

SENIOR SCAPE: Fidget Bags

By Sylvia Gilchrist

Every Christmas, the Aurora Seniors' Association supports a charity.

The charity changes from year to year.

This year the ASA decided to support fidget bags for Kerry's Place.

Fidget bags are designed for autistic children and contain toys and objects that provide tactile pleasure to the children. This year we decided to try and fund 50 bags but seniors are a generous lot and we were able to provide 100 bags.

We also had enough money to buy Kerry's Place several books for their loaner library. Each of the books is about grandparents and grandchildren with autism. We also bought them four timers; these timers are used for a visual aid to know when it is time to stop an activity like TV watching, etc.

Kerry's Place was overjoyed with all the items.

They picked them up on Wednesday, December 2, and gave a short history of Kerry's Place and the need families with autistic children have for help. Kerry's Place had a monthly meeting the next day with their staff and they were blown away with all the treasures. Thank you, seniors, for being so generous.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

At Christmastime, there is a great deal of activity that happens at the Seniors' Centre. Many of the volunteers' groups are holding pot luck lunches, which gives the members an opportunity to not only showcase their cooking, but to get to know other members of that particular group better.

The building is now decorated.

There is a Christmas tree in the lounge looking quite beautiful as well as other decorations. The McKenzie West room is decorated and the annual Aurora Seniors' Association Christmas dinner will be held on December 16.

It is sold out but there are still tickets left for the New Year's Eve dinner and dance.

The tickets are \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members.

The public is welcome to participate. Seating is at 6 p.m., with dinner being served at 6.45 p.m. Dancing will commence at 8:30 and continue until 1 a.m. There will be a cash bar with wine, beer, and soft drinks.

This is always a great event and a fun way to welcome the New Year. For those of you who have nothing planned for New Year's Eve, consider the Aurora Seniors' dinner and dance. Tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the Seniors' Centre.

The Evergreen Choir's Christmas concert was held on Saturday, December 1, and was sold out. This concert is always a lot of fun and puts everyone in the Christmas spirit. It provides an opportunity for not only the choir to sing, but for the audience to join in and some members of the choir to sing duets or solos.

This year, the Impromptu Brass was also a wonderful addition to the concert. Many thanks go to Dr. Richard Heinzle, Hadara Jacoby, and the Master of Ceremonies, Jim Gilchrist.

We will take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, or whatever event you are celebrating, and we hope 2016 has many good things in store for you, including good health and happiness.

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.