winston Churchill Then go South 1 mile to sale on East side.

ANTIQUES: Sofa; wash stand; spinning wheel; table-6 pressback chairs; Hoosier cupboard; armoire; dresser & mirror; dresser; rockers; whatnot; (2) slipper chairs; 30's desk; chair-carved top; stool; pedestal table; chairs; loveseat; Singer treadle-table only; Singer port mach; 30's Brunswick Collender pool table-6x12 slate tools & cues-no felt; Swede saw; sled; sad irons; (4)milk bottles-some cardboard caps; Kick cola bottle; Heinz bottle; well pump; whipple trees; crocks. Furn: Oak Queen Anne style dining room set mfg. by Jamestown Sterling-from Butcher's(table-8 chairs, 2 lg leaves, hutch&buffet) ; sm cabinet; sm dresser; glass front cabinet; coffee/side tables; sewing table; sofa(Q); wood office chair; file cabinet; glider rocker; Duncan Phyfe style bed(K); dresser; cedar chest; sm stands; sm bench; leather couch; wood bed(T); and more!

HH/SHOP/MISC: (2) Lg wool rugs; patio set-6 ch; hardwood books; (3)camera tri-pods; fire tools; TV tables; vinyl records; qty lamps; DVD player; TV; elliptical machine-like new; (2)dog crates; port stereo system; Express Vu boxes; mirror; life jackets; picnic basket; snorkeling items; school desk; engineer's plans 5 dr metal cabinet; sm carpet cleaner; qty upright vacuums; bolts/nuts/hooks; dehumidifier; 4ft wide roll heavy vinyl; craft supplies; fax machine; alum swing-canopy; (2)kids saddles; spoon collector case; sleds; window AC; wood lathe; stand mixer; golf bag cart; wood blocks; lg kids wood wagon; oars; sewage pump & tank for basement-new; CD racks; scythes; yard tools; TV stand; sm fridge freezer; alum ext ladder; golf clubs-men's(R); Lots to see!!

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By BRIAN WARBURTON

Staying Connected

A member who moved to a new address and subsequently lost her Seniors' Centre Flash E-mail service asked that I look into the reason.

The member had changed her home address, received a new phone number, following which a problem developed with her e-mail address, which was a simple problem rectified swiftly. However, changes to personal information, including addresses, phone numbers and contact information in the event of necessity, should all be treated as vital information, kept up-to-date and ready to use in emergency.

Please check your contact information with the Seniors' Centre is in full, correct and in pristine condition. Taking care of this easy to forget responsibility, eases your mind.

The Flash E-mail facility publishes coming events and other current information to members of the Seniors' Centre, providing a very worthwhile service while offering a variety of information to all active members. It assists infirm members to keep in contact with vibrant insights on change, developments and forthcoming events. Members confined to bed or the home delight in this simple but dynamic service!

The member who operates the service prefers to work incognito, although everybody knows the person who works so diligently. Since its inception, the Flash E-mail service has proved its worth.

Members who wish to access the Flash E-mail program should request assistance at the front counter.

Planning and preparation for retirement should include preparing the mind by understanding that dealing positively

with the personal loss of the breadwinner's role is part of the life cycle. The majority of retirees soon settle into a new role in life and enjoy their new-found freedom, and often forge new perspectives of life with new friends, and a wealth of pastimes, amusements, and hobbies to the extent they wonder where they once found the time for work.

I find occasion to mention Pickle Ball from time to time and it came to my attention again this past week when member Tom Bozinoski arrived to play Chess, announcing with a huge smile on his face he had just finished playing the game.

Tom is a fine chess player, always encouraging players with less experience, and smiling. He wanted more diversions and tried Pickle Ball, and found the game excellent sport, with the resulting exercise a great bonus.

The Ontario Woodcarvers Association will exhibit at the McMichael Gallery, February 4 -5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Bill Pressmar and Fred Ash, two members of the Seniors' Centre, well versed in the skills of wood carving, will display an Inuit series.

Woodcarving appears to have a soothing effect on emotions and, true to my words, Bill and Fred go about their days as calm personalities, content in the quiet aspirations of their art.

Quality in all art forms is fuelled with sincere effort, careful selection, and well-matched media. Talent fosters an impressive and even grand effect, and deserves our collective admiration.

Bill and Fred enjoyed creating their carvings, and their work will inspire and stimulate those who aspire to creativity in any medium, perhaps arousing feelings to tackle new examples of creativity.

In the same wood-working environment, Ron Coe a director of the Aurora Seniors' Association, and a fine woodworker, constructed a fire truck from wood. Deservedly, it sits in the display cabinet near the front counter in the Seniors' Centre for all to view!

The fire truck seized my close attention, as I stood before the exhibit in awe of the fine display.

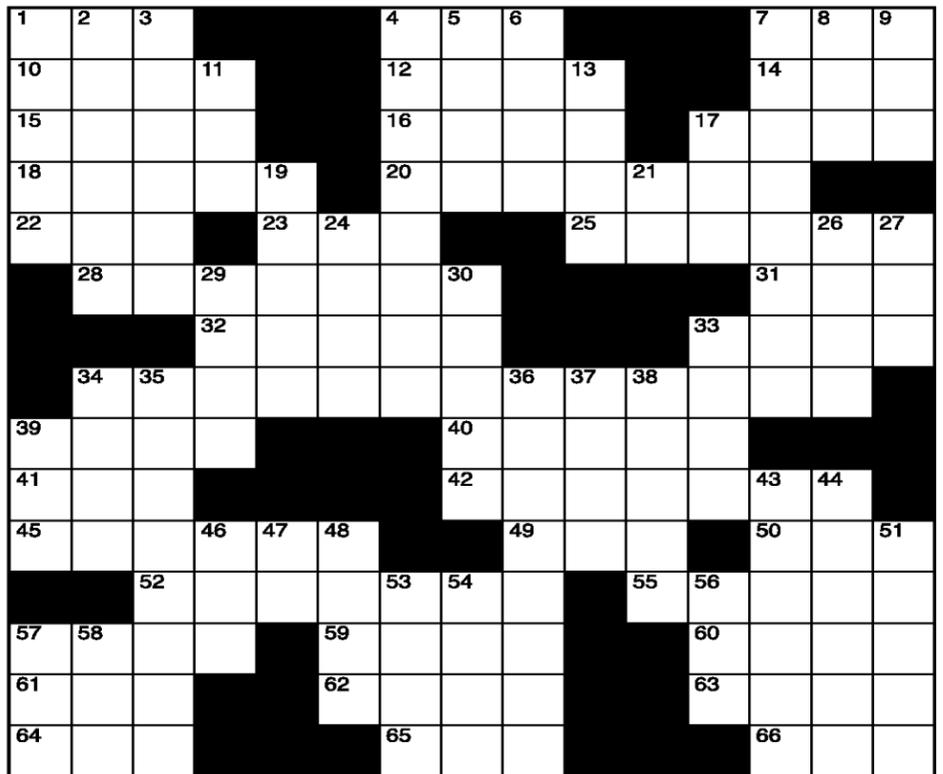
Ron engages the artistic element in his lively imagination by making things happen with the creativity he possesses in his wood-working skills. His dreams may challenge him because he dreams big, and lives for challenge. The more difficult the challenge, the greater the satisfaction.

When the project that consumed his wood-working passions stands completed, newly constructed from a vision within as a stand-alone life as an artefact, mute and motionless, it will constitute a tribute to the industry and artistry of seniority!

Truly, retirement marks a new beginning after many years working of necessity, and now a noble springtime for creativity for all who dream and dare to create visible evidence for their love of things beautiful.

Ron stands tall among seniors who retired from work and blended retirement into a career of interested pleasure. He incorporated measures of satisfaction, recreation and delight into social mingling, typified by good life and fascinating hours spent pleasantly in the Seniors' Centre.

Spontaneity in life, at work or at play, often leads to excellence, and when exhibited during games of badminton, table tennis or carpet bowling or any of the arts and crafts or other pastimes, tranquility rules and harmony touches everybody.



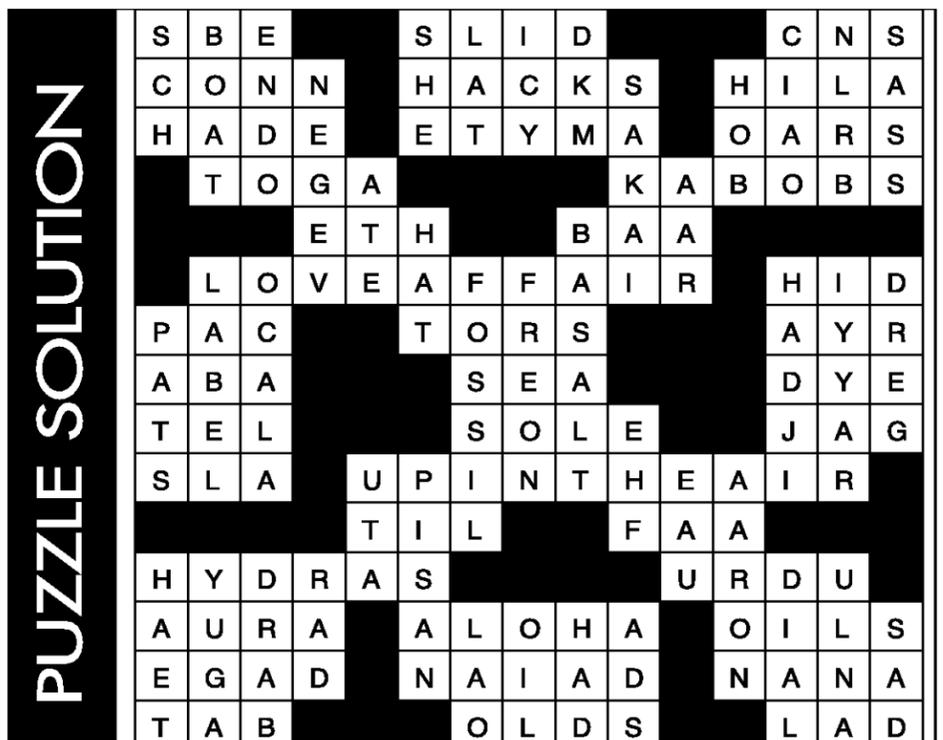
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Film Music Guild
- 4. A rubberized raincoat
- 7. An upper limb
- 10. Wander
- 12. Biblical name for Syria
- 14. Former OSS
- 15. Norwegian capital
- 16. No. Am. Gamebird Assoc.
- 17. Taxis
- 18. Ancient Chinese weight unit
- 20. Third tonsil
- 22. Ancient Hebrew measure = 1.5 gal.
- 23. Piece of clothing
- 25. Overrefined, effeminate
- 28. Housing for electronics (TV)
- 31. Cut grass
- 32. Ghana's capital
- 33. Prof. Inst. of Real Estate
- 34. Shares a predicament
- 39. Old World buffalo
- 40. Loads with cargo
- 41. What part of (abbr.)
- 42. Partakers
- 45. Expressed harsh criticism
- 49. Doctors' group
- 50. OM (var.)
- 52. A dead body
- 55. Jewish spiritual leader
- 57. An almost horizontal entrance to a mine
- 59. Anglo-Saxon monk (672-736)
- 60. Database management system
- 61. A swindle in which you cheat
- 62. Arabian Gulf
- 63. Six (Spanish)
- 64. Price label
- 65. Black tropical American cuckoo
- 66. Teletypewriter (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Foam
- 2. Tessera
- 3. Major ore source of lead
- 4. Directors
- 5. 9/11 Memorial architect
- 6. The goal space in ice hockey
- 7. The academic world
- 8. Standing roast
- 9. More (Spanish)
- 11. Gram molecule
- 13. Head of long hair
- 17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 19. Line of poetry
- 21. Originated from
- 24. One time only
- 26. A civil wrong
- 27. Female sheep
- 29. Bay Area Toll Authority
- 30. Afrikaans
- 33. Hold a particular posture
- 34. South American Indian
- 35. Paying attention to
- 36. Wife of a maharaja
- 37. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 38. Central Br. province in India
- 39. 4th month (abbr.)
- 43. Grooved carpentry joint
- 44. Present formally
- 46. Skeletal muscle
- 47. ___, denotes past
- 48. Aba ___ Honeymoon
- 51. Young lady
- 53. Any of the Hindu sacred writing
- 54. Where Adam and Eve were placed
- 56. Promotional materials
- 57. Play a role
- 58. Arrived extinct

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge Results: January 23, 2012

N/S
1st - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin
2nd - Frank Lablans and Frank Henriques
3rd - Arend and Bev Vanderwiell

E/W
1st - Melody Irving and Jeannine Mackie
2nd - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman
3rd - Carolyn Liddy and Christine Woolley

Jeffrey Sleep
Financial Security Advisor

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“Raise the Barn” raises the roof

By Brock Weir

They came to "Raise the Barn", but nearly 400 people raised the roof at The Manor last week for 'Round the Bend Farm.

Event organizers initially thought they could move about 250 tickets for the fundraiser for the Feddema family, owners of 'Round the Bend Farm, which lost two of its barns in a blaze last year. But the event, which was held at the Carrying Place venue Friday night, quickly sold out.

For Steve Pellegrini, Mayor of King Township, the fact that the event was a sell out should come as no surprise to organizers or the Feddema family.

"I'm so proud and delighted," said Mayor Pellegrini. "Round the Bend Farm is a landmark and everybody wanted to do something just to show what they meant [to them]."

"It wasn't about raising gobs of money for them, it is to show that we are proud of their business. This is what it feels like to live in a small town where everybody cares."

Steve Falk, a resident of Aurora, and Walter Karabin, a resident of King, came up with the idea for the fundraiser after reminiscing about the good times their families had spent on the Kettleby farm. They wanted to do something to help out after the fire and that kernel of an idea morphed to a 400-ticket, \$50 a head fundraiser featuring Mr. Falk's band, The Thursday Night Jam and a silent auction showcasing items donated from across York Region.

Although ticket holders came out to support the cause, they also came out to give thanks to Brian and Sue Feddema, who have welcomed visitors to their farm for over 20 years. When they arrived at The Manor they said they were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support they had received not just with the fundraiser but since the very evening they lost their buildings.

"This is amazing," said Sue just after coming into the reception. "It means that for 25 years we have been doing our thing and now they are showing it fully that [we] mean something to them. I'm just flabbergasted."

As the night wore on, Mr. Karabin said he was pleased with how things were unfolding, adding the event would not have been possible without a team of volunteers who were more than happy to lend a hand.

"It was instant," said Mr. Karabin of the plans. "Just add water."

"The event popped up out of nowhere really. It was from idea to reality within an evening. The Feddema family farm is so well known. It is a testament to their brand

and I don't think they knew how big their brand really is."

Whether or not they had any inkling of their brand, it was not the Feddema's intention when they bought the farm a quarter-century ago.

"We figured we would just be a pair of farmers selling a few things to a few people and apparently the impact that we have had on people over the long haul has netted something like this," said Brian. "A lot of people have a fire and it is just them, the insurance company, and a few local volunteers and here we have about 400 people pouring their hearts out."

If they had any game plan to set their farm apart, they wanted to keep their operations family oriented rather than the "scary" Hallowe'en or horror route some farms travel.

"We wanted it so families could come with little ones and bigger ones and enjoy all the things we have to offer," said Sue. "We wanted it to be a good experience for families and we wanted it to be accessible. They could also walk through the fields and see where the vegetables are grown and how they grow and it could be educational and fun at the same time."

Those are the two halves of the whole, added Brian - the school tour side and the production of food, both of which are a draw for city slickers.

"The tour part is probably done more to promote our existence and expand our horizons to bring people in from Scarborough, Etobicoke, or Sutton," said Brian. "When the average residential lot is as big as this foyer, to be able to go out and walk on three or four acres of yard and not be told you can't go here or you can't touch this is just so refreshing for the urbanite."

"We didn't sit around and dream up the formula first."

And 'Round the Bend Farm continues to develop. At press time, the first two walls were already up for one of the two new barns constructed over the footprint of one of the ones lost in the blaze. The couple hopes the remaining walls and roof will be up by Wednesday.

"This reminds me of our wedding night 25 years ago except for one major difference - she knew half of the people and I knew half of the people," Brian told revellers on Friday night. "Here you know us and we maybe know about 20 per cent of you by name or face. Somehow we have impacted you over the years, but we had no idea how many people we impacted and how much."

"'Thank you' does not have enough syllables in it to truly convey what we feel."



(1) Round the Bend owners Brian and Sue Feddema (2) Over 400 guests were entertained by Aurora-based band The Thursday Night Jam Orchestra (3) Chefs serve up red hot appetizers (4) event hosts Steve Falk, Jane Taylor, Julie Karabin and Walter Karabin (5) The Feddema family (left to right) – David, Benjamin, Sue, Rachel, Brian, Rebecca, and Jonathan. Auroran photos by David Falconer

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AT THE BISTRO

February 14 - 18

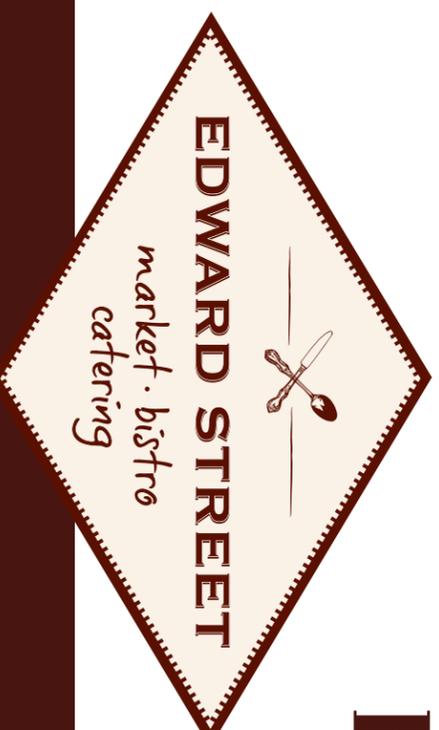
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