

SENIOR SCAPE: Christmas Bazaar

By **Jim L. Abram**

The Aurora Seniors' Centre welcomed the community to their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 9. Many people found great gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

Jan's Country Pantry offered wonderful jams, jellies, and preservatives. John Abraham, who like Jan, is customarily only discovered at the Aurora Farmers' Market, sold to those fortunate enough to get there early, his most delicious strudels as well as Montreal bagels and fair trade coffees, olive oil soaps and Middle East spices.

Ron Coe represented the Seniors' Centre Woodshop with wonderful woodcrafts made with care and love by the talented seniors at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Not to be outdone, Don Zecchino sold the artful woodcarvings made by the extremely talented woodcarvers in the woodshop. There was the ever popular bake table full of baked goods (generously donated), jewelry stands, and beautifully hand knitted crafts and much, much more.

I personally got addicted to the silent auction bidding, where local businesses and citizens provided gift baskets, gift certificates and other valuable treasures which contributed significantly to the success of this fundraising event. There was a Tea Room, where visitors were served by the tireless Seniors' Centre volunteers, for anyone who needed a break from shopping and have an opportunity for quiet enjoyment with friends and family.

The 50/50 Draw was won by Bev Lemon. \$504. Not bad! A great day was had by all. Oh, and congratulations to all those visitors who found a parking space!

Christmas Parade

If I were you, I would not miss the Aurora Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, November 23 from 6 ? 8 p.m. Why? Well, because the Aurora Seniors' Centre has engineered, built, and entered a parade float in the parade that celebrates the Aurora seniors' commitment to the community and their celebration of Christmas and the Holiday Season.

Dress up in your winter woollies and join us for this year's evening parade as Santa heads south along Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Blvd. to Murray Dr.

You know Dasher and Dancer, and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid, and Donner and Blitzen?

Nothing compared to the reindeer pulling our authentic sleigh in front of our Christmas House!

Our very own Santa elves, Hildegard and Sheila, will be waving to the crowd on behalf of all members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre with their very, very shiny noses, and if you ever saw it, you could even say it glows.

Art Show and Sale

Join us at the Aurora Seniors' Centre for the 19th annual Art Show and Sale on Saturday, November 23, from 10 to 5. Artists will be in attendance and refreshments will be served. Admission is free and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Salvation Army Kettle Drive

If there is one constant in my life, it is to never walk past a volunteer for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive without making a contribution to this worthy effort.

I know of few other causes that contribute so significantly to those less fortunate in our communities. The Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign is a fundraising effort that occurs each year during the Christmas season.

The first time a kettle was used in Canada was in St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1906. Kettles are now found in 2000 locations across Canada and are an opportunity for the public to donate whatever funds they can to support the work of The Salvation Army during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

For too many Canadians, the necessities of life needed for basic human dignity are out of reach. Poverty is the root cause that puts dignity out of reach for millions of Canadians, making access to everyday needs like food, clothing and shelter, difficult. Funds raised through donations made at Christmas kettles, together with other sources of funds, help provide direct, compassionate, hands-on service to 1.6 million people each year in Canada, restoring hope and dignity to those who might otherwise remain invisible in society.

Please contact Neighbourhood Network at 905-726-3737 or your local Salvation Army facility to offer your services in support of the Christmas Kettle Campaign.

Please also remember to donate to the Aurora Food Pantry as the need has never been greater.

Jimmy's last word: Yogi Berra once said: A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore! He also said the future ain't what it used to be. Go figure.

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.