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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 13 No. 8 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of January 1, 2013

Young or old, your talent could help make a difference



Leslie-Anne Holmeshaw (L) of Newmarket and Carla Walker (R) of Aurora have teamed up to fight cancer. The two have found a creative way to help meet their objective, scouring Aurora and Newmarket for talent – young and old – to put on a talent show next month to benefit the Ride to Conquer Cancer and Princess Margaret Hospital.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

By Brock Weir

If you have an inkling there might be some talent bottled away inside you, now might just be the time to pop the cork.

So say two local women who are holding auditions to find great undiscovered talents in Aurora and Newmarket all for a good cause – One Act at a Time.

One Act at a Time will be held at the Newmarket Community Church on Saturday, February 23, with all proceeds going directly to the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer, benefiting the Princess Margaret Hospital Cancer Foundation.

Organizers Carla Walker of Aurora and Leslie-Anne Holmeshaw of Newmarket are looking to put together a show which they aim to be “fun, entertaining and diverse” as well as “bringing artists from our community together for a common cause.”

“It’s about building our community and the people within it,” they say.

So, if you think you have what it takes, audition applications are being accepted online through January 11. Carla and Leslie-Anne call for interested people to submit video auditions via YouTube or through their website. Best performers will be contacted for live call backs on January 17 and 18.

Since they first brainstormed the idea, they have been putting posters around both towns, in high schools, and other public spaces and are looking for a wide range of responses.

“We want students, we want seniors, we really want variety!” says Ms.

Continued on page 15

Former soldier steers ship into new waters

By Brock Weir

When Aurora’s David Burnett hands over the reins of his Markham-based technology company this month to his business partner, it is not the end of a journey which has taken him from the military through undue hardship to becoming an undoubted success story, but a springboard to yet another adventure.

Following his departure from End to End Networks, a company he founded after blindness forced him from his lengthy career in the Canadian Armed Forces, he will spend the next few months fundraising through Japanese-Canadian businesses before embarking across the pacific to Miura, Japan for the Blind Sailing World and International Championships.

“I came up with the bloody idea and the next thing I know I am running the bloody fundraising thing!” says Mr. Burnett in mock exasperation on his idea to look for partnerships to set the team on their way. “How did that happen? Gee, this was not what I wanted to get into when I had the idea in the first place, but it is something that needed to be done. I have never done fundraising before, so that should be an interesting experience.

Mr. Burnett, or Captain Burnett as he should rightfully be known, has led a life that is anything but short in interesting experiences. He was honoured by Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown this fall with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to the community. Just a couple of months before he packed in his suc-

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Cultural Centre set to receive payment as Board readies to approve agreement

By Brock Weir

The Town of Aurora's potential new Culture Services deal could get approval from the board of the Aurora Cultural Centre next week.

The board is set to meet next Wednesday, January 9, to give their final seal of approval on a new deal to provide Cultural Services to the Town in the historic Church Street School landmark. If all goes according to plan, the draft agreement will then be before Councillors at the January 15 General Committee meeting for debate.

The deal is nearly a year in the making. Town Solicitor Warren Mar had previously reviewed the existing agreement, which was inked by the last Council, and outlined a laundry list of shortcomings and areas for improvement with the existing agreement.

Should the draft agreement be approved by both groups in the coming weeks, it will address a number of prominent issues outlined by Councillors throughout the ensuing debates. Two Councillors will be appointed to sit on the Cultural Centre's Board of Directors as full voting members, the second floor Aurora Room will be reserved as exclusive museum space for the Aurora Collection, and annual budgets will then have to be presented to

Council each year for approval.

In the expiring agreement, the Cultural Centre Board receives a set amount of money per year from Council without needing to provide a detailed budget on how those funds are used. As the new agreement will not be implemented until the end of January at the earliest, the Aurora Cultural Centre will receive their first quarterly payment at the beginning of this week. Council approved the quarterly funding at the last Council of December "to ensure continued operation of the Centre in advance of Council budget consideration."

Council's approval of the funding to fill in any gaps between the expiration of the old agreement and the signing of the new came with the decision to hold off their debate on the agreement itself until January 15. Although the debate had been delayed in theory, Councillors did take the opportunity to express some existing concerns they had going into the New Year debate.

"[Our new solicitor] reviewed [the existing agreement] and found it to be completely not representing the community's interest and indeed a substantial change," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "This new agreement I don't see it being a substantial change. There is only one improvement,

and that was the Board appear before Council and justify their request for funding. There is nothing in the new agreement that suggests they will not receive funding. They will continue to have a building without payment of rent and continue to have a building where the Town provides all maintenance and utility costs and they would presumably continue to receive funding from the municipality."

Additional issues the Councillor noted were that \$325,000 given to the Centre last year through the agreement was a full point in 2012's tax rate. Councillor John Abel was also dissatisfied with the draft agreement. He said two key elements were missing.

"When this was originally approved by Council, two provisions were given right away – that two Councillors would be able to sit on the board and the budget would be presented before any money would be allowed in 2013," he said. "I would like to note that neither of those objectives were made and I am not in favour of this."

An Ontario Superior Court Judge is expected to rule at the end of February whether a Councillor sitting on the Board of Directors for the Aurora Cultural Centre could bring about any Conflicts of Interest.

Council approved send-



DANCING FOR LIFE

People filled Factory Theatre just before Christmas to take in 2012's Dancing for Life Choreography Showcase, hosted by the Somerville Dance Academy. The showcase was held to benefit their team, Dancing For Life, in the 2013 Aurora Relay for Life, which will take place this June. The program featured dancing to a wide range of songs from the classic White Christmas to the now ubiquitous viral hit Gangnam Style.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

ing the draft Cultural Services agreement to the January 15 Council meeting 7-2, with Councillors Abel and Buck voting against it.

"It's unfortunate we weren't able to [have the agreement in place] earlier so they would be able to present to Council," said Councillor John Gallo of the Cultural Centre Board presenting its budget to Council. "But if you're not supporting this, you're ostensibly saying that on January 1, change the locks, close the doors, because they will no longer be in business."

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

A favourite in the holiday calendar for residents of both Newmarket and Aurora, carols and other favourites rang out through Newmarket Theatre in the lead up to Christmas with the Salvation Army Band's Carols of Celebration. During the concert, Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen presented the Salvation Army's Major Brian Bishop with a \$35,000 cheque for their Hope for Others campaign, proceeds from local mayoral charity golf tournaments.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Week of January 1, 2013

Tigers broke for Christmas on high note after two losses



Aurora's Taylor McCloy races down the ice. The Tigers lost against Kingston just before Christmas, but beat the Whitby Fury 5-2 in their final pre-holiday game.

Auroran photo by Janie Kuzmyk

By Janie Kuzmyk

The Aurora Tigers had three games in the four days before Christmas, finishing with two losses and one win.

The Tigers took on the Kingston Voyageurs December 20, ending the nail-biter of a game with

a 3-2 shootout loss. The game remained scoreless until three-quarters of the way through the first period. Aurora's Adam Di Brina was responsible for the only goal of the frame, assisted by Daniel Clairmont and Adam Moody.

The second period was

equally sparse. Kingston's Michael Casale found the back of the Aurora net thirteen minutes in, assisted by teammates Brett Du Puy and David Quesnele.

Eleven minutes passed in the final frame before Kingston finally took the lead, thanks to a goal

from Michael Shug, with help from Ludlow Harris and Kris Grant. Aurora struck back mere seconds later, tying the game once again on a goal from Clairmont, assisted by Moody and Adam DiBrina.

A period of overtime was fruitless for both teams, and the game progressed to a shootout. Though Aurora's Dylan Wallace netted his attempt, no other Aurora players managed to score, and Kingston's shooters Francesco Vilardi and Michael Shug won the game for the Voyageurs.

December 22 saw the Tigers face off against the Lindsay Muskies, losing another close game.

Lindsay started off the scoring with a goal from Matt McCartney just over a minute into the game, assisted by Jake Taylor. Muskie Corey Jackson increased the Lindsay lead four minutes later with help from Tyler Donaldson. Aurora fought back, however, making their own mark on the scoreboard thanks to a goal from Daniel Lisi, assisted by Robert Angiolella and Kory Kennedy. Unfortunately,

Lindsay responded with another goal of their own, this time from Tyler Donaldson, with an assist from Louis-David Bourgault. The period ended with Lindsay in the lead by two goals.

The second frame saw Lindsay increase their lead by another goal when Felix Chamberland scored, assisted by Donaldson and Matt McCartney, nine minutes in. Aurora's Taylor McCloy closed the gap two minutes later, however, scoring on the powerplay with an assist from Matt Andreacchi.

Lindsay's Dylan Fitze scored once more for the Muskies in the third period, two minutes in, assisted by Vince Herlihey and Brian Hubers. Aurora made a valiant attempt to come back in the last half of the period, as Moody scored twice in quick succession. The first goal was assisted by Tyler Shaw and Clairmont, while the second was assisted by Clairmont and Michael Keenan.

The Muskies held on to their one goal lead, however, and time ran out for the Tigers. The final score ended at 5-4.

On December 23, the Tigers finally got the win they had been waiting for, beating the Whitby Fury

5-2. Though Whitby initially took the lead with a goal from Tyler Park, assisted by Nick Neal only two minutes in, Aurora had a two-goal lead by the end of the first period.

Clairmont tied the game, assisted by DiBrina and Moody at 11:53, and then Mikhel Poldma and Kory Kennedy each scored powerplay goals. The first was assisted by Shaw and Clairmont, the second assisted by Adam Moody.

Whitby tried to get back into the game halfway through the second period as Nick Neal netted a goal with assistance from Henry Thompson and Sean Darroch. Aurora took back their two-goal lead just before the period ended, however, thanks to Moody's powerplay goal, assisted by Jordan Brown and Dylan Sikura.

Though Whitby pulled their goalie in the final minutes of the game hoping for a miracle, Tiger Robert Angiolella scored an empty net goal with help from Kory Kennedy. The game ended with a final score of 5-2, Aurora.

As The Auroran went to press Sunday night, the Tigers were preparing to take on the Pickering Panthers.

Future of soccer could be a "watershed" moment: Weese

From page 3

During discussions, Councillors said they were unaware of the issue and asked further questions.

"I agree with the spokesperson," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "There is no room for two organizations organizing soccer for young people."

Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation confirmed there had been a request to discuss opportunities to create another soccer club with an eye towards field opportunities.

"They will be treated as any other club would be within our sports field use policy," said Mr. Downey. "Priority is given to non-profit community groups which the AYSC is. At present, there is no standing with regards to this club that they wish to form. If they became a non-profit community-based group they would have the same priority for fields as the AYSC."

Although Mr. Downey said nothing would prevent another club from coming into Town, Councillors Buck and John Gallo agreed the Town had the ultimate trump card in being able to permit the fields.

"It would be wise to discuss a policy where there

would be no competing for profit sport organizations in anything, whether it be baseball, swimming, or anything in the not-for-profit sector provision of service," added Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Speaking to The Auroran last week, Ron Weese, president of Sport Aurora, said the meeting that took place was simply one he facilitated to discuss field times with Dave Thorburn, a member of Sport Aurora, and Mr. Downey. He said Sport Aurora is not involved with the program at all and rejects the idea that this is a "renegade" soccer club.

"The AYSC runs programs for about 80 per cent of its membership on four sevenths of the fields, and I think what [Mr. Thorburn] is suggesting is he is prepared to work on the fields that are going unused and allow parents a choice, whether they choose to play Monday through Thursday [with the AYSC] or two days on the weekend," said Mr. Weese. "I think the issue may be as to the actual availability of fields."

"The notion of resources is an important one. The new program involves what the Ontario Soccer Association is call-

ing their long-term development program that is going to be mandated in 2014, so the notion that this thing is 'renegade' is not right at all. His program is completely in line with what the Ontario Soccer Association's guidelines are."

An initiative coming forward through the association, he said, was one of Long Term Player Development, whereby more kids are playing on "less real estate" which could re-frame the entire

situation of the field shortage, said Mr. Weese.

"Does the Town need all the real estate the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan suggests they do?" he said. "This may be somewhat of a watershed moment where there needs to be a re-look on where soccer is played and trained in the Town and it may have ramifications for resources that are necessary for fields and goals and those types of things in the future."

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HOUSE LEAGUE

102 Timbits - Boston Gold: 9 - Adam Wolanski 1G, Max Bruce 2G, Luke Heyting 2G 2A, Christian Pisapia 3G, William Dodd 1G, Matthew Sorely 1A.
104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue: 4 - Lucas Dang 2G, Tyler Pridham 1G 1A, Devrim Coskuner 1G.

103 Timbits - Toronto White: 10 - Alex Weir 3G, Nathan Windle 3G 2A, Riley Saltzman 2G 2A, Ty Gipp 1G 1A, Carter Gillies 1G, Jacob Belisle 1A, Tyler Vasilevski 1A, Gavin Veloso 1A, Braeden Elgie 2A.
110 Timbits - Vintage LA Purple: 4 - Jack Hargrave 2G, Nathan Marincola 2A, Jacob Powell 1G 1A, Robbie Cipollone 1G, Cameron Rose 1A.

101 Timbits - Calgary Red: 11 - Andrew Mettel 2G, Yiannis Skanderis 3G 3A, Lucas Reid 4G, Jacob Warecki 1G, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Tyler Brown 1A.
105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black: 6 - Tyler Hewitt 2G, Evan Hodgson 1G, Benji Strom 1G, Ayden Burt 1G 1A, George Handal 1A, Jack Rispin 1A, Drew Schnekenburger 1G 1A.

110 Timbits - Vintage LA Purple: 5 - Jack Bulmer 3G, Michael Sandras 2G.
101 Timbits - Calgary Red: 5

108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky: 3 - McGregor Richmond 1G, Norbert Kristoff 1G 1A, William Stratos 1G, Dylan Cook 1A, Tyler Weidenfelder 1A, Brennan Mangat 1A.
103 Timbits - Toronto White: 1 - Carter Gillies 1G, Joseph Trovato 1A.

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 7 - Luc Warner 4G, Brody Burns 1A, James Vettese 1A, Niko Andrew 1A, Bryce Lamontagne 1G 1A, Hayden Thorne 1G, Nate Brentnall 1G, Adam Digioacchino 1A, Owen Mikula 1A.
105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black: 4 - Luke Davison 1G 1A, Benji Strom 1G, Tyler Hewitt 2G, Tristen Aben 1A.

107 Timbits - Nashville Silver: 5 - Martin McConkey 1G, Shaun Belman 1G, Julian Fryer 1G, Trevor Smith 1G, Aidan Lindsay 1G 2A, Ethan Thomas 1A.
104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue: 3 - Edan Kroi 1G 1A, Tyler Pridham 1G 1A, Lucas Dang 1G.

204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue: 6 - Ian Gage 1G 1A, Brain Constandes 1G, Jeffery Belvedere 3G 1A, Jake Cowden 1G, Nolan Parkinson 1A, Alessandro Warwar 2A.
201 Caravan Kids - Calgary Red: 4 - Nathan Cobb 1G, Mitchel Abrams 1G, Jordan Sieber 1G, Matthew Song 1G.

204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue: 9 - Jakob Isreal 1G 3A, Brain Constandes 4G, Jake Cowden 1G, Luca Pugliese 1G, Andrew Zomparelli 1G, Nolan Parkinson 1G.
202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold: 1 - Ben Cordingley 1G.

205 Caravan Kids - Pittsburgh Black: 9 - Mason Scanga 4G, anthony carbone 1G 1A, Harrison Ballard 2G, Braedan Fraser 1G 1A, Josh Lyon 1A, Jack Boyd 1G, Tyler Leblanc 1A, Cole McClocklin 1A.
202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold: 1 - Adien Edmundi 1G, Kenneth lawrenu 1A.

204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue: 5 - Brain Constandes 2G, Nolan Parkinson 1G, Jeffery Belvedere 1G, Luca Pugliese 1G, Ian Gage 2A. Newmarket - Dodge Caravan - McDonalds -Black: 3
408 McDonald's - Carolina Grey: 5 - Ryan Cariou 4G, Alexander Ko 1G 1A.

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 5 - Max Railton 1G 1A, Ian Hilgendorff 3G, Liam Parris 1G 1A, Matthew Muxlow 1A, Evan Lajoie 1A, Cole Spragg 1A, Nathan Clark 1A, Michael Jiang 1A.

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Kelly Green: 5 - Nathan Mohabeer 3G, Giancarlo De Appollonia 1G, Tarik Soliman 1G, Jackson Maclean 1A, Jacob Smith 1A.
404 McDonald's - Winnipeg Blue: 4 - Cameron Mills 1G, David Iacovetta 2G, Nolan Rush 1G, Kai Sillcox 1A, Aiden O'Toole 1A.

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 7 - Kevin Song 1G 1A, Turner Dudzinski 1G, Logan Kidder 3G, Matthew Cowl 1G 1A, Liam Vivian 1G, Alexander De Furia 1A, Liam Sullivan 1A, Ethan Joiner 1A.
401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 2 - George Worth 1G, Cooper Paterson 1G.

402 McDonald's - Vintage Vancouver Gold: 4 - Griffin Charnley 2G, Ethan Ritchie 1G, Luke Pignatelli 1G, Marchel Woods 1A, Liam Morassutti 1A, Wolfgang Gross 1A.
409 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 2 - Josh Turriff 1G, Justin Just 1G, Jake Byrne 1A, Corson Haywood 1A.

408 McDonald's - Carolina Grey: 8 - Alex Morra 4G, Stefano Iervasi 2G, Alexander Ko 1G 3A, Alex Jones 1G, Ethan Edwards 1A, Ryan Cariou 2A.
401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 5 - Caspar Timothy

1G, Thomas Green 1G, Joseph Livia 2G, George Worth 1G 2A, Gregory Welsch 1A, Mitchell Hudson 1A.

409 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 5 - Justin Just 3G 1A, Alexander Mascioli 1G, Josh Turriff 1G, Michael Pantalone 1A.
410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 4 - Matthew Cowl 1G, Ethan Joiner 2G, Logan Kidder 1G.

402 McDonald's - Vintage Vancouver Gold: 7 - Griffin Charnley 3G 1A, Luke Pignatelli 1G, Macisaac Eveleigh 1G 1A, Ethan Ritchie 1G, Marchel Woods 1G, Liam Morassutti 1A, Wolfgang Gross 1A.
407 McDonald's - Minnesota Kelly Green: 3 - Giancarlo De Appollonia 2G, Johnathan Avgousti 1G, Colin Lash 1A.

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 7 - Matthew Muxlow 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 3G, Liam Parris 3G, Sebastian Santagato 3A, Luke Parris 2A, Dylan Klein 2A, Michael Jiang 1A.
406 McDonald's - LA Purple: 3 - Daniel Bhoi 1G, Christian Romas 1G 1A, Andrew Flores 1G 2A, Matthew Pelan 1A, Daniel Romas 2A.

606 Benson Kearley IFG: 4 - Christopher Kehren 1A, Blake Burns 1G, Carson Venneri 2G 1A, Jason Cox 1G.
609 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 3 - Ethan Satitkovski 1G, Nicholas Robinson 1G, Jacob Yap 1G, Stephen Silverio 1A, Ian Lafrancois 1A.

603 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2 - Dillon Varone 1G, Quinn Bruckner 1G, Brad Shennan 1A, Ryan Mascarenhas 1A, Jason Iaboni 1A, Garret Kohler SO.
608 Mastermind Toys: 0

607 Crabby Joes: 7 - Cameron Lang 4G, Connor Elbaum 1G 2A, Ethan Cohen 1G, Adam Wochenmarkt 1G 1A, Claudio Basso 1A, Hunter Gilpin-Maier 4A.
604 Orr & Associates Insurance: 2 - Cole Sheremeta 1G, Matteo Fiorentino 1A, Nick Sever 1G, Carson Williams 1A, Zachary Diaz 1A.

606 Benson Kearley IFG: 3 - Peter Leontis 1G 1A, Jason Cox 1G, Carson Venneri 1G 1A, Matthew Broad 1A.
605 Omar's Shoes: 1 - Tristan Floyd 1G, Nicholas Roua 1A, Dylan Clark 1A.

601 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr: 7 - Kyle Kasak 4G, Chris Sands 3G, Andrew Breau 1A, Christian Fermo 1A, Evan Bryan 1A, Jack Weaver 1A.
610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 3 - Andrew Hoogers 1G, Gianpaolo Infanti 1G, Mason Barone 1G, Tyler Regan-Avila 1A, Bryce Davison 1A.

802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr: 4 - Kyle Dungey 1G, Cam Anderson 1G, Eric Shennan 1G, Christian Ramirez 1G, Jake Hatton 2A, Jack Bishenden 2A.
809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.: 3 - Josh Fallavollita 2G, Adam Mizuguchi 1A, Andrew Negri 1G, Collin Dyer 1A, Jacob LeBlanc 1A, David Tonelli 1A.

802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr: 6 - Jake Hatton 1G 2A, Eric Shennan 2G 1A, Sean Mackrell 1G, Colin Boorn 1G 1A, Nicklaus Reid 1G, Cam Anderson 1A.
807 Crabby Joe's: 4 - Connor Tripp 2G 1A, Tyler Wilson 1G 1A, Nik Seidel 1G, Tyler McKechnie 1A, Brett Morley 1A, Hayden Edwards 1A.

804 Optimist Club of Aurora: 4 - Alex Tashos 1G, Liam Van der Ploeg 1A, Max Bruckner 9A, Noah Mayerlen 1G, Jack Dion 8G, Jack Mayo 2A, Chris Aldis 1A.
805 York Region Auto: 3 - Austin Skelhorn 2G 1A, James Eyd 1G 1A.

810 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 2 - James Samson 1G, Kyle Wulle 1A, Matt Leclair 1A, Marcus Hamann 1G, Nicholas Hatzilios 1A, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1A.
804 Optimist Club of Aurora: 1 - Chris Aldis 1G.

809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.: 7 - Josh Fallavollita 2G, Andrew Currie 1A, James Freel 1A, Collin Dyer 3G, Thomas Sauer 1A, Wyatt Dane 1A, Connor Gonsalves 1G 2A, Alex Sesto 1G 1A.
808 Twirl 'n' Tip Yogurt Cafe: 2 - Ben Kissack 2G.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 5 - Daniel McConnell 2G 1A, Evan Nugent 1G, Trystan Macklin 1G, Ethan Brooks 1G, Adam Wilson 1A, Michael Dowling 1A, Blake Holtby 1A, Brett Diamond 1A.
807 Crabby Joe's: 1 - Tyler Wilson 1G, Jeffrey McKay 1A, Jackson Simmons 1A.

806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd.: 3 - Andrew Sutherland 1G, Lucas Ackerman 1A, Elias Pasani 1G, Ryan Cooper 1A, Gorgia Venosa 1A, Remington Colicchio 1G.
802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr.: 2 - Zachary Fletcher 1G, Cameron Palmer 1A, Sean Mackrell 1G, Colin Boorn 1A.

805 York Region Auto: 6 - Joey Leger 1G, Shawn Mason 1G, Austin Skelhorn 1G 1A, James Eyd 1G, Anthony Livia 1G 1A, Colin Read 1G 1A, Alex Hoffmann 1A, Cameron End 1A, Christian Loria

1A.
803 McAlpine Ford: 1 - Devon Hope 1G, Troy Lane 1A

909 Inaria: 5 - Tom Mason 1G, Parker Baile 1G 1A, Erik Balkovec 1G, James Johnston 1G, Andrew Foresi 1G, Cameron Staples 1A, Tommy Allan 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A.
908 Laurion Law Office: 2 - Jake Arcangeli 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G, Andrew Gourlay 1A, Matt Iezzi 1A.

911 Coldwell Banker Case: 6 - Paul Mason 1G 1A, Russell Johnson 2G 1A, Paul Neophytou 2G 1A, Spencer Green 1G 1A, Michael Arcuri 1A.
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2 - Matthew Pelkola 1G, Branden Fennell 1G 1A, Elias Jeries 1A.

902 Tile Master: 6 - Graham Robinson 2G 1A, Scott Barker 1G, Michael DiLosa 1G 2A, Declan Johnston 2G 1A, Tait Snedden 1A, Adam Petit 1A, Keith Jarvis 1A.
912 Jonathan's: 3 - Jacob Hagias 1G, Robert Doswell 1G 1A, Michael Walsh 1G, Kyle Strachan 1A, Ben Black 1A.

913: 6 - Neil Duggan 3G, Cody Child 2G 2A, Adam de Roos 1G 1A, Kevin Siery 1A, Sandy Rundle-Sanderson 1A.
905: 2 - Scott Dunlop 1G, Lucas Marek 1G 1A, Randy Sutton 1A, Jeff Stobo 1A, Graeme McDonald 1A.

910 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 4 - Kevin Hillsdon 1G, Austin Harvie 2G, Cole Baker 1G, Matt Sanita 2A, Derek Keun 1A, Gavin Patterson 1A, Kevin Willert SO.
904 A.D.C. Aluminum: 0

910 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 8 - Matt Sanita 1G, Gavin Patterson 1G 2A, Chris Sanita 2G, Austin Harvie 1G 1A, Robert Stokes 1G 1A, Derek Keun 1G, Mitch Arnew 1G 2A, Kevin Hillsdon 2A, Kevin Willert SO.
908 Laurion Law Office: 0

902 Tile Master: 4 - Graham Robinson 2G, Brett Bond 1G 1A, Keith Jarvis 1G, Domenic Fiorini 1A, Tait Snedden 1A.
906 AHPA: 1 - Gabe Oulahan 1G, Gabriel Merisanu 1A.

909 Inaria: 8 - Tom Mason 1G, Erik Balkovec 5G, Nicholas Steiner 1G, Emerson Cepelak 1G, Parker Baile 1A, Tyler Hindley 2A, Andrew Foresi 3A, Michael Liscio 1A, James Johnston 1A.
907 Crabby Joe's: 3 - Carson Roell 1G, Connor Cowl 1G 1A, Tyler Futterer 1G, Brian Langdon 1A.

904 A.D.C. Aluminum: 5 - Joseph Veneziano 1G, Nick Scott 3G 2A, Evan Jackson 1G 1A, Ben Ashton 1A, Michael Tanel 1A, Tyler Abushinov 1A.
905: 3 - Graeme McDonald 2G, Alessandro Perri 1G, Jonah Blaser 1A, Randy Sutton 1A.

901: 5 - Tyler Bundy 2G, Ben Goldman 1G 1A, Brayden Beswick 2G, Matthew Iwai 1A, Matthew Walker 1A.
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 4 - Derek Capone 1G, Austin Persaud 2G, Branden Fennell 1G, Blake Wallace 1A.

911 Coldwell Banker Case: 6 - Mitch Carter 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Lockhart McMann 1G, Spencer Green 2G 2A, Russell Johnson 1G, Michael Arcuri 2A, Graham Killby 1A.
913: 4 - David Gonder 1G, Neil Duggan 2G, Alec Ground 1G, Mitch Palmer 1A, Mackenzie Smith 2A, Ian Coschi 1A.

1005 Continental Ingredients: 5
1008: 3

1007 Inaria: 9
1006 AHPA: 6

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 7
1001 ATS Healthcare: 6

1001 ATS Healthcare: 4 - Andrew Stobbe SO
1006 AHPA: 0

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 5
1007 Inaria: 4

1003: 7
1005 Continental Ingredients: 1

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select, Richmond Hill 4 Aurora 1 - Lucas Vacca 1G, Bradley Gardiner 1A.

Tyke Select A, Barrie 3 Aurora 3 - Lucas Wilhelm 1G, Erik Guilbert 1A, Fionn Keon 1G 1A, Jared McNeil 1G, Jack Hunter 1A, Charlie Cobbold 1A.

Novice AE, Aurora 2 - Malcolm Parkinson 1G, Nathan Mochizuki 1G, Dylan Vasilevski 1A, Josh McLeod 1A.
Stouffville 1

Novice AE, Aurora 4 - Nathan Mochizuki 1G 1A, Austin Venneri 1G 1A, Ben Hilgendorff 2A, Ethan Powell 1G, Dylan Vasilevski 1G, Alex Nechadim 1A, Henry Paluch 1A.
Richmond Hill 1

Novice AA, Stouffville 3 Aurora 1 - Ryan Smyth 1G, Spencer Thomson 1A.

Novice AA, Newmarket 1 Aurora 0

Minor Atom AA, Aurora 2 - Nicholas Pisapia 1G, Nick Giorgio 1G, Charlie Huxley 1A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Anthony Russo SO.
Newmarket 0

Minor Atom AA, Stouffville 3 Aurora 1 - Nicholas Pisapia 1G, Lucas De Palma 1A.

Minor Atom A, Barrie 5 Aurora 4 - Jonah Spataro 1G 1A, Gavin Loria 2A, Ryan Weeks 1G 1A, Ayden Whilby 2G, Jake McMillan 1A, Ethan Solilo 1A, Noah Ruscica 1A.

Minor Atom A, Aurora 2 - Ethan Solilo 2A, Jake McMillan 1G, Ayden Whilby 1G.
Innisfil 1

Minor Atom AE, Aurora 4 - Cayden Visser 1G, Riley Pearl 2G, Max McConkey 1G, Aidan Quinn 1A, Jordan Dimatulac 1A, George Rappos Jr 1A.
Georgina 1

Minor Atom AE, East Gwillimbury 1 Aurora 1 - Tyler Cox 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A, Hunor Kristof 1A.

Atom A, Nickel City 6 Aurora 3

Atom A, Aurora 4 TBD 0

Atom A, East Gwillimbury 2 Aurora 0

Atom A, Nobleking 2 Aurora 0

Minor Peewee AA, Aurora 3 - Wesley Reid 2G, Evan Pringle 1G, Malcolm Johnston 2A, Harris Goan 1A, Michael McCue 1A, Luke Joseph 1A, Matteo Orlandi SO.
TNT 0

Minor Peewee AA, Aurora 3 - Evan Pringle 3G, Ryan Lindsay 1A, Michael Orlandi 1A, Andrew Wolanski 1A, Pearce Baker 1A.
Georgina 1

Minor Peewee A, Aurora 3 - Andrew Park 1G, Anthony DiPietro 1G 1A, Ben Liotta 1G, Luke Jarvis 1A, Will Sherman SO.
Bradford 0

Minor Peewee A, Aurora 4 - Luke Jarvis 1G, Anthony DiPietro 3A, Spencer Morrison 2G, Andrew Park 2A, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Sam Ashton 1G.
East Gwillimbury 1

Minor Peewee AE, Stouffville 4 Aurora 2 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Anthony Iacovetta 2A.

Minor Peewee AE, Aurora 8 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Thomas Childerhose 2G, Jack Campbell 1G, Jack Patterson 1G, Cory Read 1G 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Matthew McConnell 1A, Kyle Fowler 1G 1A, Cooper Judson 2A, Russell Tanaka 1A.
Markham 0

Peewee AA, Georgina Blaze 4 Aurora 4 - Cameron Tyndall 2G, Matthew Ferry 1A, Anthony Magnante 1A, Matthew Hollett 1G 1A, Lucas Surace 1G 1A.

Peewee A, Huntsville 4 Aurora 2 - Anthony Capraro 1G, Jamie Stewart 1G, Brandon Vaughan 1A, Jack Snedden 1A.

Peewee A, Bradford 2 Aurora 2 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Carson Yeomans 1A, Sammy Leader 1G, Michael Thibeault 1A, Ben Spittle 1A.

Peewee A, Aurora 3 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Michael Thibeault 1A, Sammy Leader 2A, Ty Boisseau 1G 1A, Jack Snedden 1A, Kyle Morning 1A, Jamie Stewart 1G.
South Muskoka 2

Peewee A, Orillia 6 Aurora 2 - Julien Aben 2G, Peter Chimienti 1A.

Peewee AE, Stouffville 3 Aurora 0

Peewee AE, Barrie 2 Aurora 1 - Andrew Cundari 1G, Ryan Jamieson 1A, Fraser Ciocca 1A.

Minor Bantam AE, Aurora 1 Georgina 0

Minor Bantam AE, Aurora 5 - Jack Camplin 2G, Sam Speranini 1G 2A, Curtis Romanchych 1G, Jared Duthie 1G 2A, Alexander Simardone 1A, Cameron Bugos 1A, Cameron Dyer 1A.
Stouffville 3

Minor Bantam AE, Aurora 3 - Sam Speranini 1G, Jack O'Keefe 1G, Curtis Romanchych 1G, Alexander Simardone 1A, Jared Duthie 1A, Stewart Gable 1A, Eric McGhie 1A, Jack Camplin 1A.
Newmarket 1

Bantam AA, Aurora 4 - Ryan Coveart 1G, Zack Phillips 1G 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G 2A, Michael Shum 1G, Connor Irving 1A, Christian Arcuri 1A.
Stouffville 2

Bantam AA, Aurora 4 - Zack Phillips 2G, Michael Shum 1G 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1G, Bryan Manweiler 1A, Cameron Zinner 2A, Jared Reeves 2A, Connor Irving 1A.
Markham 2

Bantam A, Newmarket 2 Aurora 0

Bantam A, Aurora 4 - Connor Downs 1G 1A, Spencer White 1G 1A, Jack Bryant 2G, Nicholas Sansalone 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Charles Bennett 1A, Colin Kostin 2A.
Markham 3

Bantam A, Nobleking 2 Aurora 0

Bantam AE, Barrie 4 Aurora 0

Bantam RS, Aurora 9 Stouffville 6

Bantam RS, Aurora 1 Georgina 0

Bantam RS, Aurora 3 Richmond Hill 0

Midget AA, Richmond Hill 7 Aurora 5



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Site for youth space needs soil testing: Town

By Brock Weir

Soil testing will be part of whether the Community Space for Youth, otherwise known as the Youth Centre, will go forward as proposed, according to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation.

Council approved going forward with the youth space in November, which will be built as an extension onto the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway North. Soil quality in the area, however, will determine whether or not the project can go ahead as planned or if some revisions will need to take place.

Discussions over this matter stemmed from Councillor Evelyn Buck, who recently questioned the feasibility of the location.

"I have received some information from one who knows that the land in front of the Leisure Complex is topsoil fill and the ice surface is built on stilts as they had to go a long way down with

concrete piles before they found soil that would support them," she said, asking whether or not it is the right location to provide a youth space.

Mr. Downey said tests in the area were ongoing and he was aware of the poor soils in many areas across Aurora, a challenge that has been met in the construction of many municipal buildings. There were concerns, he added, with the construction of the Leisure Complex in 1986 on this issue, and consultants working on the Joint Operations Centre just north of the Complex are doing bore hole tests in the area right now.

"There are funds that we could continue to do additional bore hole tests in the vicinity where we are looking at expanding the facility," he said. "If we find that we have some concerns with regards to that bore hole test, we will certainly report back to Council on what impacts that might have with regards to moving forward with a youth centre."



LIGHTING THE BOREALIS

There is a distinct colourful glow coming from the trees in Aurora's Town Park. It's time once again for Aurora's Borealis, a festival of lights running every evening from 6 - 11 p.m. until Family Day on February 18. Not only can spectators enjoy the colourful displays but, when Old Man Winter cooperates, enjoy skating under the lights.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results up to December 20, 2012



HOUSE LEAGUE

109 Timbits - Philly Orange: 3 - Andrew Aikens 2G 1A, Ethan Lane 1G, Kane Poland 1A, Ryan Meddings 1A. **102 Timbits - Boston Gold:** 4 - Christian Pisapia 1G 1A, Max Bruce 1G, Adam Wolanski 1G, Marcus Gingl 1G, Adam Campagna 1A.

102 Timbits - Boston Gold: 9 - William Dodd 4G, Adam Campagna 2G, Christian Pisapia 2G 3A, Ben Tran 1A, Marcus Gingl 2A, Max Bruce 1G 2A. **107 Timbits - Nashville Silver:** 3 - Ethan Thomas 2G, Thomas Dimoulas 1G, Aidan Lindsay 1A.

103 Timbits - Toronto White: 7 - Griffin Lamanna 1G 1A, Alex Weir 4G, Gavin Veloso 1G, Riley Saltzman 1G. **106 Timbits - San Jose Teal:** 6 - Hayden Thorne 1G, Luc Warner 2G, James Vettese 2G, Nate Brentnall 1G, Adam Schellenberg 1A.

109 Timbits - Philly Orange: 5 - Zac Bensley 2G, Owen Jacobs 1G, Jack Helkie 1G 1A, Ethan Lane 1G, Ryan Hart 1A, Ryan Meddings 1G. **110 Timbits - Vintage LA Purple:** 2 - Jack Hargrave 1G, Cameron Rose 1G.

402 McDonald's - Vintage Vancouver Gold: 11 - Andrew Laguardia 2G, Ethan Ritchie 4G 1A, Griffin Charnley 2G 1A, Liam Morassutti 3G, Ethan Medeiros 1A, Hunter Edwards 1A, Wolfgang Gross 1A, Christian Fava 1A. **406 McDonald's - LA Purple:** 3 - Daniel Romas 1G, Andrew Flores 1G, Omar Ozturk 1G, Christian Romas 1A, Matteo Rossi 1A.

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 7 - Logan Kidder 3G 2A, Aiden Knight 1G, Matthew Cowl 1G, Dylan Anderson 1G, Ethan Joiner 1G. **404 McDonald's - Winnipeg Blue:** 6 - David Iacovetta 3G, Aiden O'Toole 1G 1A, Steven Lambrinos 1G, Dylan Thompson 1G 1A, Shawayn Niavarani 2A, Kurtis Gipp 1A, Nolan Rush 1A.

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 8 - Matthew Muxlow 2G, Sebastian Santagato 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 3G, Liam Parris 1G 1A, Owen Bell 1G. **405 McDonald's - Chicago Black:** 4 - Jackson Galbraith 4G, Evan Winter 1A, Nicholas Betivoiu 1A.

408 McDonald's - Carolina Grey: 2 - Alexander Ko 2G. **409 McDonald's - San Jose Teal:** 10 - Nicholas Leontis 2G, Justin Just 2G 1A, Jesse Strom 2G, Corson Haywood 2G, Ben Fulford 2G, Michael Pantalone 1A, Christopher Goncalves 1A, Alexander Mascioli 1A, Josh Turriff 1A, Aryan Ansari 1A.

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Kelly Green: 6 - Giancarlo De Apollonia 3G, Tarik Soliman 1G, Johnathan Avgousti 2G 1A. **401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red:** 1 - Thomas Green 1G.

603 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2 - Dillon Varone 1G, Quinn Bruckner 1G, Brad Shennan 1A, Ryan Mascarenhas 1A, Jason Iaboni 1A, Garret Kohler SO. **608 Mastermind Toys:** 0

609 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 2 - Ian Lafrancois 1G, Rony Wahab 1G 1A. **610 Rotary Club of Aurora:** 5 - Greg Gatzopoulos 1G, Andrew Pignatelli 1G, Shayne Colin 1G, Mason Barone 1G, Andrew Hoogers 1G 1A, Robert Kniss 1A.

601 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr: 2 - John Dol 1G, Kyle Kasak 1G. **608 Mastermind Toys:** 0

603 Optimist Club of Aurora: 3 - Liam Patterson 2G, Roy Tadros 1G, Eric Flicker 1A, Quinn Bruckner 1A, Steven Seitz 1A. **606 Benson Kearley IFG:** 4 - Carson Venneri 3G, Austin Martin 1G, Peter Leontis 2A, Daniel Rheeder 1A.

803 McAlpine Ford: 8 - Troy Lane 3G 2A, Tarek Koudmani 2G 1A, Eric Trudell 1G, Owen Bourrie 1G, Louie Simonin 1A, Austin Hendy 2A,

Matthew Rotman 1A, Matt Glionna 1G 2A. **804 Optimist Club of Aurora:** 4 - Alex Tashos 2G 1A, Jack Dion 1G, Liam Van der Ploeg 1G, Max Bruckner 1A, Jack Mayo 1A, Darren Tree 1A.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 5 - Trystan Macklin 1G, Patrick Facca 2G, Blake Holtby 2A, Daniel McConnell 2G, Aidan Burbank 1A, Josh Hookey 1A. **806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd.:** 0

805 York Region Auto: 3 - Anthony Livia 2G, Alex Hoffmann 1G, Matthew Vassos 1A, Christian Loria 1A, Adam Powell 1A, Jackson Clements 1A. **802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr.:** 6 - Kyle Dungey 1G, Colin Boorn 1G 2A, Eric Shennan 1G 1A, Brendon Farnum 1A, Jake Hutton 1G 2A, Cam Anderson 1G 1A, Christian Ramirez 1G.

807 Crabby Joe's: 3 - Jeffrey McKay 2G, Connor Tripp 1G, Roberto Iervasi 1A, Hayden Edwards 1A, Tyler Wilson 1A. **809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.:** 2 - Connor Gonsalves 1G 1A, Wyatt Dane 1G, Tyler Justice 1A.

803 McAlpine Ford: 1 - Troy Lane 1G, Owen Bourrie 1A. **809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.:** 2 - Tyler Justice 2G, Jacob LeBlanc 1A.

806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd.: 1 - Lucas Bulmer 1G, Alex Carter 1A, Remington Colicchio 1A. **810 Neuman's Puck Bandits:** 6 - Michael Montesanti 1G, Zachary Machell 1G 1A, Marcus Hamann 3G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G 1A, Matt Leclair 1A, Nat Leontis 1A, Barrett Scott 1A.

805 York Region Auto: 2 - Austin Skelhorn 1G 1A, Jackson Clements 1G, Jacob Fulford 1A, Anthony Livia 1A. **807 Crabby Joe's:** 5 - Liam Desouza 2G, Jeffrey McKay 2G 1A, Tyler Wilson 1G, Hayden Edwards 1A, Roberto Iervasi 1A, Connor Tripp 1A, David Robertson 1A.

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 8 - Daniel McConnell 3G 2A, Adam Wilson 2G, Patrick Facca 1G, Trevor Barnett 1G 2A, Blake Holtby 2A, Jacob Cann 1G, Harrison Jarvis 2A. **802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr.:** 1

804 Optimist Club of Aurora: 5 - Max Bruckner 2G 3A, Alex Tashos 3G 2A, Brandon Hui 4A. **808 Twirl 'n' Top Yogurt Cafe:** 2 - Jordan Reeves 1G, Nick Stangolis 1G, Tyler Frise 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1A.

908 Laurion Law Office: 3 - Matt Iezzi 1G, Evan Nichols 2G, Michael McKerracher 1A, Jake Arcangeli 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A. **912 Jonathan's:** 3 - Scott Kostin 2G, Chris Crisolago 1G, Michael Walsh 3A, Anwar Hared 1A.

905: 1 - Jonah Blaser 1G. **911 Coldwell Banker Case:** 6 - Matthew Neice 1G, Michael Arcuri 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G, Spencer Green 2G 2A, Grant Kavanagh 1G, Alec Papa 1A.

902 Tile Master: 2 - Adam Petit 2G, Graham Robinson 1A. **910 Neuman's Puck Bandits:** 4 - Austin Harvie 1G 1A, Gavin Patterson 1G 2A, Kevin Hillsdon 1G, Matt Sanita 1G, Cole Baker 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A.

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2 - Austin Persaud 1G 1A, Brandon Fennell 1G 1A, Andy Butler 1A. **913:** 3 - Sandy Rundie-Sanderson 1G 1A, Adam de Roos 1G 1A, Kevin Siery 1A, Nathan Dinatale 1A, Ian Coschi 1A.

907 Crabby Joe's: 5 - Tyler Futterer 3G, Zak Keller 1G, Tyler George 1G 1A, Brian Langdon 2A, James Power 1A, Ryan Batten 1A. **906 AHPA:** 2 - Adam Ashraf 1G, Gabe Oulahan 1G, Nicholas Chethum 1A.

913: 2 - Cody Child 1G, Alec Ground 1G, Geoff Siow 1A. **909 Inaria:** 2 - Erik Balkovec 2G, Cameron Staples 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1A.

908 Laurion Law Office: 2 - Liam Coll 1G, Tim Pare 1G, Nathan Nealon 1A, Hayden Hassard

1A, Matt Heintzman SO. **902 Tile Master:** 0

904 A.D.C. Aluminum: 6 - Harris Riopelle 2G 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1G, Evan Jackson 1G 4A, Josh DiVincenzo 1G, Ben Ashton 1G 1A. **906 AHPA:** 1 - Jerryd Jensen 1G, Zack Cowl 1A.

910 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 6 - Austin Harvie 2G, Chris Sanita 1G, Gavin Patterson 2G, Cole Baker 1G, Robert Stokes 1A, Brendan McDonald 1A, Noah Spicer 1A, Matt Sanita 1A, Josh Capodagli 1A. **912 Jonathan's:** 2 - Robert Doswell 2G.

911 Coldwell Banker Case: 8 - Spencer Green 5G 1A, Russell Johnson 2G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A. **907 Crabby Joe's:** 5 - Ryan Batten 1G 1A, Josh Bell 1G 1A, Connor Cowl 3G 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A.

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 7 - Blake Wallace 2G, Austin Persaud 2G 1A, Nelson Hossack 1G, Brandon Fennell 1G 1A, Andrew Roche 1G 1A, Derek Capone 1A, Francois Bicego SO. **905:** 0

907 Crabby Joe's: 1 - John Partland 1G, Andre Cristillo 1A, Ryan Batten 1A. **903 BMO Bank of Montreal:** 1 - Matthew Pelkola 1G, Nick Baczynski 1A.

907 Crabby Joe's: 3 - Brian Langdon 3G, Carson Roell 1A, Mike Roell 1A, Yosif Kakush SO **905:** 0.

1002 Caruso & Company: 5 - Colin Laird 2G 1A, Paul Ashbourne 1G 1A, Zach Ferry 2G, Jamie Poutney 4A. **1008:** 3 - Thomas Macdonald 1G, Eric Ludwig 1G, Ben White 1G 2A, Scott Schmidt 2A.

1006 AHPA: 2 - Justin Killens 1G, Jesse Bentolilla 1G. **1005 Continental Ingredients:** 5 - Ethan Cullen 1G, Chris Blumreisinger 2G, Ryan Baskin 1G, Eric Archibald 1G 1A.

1002 Caruso & Company: 1 - Marco Ghegin 1G, Maddy Schaefer 1A. **1001 ATS Healthcare:** 1 - Andrew Selski 1G, Kasey Piper 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A.

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 2 - Jordan Nanos 1G 1A, Cody Mulhern 1G, Bailey Miller 1A. **1003:** 1 - Taylor Brewda 1G, Taylor Butler 1A.

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 1

1002 Caruso & Company: 3

1007 Inaria: 0 **1005 Continental Ingredients:** 1

REP LEAGUE

Tyke Select A, Stouffville 4 Aurora 4 - Lucas Vacca 1G, Matthew Lyons 1G 1A, Jack Hunter 1A, Bradley Gardiner 1G 1A, Erik Guilbert 1A, Daniel Yorke 1A, Lucas Wilhelm 1G.

Novice AA, Richmond Hill 1 Aurora 0
Novice AA, Georgina 2 Aurora 2 - Emmett Ross 1G, William Haines 1A, Andrew Parsons 1G, Aaron Rose 1A.

Novice AA, Richmond Hill 3 Aurora 3 - Adam Rame 1G, Andrew Parsons 1A, Daniel Iwai 1G, Tucker Kauffeldt 1A, Emmett Ross 1G, Cameron Boyd 1A.

Novice AE, Schomberg 1 Aurora 0
Novice RS, Aurora 3 - Jacob Madore 1G, Anthony Carbone 1A, Colm MacEachern 1G, Eric Kaszuba 1A, Jake Cowden 1A, Jordan Ko 1G, Robert Maalandrino 1A. **Georgina 1**

Minor Atom AA, Markham 6 Aurora 2 - Anton Sopov 1G 1A, Ben Legallais 1A, Nick Giorgio 1G.

Minor Atom AA, Aurora 3 - Gage Gonsalves 1G, Myles Graham 1G, Ethan Belisle 1A, Nick Giorgio 1G, Anton Sopov 1A. **Barrie 1**

Minor Atom A, Aurora 2 - Ryan Weeks 1G, Ayden Whilby 1G, Ethan Solilo 1A, Liam Hadcock SO. **Innisfil 0**

Atom AA, Aurora 5 - Evan Vierling 2G, Ethan Cameron 1G, Jake Piper 1G, Carson Maybury 1A, Ben Barber 1A, Zachary Kolm 1A, Eddie Cobbold 1A, Harrison Bennett 1A, Carter Beswick 2A, Jake Adams 1G. **Georgina 3**

Atom AA, Aurora 4 - Jake Adams 2G, Brett Pearce 1G, Josh Lombard 1G 1A, Anton Thompson 1A. **Markham 1**

Atom AA, Aurora 3 - Jake Adams 1A, Ethan Cameron 1G, Josh Lombard 1A, Zachary Kolm 1G, Ben Barber 1A, Evan Vierling 1G. **TNT 1**

Atom AA, Aurora 5 - Jake Adams 1G, Josh Lombard 1G 1A, Harrison Bennett 2A, Ethan Cameron 1A, Harrison Fleischaker SO. **Stouffville 0**

Atom A, Aurora 5 Orillia 2
Minor Peeewe A, Aurora 3 - Tyler Sawyer 1G, Luke Jarvis 2A, Andrew Park 2G, Spencer Morrison 1A, Anthony DiPietro 2A, Will Sherman SO. **Bradford 0**

Minor Peeewe AE, Aurora 8 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Thomas Childerhose 2G, Jack Campbell 1G, Jack Patterson 1G, Cory Read 1G 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Matthew McConnell 1A, Kyle Fowler 1G 1A, Cooper Judson 2A, Russell Tanaka 1A, Joseph Di Michele SO. **Markham 0**

Minor Peeewe AE, Aurora 4 - Jack Patterson 1G, Kyle Fowler 2G, Cory Read 1G 2A, Jeremy Gonsalves 2A, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Thomas Childerhose 1A, Luke Catania 1A, Noah Dempsey 1A. **Barrie 3**

Peeewe AA, Newmarket 3 Aurora 1
Peeewe AA, TNT 6 Aurora 0

Peeewe AA, Richmond Hill 1 Aurora 1
Peeewe A, Aurora 5 - Carson Yeomans 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 3A, Ben Spittle 1G 1A, Sammy Leader 2A, Julien Aben 2G 1A, Ty Boisseau 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Nicholas Keller 1A. **Barrie 4**

Peeewe A, Aurora 5 - Ben Spittle 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1G 1A, Brandon Vaughan 2G, Carson Yeomans 1A, Julien Aben 1G, Ty Boisseau 1A, Peter Chimienti 1A. **Innisfil 2**

Peeewe A, Aurora 3 - Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Sammy Leader 1A, Carson Yeomans 1G, Ben Spittle 1A, Julien Aben 1G, Peter Chimienti 1A. **Markham 2**

Peeewe A, Aurora 3 - Brandon Vaughan 1G, Anthony Capraro 2A, Sammy Leader 1A, Carson Yeomans 1G, Ben Spittle 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G. **Bradford 1**

Peeewe RS, Aurora 3 Stouffville 0
Peeewe RS, Aurora 8 Stouffville 4
Peeewe RS, Georgina 4 Aurora 2

Minor Bantam AE, Aurora 2 - Jack Camplin 2G, Sam Speranini 2A, Cameron Bugos 1A, Eric McGhie 1A. **Markham 1**

Bantam AA, Aurora 5 - Christian Arcuri 1G, Connor Irving 2G, Cameron Zinner 1G 1A, Evan Cherubini 1G, Richard Hache 1A, William Stover 1A, Bryan Manweiler 2A, Zack Phillips 1A, Ryan Coveart 2A. **Stouffville 3**

Bantam AE, Aurora 1 - Bradey Adams 1G, Michael DaCosta 1A. **Georgina 1**

Bantam AE, Aurora 5 - Michael DaCosta 1G, Shaun Broad 1A, Brendin Ramsay 2G 1A, Evan Lambert 2A, Nicolas Pearce 2G, Christian Pearce 3A. **Georgina 2**

Midget AA, Aurora 3 Georgina 2
Midget AA, Aurora 5 TNT 1

Midget AA - Tigers: 3 Georgina Blaze: 2
Midget AA, Aurora 4 Markham 0



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Sport Aurora
Aurora Town Hall
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Phone: 905-726-4776
Email: program.manager@sportaurora.ca
Website: www.sportaurora.ca

Bulletin Board

Office Hours
Monday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am - 1:00pm






Carrie Ebenhardt wins "I'm Going to Barbados" Raffle

Carrie Ebenhardt was the lucky winner of the "I'm Going to Barbados" Raffle held Sunday, December 16th at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora. The multi-year volunteer with the Aurora Storm Volleyball Club was congratulated by Storm President, Bruce Stafford, who entered the volunteer in the raffle without her knowing it. Bruce was very happy that Carrie's name was drawn out of the 3122 entries.

"Carrie is a deserving winner," he said, "I entered many volunteers into the raffle as a thank-you to them for their years of service and I'm thrilled that one of them won the trip."



Ron Weese, President of Sport Aurora felt the raffle was a success on every front. "This is the first of a number of trip raffles that our Organizations will be hosting in 2013," he said. "This raffle not only financially benefited the Organizations who sold tickets, but it also added much needed resources to our Sport Aurora All Kids Can Play Program that supports the financial needs of Aurora children who wish to play organized sports," he concluded.

As for Carrie and her husband Mark, they are eager to start planning their trip to Barbados. The trip includes air-fare as well as car rental, golf and attractions on-island and of course five-star, all inclusive accommodations at the luxury Crystal Cove Resort on the West Coast of Barbados. The trip is valued at just under \$10,000.00

Aurora Sport Hall of Fame Board of Governors Announced

Sport Aurora is proud to announce that the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Board of Governors has been approved and would like to thank the Organizing Committee for their work in developing the terms of reference for Board selection and Governance.

The following are members of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Board of Governors for 2013:

Mr. John Abel-Deputy Mayor, Town of Aurora
Mr. Al Downey-Director of Parks and Recreation Town of Aurora
Ms. Kate Collins- Sport Aurora, Aurora Lawn Bowling Club
Mr. Bruce Cuthbert- Sport Aurora, Aurora Master Ducks
Mrs. Kristen Dajia- York Catholic District School Board
Mr. Wayne Keilty- Aurora Historical Society
Mr. Javed Khan- Sport Aurora, Aurora Minor Baseball Association
Mr. Michael Roy- Sport Aurora, St. Andrew's College
Mr. Ron Weese- Sport Aurora

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit Organization with the following mission:

The Mission of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is to honour, celebrate, preserve and share the outstanding contributions of those who have brought recognition to Aurora through sport.

For more information on any of our programs please contact us at: program.manager@sportaurora.ca or visit www.sportaurora.ca

Santa has gone BUT the Grey Cup is Coming to Town Family Day, February 18th, 2013



Sport Aurora Announces the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The Sport Aurora Board of Directors gives notice that the Organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Town Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, AURORA, ON. February 6th, at 6:30pm.

The Sport Aurora Board of Directors invites two representatives from each of our 24 Member Organizations and all Affiliate Members to attend and participate fully in the AGM. Members of the public, our partners and the media are also welcome.

During the AGM, the current financial position of the Organization will be presented as well as plans for the Ontario Trillium Foundation supported Projects in 2013 including the Volunteer Recognition Event, The Breakfast of Champions, Women in Coaching, All Kids Can Play and the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition, a presentation regarding the 150th Anniversary of the Town and the role that Sport may play in this and other projects will be discussed.

Nominations will also be received by the Sport Aurora Board of Directors for four (4) elected positions that will be vacated at the AGM. Nominations can be submitted by email or regular post according to the Constitution of Sport Aurora and must be received before January 21st at 11:59pm. Nominations should be made using the application form that can be found at www.sportaurora.ca or by writing the Program Manager at: program.manager@sportaurora.ca.

The Mission of Sport Aurora is to promote participation in sport and recreation for all citizens of the community we serve.

Supporting Aurora Community Sport



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COMING EVENTS

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NOVEMBER 3
- JANUARY 5

The Aurora Public Library presents: *Tobermory Remembered: landscape photography by Simeon Posen*. On display in the Colleen Abbott Gallery from November 3, 2012 - January 5, 2013. Black and white landscapes printed from large format negatives on silver paper powerfully elicit contemplation of the essential, or the essence of natural form. Posen is a landscape and architectural photographer with works spanning over four decades. His studies in architecture and stage design contribute to his unique perspective - namely, illuminating the intricacies of the parts to express the structure of the whole, whether created by nature or by man.

DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 11
Have you got talent? Would you like to perform for a full house and help in the fight against cancer? Get your ACT together! Conquer Cancer: One Act at a Time is looking for musicians, dancers, jugglers, comedians and actors (must be 12 or older) to perform in their February 23 show. They are accepting auditions for large and small ensembles, duets and solo acts - variety is the spice of life! For audition information, visit www.conquercanceroneactatatime.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

The Aurora Public Library presents *Money Talk\$ - An RRSP Refresher*. This is a free monthly discussion group to exchange ideas and unbiased financial planning information. Presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. No financial products or services will be offered or sold. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the library Adult Information Desk: 905-727-9494, ext. 275.

JANUARY 3 - 24

The Aurora Public Library will host *Winter Watercolours* Thursdays through January 24 from 6.30 - 8 p.m. Embrace the beauty of watercolour painting with artist and teacher Alana

Biasi. Both the beginner and the advanced painter will marvel at the delightful possibilities of watercolour painting. Ages: Grades 5-100. Cost: \$36. Materials not included. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) hosts the free Stages of Recovery Workshop at their Aurora headquarters (15213 Yonge Street, Unit 15) today. Are you ready for the possibility of change? If so, discover where you are in your journey of recovery. Stages of Recovery will help you explore the changes you are seeking. In a safe and confidential setting, the costs and benefits of changing eating disorder behaviours will be presented. We will also try to identify barriers and explore healthy coping strategies. For more information, visit www.edoyr.com. Registration is required: email info@edoyr.com or call 905-886-6632. Seating is limited.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the Referral Marketing Seminar: *How to Keep Your Referral Pipeline Full*, with host Paula Hope of The Referral Institute of Peel-Halton. The seminar gets underway at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office at 14483 Yonge Street from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$25 for members or \$35 for guests. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 14

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) will host *Healthy Coping Skills for Anxiety and Depression* with Flora Svinarenko for six weeks from 5 - 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, January 10 at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15) Very often depression and anxiety are familiar feelings to someone struggling with disordered eating, body image issues and low self esteem. During this group you will learn how your negative thinking patterns might be affecting your feelings and behaviors. You will be able to explore the "mechanisms" of anxiety and depression and learn why they are triggered. You will learn healthy coping techniques with your symptoms

and you will be able to share your struggles and worries in a safe environment.

JANUARY 10 - 31

EDOYR launches The Hope and Inspiration Peer Support Group at their Aurora Headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street beginning January 10 from 6 - 8 p.m. for four Thursdays. Group participants will feel empowered as they ask questions, discover answers, and gain insights together into eating disorders to help and support each other on their journey to recovery. Group participants can become role models for each other, as they witness one another overcome obstacles and make progress in their lives. Registration is \$40. For more information, call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Want to Ace Your Grade 9 Math Exam? Head to the Aurora Public Library! The transition to high school Math can be challenging! Get ready for your first high school Math exam with teacher and mathematician Danielle Rasu-Park. Free information session for Grade 9 students only. 2 - 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) launches the BREAD Support Group (Brotherhood Reflection Education Acceptance Direction) with Phil Hodgson tonight from 7 - 8 p.m. for six weeks. Phil is an experienced men's worker who has practiced as a psychotherapist in North America and Europe. He holds a diploma and Masters Degree in Counseling and Psychotherapy and a post-graduate degree in Education. The support group is intended for men who are currently considering making changes, changing or maintaining changes. The journey may be challenging, isolating, revelatory or just plain frustrating and group support and professional facilitation may be necessary to overcome or prevent relapses. We will be seeking insights and exploring coping strategies with the goal of learning from each other, effective coping strategies and life skills. To register call 905-886-6632 or email

info@edoyr.com.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

The Aurora PROBUS Club will host a joint meeting between the Aurora and Newmarket clubs and Dr. Dave Williams, CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre. The meeting will take place at Seaton Hall in Newmarket at 17995 Leslie Street, north of Davis Drive. Arrive at approximately 10 a.m. For more information, contact program chair Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, welcomes back Jacqueline Stuart with the heritage lecture "A Virtual Tour of the Aurora Cemetery." A fascinating glimpse into important stories from Aurora's past. Admission by donation; 7 p.m. lecture. For info, call 905-713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

JANUARY 16 - 20

The Newmarket Stage Company presents *Snow White & The Seven Dwarves* by Stuart Arden at Newmarket Theatre. January 16 - 19 at 8 p.m. and January 19 - 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for Wednesday and \$17 Thursday - Sunday. For tickets contact Newmarket Theatre at 905-953-5122 or visit www.newmarketstageco.org.

JANUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 10

Southlake Regional Health Centre hosts the art exhibition "Mentorship in Motion". "Mentorship in Motion" is a partnership of six accomplished artists mentoring six young students living with a challenge. Together, each team produced a collaborative piece of art showcasing how creativity can restore, repair, and renew. Art will be on display through February 10. For more information, visit www.artcures.ca.

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 8

EDOYR hosts a free art program with Amanda Di Santo and Rebecca Vos-Van Soelen beginning Friday, January 18 for four Fridays from 6 - 7.30 p.m. at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15). The art program is designed to promote a healthy and effective way of expressing ones' self without necessarily having to be verbal. A calm and creative approach, this pro-

gram will offer support to one another through sharing art experiences, for those that choose to do so. Multi-media, no previous art experience required. All supplies will be provided. To register call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Want to Ace Your Grade 9 Math Exam? Head to the Aurora Public Library! The transition to high school Math can be challenging! Get ready for your first high school Math exam with teacher and mathematician Danielle Rasu-Park. Free information session for Grade 9 students only. 2 - 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Winter classes start this evening at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Programs for adults (ages 16+) include painting, drawing, wood carving, creative writing, as well as guitar, ukulele and photography. New this season - Harmonise group singing class! Children's Saturday art programs start January 26. For all program information, check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818. Register over the phone with a credit card, or in person at the Centre.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts Speed Networking with members of the Newmarket and East Gwillimbury Chambers this afternoon at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club (4 Pinnacle Trail) from 5.30 - 7.30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for chamber members. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents "A Sheard, Wendellful Delight", featuring John Sheard (pianist of CBC radio's Vinyl Cafe fame) and guitar wizard Wendell Ferguson in concert. From rock to mock, jazz to jokes, melody to parody, this duo (with guest bassist Dennis Pendrith) cooks up an unforgettable evening of music and humour. Concert 8 p.m.; tickets, \$25 plus HST. For info, or to purchase tickets call 905-713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host Coffee with the President this morning from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Drop in to the Chamber office (14483 Yonge Street) to have coffee with the president of the Board and the Executive Director. Get answers to your questions or just meet the staff. Visit and see what's new at the chamber. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, January 26, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. Enjoy a wonderful evening of music and dance along with a dinner of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, tatties and neeps, and, of course, haggis. Entertainment by the White Heather Pipes and Drums, and Celtic Rock group Hadrian's Wall. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from band members or at the Legion.

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Organizers plan inclusive talent show, uniting for common cause

From page 1

Walker: "We want people playing the spoons! We just want a fun Carol Burnett-style show. It's not a Canada's Got Talent, but we want people to have talent, but we also want it to be fun and inclusive. It's about bringing people together for a common cause."

Ms. Walker's relationship with the Ride to Conquer Cancer began last year, inspired by one of her best friends from high school who was in her 30s and going through cancer treatment at the same time as her own mother. While her friend is a survivor; the mother, however, was not so fortunate. They fundraised in the all-night Relay for Life but wanted to do something more. The Ride seemed just the ticket.

"It was raining one day and boiling hot the second day and people sat out with their umbrellas and signs just thanking us," she says of her first ride experience. "I really think it is a big symbol for a lot of people. We met people who were survivors and it was something that got them through their cancer goal as they saw people do it."

All the way along they met people who inspired them to continue, including one taxi driver who was fighting can-

cer and gave them a lift for free when he overheard their goals. The next day, however, disaster struck, and her cycling friend was stung in the eye by a bee and went in to anaphylactic shock.

Abandoning their bikes 50 km away from the finish line of the 200 km ride, Ms. Walker was encouraged by her friend to stick it out, but they went together.

As her friend recovered in hospital, what happened was a series of events that could best be described as encompassing the motives of One Act at a Time - people coming together for a common cause. The nurse in charge got wind of their story and took it upon herself on her lunch hour to drive from Grimsby to pick up their bikes and continue the journey for both of them.

"My friend gave me her shoes and said, 'I want my shoes to cross the finish line,'" Ms. Walker recalls.

"The nurse drove me and when we got back they were tearing down all the tents. There was nobody there. On the way, she told me some personal things. Her dad was a very outgoing and athletic man. He had died from cancer and she said his spirit would be with us.

"I just rode so hard, time

escaped me. I made really good time and caught up to the masses. I certainly wasn't near the front of the pack, but I wasn't at the tail end anymore. It was riding knowing that I had her dad and all these people had done this so I could finish the ride, my friend in the hospital and my other friend, it was just an emotional ride. The most

empowering part was catching up to the group and thinking about this nurse's dad."

Now, whether your talent indeed lies with the spoons or something more sophisticated, you can put it to good use and help the Ride. For more information on the audition process and the event itself, visit www.conquercanceroneactatatime.ca.

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THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Jodie Cara Lindley

January 2013 Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Take a step back this month and look at your aspirations. What needs to change for you to achieve what you want? Near the end of the month you will have clarity and can move forward. Be willing to harness your energy into the unconventional. Shouldn't be too hard for the true pioneer that you are!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Movement is a theme for you in January. Freedom is what you ultimately crave, so be willing to tap into your energy reserves. While Taurus' do not generally like to move fast, the need for change has you digging in deep to plough forward. Be sure to express yourself honestly, and from the heart.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

How you share yourself with others is coming up for review. You crave deep intimacy. Now is the time to see what it takes to achieve this goal. Hint: you are a natural communicator. By the end of the month, you will know exactly what to say and who to say it to.

Cancer (June 21 – July 21)

Relationships continue to be a focus in 2013. The concept of responsibility to others is very much on your mind. Now is a good time to set clear relationships goals. To do this, you will have to tackle your innate belief systems about relating, and what you feel worthy of receiving. Do this, and you will feel whole.

Leo (July 22 – August 22)

This month channel your incredible energy into daily health practices. After much indulgence over the holidays, January asks that you tend to your bodily needs. Set some strict routines and you will feel much better. Cleaning up any negative habits will help you feel more royal and ready to roar.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

A new year brings a new focus: maybe it is time to lighten up and have some fun? Advance in the direction of joy and purify any uptight tendencies. Just express yourself and don't worry so much! Later in the month matters will turn to the daily round, which is much more in your comfort zone.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Home, family and friendships are the focus in January. Question your role within domestic and personal relationships. Achieve clarity around these issues. Be wary of your Libran tendency to compromise at all cost. Use your current serious mindset to consider where others can bend a little for you too.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

You will be very "tuned in" this month. Allow visions and impressions that are flooding your conscious mind guide you. Investigate what you sense is the truth, and use focused determination to shore up your purpose and passion. You have the gift of prophecy now. Be unconventional in your approach.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Release bad spending habits this month. Maybe it is time to create a new regime around your resources and how you use them? Then you will have more pocket money to explore and travel, something Sagittarians relish in! Later in January, question your belief systems. Let go of any outdated mindsets.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

You feel very serious at the start of 2013. You continue to query your career ambitions and plan your next move. Now is a good time to start a project you have been sitting on. Go for those unwavering dreams in true Capricornian style: with determination, practicality and a good dose of thriftiness.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

What is bubbling up from your unconscious?

Pay attention to your nighttime dreams. They will provide clues to any psychic gunk floating around for you to purify. Get a handle on what is blocking your objectives. Use your Aquarian ability to break free of negative thinking.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

As a true seeker of peace, you come into 2013 with dreams of a greater future for all. Put energy

into these hopes now. Focus on being of service in a way that resonates with what you feel benefits the whole. Contribute everyday to this vision. Muster your will and find the energy to tackle this task.

For more information about Jodie and astrology, visit www.EarthSkyJourneys.org.

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DEATH NOTICE

Neale, Frances Lilian

At Toronto General Hospital on Wednesday December 26, 2012 surrounded by her loved ones. Frances beloved mother of Ken (Bonnie), Heather (Kelly) Postnicks, Paul, Cyndy (Mike) Gibson, and Sandra (Brian Lee). Survived by her partner John West. Dear grandma to Jayme, Nelson, Emily, Riley, Sawyer, Tate, Kathleen, Lauren, and Amanda. Also survived by her sister Marian Gardiner. Predeceased by her husband Dr. William F. Neale, and her parents Rev. Frederick and Gladys Gardiner of the United Church of Canada. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora (905 727-5421) on Wednesday January 2 from 2-4, and 6-8 pm. Funeral Service in the chapel Thursday January 3 at 11:00 am. Cremation. Donations to Princess Margaret Hospital would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences may be made at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com

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Operating budget will have most direct impact on proposed 8.3 tax hike

From page 8

Geoffrey Dawe who argued the public had ample opportunity to speak to the Capital Budget through the series of meetings that were held throughout the fall.

"This came to Council from a number of GC meetings, so it has been discussed at this table and the public has had ample opportunity and the public has been advised all the way along at what the

process is, so I totally disagree with your assessment," said Mayor Dawe to Councillor Gallo's comments.

Although Council ultimately decided to delay the early approval, Councillor Michael Thompson questioned whether such a delay would have an undue impact on Town departments and projects slated to begin early this year.

"Any delay affects us," said Mr.

Simanovskis. "We have a very large program. It is not going to be an issue, however, if we run into a situation where it is going to affect us, I would propose we bring forward a report as we do with roads and critical projects to seek separate approval."

With the Capital Budget now slated to go forward to the January 15 General Committee meeting for approval, before

Council gives it the final sign-off the following week, budget discussions are set to resume next Saturday, January 12, with an all-day session on the Operating Budget.

The Operating Budget has the most direct impact on tax rate pressures facing Aurora. The proposed tax increase for Aurora's portion of the 2013 tax bill currently stands at 8.3 per cent.

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Captain David Burnett received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown this fall. Burnett, a member of the Canadian Armed Forces until he lost his sight, was honoured for his continuing services to the military, the community, business, and to athletics for the disabled. Auroran photo by David Falconer

You can't let a disability stand in your way: Burnett

From page 1
 cessful business venture it was a nice reward for a journey which really began in 1966 when he was looking for a summer job.

Beginning with a job in a summer militia, the idea was it would be a six week basic training course while for the Armed Forces it would be a good recruiting tool. They found their guy in David and he was asked to come back in the fall.

"I was not smart enough to know if I didn't come back in September I could have quit, so I was back in September and 14 years later, I was still there saying, 'God, this is just because I went back in September!'" he says.

After 14 years in the military, however, he noticed night deployments were becoming increasingly difficult for him. He was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a disease of the retina which leaves those it touches with varying degrees of sight. David's was on the worse end of the spectrum.

"I was surprised to find out I was going blind," he said. "That was about 1978 and I hung in, but by 1980 I was useless down at Moss Park Armoury, but I

realised the unit was good and they weren't really going to kick me out. I had to resign for medical reasons and leave with some sort of dignity."

Mr. Burnett, however, made the most of it and others seemed to notice his leadership potential, gradually building up a portfolio of leadership positions before eventually forming End to End in 1993.

"As a blind person, back then I recognized that could be risky [in the job market] and I would probably have much better success if I opened my own business because I would be the last one to be fired," he explains. "It was survival and I thought I would have better luck in my own ship than if I was depending on somewhere else."

And he has steered his ship to a point where he is now comfortable to be handing over the wheel to his business partner for a very different vessel on the open water. His participation in blind sailing is not his first foray into athletics for the visually impaired.

In the early 1980s, attending church in North York, he was approached by a blind woman who

enticed him to join the Toronto Ski Hawks Ski Club. He was astonished that blind people could ski so he gave it a try. There was no turning back.

"I didn't know there was a community of blind people out there," he says, noting his athletic prowess has spread to blind ice hockey where he serves as a defenseman. "I'm not a Bobby Orr; I don't rush! They have some partially sighted blind people there and they have a few totally blind guys like me and we kind of play defence and guard the goalie."

"We don't cross the blue line, that's too dangerous," he adds with a chuckle.

"Many blind people feel that life is over when the truth of that is there are just so many better opportunities waiting there for them. When you go with the ski club, there are so many volunteers who are willing to give their time to be with the blind people to help them ski down the hills, the same with the golfing, the same with the sailing. You can get more involved if you want. You have got to not let a disability stand in the way. You can't do things you used to, but you don't let it be a factor."

Downtown businesses to be put under the microscope

By Brock Weir

It was simply time to get a move on and deliver on a promise to downtown business owners for some Councillors who voted before Christmas to go ahead with a nearly \$97,000 development of a Community Improvement Plan.

Councillors authorised the \$96,520 contract with Sierra Planning and Management on December 18 to develop a Community Improvement Plan for the Aurora Promenade - which covers a large stretch of Aurora's section of Yonge Street as well as the

majority of Wellington Street.

The final approval followed lengthy debates over the previous weeks over the need for the plan and whether the consultants would be doubling up on work already carried out by the Town in previous studies.

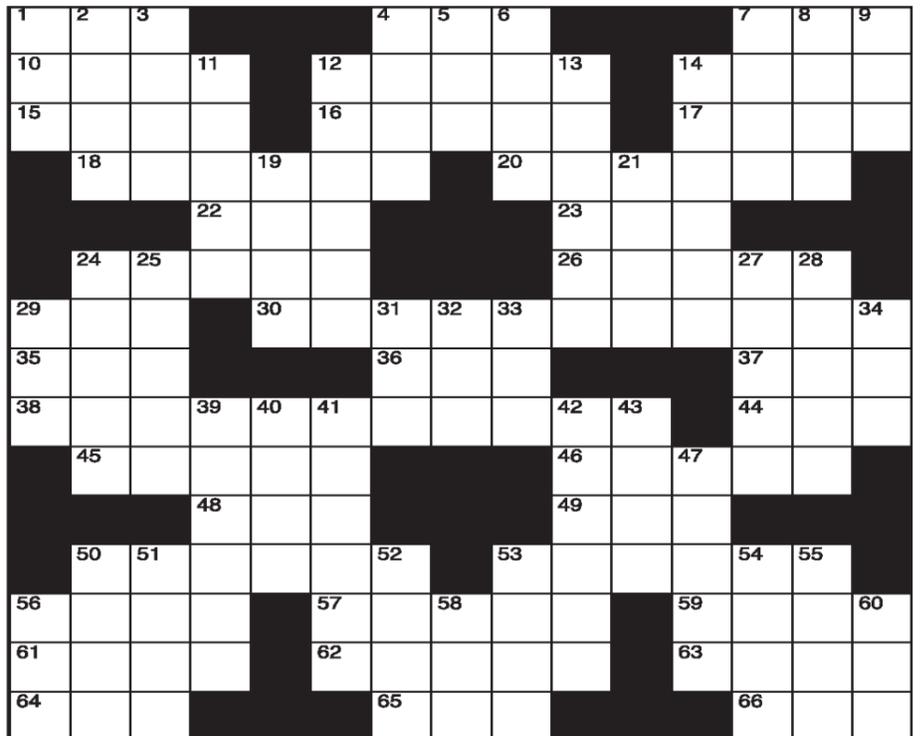
According to a report before Council from Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, a Community Improvement Plan "allows the municipality to offer numerous financial incentives to the private sector to stimulate redevelopment."

"An example of such an incentive is a Facade Improvement Program to help commercial building owners or businesses to improve the quality of facades," he said. "The Town and their Consultants will conduct stakeholder consultations in order to obtain feedback with respect to what kind of financial incentives they believe would be most beneficial for the Community Improvement Area."

With Council's approval, the recommendations brought back by the consultants will pro-

Continued on page 19

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Easy as 1-2-3
- 4. Goat and camel hair fabric
- 7. A woman's undergarment
- 10. British bathrooms
- 12. Assemblages of parts into one entity
- 14. Semitic fertility god
- 15. Dull & uninteresting
- 16. Yemen capital
- 17. Stare impertinently
- 18. Banished persons
- 20. Heart failure & energy supplement
- 22. Reduction in force
- 23. Women's ___ movement
- 24. Polynesian wrapped skirt
- 26. Double-reed instruments
- 29. Own (Scottish)
- 30. Summer window dressings
- 35. Many not ands
- 36. Paddle
- 37. Being a single unit
- 38. Silly behavior
- 44. Insecticide
- 45. A blank area
- 46. Reduces stress
- 48. Morning moisture
- 49. Tear away roughly
- 50. Elevated
- 53. Cristobalite
- 56. Baseball's Ruth
- 57. Indian monetary unit
- 59. Contest of speed
- 61. Having a slanted direction
- 62. Gross receipts
- 63. A river in NE Spain
- 64. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
- 65. Dynege Inc. on NYSE
- 66. Japanese monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Linen vestment worn by priests
- 2. The trunk of a tree
- 3. Transmission line cable
- 4. Freshwater duck genus
- 5. Bulk storage container
- 6. Oil obtained from flowers
- 7. Shopping containers
- 8. Abnormal breathing
- 9. Brew
- 11. Bake eggs in their shells
- 12. Serviceable
- 13. A person in the navy
- 14. A child's slight injury
- 19. Fain
- 21. Supports trestletree
- 24. Parian Chronicle discovery site
- 25. Greek famous for fables
- 27. Farcical afterpiece
- 28. Dispatches by mail
- 29. Hall of Fame (abbr.)
- 31. Aah
- 32. Unnaturally pale
- 33. Before
- 34. Fixed in one's purpose
- 39. Madames
- 40. Frosts
- 41. City drains
- 42. Baseball playoff
- 43. Cruise
- 47. Steeple
- 50. Precipitation
- 51. Cas___: winter melons
- 52. A unit of two
- 53. Viewed
- 54. Taxis
- 55. 4840 square yards
- 56. London radio station
- 58. Perform work regularly
- 60. Longest geological time

December 18th Puzzle Solution



Shelby Clark puts a personal stamp on guiding the leaders of tomorrow



Aurora's Shelby Clark was recently honoured by the Town of Aurora for her volunteer work. Now a student at Brock University, she continues her work mentoring the Aurora Sparks and members of the Aurora Special Ducks swim team, and works as a municipal lifeguard.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

By Brock Weir

Shelby Clark was hard at work studying for exams this fall when her mother Dinny came to Town Hall to accept an award in her daughter's honour.

The younger Ms. Clark, a second year Biology and Concurrent Education student at Brock University, was the recipient of this year's Youth Volunteer Award at November's Community Recognition Awards

Ceremony. As her mother approached the centre of the Council chamber to receive the plaque from Councillor Wendy Gaertner, she heard her daughter's citation from Citizen of the Year Brian North who saluted her for

her work in mentoring the female leaders of tomorrow.

"Shelby has volunteered with the 20th Aurora Sparks for five years and has planned meetings and arranged food drives with her friends in the Sparks," said Mr. North. "She has shown excellent leadership, instilling values and life lessons during her time with Girl Guides."

Ms. Clark comes by her work with the Sparks being a near-life-long member of the guiding program.

"I grew up in the Girl guides and when I became too old to actually go to the meetings, I wanted to give back," Ms. Clark told The Auroran after her return from St. Catherine's. "I remember when I was younger I saw other girls helping me out with units and so I contacted my old Sparks leader and she let me come and act as a leader with the girls."

It was building on the benefits which she experienced firsthand in the program and allowed her to put the lessons she learned to good use.

"It was a place to meet new friends, who weren't always the typical person," she says of the program. "When girls are growing up, a lot of them like to dress up, they don't like to go outside and get muddy, and I am not one of those girls! Girl Guides gave me the opportunity

to meet girls like that and I could fit in a bit more. It gives girls great opportunities to be leaders, even when they are younger."

As she became more immersed into the leadership aspect of the program, she says she was not expecting to learn so much about the girls seeing them once a week, but the connections were immediately formed and the trust they gave, she says, was "amazing."

That being said, taking the leadership reins has provided some challenges that are outside her comfort zone. Some girls, for instance, have come from divorced families which she has not experienced, so she needed to delve further into these aspects, as well as into the diverse interests of the girls so she could guide them as best she could.

While there are specific guidelines leaders need to follow, leaders are given leeway in how they can meet those guidelines. To leave her own personal stamp on the program, she organized food drives during Hallowe'en to benefit the Aurora Food Pantry, going door to door with friends to collect food and organizing it at the food bank with the Sparks.

When not studying or working with the Sparks, she is also a volunteer with the Aurora Special Ducks, the local swim team for Special Olympics Athletes as well as a lifeguard at the Aurora

Family Leisure Complex and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

It is clear that Shelby is not one to shy away from stepping up to a challenge and it is with this in mind she said she hopes she can mentor the girls in her Sparks troop and others who are in her charge.

"With support, they can do a lot of things, but if they don't get that support or don't feel like they fit in, they are less likely to pursue their goals," she says. "[People] know me well enough to know it is in my nature to volunteer. I am kind of a workaholic so I have to be doing something at all times!"

Future of "Library Square" to be considered this month

From page 18

vide some answers to the oft-discussed future of Library Square which includes the old Aurora Public Library building as well as the former home of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Although these buildings are used by other entities - including the Town - today, their future has been the cause of much debate.

The plan will provide a condition assessment of the two buildings, as well as a parking study of the area, which is often congested and spilling onto the road due to the popularity of the new Library, the Aurora Cultural Centre, and surrounding places of worship. A work plan, Mr. Ramunno noted, is due this month.

"The other component is crafting policies and financial programs to bring forward to council and have that discussion as to which financial programs and how they are going to be resourced and we need to apply to a given area," he said. "It will also provide us with ideas, and as to types of incentive programs with respect to whether it is facade improvement, landscaping, if there is a full range of other loans and grants, it will ultimately create policies and financial programs that the municipality can utilize."

When the plan came up for final approval, its merits brought a mixed bag of reactions, including from Councillor Evelyn Buck who said taxpayer dollars should not be spent on a consultant to look for ideas, as that is something which could be done internally, nor should they be spent on facade improvements.

"I could never approve our lending taxpayers' money to property owners for that purpose," she said. "Throughout the Town we have seen old buildings improved tremendously, looking far more enchanting and attractive than ever they did in their entire history. Aurora is far more beautiful a Town now than it ever was simply because of private investment and simply because

some hope had vision and were sufficiently romantic [that] they wanted to create the charm.

"I don't see any advantage at all in the Town getting into that process."

The Councillor was the lone holdout in voting against the motion, while others argued in its favour.

"This is a very serious work that will go towards building ultimately a foundation of this revitalization and growth throughout the promenade area," said Councillor Chris Ballard.

Councillor Michael Thompson agreed.

"It is a common practice within municipalities to look to Community Improvement Plans as a tool by which to stimulate development and it also seems to often be sourced out to those that are specialized in it to develop it...and implementation by the municipality," he said.

From Councillor Sandra Humfries perspective, the plan was about fulfilling the needs of local business owners.

"I know it is a lot of money, but we have been asked by the businesses along that core for support and some of them are desperately asking for some assistance to help develop the downtown core businesses," she said.

This was somewhat echoed by Councillor John Abel who said he felt if Council said it didn't want to go forward with this plan it would "basically be dropping the ball" on the longstanding issue of downtown businesses. He added although he is not always in favour of spending money on consultants, what was proposed would be going to good use and improve the "connectivity" of the community, generate "innovative" and bring "considerable long-term benefits."

"I think overall we're moving in the right direction on this," added Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "We have all committed in one way or another to see what we can do to revitalize our downtown. It has to be a two-way street. We have to step up to the mark and businesses also have to step up to the mark."

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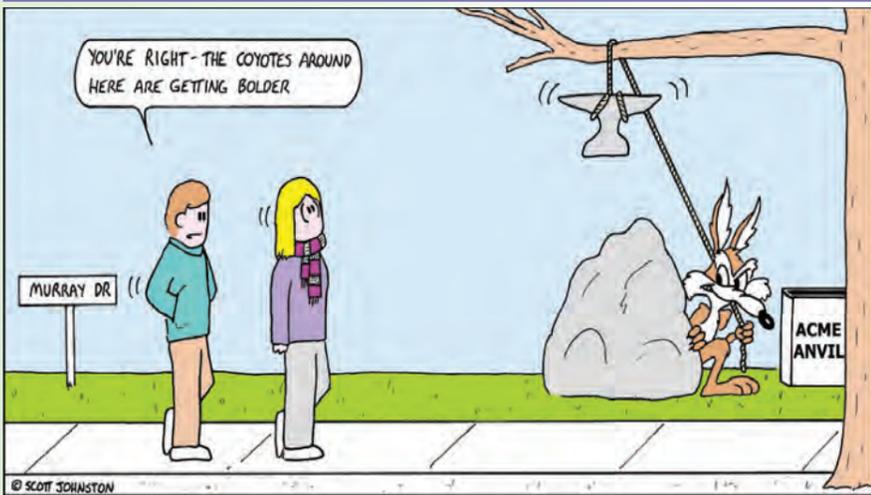
THE YEAR THAT WAS

Part one
Photos by David Falconer

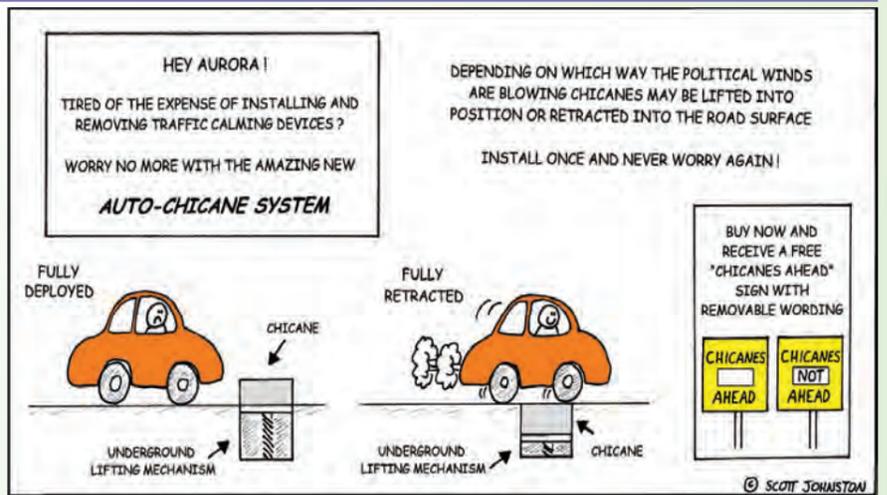


(1) Young Owen Veloso's dream came true this year when he was named an honorary firefighter by the Central York Fire Services, with the Make a Wish Foundation this spring. His father later rappelled down the side of Toronto City Hall in a fundraising effort for the foundation. (2) Katie Sutton of the Aurora Skating Club went for a twirl during the club's "Push Play and Dance" ice show at the Aurora Community Centre. (3) Brian North found himself at Town Hall where he was surprised to be named Aurora's Citizen of the Year. (4) Breanna, Alex and Laura went "Retro for Relay" as one of the many teams participating in Aurora's 2012's Relay for Life. (5) The demolition of the Browning House over the winter sparked a number of measures which could lead to new initiatives supporting owners of heritage homes. (6) Catherine Moroziuk and Margaret Clowater couldn't wait to dig in at the Trinity Anglican Church's pancake dinner in February. (7) Rain couldn't dampen spirits as crowds took to Yonge Street for the annual Aurora Street Festival.

Events in Aurora provided plenty of fodder for our cartoonist Scott Johnston and his weekly Machell's Corners. In this installment of 2012 in review, we look at the first half of the year.



The winter of 2012 heralded a flurry of coyote sightings on the west side of Aurora, particularly in the southwest quadrant.



A favourite topic for commentators, and a bone of contention for residents and politicians alike were the chicanes and other traffic control measures installed in Aurora's northeast quadrant. After years of debate and study, the much maligned chicanes were finally removed.



In the spring, Council opted not to waive park fees for the Aurora jazz+ Festival, prompting Councillor John Gallo to declare "culture is dead" in Aurora. While this sparked other groups and politicians to claim reports of culture's death were greatly exaggerated, it was not the end of the debate over the jazz+ Festival. Matters came to a head in the fall with Councillor Evelyn Buck's controversial motion to open up Town Park for bids for the Civic Holiday weekend.



After years of debate, the long-proposed Aurora Youth Centre/Community Space for Youth finally took a step forward to completion. The ongoing debate over the future of the Aurora Museum, however, remains unsettled.



Michael, Marisa, Alana, and Nathan Butt have collected over \$1,000 worth of beer and wine bottles throughout the community to purchase livestock and other essentials for families living in poverty overseas. The family hopes to double their efforts this year.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Empty bottles help fill needs for people overseas

By Brock Weir

Beer and liquor stores do a booming business at this time of year, trading with people just wanting to keep the good times flowing over Christmas and New Year's.

If you gave a few of your empties to some local kids going door to door this season, however, your contributions could have helped send them \$66 over their \$1,000 goal for 2012.

Marisa Butt, 10, and her siblings Alana (8) and Michael (6), have been going door to door throughout the eastern side of Aurora, and beyond, collecting bottles and cans to raise money for children living in poverty through Compassion International, a Christian-based aid organization for children.

They set out early in 2012 with a goal to raise \$1,000 to buy livestock, wells, and other gifts for families overseas living in poverty, and by the time of their final collection for the year on Friday, they had raised \$1,066 with over 9,000 items collected.

"My wife Angela and I were looking to train our children into thinking of others and not just themselves," said Roy, the father of the eager trio. "The kids came up with the idea when they realised they could get

money from the bottles and would find them in the park. My daughter Marisa is really good at finding stuff and when she realised some people actually threw out their bottles and cans into the recycling bin, we would go out and collect them."

The family is not new to Compassion, as they continue to sponsor children in Nicaragua, Thailand, Ghana, and Indonesia. As practicing Christians, they were attracted to the group with its Christian philosophy, and also through sponsoring the kids would not only benefit the children in need but provide valuable lessons to their own children.

"We're able to write to the children and speak to them about things and it just became a bit of an extension with our kids," he said. "They wanted to do more on their own. We didn't just want to give them the money, but we wanted to get them to do a bit of the work and make sure they can just take some of that responsibility."

"It's the satisfaction that you have done something yourself. It means more to you and I'm pretty impressed with how well they have done. We have been going out for about every week and they have been amazing in how they have been going

about doing it."

Indeed, the kids have become familiar sights through their neighbourhood near the Sobey's plaza at Bayview and Hollidge, as their Facebook page can attest, and they have built up relationships not just with their neighbours, but the nearby Taylor Park.

"There has been a great response from people," said Roy. "Neighbours are actually saving the bottles now instead of taking a chunk to the Beer Store and throwing the odd ones in the recycling. We actually have people getting their old cases that have just been sitting on the shelf for the longest time or making sure they keep their empties for us. We had a huge surge in money because we have spoken with people."

For the teetotalers in the neighbourhood who had no bottles to donate they were more than happy to put forward cash donations, which were also gratefully accepted. With the success of their 2012 campaign, the family is looking to step it up this year and double their efforts.

"I think \$2,000 is aggressive, but you have to have something to strive for," says Roy. "We will see this year how we can get more awareness, how we can reach more houses, and how we maybe get people who aren't on the

street and are outside of where we are. Maybe we can figure something out where we can go and pick up, or people can email or call us and make an arrangement."

This sounds like another case for family brainstorming!

For more information on the kids' "Kids with Compassion" campaign, visit www.kidswithcompassion.com.

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| 11 Sports | 16 Classifieds |
| 15 Coming Events | 17 At Your Service |

Briefly

GREY CUP IS COMING TO AURORA

The celebrated CFL trophy will be coming to Aurora on Monday, February 18 as part of Family Day celebrations. The Toronto Argonauts won the 100th Grey Cup this past November over the Calgary Stampeders, and in a nice coincidence, in the year of its 100th award, it will be coming to Aurora for its Sesquicentennial. Organizers of the special event are slated to meet next week to hammer out final details. For full details on how you can take part in the special event, look in the January 15 edition of The Auroran!

ATTENTION GRADE 1 STUDENTS!

Grade 1 students across York Region are eligible to receive a free Canadian children's book as part of the 2012 TD Grade One Book Giveaway Program. Aurora kids and their parents or guardians can pick up their book at the Aurora Public Library. This year's selection is "I've Lost My Cat", written and illustrated by Phillippe Beha. According to the Library, the program, which was started in 2000, delivers over 500,000 children's books annually in conjunction with provincial ministries of education, local school boards, and the Canadian Children's Book Centre, a national non-profit founded in 1976 to encourage the writing, illustrating and publishing of Canadian books for younger readers. Kids can pick up their book at the Library's Children's Desk on the second floor.

"ART AT THE MANOR" RETURNS FOR 2013

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) is looking for another round of artists to take on the second annual "Art at the Manor" competition. The program was launched at Hillary House last year to mark the 150th anniversary of the national landmark and artists were invited to submit proposals to look around the house and its grounds and find inspiration for their work, which was then exhibited at Hillary House throughout the year. Artists are invited to apply for the program through the AHS no later than Monday, January 21. All media are welcome. This year's focus for Hillary House is Medicine and Health and proposals are encouraged to stick with the theme. For more information on how to apply, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991, email ahs@aurorahs.com, or visit aurorahistoricalicalsociety.ca.



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Is Aurora big enough for two soccer clubs?

By Brock Weir

That will be the issue on many people's minds this year as the Town faces the problem of growing enrollment in youth soccer and an increasing crunch on field time.

The matter could come to a head between the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and Sport Aurora, the local body which encompasses many local and varied sports clubs.

The issue was underscored recently by Roy Cohen of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC), who appeared in the open forum session of Council. He said he had gotten wind that Sport Aurora was contemplating bringing forward another soccer club that would be in direct competition with the AYSC's

efforts.

"We currently do not have enough fields to facilitate one club, how can we facilitate another one?" Mr. Cohen asked Councillors. "We maintain that [a] competing club in Town is unnecessary and at this time we respectfully ask Council to look into this very serious issue. We feel this will splinter an already challenged sporting scene in Aurora due to lack of fields, due to lack of space, and there is no need for a renegade soccer club in Aurora."

"In a polite society we should respect tenure, we should respect 49 years of service, and most of all we should respect the close to 5,000 children and volunteers that we currently look after."

Continued on page 11

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Letters to the editor

Reader takes issue with Buck's comments

I had hoped that the dreary and embarrassing chapter of the Jazz Festival issue was over but now Councillor Buck has raised it again in the last issue of The Auroran by trying to refute what a citizen, Mr. Peter Smith had to say about the issue at council.

I happen to completely agree with Mr. Smith's assessment of what has taken place and I appreciate that he took the time to participate in democracy in Aurora by speaking at council.

Councillor Buck's excuse for why she introduced her motion that effectively put the Jazz Festival out of business is so weak, it is laughable. Anyone who has even a passing interest in politics in this town knows full well that Councillor Buck's motion was simply a vindictive attempt to disqualify the current organizers of the Jazz Festival from organizing and presenting this popular festival.

The fence argument is pure nonsense! I would like to know if there was ever one complaint about the fence that allowed the Jazz festival to charge a modest fee and provide security. Councillor Buck knows that many facilities are temporarily used for purposes that may not be initially intended — what about shutting down Yonge Street for the street sale in June or Wells Street every Saturday for the Farmers' Market?

What about July 1 celebrations on the ball diamond at the Leisure Complex? We don't hear Councillor Buck complaining about any of that.

The Council Chamber has been misused to effectively kill the Jazz Festival which was so enjoyed by many people for several years. My only surprise in all this is that several councillors supported the motion without seeing through to its real purpose.

The Jazz Festival aside, the notion that citizens who come to council to voice their concerns are then "called out" by a councillor on a blog or in the local paper is just wrong. Mr. Wehrenberg and Mr. Smith both of whom were referred to in Councillors Buck's letter, deserve to have their voices heard at council.

T.C. Smith
Aurora

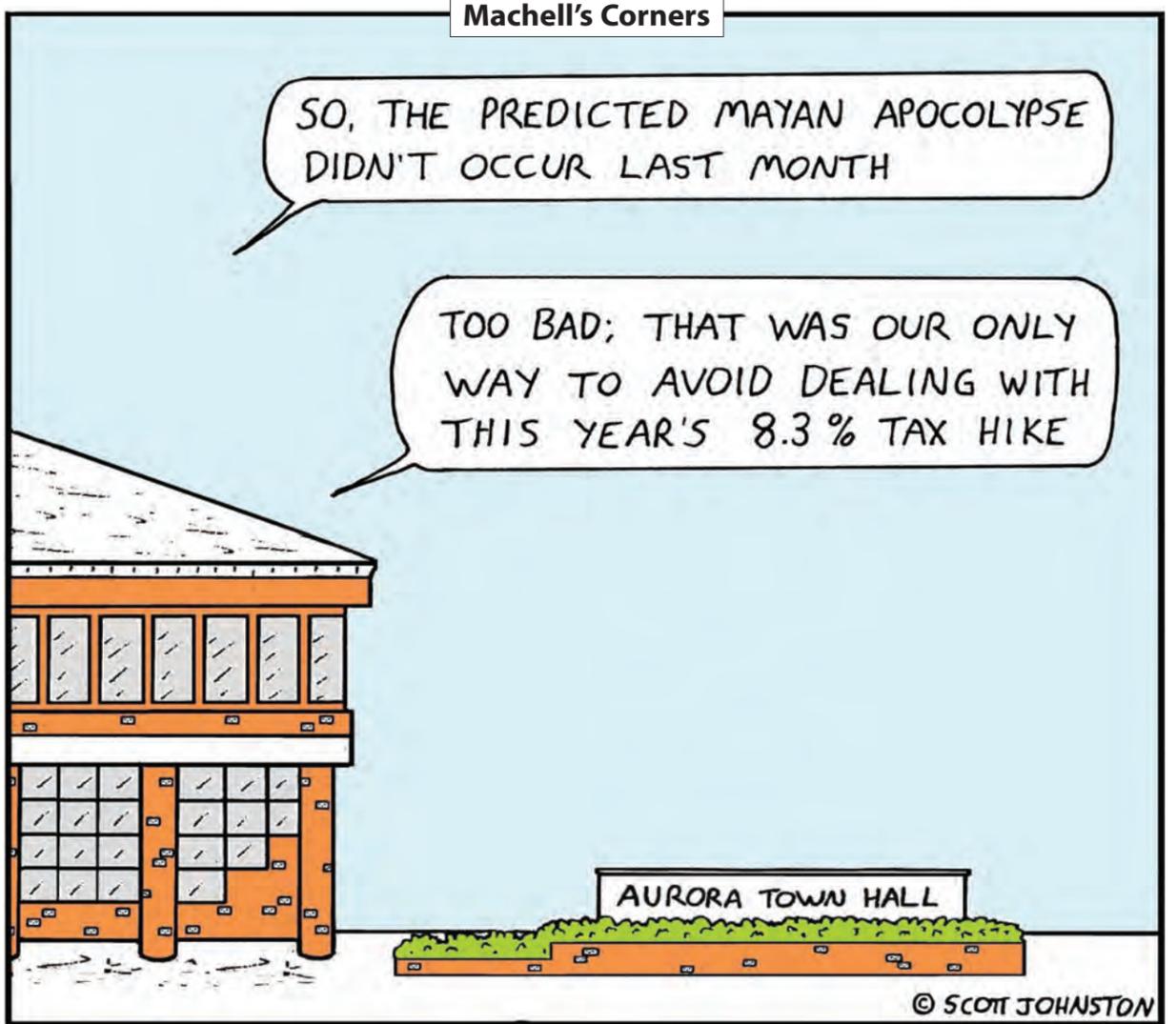
Students and teachers put new spin on Holiday giving

I just wanted to publically acknowledge the wonderful initiative that Holy Spirit Separate School teachers have taken on.

During this generous season, students always give Christmas gifts to teachers. Anticipating this, the teachers asked that if a student is thinking about giving their respective teacher a gift, they would prefer to receive a food gift certificate in lieu of it. The student's kindness raised over \$1,000 in gift certificates and bus tickets AND they were able to fill 26 boxes of household and toiletry items to donate to Welcoming Arms!

What a magnificent reminder that teachers are people too, and they love, respect and support their communities!

Anna Kroeplin
Aurora



To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to letters@auroran.com – deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

How was the apocalypse for you?

So, December 21 came and went without incident.

I'm glad the huge asteroid or meteorite of doom decided to wait for another day and the aliens allegedly kicking it up in that petite French mountain are still chilling in their lair biding their time, because 2012 has been a rather interesting adventure and it would have been a pity not to see it through to the end.

Depending on how the previous 12 months have gone, the week after Boxing Day is either a time of excitement or melancholy. The melancholy could come on the heels of a wonderful year and sadness seeing it end. Conversely, if the year was lousy, you're counting the days to a fresh beginning.

I am writing this with just a few grains of sand left in 2012's hour glass and I am not yet sure which camp I fall into. 2012 has been a very challenging year for the world and it seems to be ending on a global downturn with families in Connecticut trying to pick up the pieces after the tragic school shooting, and continued grousing and predictions of another potential international economic downturn thanks to our neighbours to the south.

To find the silver linings, particularly at this time of year, one should look within the individual to make a year-end assessment. Personally, 2012 has been pretty good. It has been a very interesting change of pace as editor since I started with The Auroran over three years ago. I would like to thank readers for their support and encouragement throughout 2012 after taking on this new capacity.

Well away from Council shenanigans on a weekly basis (frankly, the gift that keeps on giving), 2012 seems to have been a year of local positivity.

People young and old really stepped up to the plate over the course of the year to do some good. Whether they were the usual sus-



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

pects like the Salvation Army and Neighbourhood Network doing good works, or individuals jumping feet first into a new endeavour and making an unqualified success about it, there was certainly no shortage this year of people trying to make a difference for their neighbours and their wider community.

Perhaps it was somewhat of a perfect storm that this trend coincided with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Federal Government's decision to carry on with the medal program following the Coronation, and Silver and Golden Jubilees was a wonderful way to recognize these people and, in turn, shine a light on the unsung heroes of our community. And I hope, as you have seen in these pages over the last 12 months, there is no shortage on that front either. (And we're not done yet)

This brings me to the next installment of my wish list, continued from December 18.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Since the December 18 edition, I have received at least three questions on what I could possibly write about Conrad Bain. Well, anyone who knows me – and reads this column regularly – will know I am an unabashed Classic TV enthusiast. Since I was a kid and first learning about Canada's Walk of Fame, I had been pushing the powers-that-be to honour

Saskatchewan's own Art Linkletter with a star on the sidewalk. I never got a response to the nomination, but the President of the organization later said in a magazine interview that he would be honoured the following year. That came and went, and then Linkletter died a couple of years later, rapidly closing in on his 100th birthday.

Since then, I have turned my sights on to Conrad Bain. Some of you will know him as Mr. Drummond from Different Strokes, or as Dr. Arthur Harmon on Maude, but this native of Alberta not only hit the heights as an actor, but is also a Canadian veteran of the Second World War. Who better to honour?

So, what does this have to do with Aurora? Well, we're now in our Sesquicentennial Year. Initiatives are percolating to honour our local heroes and notables in various ways throughout the year, not the least of which is Sport Aurora's plans for a Sport Hall of Fame. Given the uniqueness of this year, and the fact in just four short years Canada as a whole will be marking its Sesquicentennial, I want to know who you would like to see honoured for posterity – whether a nominee who is still with us, or a posthumous nomination. Who are your local heroes and how would you like to see them honoured?

Send your suggestions and your reasons to brock@auroran.com.

CLARIFICATION

Last week, a reader sought clarification on the December 18 article regarding Council's reaction to the potential of driving schools in local plazas, with specific reference to the driver examination centre at Henderson Drive and Yonge Street. Indeed, the DriveTest Centre is not a driving school, but was referred to in the discussion within the broad definition of zoning.

THE AURORAN

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Last week to Vote! AURORAN POLL

Council recently approved plans to move ahead with a youth centre, known as a "Community Space for Youth" at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. Do you think this addition will serve the needs of Aurora's youth?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Unsure



Please participate in our POLL – go to www.theauroran.com, scroll down and look to the bottom right of the home page to VOTE.



This 1906 postcard depicting the residence of Walter Henry Machell at 59 Tyler Street was sent from the area around the holiday season. It's one of over 100 local postcards that can be found in Bob McRoberts' new book, *Postcards of Olde Aurora: A Sesquicentennial Celebration*. According to Mr. McRoberts: "[Machell] operated a brickyard in the valley from Tyler Street towards the south from 1872-1912. In 1912, the Collis brothers bought the location and opened their tannery." Images courtesy of the McRoberts Collection



Ottawa Report

As we begin a new year, now is the perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments.

Canada continued its record of strong job creation, that now stands at nearly 900,000 net new jobs since July 2009 (90% full-time and 75% private sector), while maintaining low taxes. 2012 was also the year of one of the most ambitious trade-expansion plans in Canada's history that showed leadership on the world stage in what remains a challenging period for the global economy. Key trade opportunities that are helping create new jobs and opportunities include:

- joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and participating in a first full round of negotiations;
- signing a two-year extension to the Canada-United States Softwood Lumber Agreement that secures access to the U.S. market for Canadian softwood lumber until 2015;
- launching the first round of negotiations with Japan toward an economic partnership agreement;
- making continuing progress toward trade agreements with the European Union and India;
- pursuing with Thailand, exploratory discussions toward a bilateral free trade agreement;
- achieving observer status with the Pacific Alliance, a grouping of four fast-growing Pacific countries in Latin America;
- the entering into force of the Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement;

- the Canada-Panama Economic Growth and Prosperity Act receiving royal assent;

- tabling of the expanded Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement in the House of Commons;

- completing the fifth year of the five-year Global Commerce Strategy, the launching of cross-country consultations and the naming of an advisory panel to help shape the next phase of the Strategy;

- establishing a record number of trade missions in order to advance Canadian commercial interests abroad, including to India, China, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Russia and Libya;

- conducting a historic trade mission to Burma and establishing a Trade Commissioner Service presence there;

- making ongoing progress in implementing the Beyond the Border and Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plans to improve the flow of people and goods between Canada and the United States, and laying the foundation for more jobs and growth in both countries;

- celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement;

- continuing Canada's leadership on the world stage in opposing protectionism and supporting free and open trade; and



LOIS BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

- concluding in just six years, free trade agreements with nine countries: Colombia, Honduras, Jordan, Panama, Peru and the European Free Trade Association member states of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

These actions mean that small and medium-sized enterprises in Newmarket-Aurora have preferred access to, and a real competitive edge in, more high-growth and emerging markets around the world than at any other time in our history. I encourage any local business with an interest in exploring opportunities in any of these markets to contact my office.

Besides remaining focused on the economy, our Government delivered strong results for consumers. This fall, we passed the Safe Food for Canadians Act which gives the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) stronger tools to better protect families and enhance industry compliance. We strengthened safety standards for cribs and bassinets, including portable cribs with new, stronger standards on critical aspects such as flammability, pinching hazards, and toeholds to prevent infants crawling out. The new Canada Consumer Product Safety Act enables Health Canada to issue mandatory recalls for unreasonably dangerous products and toughen labelling standards, to prevent false health and safety

claims.

A number of elements from our Safe Streets and Communities Act became law in 2012. Conditional sentencing – or house arrest – is no longer a sentencing option for dangerous crimes such as breaking and entering, and theft of a motor vehicle. Tougher penalties are now in place for the production and possession of illegal drugs for the purpose of trafficking, and violent and repeat young offenders are now held fully accountable for their actions.

We've also introduced responsible changes to Employment Insurance. Before these changes, those who were once discouraged from working a few days part-time because they wouldn't receive any benefit can now work those days because they will be able to keep more of their money. Considering how often part-time work leads to full-time employment, we believe this is an important initiative to help people get back into the workforce.

2012 was a great year for Canada. I am grateful for the privilege of representing your interests in Ottawa, and will continue to work hard on your behalf in 2013. I am also thankful to The Auroran for providing the opportunity through this column, to share with you some of the work that is being done on your behalf in Ottawa.

My family and I wish you all the very best this New Year.

If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I would love to hear from you.

Fall/Winter Musings 2012

Before this column returns to the local themes of people, politics and public affairs, below are some unconnected, stream-of-conscious and (most likely) incoherent musings and observations regarding the fall and early winter season in Aurora.

I thought that energy policy would have been a very important part of the public discourse during the fall 2011 provincial election, and except for the issue of wind turbines in a couple of the rural ridings, it was not.

The last time energy was even spoken about was in 2003 when the provincial Liberals promised to close the coal fired plants in the province by 2007 (this is now scheduled to happen by the end of 2014), but this issue was not front and centre at the time.

We will most likely have a provincial election next April, and I do expect that energy policy, and specifically the issues of pricing, supply mix, siting

of gas fired and wind generation, plus the continued roles of nuclear generation to be part of the electoral equation.

As you know Ron Wallace, the former editor and publisher of this newspaper, has decided to end his regular column. I am indebted to Ron for giving me the opportunity to begin penning this column over six years ago.

Ron had allowed me the opportunity to write about anything that I wanted as long as it had a local flavor to it. He has also provided me with very sage advice when I would submit something that I thought was particularly clever, amusing, pithy or insightful.

Ron would suggest otherwise and I would make the necessary changes. Ron has kept me from myself on at least a few occasions, and probably saved me and the newspaper from some lawsuits in the process!

Besides being a reporter, politician, and entrepreneur,



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

part of Ron's legacy will be that he has brought this community closer together and improved our democracy with this newspaper.

Although the population of Aurora is not that large at around 55,000 and although the physical dimensions of the Town are not that vast, everyone is very busy trying to raise families, and to pay the bills. Ron's newspaper made us feel closer by covering a large amount of community events

and giving people the opportunity to air their views on issues of the day.

I wish Ron and Pat all the best!

An appropriate way to end this rambling soliloquy would be for me to make five of my patented, dead-on and fearless election predictions (as of December 29) for 2013. Here goes:

First, the provincial Liberals will choose Sandra Pupatello as their new Leader next January 27 at a Convention in Toronto. She will defeat former Education Minister Kathleen Wynne on the third ballot with Dr. Eric Hoskins coming third out of seven candidates.

Ms. Pupatello will reconvene provincial parliament with a Throne Speech in early March. I believe that she her new government will not issue a Budget, but will instead use the Throne Speech to go to the Lt. Governor and ask that an elec-

tion be held for early April.

Second, the Tories will squeak through with a two seat minority in the closely and hotly contested ensuing election. The Liberals will finish second, five seats ahead of the NDP in the one hundred and seven seat Legislature.

Third, Team Canada will win the Men's World Junior Hockey Championship by defeating the U.S. 4-3 in an overtime thriller.

Fourth, the NHL strike will be settled on Sunday January 6th, 2013. Or maybe it could be January 6th, 2014!

And last, the Leafs will pick up Vancouver Canuck goalie Roberto Luongo in a trade. The Leafs will then make the playoffs by finishing sixth in their Conference and they will win one play-off round next spring! (A man can dream can't he?)

Happy New Year everyone!

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Now that the agonies of the Holidays over, are you ready to have fun?

Welcome back! Did you have a good Christmas? Were you one of those who tactfully surfed through the throng of visiting family, friends and neighbours, or were you one of those who enjoyed a quiet, relaxed time doing only the things that you enjoy?

Despite how much we love our family and friends, they can overwhelm us during the Holiday Season.

I think getting overwhelmed is tradition for many. In our space-deficient house, it was the flurry of preparing and laying out the Christmas feast. It was my brother and me squabbling over petty whatnots. It was all my mother needed as she slaved to prepare turkey with all the trimmings, plus numerous desserts, for a family of five.

In future years, when we supposedly had grown up and ventured down our own paths, it was chaos at its

finest when my brother and his wife arrived with their four young boys. While they dashed through to the Christmas tree and began ripping open presents, my father sat quietly watching. My sister, as per usual, tried her best to bully me into helping out in the kitchen – the one room that I tend to avoid even today.

Inevitably, the flurry would begin once again to get the table ready for our expanded family. My mother busied herself in the kitchen preparing mincemeat and bakewell tarts and Christmas steam pudding. If I were lucky, she'd also make a ginger steam pudding which I had to share with my father.

The rest of the day was one huge stir; between cleaning tables and washing dishes, and serving tea while our dart game got under way. Activities done for another year, the rest went home,

leaving my parents and me behind. Suddenly, the house was felt like a tornado had just passed and faded into the distance.

Today, the holidays are far less chaotic, just the way I like it. I can relax and do what I enjoy while reminiscing about those memorable times, despite the madness that existed. On thinking back, I must say I do miss that busy home.

That's why I'm now happy to get back to the bustling Seniors' Centre to see who I can pester.

Victorian Tea

I'm anxious to tell you about this event that I've been working on since early December with my first com-



SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

mittee. I'm looking forward to getting back to our meetings to finalize the details. They are a great group to work with and help make my first event easy.

On February 10, we will be holding a Victorian Tea and Picture Show. Being something of a history buff, I changed it from the Valentines' Tea title, although this is a Valentine's event.

In the mid-1800s people took the time to relax, thanks to Queen Anne who initiated the idea of afternoon tea. Annoying technology did not interfere in every aspect of their lives, stressing everyone out. It's time we got back to that, don't you think?

Well, this is one small

opportunity. Dig deep into your closet and see if you can find some Victorian clothing you can wear to help set the mood. Or wear your finest special occasion attire.

You will be greeted with soothing music in the background. You also will get a party favor that I hope you enjoy. Don't miss the special display table which will depict the times. Will you be the one to win the prize that's on that table?

After snacking on fancy finger sandwiches, desserts and tea (or coffee for you hard core coffee drinkers), you will be introduced to the classic 1934 film, "It Happened One Night", with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert.

Don't rush off too quickly when it's done or you'll miss the draw for the door prize.

Seating is limited to 80 people, so get your tickets now. They're only \$10 per person, available at reception. If you book a table of eight, you pay only \$75 for the table.

Hawaiian Luau

Do you want a sunny break from winter? Then you'll enjoy the Hawaiian Luau on January 20 from 2

p.m. to 5 p.m. It's a great opportunity to wear your best Hawaiian costume, or most colorful. The price is \$5 in advance and will include light refreshments and entertainment.

Wizard of Oz

This trip isn't until February 27, but organizers need to know that they have enough people interested. You need to register by January 14 or it could be cancelled.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's new production is an enchanting interpretation of the old-time classic. It contains all the beloved songs from the Oscar-winning movie score and all the favorite characters and iconic moments, plus a few surprises along the way.

Tickets are \$145 per person, available at reception.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer; drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Letters to the editor

Mayor responds to letter on Fleury Park project

(Editor's Note: This letter was sent to The Auroran in response to Mr. MacKinnon's letter, which appeared in our December 18, 2012 edition)

I am responding to the email you sent to members of Council and me on December 4, with respect to your proposal for a feasibility study to implement an enclosed tennis facility at Fleury Park. It has taken me a few weeks to collect all the relevant information from the Conservation Authority.

Your email has some inaccuracies that I would like to address:

"How could I inform staff if there was no document ever informing us that our project was not feasible?"

You have received at least three emails from Tom Hogenbirk at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority advising you that the project would not be granted a permit under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. You personally responded to two of those emails.

Neither I, nor any of our staff, was in possession of this information until Monday December 10.

Further, on November 23, I sent you an email acknowledging receipt of an information package that you sent to Council. In that email, I also informed you that I was seeking a response from LSRCA.

On November 27, 2012, I received an email from Beverly Booth, Manager – Planning, Regulations & Enforcement for the LSRCA—with an attached letter stating that the proposed development of the site is not feasible. This letter was forwarded to you the same day.

Contrary to your statement quoted above, you were advised three times in writing by the LSRCA that your proposal was not feasible and this information was not shared with either Council or staff. Further, the one piece of corre-

Sheppard's Bush parking lot is not up to snuff: Reader

One of my favorite places for a quiet afternoon walk is Sheppard's Bush.

The Town has recently closed off the south parking lot for the winter. It is in terrible shape. Much of the surface is worn away and the tiny glass beads that comprise the paving material are exposed.

My dogs paws were full of them before I realized I shouldn't let her on the surface.

I was surprised to discover the rapid deterioration of this surface. I feel it is currently unsafe for young children. This was a very expensive undertaking of the town for paving a relatively small parking lot.

This area was closed for almost 2 years wait-

ing for completion of the lot. It was closed again last spring to reseal the surface. This was supposed to be a real environmental coup for Aurora, but it just looks like a big expensive mess.

Parking at Sheppard's Bush during the soccer season is at a premium, and there are not enough spaces in both north and south lots on summer evenings for the families participating.

An asphalt lot with lines delineating parking spaces would be much preferred at this point than this pebbly mess. I ask other readers to see for themselves when visiting the area.

Sharon Brookes
Aurora

spondence that I received from the Authority was shared with you shortly after I received it.

"In examining the LSRCA policies we learned that there is a process that includes appeals to the Board of the LSRCA where variances, circumstances or new technologies are not conforming to existing policies (section 8.1.2)"

This statement implicitly acknowledges that the Fleury Park application would be refused by Conservation Authority staff. It also implies that the Town would ask the CA Board to approve the application against the advice of staff.

The CAs were created out of the devastation caused by Hurricane Hazel. They were created to ensure the safety and security of our residents. I believe that following your proposed course of action works contrary to this very objective and is not in spirit of the partnership the Town enjoys with the Authority. Authority staff provides impartial advice to the Town, which we rely upon to help make decisions in the best interests of our residents.

The delegation process

You were verbally advised of the delegation process by our Deputy Clerk on November 27. You acknowledged this advice by email back to the Deputy Clerk as well as through your delegation submission.

When you did delegate, Council voted unanimously to waive its procedural bylaw to allow everyone in your party to address Council.

Mr. MacKinnon, with respect, Council did not ask your group "to do a job (with staff)". This effort is the result of an unsolicited proposal from the [Aurora Community Tennis Club]. After passing Councillor Gallo's Motion, Council directed staff to work with your group to explore the feasibility of this proposal. This implies full communication on your part, which clearly did not happen.

I was, and continue to remain, in favour of investigating the feasibility of your project – but in a different area. As the LSRCA has repeatedly indicated that it would not approve this project through the pre-consultation process, it makes no sense to invest significant taxpayer dollars for a facility in this location.

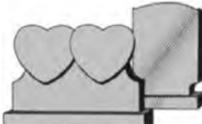
Pursuing an alternate location is clearly the next logical course of action. Should you wish to pursue this option, we are prepared to work with you.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe
Aurora

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Council endorses Thompson motion on Morris lawsuit

By Brock Weir

Councillors voted 7 – 2 at the last Council meeting of December to pass a motion by Councillor Michael Thompson calling to find answers regarding former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris' aborted \$6 million defamation lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others.

Councillor Thompson's motion follows Master Thomas Hawkins' recent decision regarding costs sought by local bloggers Bill Hogg and Richard Johnson over costs incurred in fighting Ms. Morris' lawsuit. In his decision, the Master deemed Ms. Morris' lawsuit SLAPP – Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation – litigation, a move to silence critics.

The motion calls on staff to prepare a report regarding SLAPP legislation, measures that have been implemented, and could be implemented, to ensure a Town-funded SLAPP lawsuit does not occur in the future. It also directs staff to report back to Council in closed session on the financial implications of the Master's decision "with specific reference to the possibility of recovery of

any and all monies spent by the Town and the issuance of a written statement expressing regret to those residents named in the lawsuit."

When the motion came up for debate at the meeting, it boiled down to timing and justice – timing for the motion's detractors as not all loose ends in this legal battle have been tied up, and justice in answering any questions Aurora residents might have in how this lawsuit came into being.

"This is all too premature because it is still before the court," said Councillor Chris Ballard, referencing a further move by the lawyer for Mr. Hogg and Mr. Johnson to seek additional costs for their last motion.

"I am happy to look at SLAPP lawsuits, I am happy to direct our solicitor for reports, but at an appropriate time. This, in my opinion, is not the appropriate time. We have heard about Master Hawkins and his summation. We have heard much about two superior court judges who were asked to rule that this was a SLAPP lawsuit. One of them refused to say anything and was silent on the issue, so one can surmise that is saying it isn't

a SLAPP lawsuit and the other said, 'Absolutely not. It is not a SLAPP lawsuit.'"

Justice Carole Brown was silent in her decision as to whether Ms. Morris' lawsuit was indeed SLAPP, however Justice Robert Spence did not say outright it was not SLAPP, rather that he was not satisfactorily shown in the materials provided that it was indeed SLAPP litigation in his decision not to dismiss the case.

"I think moving ahead at this time is inappropriate and casts Council in a bad light."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, although she voted in favour of the motion, had a mixed review of the motion itself. She said Councillor Thompson had "every right" to bring forward the motion, but said she didn't think asking for these reports was a "particularly good use of staff time."

"The fact is this Council authorized the payment of the legal fees of the lawyer's employer and we had a debate about whether or not that should happen and I voted against it," said Councillor Buck. "I'm not sure where we could go to any court in the land that would tell us we should be

able to recover those fees.

As for Councillor Ballard's comment that going forward would embarrass the Town, Councillor Buck argued that ship had sailed.

"I don't know what can be done to correct the Town's image at this time," she said. "I just think we have to be particularly conscientious about how we conduct ourselves. It's the only way the Town will recover its image. I tend to think we should put it behind us, but I will vote for it because the sentiment is sound, the principle is sound, we want to make amends to the community and the people who were injured."

Councillor Buck was one of three members of the current Council sitting at the time of the now infamous closed session meeting in September 2010 which ultimately lead to the lawsuit. Although she was one of two Councillors who did not participate in the meeting, Councillors Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo did and voted in favour of the resolution which evolved by the following October to the lawsuit.

Speaking to the motion at the meeting, Councillor Gallo stuck by

his decision, but said he supported looking into how the Town "got off the rails."

"Perhaps in hindsight, I would have done things a little bit different but the point of freedom of expression and allowing people to say what they feel I obviously support that up until the point where they are defamatory," he said. "The core of that decision was around defamatory comments to staff, primarily, and that's where I support it and I believe the Town has to stand behind staff and support them and that's why the decision was made that night."

Councillor Gallo ultimately voted in favour of the motion, as did the majority of Council. Speaking in its favour was Councillor John Abel. He said he knew residents wanted the matter explained and assurances this wouldn't happen again.

"It is about assuring as members of Town Council we restore faith in its process as well as public accountability and integrity and we should be tolerant of the views of others, no matter how

strongly expressed and I think we can restore that. It is time for us to respond and move forward."

Added Mayor Geoffrey Dawe: "I do believe this motion is helping us move forward and ensure that we, as a Council, are doing what we need to do. It is to protect the basic right of freedom of speech. I fully agree with Councillor Buck that if someone is defaming someone else that we need to support their right to address that. We need to ensure whatever we're doing is adhering not only to the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law."

Anyone can "put on their lawyer hat and put forward different interpretations of different rulings" said Councillor Thompson, but said at the end of the day ultimately the Town was involved in what was found by Master Hawkins to be a SLAPP and how Aurora got to that point needs to be examined.

"I think that if there is any risk it dates back to that point and we need to, from a principles perspective make sure this can't happen as easily as it did previously," he said.

Councillor Thompson explains his motion

By Brock Weir

Since Councillor Michael Thompson made his intentions to bring forward a motion to address the Master's SLAPP decision against former mayor Phyllis Morris, it has been the subject of controversy with some residents supporting his move with others saying it was time to move on.

When the motion finally came forward on December 18, he addressed both sides of the coin in his remarks to Council.

"I would like to make it clear that this motion is about principles and policies," he said. "It is about accountability, responsibility and making sure this doesn't happen to another resident again."

The decision by Master Hawkins that Ms. Morris' lawsuit was indeed SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) litigation should be a "grave concern to us all", he added, and has attracted the interest of several parties as they try to combat the "rise of SLAPP suits across the province."

These bodies include not only the Attorney General of Ontario, but also the Ontario Bar Association, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Union, the latter of which was granted intervener status in the Ms. Morris' suit against the three local bloggers, among others.

"These organizations

and individuals are all advocating for anti-SLAPP legislation for this province as has been developed in many other countries around the world," said Councillor Thompson. "They want to see a stop to these kinds of actions and yet here we are associated with one."

"The Town's involvement with this action and the use of taxpayers' dollars to initially fund this lawsuit cannot be condoned or disregarded. We should be upholding the principles of freedom of expression and encouraging debate and involvement in the public forum and not involving ourselves in anything that may be viewed as contrary to these principles."

"In light of the recent ruling, and given the seriousness and the cost on many levels to what has transpired, some level of accountability is warranted under these circumstances."

By the time the motion was introduced in November, to when it finally hit the table after some delay in late December, the motion had evolved. A key plank in the original motion to put Master Hawkins' decision on the Town's website verbatim was taken off the laundry list of what Councillor Thompson's motion entailed. Although Councillor Chris Ballard told The Auroran the previous week he believed the original intent of that provision was a retaliation

from the previous Council's decision to post the then-Integrity Commissioner's findings against Councillor Evelyn Buck under the Town's Code of Conduct online, Councillor Thompson said it was removed "given that much has already been written about it in a variety of publications across the country and easy to find."

Additional aims of the motion include taking a closer look at Master Hawkins' findings and examining the "ramifications it may have on the town" as well as responding to the three residents who were named in the original lawsuit.

"As far as I know, it was never proven they did anything wrong and yet for two years they laboured against this action which we can only guess the toll it took on them and their families," said Councillor Thompson. "We have a responsibility here to ask our solicitor, 'What about them?' and 'What about our community?'"

"We all hold dear the fundamental principles of democracy and the need for public debate which at times can be unflattering and messy, but it is an essential pillar in our society. How can we affirm to all residents that we welcome their involvement and that they should not have fear of reprisal?"

"This motion is a start to that process, a reaffirmation regarding freedom

of expression and a commitment to learn from the past, prevent it from happening again, and make sure we become a leader for change within this province."



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RIVALDA OAKS KITCHENS

Aurora needs new policies over lawsuits following taxi suit, says Councillor

By Brock Weir

The case between a local taxi company and the Town of Aurora, former Mayor Tim Jones, and bylaw officer Heather Green will be back before Toronto courts this Friday.

The case stems from a long-running dispute between the plaintiff – Mohammed Hashem Azizi, owner of York City Taxi Limo on Berczy Street – and the Town over an alleged denial of two taxi licenses which Mr. Azizi claims “damaged the reputation” both of himself and of his business.

In a statement of claim, he said there was no reason provided to him why the Town withheld his taxi plates for six years.

“As a result of the Town’s action, not only have I been unable to grow my business, but I have lost approximately 80 per cent of my client base,” he said in his statement. “Over the past six years I have purchased five cars which were intended to update and replace my older cars as they wear out. Due to the delays in issuing the plates these cars are no longer acceptable for taxi use due to their

age and the inability to obtain necessary insurance for them as a result. These cars are now worthless.”

The Town, Mr. Jones, and Ms. Green are represented by Charles Painter, external counsel retained by the Town’s insurance company. In their statement of defence, they denied Mr. Azizi’s claims and said his statement of claim “fails to disclose any tenable cause of action against any of the defendants and ought to be dismissed.”

“The defendants plead that the plaintiff’s claims arise from the March 8, 2005 refusal by the Corporation of the Town of Aurora to renew two taxicab licenses due to the plaintiff’s non-compliance with Town of Aurora bylaw 4258-01P.”

This is the key plank in their defense, and they also argue that the claims are barred by the expiry of the two-year limitation period.

“The defendants plead that the plaintiff has not suffered any damages or loss as alleged and put the plaintiff to the strict proof thereof,” said Mr. Painter in the Statement of Defence. “The defendants also plead that the plaintiff has failed to

mitigate and his alleged damage and loss are exaggerated, excessive and remote. [They plead he] was given a final opportunity to renew [the licenses] and for reasons unknown to the defendants, the plaintiff refused or failed to do so.”

They ask that the action be dismissed and seek costs.

When The Auroran reported on the case last month, Mr. Painter and Mr. Jones declined to comment on the matter as it is still an issue before the courts, but that didn’t stop the matter spilling over into public debate at the last Council meeting of 2012.

The issue was brought to the table by Councillor Chris Ballard who said he had a “real concern” about how the matter was reported to Councillors. He said word reached Councillors via a “last minute email” and then reports in the local media, and not in closed session, when the suit was filed in August.

“The main reason I am concerned is the caution we received after that we should be very careful about who we talk to about the lawsuit and I absolutely agree,

but I was somewhat horrified to find out this had been going on as long as it had, without knowing the Town was engaged in this or had been engaged in this,” said Councillor Ballard. “To think that an individual might ask me a question or ask any of us a question or to engage us in dialogue and without knowing there was litigation underway we might have said something which, for example, could be contrary to the Town’s position without even knowing what was going on.”

Town Solicitor Warren Mar, however, said Council was briefed about the issue right after he took office in December 2010 and nothing “substantively” had moved forward until the lawsuit was launched by Mr. Azizi.

“The insurable matters of the Town are reported to Council once a year, but once a matter has received insurance coverage, it is the insurer who runs with the matter, they instruct their insurance defence counsel in the matter,” said Mr. Mar. “The information that I provided to you back in 2010 still stands to today. We have to be careful what we

speak about as it is a matter of litigation.”

If that is policy, Councillor Ballard said that too is a cause for concern. Council, he said, was briefed two years ago that something might happen but did not hear back over the summer when something did happen and Councillors were left out of the loop.

“Regardless of the merits of the case, I just don’t find it acceptable that we weren’t briefed, no matter how briefly and told of this matter until after the media got wind of it,” said Councillor Ballard. “I guess perhaps we were hoping it would just go away.”

At this point, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe interrupted and said the comment was “inappropriate.”

The conversation continued with Councillor Evelyn Buck who said that Councillor Ballard may “understand” how the rest of Council felt in October 2010 in the mid-

dle of an election when learning about the defamation lawsuit of then-mayor Phyllis Morris against three local bloggers, among others.

“Candidates were on the campaign trail and heard about it on the doorstep and I remember Councillor Gallo’s quote to the residents, ‘Didn’t know anything about it!’ Councillor Granger, who was in the room when the issue was discussed, didn’t know anything about it. We read about it in the paper. We were Councillors and we read about it in the paper that the Town was suing three of our residents for defamation or whatever it was. Councillor Ballard should be comforted by the fact there is a precedent for this.”

Discussion was cut when Councillor Wendy Gaertner, in response to Councillor Buck’s comments, questioned whether this was “pay-back.”

Operating Budget talks begin January 12 amid delay over Capital items

By Brock Weir

Early approval for items in Aurora’s 2013 Capital Budget won’t come so early after all, having been delayed until January 15.

Councillors had been poised to give early approval to a wide ranging list of items, including road repairs and studies such as developing a Cultural Master Plan before breaking for holidays on December 18. Concerns over whether members of the public had enough say input in what was on the table, however, led to the list being referred to the first General Committee meeting of the month.

According to Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, had Council formally signed off on the number of items they have approved item by item in extended budget debates over the last two months, town staff could have kicked started several projects as early as this month.

“Getting Capital behind us allows staff to move forward on early tenders for roads, for vehicles [and] we can get some of these projects underway,” said Mr. Elliott. “I have heard members of Council express here we are at the end of the calendar year and just getting started on some of these projects. Early approval allows us to get going in January.

“We don’t lose three months waiting for final budget approval and so

this is helpful for us as well.”

While Councillors expressed mixed opinions on whether early approval should have been given at the December 18 meeting, a key bone of contention in the debate was over repaving the Aurora Family Leisure Complex parking lot. This item had initially been in question throughout the capital budget discussions, but recently got a grant boost from the Federal government. With this in place and a pending deadline to have it done, some Councillors said it would be prudent to put it back in before giving early approval.

The discussion followed concerns expressed earlier in the evening by Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Evelyn Buck who had misgivings about giving early approval to projects that were only approved conditionally.

“We really, in my view, shouldn’t approve anything until all of it is ready to be approved,” said Councillor Buck.

Councillor Paul Pirri brought forward an amendment to put the parking lot reconstruction back in the budget. It would make sense, he said, to put it back on the list with the grant funding, but wondered if it would be contingent on further designs and construction on the Youth Space, slated to be tacked onto the front of the building.

Those concerns could

be accommodated, according to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure, with having a report coming back on repaving everything except for the space that would be occupied by the youth space.

Nevertheless, that idea didn’t fly and Council ultimately voted to give the Capital Budget a few more weeks in the docket before bringing it to the next General Committee meeting where, according to Councillor John Gallo, it should have gone in the first place rather than straight to a Council meeting.

“This has come straight to Council, it has not come to GC in this format,” he said, indicating the two members of the public who were in the audience waiting to hear Council’s decision. “The residents had indicated the public would have an opportunity to speak to the budget and I don’t know if we did that tonight.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries also said she was “uncomfortable” with proceeding on December 18.

“I think there is more discussion around this,” she said. “There is lots of information we’re expecting back from certain initiatives so from that perspective...I would like to be able to approve the Capital Budget when we have gone through it thoroughly.”

Speaking against the deferral was Mayor

Continued on page 17

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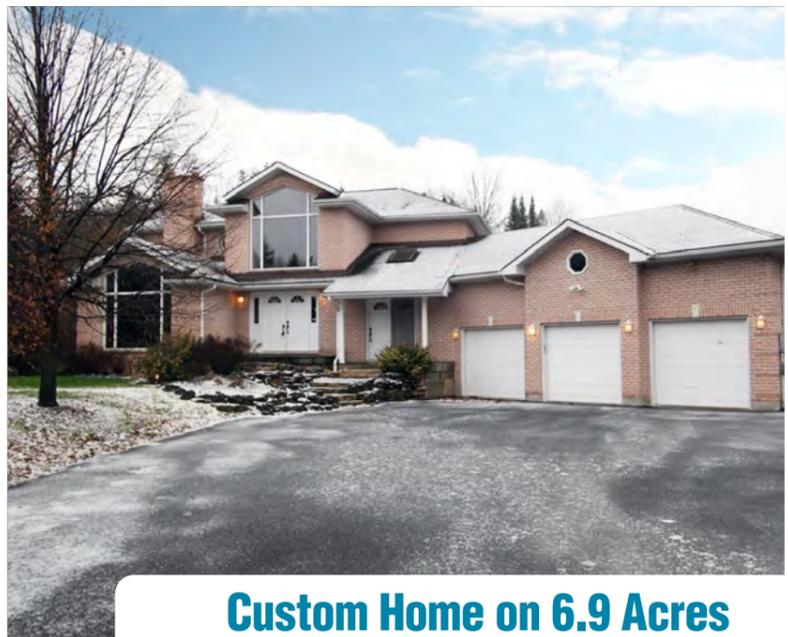
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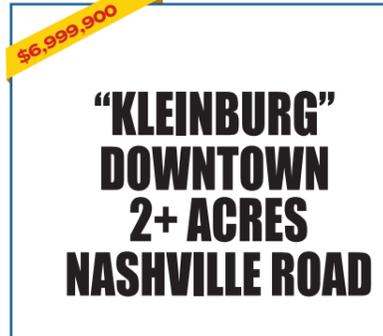
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