

SENIOR SCAPE: Santa Under the Stars

By **Jim L. Abram**

Aurora's 'best-in-class' Santa under the Stars Parade was held on Saturday, November 23. Well, it was more like Santa under the snowstorm parade! What an experience.

But, as Sheila and Hildegard, our very special Santa elves said afterwards, they wouldn't have missed it for the world. It made their Christmas special, sitting in the century old sleigh and waving and wishing all those brave Aurorans and all their family and friends a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the holiday season.

To see the brave faces of all those children and grandchildren who came out in the bleakest of weather to experience the parade was an inspiration to all of those who participated.

Volunteers of the Aurora Seniors' Association are to be commended for their efforts in making our participation in the parade such a success. Nobody got hurt and nobody got frostbite. We didn't get stuck in the snow either! A special shout-out goes to Lee, Jim, Ron and others who engineered, built, and entered the parade float to celebrate the Aurora Seniors' commitment to the community and their celebration of Christmas and the Holiday Season.

Also, a special thank-you goes out to our wonderful senior-elves Hildegard and Sheila who also contributed all the candy for distribution to the children and grandchildren of Aurora to enjoy at the Aurora Christmas Tree lighting.

This great parade will certainly go down in history as the parade that showed the endurance and commitment of the citizens of all ages of Aurora in celebration of community spirit and Christmas love and faith.

Twelve days of Seniors' Christmas

I made a special point of dropping by the Aurora Seniors' Centre for twelve days recently to include in this column the twelve days of caring and giving that I really do observe 52 weeks a year at the Centre.

I had discussions with seniors on how we can best contribute to the Philippines relief effort. On November 8, 2013 one of the largest typhoons ever recorded ripped through the Philippines. 12 million lives are at risk and over 4 million children are in danger. These children and families need help now. Seniors in Aurora are there to help.

Seniors also generously donated to the Aurora Food Pantry. Aurora seniors are there to help.

Also, I met John Abel just prior to the parade and John expressed his appreciation for the strong support seniors have provided to the Salvation Army Kettle Drive by manning the kettle at the local Aurora Superstore.

Please, 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 twelve days of Seniors Christmas: On the twelfth day of Christmas I saw 12 seniors dancing; 11 choir members singing; 10 volunteers serving; 9 Naughty Knitters Knitting; 8 Board Members doing Board stuff; 7 Windows 7 Drop-Ins; 6 carvers carving; 5 'Golden Years'; 4 Pickleballers; 3 Moon shots; 2 Bocce Courts and a float in the Santa-Storm Parade!

Jimmy's last word: I am going to quote Linus Van Pelt ? ?I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

?And that's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.?

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.