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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 9 No. 7

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FREE

Week of December 2, 2008



Security guard patrols an empty parking lot in front of huge Magna plant on Industrial Parkway North in Aurora that was one of two that would close in June, 2009. Magna made the announcement last week. A total of 850 employees work at the two locations.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Magna plants in Aurora, Newmarket to shut down

Known as the most diversified automotive supplier in the world with 83,900 employees in 249 plants plus 62 product development and engineering centres in 232 countries, Magna International has been caught up in the sick auto industry and it is impacting Aurora and Newmarket.

Through the plight of the Big Three automakers Magna was hurt financially which resulted in the closure of the Exterior plants in Aurora and Newmarket.

With the closings went 850 jobs.

The news came just two days after Magna announced the consolidation of two Blau Autotec and Integrated Technologies plants in Brampton and Concord into one operation at Concord.

The news at the Aurora and

Newmarket plants shocked and angered workers who made front and rear bumpers, grills and side body panels for at least a dozen automobile models.

Company officials will assist some workers in their search for new employment at other plants in the region and will provide severance packages based on years of service by affected workers.

Some have been with Magna more than 20 years.

In a statement Magna pointed out that it decided to wind down operations after evaluating their financial status, future business prospects and additional capacity at other operations.

Ontario and federal politicians expressed concern about the shut-down and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees brought the issue to

Queen's Park last week.

He appealed to the government to put in place an action plan that would provide transitional support for employees affected by the plant closures and preserve future jobs in the auto industry.

Following is the Hansard record of his talk in the Legislature:

"Mr. Speaker, the auto industry is in a crisis. Thousands of jobs are at risk and businesses in all sectors of the industry, from manufacturing plants to dealerships, are in jeopardy.

"Today, 850 employees and their families are coping with the frightening reality that two Magna plants are shutting down in Newmarket and Aurora. The employees are now faced with the daunting challenge of finding a

**Please see page 11**

## Town hires new CAO

It has been confirmed that Aurora has a new Chief Administrative Officer.

With more than 50 candidates applying for the position, Aurora Council has chosen Neil Garbe to replace John Rogers, who was removed from the position in August.

Garbe is currently the Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Administration with the Region of York.

He will assume his new position as CAO on January 5, 2009.

Notwithstanding his current posi-

tion, Garbe's experience includes communications, emergency management and corporate strategy.

He was previously the Director of Community Planning for York Region.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Economics (University of Guelph), a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (Queen's University) and a Masters Certificate from York University's Schulich School of Business in Municipal Management.

Gerbe resides in Bradford with his wife and two children.

## It will cost applicants \$70 to clear windrows

After months of discussions and debate, and having already seen several snowfalls this winter, the Town of Aurora's pilot windrow clearing program is finally in place.

At its last meeting, council perused a lengthy resolution on the issue, the main components being that the town provide a snow windrow clearing program at full cost recovery of \$70 per household for eligible residents, and that the program be evaluated in the spring of 2009.

Once again, Councillor Evelyn Buck was the lone vote of dissent, arguing that the town's seniors should be able to participate in this program without a fee.

While sympathetic to the town's seniors, the remaining members of council felt that the proposal had been debated enough, and that since this program hadn't been included in the town's budget, it made sense to do this on a cost recovery basis.

It was noted that the proposed \$70 charge was the lowest possi-

ble cost-recoverable figure, as it was based on existing town personnel doing the clearing, without the hiring of additional staff.



**Probably one of the most controversial women in Aurora today, Councillor Evelyn Buck was shocked when several friends and members of her family organized a surprise birthday party for the town's newest octogenarian in Bond Head Sunday afternoon.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*




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# COMING EVENTS

## CONTINUING EVENTS

Winter parking restrictions are in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. and motorists must get their cars off the streets so that the Public Works Department can clear snow and ice from the roadway.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Public Library winter programs have registration forms now available for pickup. Drop off date for Aurora residents begins Saturday, January 3rd. Processing begins Friday, January 9th. Programs being offered include: Books for Babies (6-13 months); Preschool Storytime (3-5 years); Time for Toddlers (14-23 months); Tales for Two (24-35 months) and Caregiver and Child Music programs (6 months-5 years). Visit [www.library.aurora.on.ca](http://www.library.aurora.on.ca) or phone 905-727-9493 for further information or pick up a program flyer at the Library.

\*\*\*\*

Grade 8 Only Book Club is here! In this club the Aurora Library will read fast-paced adventures, fantasy, sport and contemporary novels. Pre-register at the Children and Young Adult Information Desk. Club is held Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting January 8, 2009, and it's free.

\*\*\*\*

VOICE is a creative writing collective for teens between the ages of 13 and 18. At the meetings, held at the Aurora Public Library, teens learn various creative writing techniques, give and receive constructive feedback on their writing and meet other like-minded young writers. Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month, September through May, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is not required.

\*\*\*\*

"Louder" is a semi-annual young adult magazine created through the creative effort of teens and produced by the Aurora Public Library's Young Adult Services Department. Submissions of writing, poetry, art, graphic art and photography are accepted. E-mail submissions to [yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca](mailto:yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca) or drop it off to the Children and Young Adult Information Desk to the attention of Monika Machacek.

\*\*\*\*

Step into the world of watercolour with artist and teacher Alana Biasi. Both the beginner and advanced painter classes are held throughout the year, from January 22 to February 12, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$30 per registrant for students, Grades 5-11. Visit [www.library.aurora.on.ca](http://www.library.aurora.on.ca), or phone the Library at 905-727-9493 for further information.

\*\*\*\*

On Tuesdays, until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

\*\*\*\*

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at [keepsinging@look.ca](mailto:keepsinging@look.ca).

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

\*\*\*\*

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352.

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

\*\*\*\*

Tots (age nine months to four years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

\*\*\*\*

Meet at Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised go to local charities.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Tree Lighting ceremony takes place at the town hall and features an open house at the seniors' centre, as well as a puppet show in the council chambers featuring The Grinch That Stole Christmas. Event begins at 6.30 p.m. for two hours.

\*\*\*\*

The York Region District School Board will hold a public meeting regarding the Wells Street Public School Student Accommodation Review in the Aurora High School Cafetorium at 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Music Department at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School presents a night of music, with guests from Hartman Public School, beginning at 7 p.m. Included will be three concert bands, two jazz bands and a vocal ensemble. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors and will be available at the door.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

The Aurora Legion presents Aurora Borealis featuring The Newcomers with their Legends Show. Call 905-727-9932 for tickets at \$35 for gen-

eral admission and \$25 for Legion members.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Amnesty International hosts its annual Write-a-thon at Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge St., Aurora, from 2 to 4 p.m. Write cards of support to human rights prisoners around the world. For information, call 905-713-6713.

\*\*\*\*

The First Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East, hosts Bernard Pears Chorale's Christmas Presentation at 7 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-4531.

\*\*\*\*

Family Christmas at Hillary House, will see the house transformed into a winter wonderland, adorned with traditional Christmas decorations, glowing fires in the fireplaces, mulled cider smell throughout and the sound of familiar carols. There will be crafts for the children, refreshments and home-baked sweets, carols, storytelling and a special visit from a Victorian Santa. The event runs from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information, call 905-727-8991.

\*\*\*\*

The Town of Aurora's Aquatics Division is hosting a charity event at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, 1400 Wellington St. East, to increase public awareness about being safe on the ice this winter. The group is inviting the public to attend and learn about ice safety by participating in educational and fun water-related safety activities. The event will provide children and their families

with the opportunity to participate in an afternoon of games and water themed fun. All proceeds raised will be donated to the Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Drowning Prevention campaign. The event gets underway at 2 p.m. and continues for two hours.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Aurora Chamber of Commerce last networking event for 2008 is a Networking Breakfast set for Bluetiful Living, 15 Mosley Street, from 7.30 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. The event will be catered by Jane Taylor and will include a draw for a door prize.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Rogers Cable will telecast the meeting at noon the following day.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Aurora Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Luncheon begins at 11 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. at the centre, 5 Municipal Drive. Members will pay \$22 while guests will be charged \$27 admission. There will be a cash bar and the traditional turkey dinner.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

The ballroom at Hillary House on Yonge Street will be the location for an evening of Christmas music performed by recording pianist, Carol Gibson. Performance starts at 7.30 p.m. followed by readings of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, holiday sweets, tea, coffee and a traditional wassail bowl. Tickets are \$15 per person. For tickets call 905-727-8991 or email [ahs@aurorahs.com](mailto:ahs@aurorahs.com).

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The recent Christmas bazaar held at the Trinity Anglican Church was deemed another success. Here Tara Storm, left, and Andrea Weller display two of the numerous stuffed animals that filled the pews of the church.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Groups share fund cash

"The work that you do is very valued in this town," Mayor Phyllis Morris told recipients of this year's Arts and Culture Fund at a Town Hall ceremony last week.

The program, which was started in 1973, provides financial assistance to citizens or organizations in the Town of Aurora to promote cultural and artistic activities in the community.

Since its inception, more than \$180,000 has been given out.

The fund, which was initiated through the financial assistance of the late David Merkur, is currently financed by Joseph Lebovic and Shauna Tepperman.

Residents and non-profit organizations who make an artistic or cultural contribution to the community are eligible for funding. Individual amounts vary, but up to a total of \$12,000 is given out each year.

Ms Tepperman, who is the daughter of Mr. Merkur, was on hand to provide this year's awards to 12 of the 15 recipients.

"When my father, David Merkur, initiated this Arts and Culture fund in the Town of Aurora, it was because he cared about the people of Aurora, and felt it was important to contribute back to the community", she said.

The Aurora Historical Society will use their funds to fix up the property around Hillary House.

The Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora will purchase historical plaques to further recognise the 12 properties that have requested heritage designation this year.

Doors Open Aurora will use funds to plan for the next Doors Open event in the

summer of 2009.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society is celebrating its 90th year, and will purchase a digital projector for its workshops and other programs that help further its mandate of educating the public.

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) is in need of additional lighting for its shows, and will be improving the facilities used for its classes.

Aurora's Writers' Group will use its funding to cover the costs of producing their second anthology, "Aurora Storyalis 2".

Dierdre Tomlinson, who accepted the award on behalf of the group, noted that their new book, with content written by local authors, contained "stories, poems, history, and personal memoirs, laced with humour".

The Aurora Seniors' Art

Group will use their funds to support their programs.

Dorothy Clarke-McClure, in accepting the donation, thanked Ms Tepperman with the observation that "what artists need is to be patted on the back".

The Aurora Community Historical Heritage Fair "gets bigger every year", noted Sue Walmer, as she accepted the cheque.

The next one of these community-based events, which helps students celebrate Canada and its heritage, will be held April 22 at St. Andrew's College.

Other recipients who were unable to attend the ceremony included the St. Andrew's and Aurora Scottish Country Dancers, Dr. G. W. Williams "Theatre Williams", and the Aurora Seniors' Book Club.

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## Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

# Sign bylaws create many problems

*There are signs, signs and more signs,  
They litter the streets and countryside;  
Council keeps approving variances  
As the bylaw, businesses cannot abide.*  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Aurora's sign bylaw has created more problems for council over the years than possibly any other bylaw with the possible exception of the procedural bylaw.

It's always been a problem.

No matter what council members do, they are caught between the merchants who want the signs to advertise their business and citizens who complain about visual pollution.

As far back as the 1960s the major issue was overhanging signs, especially on Yonge Street, with the signs hanging over the sidewalk or the roadway.

Then, in 1974, the major sign problem was signs with "chasing lights" where lights around a sign at different times give the impression the lights were chasing each other to attract attention.

Eye-catching, true, but they also distracted motorists.

There were also problems with the proliferation of mobile and trailer signs with some placed on public property so close to an intersection or exit from a shopping plaza they restricted the view of oncoming traffic in the curb lane.

In addition, merchants placed "A" type signs on the sidewalk in front of their place of business which created a problem for pedestrians.

Merchants argued the signs were necessary.

In the early 1990s the Supreme Court of Canada took the sign and poster issue out of the hands of municipal councils by ruling that a City of Peterborough bylaw prohibiting the placement of signs on public property violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Under the court's ruling it is possible for municipalities to regulate, but not prohibit.

That resulted in council in November, 1993, directing staff members to review the current sign bylaw to ensure it was valid in light of the court ruling.

But the complaints continued and in August, 2005, staff members presented a 41-page report which provided considerable background on types of signage and pointed out the sign bylaw was enforced by two departments.

The bylaw included both permanent signs and temporary signs with the permanent signs enforced by the building department and the temporary signs by bylaw enforcement services.

As a result of this split jurisdiction, staff recommended that two draft bylaws be prepared, one for each section.

After modifications had been made based on the comments received and a meeting with Chamber of Commerce members in April, 2007, the two bylaws were adopted with little comment or discussion.

The division of the bylaw was an excellent idea but with the number of variances granted by council to the permanent sign bylaw, one wonders why council bothers to retain this bylaw.

It seems that whatever a box store wants, a box store gets and the number of variances granted to Whitwell Developments is a good example of why the bylaw is redundant.

But the enforcement of the temporary sign bylaw is a different matter as it appears that it is only enforced on a complaint basis so that it is reactive rather than proactive.

As a result, sandwich signs continue to be placed on the boulevard in front of a store or business effectively blocking the view of oncoming traffic in the curb lane for motorists exiting a driveway or plaza.

Staff members advised that the enforcement of the temporary bylaw was being addressed in stages and the beginning of the process involved public education and awareness of the revisions to the bylaw to the business community.

Graduated enforcement had already started, staffers reported.

It remains to be seen if council has achieved the balance between the needs of the merchants and the visual pollution the public complains about, but it might be more workable to rescind the permanent bylaw and endorse the temporary bylaw.



There was no pavement, no streetcar tracks and not a traffic light to be seen, but this was still Yonge Street, now celebrating its 212th birthday and carrying the world-famous statement that it is the longest street in the world. This photo looks north to downtown Aurora back in the days when George Lemon operated a hotel on the east side of the street.

### Letters to the Editor

# Affluent Aurora is very tough place to be poor

To the editor,

Many people in Aurora, Canada, the world, have been affected badly by the historic downturn in the money markets but there are people I know who had few, if any, savings to lose; many who could never afford a home of their own; others who had a job, or three and still could not make enough to live on.

When choosing a present for a good friend you most likely choose it with thought, imagination and love.

I want to tell you about a group who need just that attention - the people who visit the Food Bank. There will be people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own who are dismayed to have to use the Food Bank; illness prevents others from working; others are

immigrants (recent or more long term) whose valid qualifications are not recognized in Canada; others' circumstances have changed through the death of a partner or a marriage split up.

Affluent Aurora is a difficult place to be poor.

The Food Bank is open every Saturday, in the basement of the old Post Office building with the clock tower, south of Wellington on the east side of Yonge Street, and has three large freezers and two fridges.

Those who qualify can visit once a month only.

David and I volunteer there once a month, taking our grandson, Booker, now 10, to help whenever his weekends coincide with our shift, and we have talked (and laughed) with many of the people who come there for help to get through the month.

But I do ask them not to try any recipes they hear from David. His speciality is knowing how to boil water.

It is interesting to see high school students doing their voluntary service there, too.

Sometimes the three-hour stint is tiring, bending and stretching to the shelves as we take people round to choose their food, but I always feel exhilarated when I leave the Food Bank because the work done there has an immediate effect for the people in need.

Please think about a donation, as if you were giving to a friend in difficult circumstances, or a child of yours, or a parent.

Most of the food available there is packaged or canned

but there are few fresh vegetables or fruits. We take packages of cheese and bacon that disappear really quickly, as do bananas or oranges etc., coffee (perked or instant), fruit juice or canned fruit or meat, that are often in short supply. Donations of food or money can be delivered directly to the Food Bank, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the earlier the better

For more information, call me at 727-8979.

Give generously with your heart and head - and your imagination, the result of which may give you the best Christmas present you get this year.

**Dierdre Tomlinson  
Aurora**

## Best candidate might be out if the term-limit rule is in place

**Open letter to Stephen Somerville:**

In reference to the ongoing discussion about your "Big Three," the issues of a ward system and regional representation deserve some serious analysis before making a reasoned statement.

My flippant response of "Hazel McCallion" to the issue of term limits obviously requires more explanation.

Editorials near every November 11th remind us of those who have died to preserve our right to vote for the folks who govern on our behalf.

Some people exercise their right to abstain.

The rest of us, with various knowledge levels of the candidates and the issues, vote.

We then live with the

decision until the next election.

In my view, it is incumbent on the community to provide a forum for them to make their pitch and on the press to provide thoughtful and fair coverage.

If a term-limit rule is in place, those who vote could be prevented from electing the best candidate.

In the space between elections, some - as yourself - write columns to inform and initiate discussion.

Others communicate directly to the elected officials about specific issues.

Some volunteer on advisory committees to help implement the strategic plans.

And, there are those who write Letters to the Editor.

**Gordon Barnes  
Aurora**

## THE AURORAN

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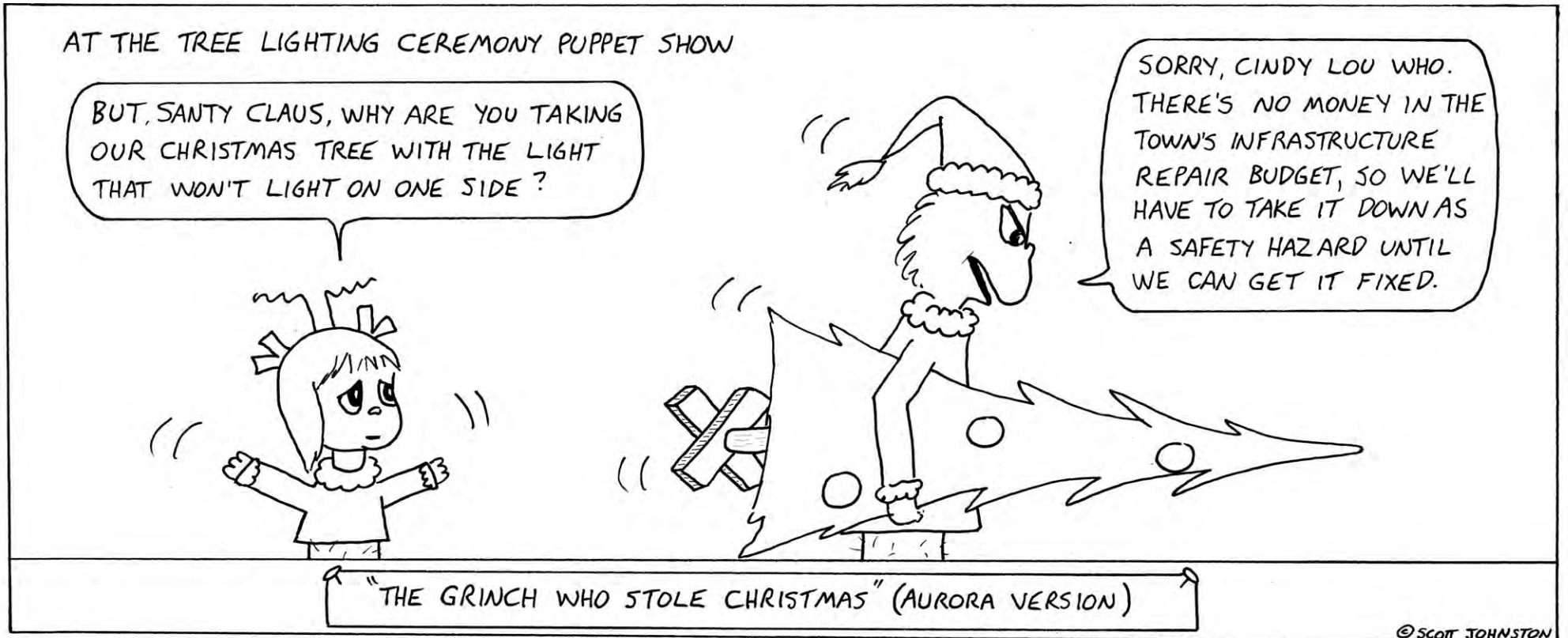
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## Machell's Corners



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

No doubt most of you have heard or read about the saga surrounding the proposed peaking power plant to be built in Northern York Region.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the agency responsible for ensuring an adequate and reliable supply of power in the province, wants to see a natural gas fired peaking (simple-cycle) generation facility of approximately 350 MW in size placed in service by the end of 2011.

A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) was held and prospective proponents had to submit a completed form that outlined the development maturity of the project, as well as their financial worthiness.

Five developers were deemed to be suitable participants to go to the next stage, with one dropping out during the summer due to community opposition to their particular project.

The developers were busy preparing their bid package for the RFP that was due earlier this month. As it turns out, although a site in Aurora was qualified during the RFQ phase, the Aurora location was not bid into the RFP.

The OPA is expected to award a power purchase contract by the end of the year.

There has been a great deal of controversy regarding this RFP; with considerable opposition from most of the municipalities in this region, as well as from various interest groups.

They believe that simple-cycle generation is not the best way to go based upon efficiency, operating cost and green house gas emissions concerns.

I don't agree.

I state my bias off the top. The firm that I used to be with financed more than \$3 billion of renewable energy projects since

1987. Included in this group was the largest wind farm in Ontario in 2005 - a 99 MW facility on the shores of Lake Erie - which we owned.

I am now engaged in both the development and financing of wind and natural-gas fired generation plants in Ontario. The company that I am employed with is not a participant in the Northern York Region procurement.

I also represent our company as member of the Board of the Association of Power Producers Society of Ontario ("APPRO"), an organization that represents 98 per cent of the generators in the province.

As APPRO wrote in a prepared submission: "The reason for the peaking generation plant is that Northern York Region is growing beyond the level at which the existing infrastructure can meet the standards for reliability.

"If the main 230 kV transmission line is disrupted, the load at Armitage TS (in Newmarket), which is greater than 250 MW, cannot be restored so as to comply with the Independent Electricity System Operators (IESO) reliability criteria."

"Restoration can only be achieved in the required time-frame by either local peaking generation that can turn on and quickly ramp up to 350 MW, or a new 230 kV transmission line from Markham to bring in the electricity from elsewhere in the province."

The issue of Northern York Region's electricity supply has been a matter of extensive debate, and the Northern York Region Working Group collectively identified the construction of a peaking plant as the preferred solution over enhanced transmission.

What about more conservation and demand management?

Yes, these certainly have their place, and an important one at

that, but people will not really begin to conserve energy until the true cost of production is reflected in the price to consumers.

Renewables are an important piece of the supply puzzle, but only a piece. Wind and solar, regardless of their size - either small or large scale - cannot be guaranteed to supply the load (the wind doesn't always blow, the sun doesn't always shine).

They can be welcome additions to the provincial grid, but are not necessarily suited to help with reliability. Renewables produce energy, not capacity.

Further, the wind speeds in York Region are not high enough to produce a competitive price of power versus other areas in this province.

In the same document APPRO stated that it is vital to understand that: "Combined Heat and Power (or cogeneration) resources, regardless of their size, would already be running full out (in order to be achieving their high thermal efficiency). They would be unable to respond to additional demand on short notice.

A 30 MW simple-cycle plant could only supply 30 MW. Not the full load at Armitage TS to comply with the reliability criteria."

We need a healthy balance of conservation, renewables, transmission upgrades, nuclear and intermediate and peaking generation capacity in this province to both ensure our energy security and to protect our standard of living.

Aurora may have dodged the bullet for now, but depending upon what project site is chosen, the issue of a larger transmission line through this town could rear its head faster than people think.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
[stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)

## Thoughts on the Peaker



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

You know what's the best present anyone can receive this time of year?

Time.

Well, it is for me, anyway.

During the rest of the year, it's hard enough to cope with the demands on our time: jobs, housework, family moments, getting the kids to hockey, picking up groceries, doctors and vet appointments, commuting, running errands, meals...

There never seems to be a spare moment.

But this gets even worse during December.

Somehow, this month seems to speed up watches, clocks, calendars and anything else by which we chart our daily lives.

The exception to this may be for kids.

As Christmas gets closer, time seems to drag on forever.

And we won't discuss how excruciatingly long Christmas eve can be, if you're anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival downstairs.

I clearly remember a December 24th when I was around six years old where time completely stopped.

But for us adults, December moves pretty fast.

I think the scientific term for this is "chronomological acceleration". Basically, it means that no matter how carefully you organize and prioritize your schedules, you can never get in all the things you'd planned.

For example, say you set aside three hours for Christmas shopping. Sounds like more than enough, doesn't it?

But by the point the allotted time rolls around, you haven't quite started the dishes, which you'd hoped to get to before you went out.

So you finish them up, and then have to find the list you'd prepared of all the things you wanted to buy. Hmm...it was just on the hall table a minute ago.

Having tracked it down - and how it ended up stuck to the fridge you'll never know - you find you have to shovel the windrow at the end of your driveway, so you can actually get to the mall.

Then, on your way there, you run into road construction you hadn't anticipated. And while waiting in traffic, you notice how low you're getting on gas. So you stop at the service station to take care of that.

And of course, the person ahead of you at the cash is having an inordinate number of lottery tickets checked, before debating which of the many scratch and wins they'll choose.

Then, when you finally get to the mall, you have to circle it several times, before you succeed in finding a parking space.

This spot will be about as far as you can get from the mall and still be considered in the same hemisphere, so by the time you step through the door, out of your carefully budgeted three-hour shopping window, you're left with about eight minutes.

But, of course, you can't get all your purchases done, and return home in eight minutes, so the extra time you need to complete your shopping eats into the time you've set aside to

do your banking, and get your hair cut, and get the cleaning, and have the snow tires installed, and whatever else was on your "to do" list.

This, in turns, means you have to reschedule them to the following day.

These rolled over tasks steadily accumulate through the month, so that by the time you get everything done for Christmas, it's mid-January.

The reason this happens, of course, is because there's just so much extra stuff to do this time of year.

Apart from shopping, there are kids' Christmas concerts, and decorating, and cards, and social functions, and wrapping, and baking, and relatives, and...well, you get the idea.

And if you think you can beat the clock by starting your preparations early, that again is something that sounds great in theory, but never really works in practice.

Try it next year, and you'll see.

So you just have to face the fact that chronomological acceleration is inevitable, and something that will be faced by everyone this time of year.

That may not help when you're frantically starting to address your Christmas cards on December 24th, but at least you know you're not alone.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:  
[machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)

## Out of time





## Bouquets

**BRICKBATS**  
By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to Haley Rose, for participating in her school's Remembrance Day activities and at age 8, wrote a Remembrance Day poem which reflected how she felt not only about her own military family, but for all Canadians who served their country in the cause of peace. Well done, Haley!

**BRICKBATS** to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee and council for shooting down a proposal for an Arts and Musical Festival in Aurora, especially during a year that has been proclaimed as Art and Cultural Year.

**BOUQUETS** to the Quebec government for banning advertising that sells cars as sporting goods and glorifies speed. An amendment to the Highway Safety Bill will provide the provincial Auto Insurance Board with the mandate to develop guidelines to ban ads that depict heedless, careless or dangerous behaviour and gestures. Other provinces should copy!

**BRICKBATS** to Toronto City Council for spending \$800,000 to produce a 24-page, full colour newsletter called Our Toronto as a means of keeping residents in touch with their government. While the intent may be worthwhile, the size and cost of the publication, when money is tight, is wasteful. Municipalities shouldn't have to brag about what they do!

**BOUQUETS** to the Toronto Public Health Department for recommending that council approve a new right-to-know bylaw which would require all businesses and facilities that use any of 25 hazardous substances to report the amounts publicly. Aurora firefighters could have used a similar bylaw in December 1992 when a chemical plant was gutted by fire on Industrial Parkway.

**BRICKBATS** to Justice R.T. Weseloh in Guelph who ruled a man accused of possession of a concealed weapon, taking a vehicle without permission, theft and breaching court orders was barred from possessing knives even while eating for two years. How silly can you get?

**BOUQUETS** to Toronto City Police for the success of their Pistols for Pixels gun amnesty campaign as just two weeks into the campaign 359 firearms and more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition had been surrendered to police in exchange for a digital camera. It's a program worth copying by other police departments.

**BRICKBATS** to the federal government for letting red tape hold up about \$3 billion in infrastructure money. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities claim there are hundreds of projects eligible for existing funding, which could be used to create thousands of jobs and help immunize Canada's economy against recession. Why the hold-up?

**BOUQUETS** to CTV's investigative TV program W-5 which turns its spotlight on wrongdoings by government, business and society and is now in its 43rd year.

**BRICKBATS** to the National Parole Board for granting day parole to a Calgary child killer and rapist for six months to be served in a halfway house in Regina, after his 1981 conviction of killing a five-year old boy and the rape of at least three women. He was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years but now he gets to walk.

**BOUQUETS** to the Groombridge family of King Township for donating two 50-acre parcels of land to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to protect the parcels from development.

**BRICKBATS** to the banks, the government or whoever is responsible for setting and/or approving credit card interest rates as T-D Visa has announced it was increasing its rate to 24.75 per cent for clients who missed the minimum payment.

## Letters to the Editor

# This citizen upset with traffic calming

To the editor,

There seems to be a group of citizens who have a totally unwarranted sense of entitlement and the moxie (hutzpah) to pressure the sitting council of marshmallow quality into spending well over a million dollars on so-called traffic calming devices in the south part of the north east quadrant of Aurora. Pressure groups seem to reign uncontested, it seems, according to the weekly letters received by this paper.

This decision on the part of our council is a running sore to many citizens dwelling in the other quadrants of town.

On Heathwood Heights, for example, in the area occupied by \$1,000,000+ homes, the occupants were quite satisfied with the regular speed bumps to slow down traffic.

But this is not good enough for the denizens of Catherine Street or the south section of Spruce Street.

These people have, in effect, privatized streets for

whose upkeep the citizens of Aurora have paid for many years.

What gall!

Now it seems that the mayor and her council of sheep are going to inflict upon the folks on Mark Street and add to the already existing safety hazards with speed bumps.

I know people living on Mark Street who have always been against the chicanes installed a while ago.

I live in the northwest quadrant close to Orchard Heights Blvd. upon which speeders regularly go 20km over the speed limit between Bathurst and Yongs Streets.

Moreover, they sail through the stop sign at Hill Drive and Orchard Heights.

Then they proceed to go through the remaining two stop signs without a care.

Why is council not concerned with this situation?

Never, in the 37 years of Aurora citizenship have I seen any serious attempt to fix the congestion around Yonge and Wellington which

seems to be the spot most folks like to avoid.

Some Yonge Street businessmen seem to carry more weight than the rest of us wretches who have to wear down our molars while wasting our time navigating safety hazards or the cars parked in front of the stores between Wellington and Mosley Streets.

I feel sure that fellow dwellers in the northwest quadrant have thought of appointing a clever point man

to lead a pressure group to dun the Aurora taxpayers for the money to either/block off or install chicanes and speed bumps on both Aurora Heights Drive or Orchard Heights Blvd.

Ms Morris and her gang - except for Alison Collins-Marakas and Evelyn Buck - will certainly not be returned to office by the residents in my area.

Margaret Hawkins  
Aurora

## Yonge closed too early for parade, reader says

To the editor,

On Saturday, November 22, the Santa Claus Parade was getting started for a 6 p.m. start.

I had finished work in Newmarket and knowing that Yonge Street in Aurora would be closed to traffic starting early so that they could proceed on time.

Having been in the parade for many years I understand how difficult it is to set up and prepare for this event.

Knowing that Yonge Street would be closed in the main part of town I drove to Vandorf Road and proceeded west to Yonge Street hoping to go north to Henderson Drive and in to Patrick Drive area.

When I got to Yonge Street I found that it was

closed to northbound traffic at 5.15.

I feel that this closure was too early inconveniencing all who lived in the south end of Aurora.

This meant that those who lived in the south end of Aurora had to proceed south to Bloomington Road and then west to Bathurst Street and then north into their area of south end Aurora.

It would be nice that in the future this area could stay open until the parade got to at least Golf Links Drive, knowing that the parade takes approximately one hour to complete the route.

I hope to hear back from the Mayor and Council on this matter.

Art Bellar  
Aurora



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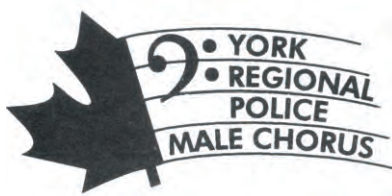
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Letters to the Editor

# "Traffic calming" ideas don't work: reader

To the editor,

I don't live on Mark Street or Walton Drive but like many Aurorans, I use these roads to

get around town.

I am getting extremely frustrated with the so-called "traffic calming" measures that have been employed on these

streets in the past year.

I don't remember the rationale behind their implementation but there can only be two possible reasons, to restrict traffic

or to slow it down.

Look, here's the thing. They don't work.

If you want cars to slow down, either have more enforcement of the speed limits or, as a last resort, use speed humps as they have on Centre Street.

The existing system is useless.

If there are no other cars approaching, who amongst us doesn't just drive straight through the middle of the chicanes? Admit it. I've seen you do it!

If the reason for their existence is to restrict traffic on these streets, then forget about it.

Without Mark Street and Walton Drive, there is only one other way to go east.

Surely the great and benevolent powers that be didn't intend every car to cram into the already crowded intersection at Yonge and Wellington, did they?

The more I read about further plans for traffic calming measures, the angrier I get.

Why are we wasting more money on this?

Obviously I am no longer calm but I suspect I'm not the only one who is tired of this.

In fact, I am so sick of these nonsensical road obstructions that I am willing to help in their removal. If the council finally sees their way clear to get rid of them, I will gladly help others to get jackhammers, bring pick axes, shovels and wheelbarrows to destroy these ludicrous symbols of poor judgement.

Now, that would be very calming indeed.

T. Woodger  
Aurora



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## Physicians need to visit seniors at their homes

To the editor,

Quality and appropriate in-home services are essential and necessary for large numbers of seniors, but integral to their well-being is the need for home visits by primary care physicians.

Dr. Mark Nowaczynski has been a leader in promoting the need for physician home visits for seniors for many years.

Seniors and their families understand the great need for front-line medical assis-

tance such as he provides, for those seniors who would experience difficulty accessing medical care outside their homes.

The enormous savings to the medical system alone is more than obvious when seniors are not required to go to hospital emergency departments for treatment and procedures which could be managed in their homes.

Decisions made by government to provide home care support to seniors to enable them to remain in

their homes must include physician home visits for those who require such assistance.

Not only is it crucial to their overall well-being but it could very likely prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of countless numbers of seniors who could be forced out of their homes because the system failed to follow this extraordinary and exceptional physician's lead.

Ellen Watson  
Aurora

## He wants to start retirement investing self-help group

To the editor,

Is there anyone in Aurora interested in starting up a self-help group for retirement investing?

Over the last few months I have lost complete respect for the people who call themselves investment professionals.

There seems to be no one who has a strategy to protect

our equity from sudden downturns.

All we hear is buy value and hold on.

I feel it is time we take a closer look at what motivates the investment advisor.

From what I have seen over the last few months preservation of our equity is not on the top of most advisers' lists.

I would like to hear from others who feel the way I do.

Maybe if there are enough of us we can convince the Private Client Advisers of this world to change the way they manage our savings.

Retirement has to be more than just a dream.

Let's find a way to guarantee its reality.

Gary Jolivet  
gary.jolivet@gmail.com  
Aurora

## Printing letter unnecessary

To the editor,

I love reading The Auroran. It's a great little paper that keeps me up to date on the happenings in Aurora.

However, I was horrified to read the letter to the editor in the Nov 25th edition from R. Gee.

I know there's such a thing as free speech but to print that letter was completely

### Opinion was a hate letter

To the editor,

Re: "God Bless George Bush", letter by R. Gee, The Auroran, Nov 25, 2008.

I am appalled by R. Gee's letter of Nov 25th. While this person has every right to support George Bush, R. Gee does not have the right to pen hate letters.

Equating homosexuals with rapists and murderers is absolutely disgusting.

I can't believe this newspaper would allow a letter with the word "Perv" as a descriptor of a segment of society to be published.

Would The Auroran allow any other person to be described in such a manner?

Whether you are for or against anyone, no one has the right to be so derogatory and hateful. Completely unacceptable.

Kimberley McLean  
Aurora

unnecessary.

It made me very disappointed in the editor of the paper and very saddened by the hate-filled attitude of the letter writer.

Whatever happened to "they will know we are Christians by our love"?

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank

out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

John 8: 7 "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

I'd hate to be in morally good and decent R. Gee's shoes come judgement day and be judged as he/she is condemning others.

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...but the fruit of the Spirit is love." (Galatians 5:19-23)

May the love of God be with you all, especially this Christmas season when we celebrate God's greatest gift of love to mankind.

Gwen deWilde  
Aurora

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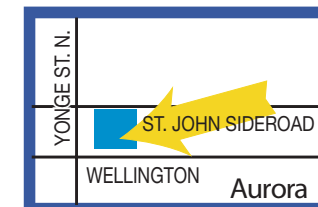
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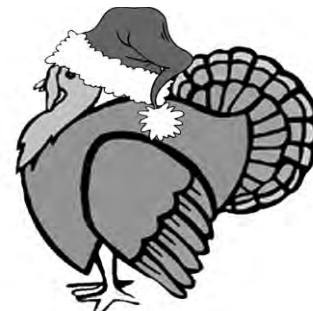
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by Todd McGinnis

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# THE AURORAN

## SPORTS

Page 10

Week of December 2, 2008

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### Aurora Tigers, sweaters back, win three tilts

Maybe it was because they got their sweaters back.

Whatever the reason, the Aurora Tigers put together three straight victories last week - two cakewalks and a cliffhanger - to move back into a second-place tie in the Phillips Division of the Provincial Junior AHockey League.

The turnaround started with the return of their road uniforms last Monday, thanks to a good samaritan who found them on the side of the road and brought them to the Aurora Community Centre.

With the driver unaware, the sweaters fell off a truck as the team made its way to Georgetown, and the team was forced to use a set of sweaters provided by the opposition.

However, Aurora's black uniforms were put to good use Thursday evening in Brampton.

"It was good to be back in our own uniforms," said Aurora Tigers assistant coach John Duncan.

Goaltender Brendan Sullivan stopped all 27 shots thrown at him as Aurora blanked the hometown Capitals by a score of 5-0.

Nick Vangog scored twice on the powerplay while captain Dominic Monardo also netted a pair.

Jeff Vanderlugt's first period marker was the game winner.

It wasn't quite that easy when the Tigers returned to home ground Friday night.

Mike Bodley potted the game winner with only 16 seconds left in regulation time as the Tigers edged the visiting Dixie Beehives 5-4.

Coach Craig Evans rolled his lines most of the night and was rewarded with two goals from the line of Erlich Doerksen, Jacob Mooney and Phil Bushbacher as well as two from the line of Bodley, Jeff Vanderlugt and Lucas VanNatter.

Dixie opened the scoring at 6:31 of the first as a Marc Fortin shot caught goaltender David Blair by surprise, but Aurora's Erlich Doerksen tied the score at 9:47.

Just under a minute later Dixie's Nick Crozier put the Beehives back in front.

The Tigers top line, nicknamed the M & M'S, tied the score at two as sparkplug David Morley fired home a shot with assists going to Dominic Monardo and Michael Sardella. Bushbacher's swatted-in airborne rebound and VanNatter's spin-around goal put the Tigers up by two midway through the second, but a Dixie shorthanded goal kept the Beehives close.

Dixie tied the game midway

through the third, setting up a potential overtime/shootout situation.

The Tigers continued to press, but couldn't find the mark.

It looked like overtime was inevitable, however, with less than a minute to go, Jeff Vanderlugt muscled his way out of the Beehive corner, shovelled the puck to VanNatter who quickly fed an open Bodley for the goal and the win.

On Sunday afternoon the Tigers hosted the much improved Orangeville Crushers, coached by NHL Hall of Famer Dale Hawerchuk.

Orangeville is one of few teams to have beaten Aurora this season.

The Tiger offence got off to a sluggish start, but once it got going, Monardo's five-point effort paced Aurora to a 10-5 win before 200 fans at the Community Centre.

Orangeville's Dan Minor gave the Crushers their only lead of the hockey game at 4:03 of the first period.

Monardo tied the score at 17:05 and David Morley's marker with four seconds remaining gave the Tigers a 2-1 lead at intermission.

The two teams combined for three goals in 48 seconds early in the second period with Aurora's Todd Hellyer and Jeff Vanderlugt and Orangeville's Dylan Hutton scoring.

Minor's second of the game brought the Crushers back to within one at 10:02 but that's as close as they would get as Aurora struck for three more to make the score 7-3 after 40 minutes of play.

The Tiger onslaught continued in the third as Monardo and Morley upped the lead to 9-3.

Orangeville's Daniel Goyette netted a pair later in the period before Hellyer closed out the scoring on the powerplay.

After his goaltender gave up two quick goals, Coach Hawerchuk decided to pull Tyler Kimmel.

In loud profanity that



Action was fast and furious Friday night as the Aurora Tigers hosted the Dixie Beehives at the Aurora Community Centre. With 16 seconds remaining in regulation time Aurora pulled out a 5-4 victory.

Auroran photo by Steve Mitchell

echoed throughout the entire arena, Kimmel informed his coach that he did not agree with the decision.

At first, the change appeared to be a spark, as Orangeville scored 12 seconds later to make the score 4-2.

The Crushers scored another with 9:58 to go in the second period, cutting Aurora's lead to a single goal.

But that was as close as they would get for the rest of the game.

Following an endless parade of Crushers to the penalty box, an exasperated Coach Hawerchuk got the boot late in the game for abuse of the officials.

The coach was tossed at 15:49 after he protested a penalty call by making a hand gesture and shouting at one of the referees, "your head is this (expletive) big".

Tiger goaltender Brendan Sullivan recorded his second victory of the week, while Orangeville's Andy Groulx who replaced Kimmel in the second period, took the loss.

The Tigers dominated the "star" list in that game, with Monardo first, Morley second, and Hellyer third.

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The annual Aurora Optimist book sale was another huge success this year as hundreds of bargain hunters crammed into the Aurora Library last weekend for the event. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

# Minor Atom Tigers edged 1-0 by Barrie

The Minor Atom A Tigers faced a tough opponent when they met the Barrie Colts, a team that has been tussling with the Tigers for standings positions needed for playoff seedings all season long. While the Tigers came out firing an all cylinders and controlled the play early with a decided advantage in shots, neither team could find the back of the net.

Robby Graham, Josh Schmitt and Lucas Dane all provided strong defensive play and Eric McGhie, Kyle Rice and Stuart Gable won the majority of the face-offs.

The Colts took advantage of a slight miscue by the Tigers and pot a mid-period goal to take the lead.

It was all they needed. Mark Carpenter and Tyler Thomas provided an outstanding effort in the Tiger net keeping the puck out and giving their team-mates every opportunity to stay in the game but the evening belonged to the Colts as they took a 1-0 victory home to Barrie.

On Saturday, Aurora fell to Richmond Hill 5-2.

Tigers got goals from Rhys Perry and Colin McGoldrick.

The Tigers started the game with a lot of jump defensively holding the Stars to few shots while controlling the play in their end.

The boys continue to press throughout the first period but the first period ends scoreless.

As the second period begins, the Stars find another gear and get two early goals, the first on a 5-3 power play.

The Stars continue to pour

on the effort and get two more goals but the Tigers don't give in.

Rhys Perry took the puck from the Tigers' blue line and carried it up the ice getting a great shot on net then gathering his own rebound, flipped the puck over the Stars net minder for the first Aurora goal.

After that the Tigers continued to move forward and a great effort by Lucas Dane started the ball

rolling.

Dane kept the puck in the Stars end. Kyle Rice picked up the puck on the side boards and worked it down low to Alexander Simardone.

Simardone took a shot and the rebound got to Colin McGoldrick.

McGoldrick buried the biscuit in the basket for the Tigers second goal.

Unfortunately, it was too little too late as the Tigers couldn't rebound for the victory.

## Magna to close local plants

From page 1 "I'm calling on the new job and accessing re-training programs. Premier today to commit his government to take immedi-

ate action on two fronts: first, to ensure that the resources of the provincial government are made available to our communities to assist with practical issues, such as retraining and job placements for those affected, and, second, that the government act immediately to implement a job preservation plan that will facilitate the operational survival of the Auto Industry in Ontario.

"This is not just about saving a corporate entity, it is about preserving jobs, families and communities."

The mayors of Aurora and Newmarket greeted the announcement with a mixture of concern for the workers facing unemployment and confidence in the economic future of their communities. In Aurora 27 per cent of the town's 17,810 jobs are in manufacturing with Magna the municipality's largest employer with 1,725 employees.

## Monday Night Hockey results

### TEAM STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS.
Highland Chev-Cad	7	2	1	43	22	15
FPL Aggregates	7	3	0	45	35	14
Ton & Jerry's	6	3	1	46	34	13
Baldwin's	5	4	1	42	38	11
Masterclean Contracting	4	5	0	32	40	8
Priestly Demolition	3	6	1	35	40	7
Law Insurance Brokers	3	7	0	27	45	6
Rec Cycle N' Sports	3	7	0	26	40	6

### WEEKLY SCORES

Highlands Chev	3	Tom & Jerry's	4
Law Insurance	1	Masterclean	2
FPL Aggregates	6	Priestly Demo	4
Baldwin's	2	Rec Sports	3

### PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	PTS.
Todd Richardson	FPL	14	7	21
Jody Matthews	Highland's	8	11	19
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	9	7	16
Mark Swirla	Priestly	6	10	16
Brad McMillan	Baldwins	8	7	15
John Archibald	Highland's	11	3	14
Jason Muise	Priestly	9	4	13
Darren Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	4	9	13
Rob Blakely	Masterclean	8	4	12
Steve Kavanah	Baldwins	3	9	12
Vince Grec	Tom & Jerry's	7	4	11
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	5	6	11
Pat O'Mahony	Priestly	5	6	11
Ken Rumble	Highland's	3	8	11
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	2	9	11
Mike O'Conner	Baldwins	8	2	10
Dave Caverley	FPL	6	4	10
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	1	9	10
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	5	4	9
Scott Crabbe	Highland's	2	7	9
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	2	7	9
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	7	9
Chris Neale	Highland's	6	2	8
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	4	4	8
Ron Van Noort	FPL	4	4	8
Steven MacDonal	Highland's	2	6	8
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	1	7	8
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	1	7	8
Dwayne Smith	Law Insurance	5	2	7
Derek Preston	FPL	4	3	7
Steve Robertson	Baldwins	4	3	7
Scott Pogue	Law Insurance	3	4	7
Mike Caicco	Baldwins	1	6	7
John Yaremko	Tom & Jerry's	4	2	6
Alain Boudreau	Highland's	3	3	6
Kevin O'Keefe	Priestly	3	3	6
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	3	3	6
Jerome Flanigan	Baldwins	2	4	6
Jason Holbert	Tom & Jerry's	2	4	6
Mark Sedore	Priestly	2	4	6

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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# Sanding and salting Aurora's roads

Winter is coming - some would say it's already here, although it doesn't officially arrive for another three weeks - and with it snow and ice on Aurora roads.

In November, 1994, the Public Works Department developed a plan to deal with the snow and ice.

It prepared the Winter Maintenance Operating Instructions dealing with the who, what, where, when, why and how of winter maintenance.

At that time, street salting, sanding and plowing were carried out by town staff with town equipment while sidewalk salting, sanding and plowing were handled by a contractor with his own equipment.

The previous year the town used approximately 1,900 tons of salt, 2,200 tons of sand and in 1994 it was planned to use one part salt with 20 parts of sand instead of the one in 10 mixture of previous years for a saving of about \$4,000 while still maintaining safe road conditions.

### RESIDENTS OBJECT TO ROAD WIDENING

In June, 1972, Aurora Council received letters of complaint from residents of Catherine Avenue objecting to the reconstruction of the small street and argued the 28-foot pavement would be degrading to the properties rather than a local improvement.

The residents claimed snow plowing would create a problem, trees would be destroyed and the new road would provide a throughway for traffic wishing to avoid the Yonge-Wellington intersection.

Councillor Walt Davis was also opposed to the 28-foot road width and suggested the paved portion be 24 feet wide the same as had been allowed in a proposed condominium project.

It was pointed out that Catherine was a public roadway while the condominium roadway was private and as tenders had already been let for the reconstruction, it proceeded as tendered.

### LACK OF FACILITIES FOR INDOOR SOCCER

It wasn't 2008 when the complaint was heard but in October, 1985, when the Aurora Youth Soccer Club pointed out that unless they received support from the taxpayers of Aurora indoor soccer would be finished in Aurora.

Soccer officials claimed they were treated as second class cit-

izens by the York Region School Board and were advised that no suitable gyms were available, even though the soccer club applied for any available gym.

Ron Wallace, then a candidate for Aurora trustee, suggested club officials ask for an audience with the Board to discuss the problem. A second suggestion was to contact the Separate School Board to find out if they had an available gym.

It was pointed out that unless the problem was settled, there was no possibility of indoor soccer being allowed in the gyms of Aurora schools not only in 1985 but in future years.

They claimed that sports discrimination was bad but when a youth organization is being discriminated against it makes it that much worse and the support of the public was requested.

### MEAT INSPECTION OPERATIONS

The inspection of meat products is a current hot issue after the recall of several products by Maple Leaf Foods. Back in February, 1968, an Aurora resident headed up the meat inspection operations.

Dr. Eugene Costello joined the headquarters staff of the Canada Department of Agriculture's Meat Inspection Division as Supervisor of Meat Operations. He had served with the Meat Inspection Division since 1951 in various locations.

The Costello family moved to Aurora in 1963 and Dr. Costello was active in community and sports affairs of the town but with his new post the family moved to Ottawa.

In his new post, he was responsible for maintaining uniformity of inspection procedures across Canada and was required to investigate plant conditions and meat inspection procedures in registered establishments operating under the Canada Meat Inspection Act.

These included slaughtering and processing plants, dry and cold storage, rendering plants and meat inspection facilities at point of entry.

### WHERE ARE ALL THE CYCLISTS?

In October, 1991, it was the practice of York Region when paving a newly constructed road section to pave the first half-metre of the gravel shoulder as a means of reducing maintenance of the shoulders.

An added benefit of the paved shoulder was the use by some cyclists resulting in regional staff recommending that all new road sections include a one-metre bicycle path where feasible.

The additional cost for paving the path was estimated at \$3,500 per kilometre which was approved.

Many new sections of regional roads have been reconstructed since then but where are the bicycle lanes and the cyclists?

### THE NATIONAL DEBT

In this period of economic turbulence most governments are predicting a deficit although most politicians promised no more deficits.

However, little has been said about the national debt.

In October, 1999, it was reported that Canadian taxpayers had paid \$621 billion in interest to service the accumulated national debt over the past two decades.

It was expected the total amount paid in interest would keep increasing at an estimated annual rate of \$40 billion unless the federal government decided to pay down the \$576 billion national debt more aggressively.

Then Finance Minister Paul Martin was using the contingency funds in the budget to pay down the debt and had paid \$3.6 billion in 1997-98 and \$2.9 billion in 1998-99.

But at that rate it would take Canada almost two centuries to wipe out the national debt that had accumulated by successive governments in 22 years.

What is the national debt today and why aren't Canadian taxpayers kept better informed about how much they owe?

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## AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### Results to Sunday, November 30



### House League Minor Pee wee

**Team 403 8** - Bryn Burbank 3G, Ryan Ouroules 2G, Christopher Sutherland 2G 1A, David Leeper 1G, Christopher Broughton 1A, Grant Kavanagh 1A, Lockhart McMann 1A. **Rogers Team 401 3** - Parker Jackson 1G 1A, Dennis Semenovych 1G, Joseph Hodgson 1G, Cameron Screech 1A, Matthew Hall 1A, Alexander MacKinnon 1A.

**Team 403 Orange: Ruff'n Ready 9** - Bryn Burbank 4G, Ryan Ouroules 3G, Christopher Sutherland 2G 1A, Chris Broughton 1A, Grant Kavanagh 1A, Lochart McMann 1A. **Team 401 Gold 3** - Denis Semenovych 1G, Parker Jackson 1G 1A, Joseph Hodgson 1G, Cameron Screech 1A, Alenxander Mackinnon 1A, Matthew Hall 1A.

**Team 402 3** - Jacob Hagias 1G, Zak Keller 1G, Matthew Neice 1G, Michael McKerracher 1A, Ryan Batten 1A, Connor Kemp 1A. **Team 404 1** - Nick Armour 1G.

### Minor Midget

**Team 805 CAA South Central Ontario 5** - Alex Thompson 1G 2A, Paul Andrews 1G, Ryan Laird 1G, Stephen Newby 1G, Justin Dickerman 2A, Daniel Fusco 1A, Clayton Arnold 3A. **Team 802 1** - Liam Martin 1G, Michael Reilly 1A.

**Team 801 Pharmasave 3** - Brett Richardson 1G, Brandon Connolly 1G, Michael Woods 1G 1A, Keegan Weatherhead 1A. **Team 806 A.D.C. Aluminum 2** - Mario Rotundo 1G, Mark Tanel 1G 1A, Wesley Seminara 1A, Jonathan Boehmer 1A.

**Team 804 Pizza Pizza 5** - Paul Tuck 1G, Christian Davies 1G, Taran McGowan 1G 1A, Kyle Ozols 1G, Adrian Bulfon 1G, Jordan Gerace 1A, Branden Bortolin 1A, Braydon Dunn 1A, Kyle Rojas 1A, Jarrett Lennie 1A. **Team 803 2** - James Phillips 1G, Chris Follett 1G, Razvan Vela 1A.

**Team 807 BMO 3** - Andrew Cosentino 2G, Scott Tonello 1G, Lucas Cristillo 1A, Logan Weber 1A. **Team 805 CAA South Central Ontario 1** - Robert Anderson 1G.

**Team 803 2** - Cameron Annear 1G, Razvan Vela 1G, Chris Follett 1A, Nick Zebrowski 1A. **Team 802 1** - Chris Morin 1G, Kenton Gamble 1A.

**Team 801 Pharmasave 2** - Jon Alcock 1G, David Scott 1G, Keegan Weatherhead 1A. **Team 804 Pizza Pizza 2** - Branden Bortolin 1G, Philipp Mueller 1G, Christian Davies 1A, Colin Sandquist 1A, Alex Dunn 1A.

### Midget

**Team 902 4** Josh Bentolilla 2G, Colin Munn 1G, Charlie Teel 1G 2A, Mike Shoosmith 3A. **Team 910 1** - Peter Durst 1G, Dylan Calvert 1A, Mike DelPlavignano 1A.

**Team 908 5** - Aaron Lempinen 2G, Derek Sweeting 1G 2A, Paul Duggan 1G, Ryan Van Winkle 1G, Kyle MacCallum 1A, Tom Gibson 1A, Tyler Clements 2A, James Chappell 2A. **Team 904 4** - Chris O'Hara 1G, Matthew Joynt 1G, Eric Seracini 1G, Greg Gianopolous 1G, Geoff Gianopolous 1A, Anthony Mesillo 2A, Michael Moody 1A.

**Team 901 2** - Chris Porter 2G, Frank Walker 2A, Eric Deroos 1A. **Team 903 0.**

**Team 907 5** - Conner Sheridan 1G, Chris Tillsley 2G 1A, Derek Smith 1G, Nick Gundert 1G 1A, Keegan OLeary 1A, Evan Campbell 2A, Michael Coggin 1A, Ryan Jones 1A, Jordan Nolan 1A. **Team 906 2** - Michael French 1G 1A, Dillon Cappell 1G, Evan Jones 2A.

### Rep Games

**Beeton Novice A Stingers 6. Aurora Novice A Tigers 2** - Nicholas Rountes 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Anthony Magnante 1A.

**East Gwillimbury Novice A Eagles 5. Aurora Novice**

**A Tigers 2** - Carson Venneri 1G, Michael Thibeault 1 G, Fin Reeves 1A.

**Bradford Novice A Bulldogs 7. Aurora Novice A Tigers 1** - Anthony Magnante 1G, Kyle Morning 1A, Michael Fodero 1A.

**Aurora Tigers Atom AE 6** - Jeffrey McKay 2G, Spencer White 2G, Zachary Fletcher 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1G Tristan Kuchar 2A, Thomas Sauer 1A, Connor Downs 1A, Connor Gonsalves 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1A, Adam Caicco 1A. **Orillia Terriers Atom AE 0.**

**Markham Minor Bantam AE 3. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 1** - Trevor George 1G, Jono McConnell 1A.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 5** - Connor Moody 1G, Bailey Miller 1G, Trevor George 1G 1A, Sam Steenhorst 1G, Paul Louis Steiner 1G, Kyle Zacharuk 2A, Jimmy Brookes 2A, Jono McConnell 1A, Zach Ferry 1A, Massimo Longhin 1A, Shutout Andrew Stobbe. **TNT Minor Bantam AE 0.**

**Barrie Minor Bantam AE 5. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 3** - Paul Louis Steiner 1G 1A, Trevor George 1G, Massimo Longhin 1G, Kyle Zacharuk 2A, Zach Ferry 1A.

**Aurora Tigers Midget AE 3** - Jake Boyle 1G 1A, Justin Killens 1G, Mattheus Vloet 1G, Andrew McKay 1A. **Brampton Snipers 3.**

**Aurora Tigers Midget AE 5** - Chris Blumreisinger 2G, Taylor Bryce 1G, Stephen Di Nallo 1G, Andrew McKay 1G, Justin Killens 2A, Alex Heintzman 1A, Jake Bolye 1A, Mattheus Vloet 1A. **Goulding Park 3.**

**Aurora Tigers Midget AE 5** - Stephen Di Nallo 2G 1A, Andrew McKay 1G 1A, Shea McGlone 1G 1A, Alex Heintzman 1G, Justin Killens 3A, Patrick Che 2A, Chris Blumreisinger 1A. **Oakville Black Bolts 3.**

**Brampton Battalion 2. Aurora Tigers Midget AE 1** - Stephen Di Nallo 1G, Justin Killens 1A.





Author Heather Anne Lambert reads from her story, *The Blue Fan*, during the launch of *Aurora Storyalis II* last week at the Aurora Public Library. Hers is one of several stories in the book written by members of the Aurora Writer's Group. The book is currently on sale at R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street at the corner of Harrison.

# Aurora Writers Group launches *Storyalis II*

Last week, the Aurora Writers Group (AWG) launched their second anthology, *Aurora Storyalis II*, at the Aurora Public Library with the help of a couple of politicians.

Newly-elected Aurora-

Newmarket Member of Parliament, Lois Brown was on hand for the event as was Aurora Councillor, Stephen Granger.

Nine of the 12 authors contributing to *Aurora Storyalis II* read portions of

their work to the audience of 40 people.

Readings included short stories and poetry.

The book also includes short non-fiction pieces such as Tom Davey's muse, *The Wit and Wisdom of*

Samuel Johnson.

Sales of *Storyalis* during the following reception were brisk.

The book was supported financially by the Town of Aurora Arts and Culture Fund.

*Aurora Storyalis II* is available for sale at R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street, and sells for \$13.50 per copy.

All aspiring writers are welcome to join the Aurora Writers Group which meets every third Monday of the month at the Aurora Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

For further information, call Malcolm Watts at 905-898-5484.

# Belinda Stronach invests in the music field business

Always willing to try something different, Magna auto parts executive and former Newmarket Aurora MP Belinda Stronach has launched into the music business with rock and roll star Gene Simmons and Universal Music Canada.

Simmons, a self-made rock n' roll millionaire and founder of the rock band KISS, noted that glory and riches had eluded the vast majority of hard-working Canadian pop and rock bands for years but those days were over.

He said he had a new business model that will get Canadian bands out on tour, onto television and into the music mainstream as he provided some information behind plans to relaunch his dormant Canadian label Simmons Records, a joint venture with Belinda Stronach and Universal Music.

It is planned to sign Canadian bands which

will develop a strong identity, first in Canada and then on the world stage.

He added that in the past the only way a Canadian act could make it was to go to the States and more or less become an American band.

The connection with Stronach, for years a silent partner in a Canadian talent development company Big Bold Sun Music was coincidental, Simmons said.

He had known the Stronach family for years and his company handles the merchandising for Frank's Energy Drink, which was created by Frank Stronach.

Simmons is looking to sign three Canadian acts a year to his label as long as they have something different going for them, such as a sense of humour.

Acts signed to the label will also appear in a Canadian made reality TV series for a network Simmons refused to

name.

The bands and their music will also be featured in merchandising and product advertising campaigns and movies and TV shows.

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# You could carry Olympic Torch

Aurora lies on the road to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

The route that the Olympic Torch Run will take through Canada was announced last week, and Aurora is included.

The 45,000-kilometre relay will start in Victoria, B.C on October 30, 2009, and 106 days later, on February 12, 2010, it will wrap up in Vancouver.

Along the way, it will travel through all of the provinces and territories in Canada, and pass through 1,000 communities.

This will make it the longest domestic torch run in Olympic history.

It is anticipated that it will cover 1,000 kilometres by water, 18,000 kilometres by air, and 26,000 kilometres by land.

Of those 26,000 kilometers, approximately 6.5 of them will be through Aurora.

This will be on day 50

of the torch run, Friday, December 18th, 2009, when the torch makes its way along Yonge Street.

A number of Aurorans will have the opportunity to carry the torch through town.

Since each participant will travel a maximum of 300 metres, this means that 21 or so people will be able to take part between Bloomington Road and just north of St. John's Sideroad.

If you are interested in applying to be a torch-bearer, additional information and applications can be obtained at [www.icoke.ca](http://www.icoke.ca) or [www.rbc.com/carry-thetorch](http://www.rbc.com/carry-thetorch).

For those who aren't among one of the lucky few to carry the flame, there will no doubt be other ways to participate, as Aurora is already establishing a committee to help plan for this event.

Stay tuned.

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# Senior Scape

The Santa Claus Parade was a fantastic success with a huge number of spectators including a multitude of children who were thrilled to see this elaborate and colourful procession before their eyes.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) was brilliantly represented by the Winter Wonderland theme float, prepared by a committee chaired by Judy Buchanan on equipment graciously loaned by Diamond Groundskeeping Services.

This float, one among more than 70, was awarded first prize for the best non-commercial float, so congratulations to the excellent participants from the ASA, who I might add are immensely proud of this recognition.

Riding on the float was the sleigh on loan from Hillary House, which was recently refurbished by Ron Coe and his team which I wrote about recently.

A wonderful surprise was the presence of a charming young lady by the name of Lynne McGuchin in period cloth-

ing including hat, muffs and riding crop portraying Mrs. Hillary, who lent family authenticity to the sleigh as she is the great, great, grand daughter of Dr. Hillary, the former owner of the sleigh.

Also on the float were Donna Chianelli, Grace Rock and Judy Buchanan, and the two gentlemen walking alongside the float were Heinz Munsch and Doug Jarvie.

Ron Coe was the ASA member who negotiated with Hillary House to refurbish and borrow the sleigh, not Judy Buchanan as I reported earlier, and I apologize for that error.

The deep financial turmoil of the past month drives senior emotions powerfully by sideswiping wealth, income from wealth and the peace of mind that goes with financial stability.

Regrettably, retirement brings little relief for so many seniors who are forced to watch in horror as the value of their wealth declines in value precipitously, while generating powerfully persuasive impressions that all is beyond recovery.

But, we will recover with time, we have always recovered and we will recover again from this disaster and while recovery may vary, we will continue and we will prosper.

The sun always rises and what a powerfully inspiring thought that is, and although we may well be poorer, this storm will pass and life will go on.

All seniors who remember the monstrosity that was World War II, and even before that to the depression years when so many of our present day contemporaries were born, have gritted their teeth in the face of adversity on other occasions, faced their world bravely, and succeeded against all odds.

Not all seniors may have time to recover all losses of wealth realized; those who can will assess their own situation and mitigate the damage as best they can.

Time is the magic which will repair the financial damage and so we may as well celebrate Christmas and attempt to have some fun amongst the financial carnage.

This will be a thinner

Christmas for many people young and old, but it is still a time when we come together as family and friends and the good times break out all over again.

Presents may not be so numerous or expensive as in more prosperous years but, we will give and receive with as much enthusiasm as if they were, and maybe more.

Some relief may be offered by Patrice Graham-Brown and Thuy Lam who will offer a seminar on the new "Tax Free Savings Accounts".

This presentation will be held Thursday, December 11th, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the centre.

Sign up at the front desk to ensure your attendance, particularly considering today's financial turmoil, and the state of mind and anxiety so many people are suffering.

On behalf of the ASA, President Charles Sequeira thanks all ASA members who participated in the York Region 55+ Winter Games.

Events were contested across York Region and the ASA proved itself worthy of competition by bringing

home Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

Charles offers congratulations to the following medal winners:

**Duplicate Bridge:** Gold: Nan McLean, Harold McLean; Silver: Lucille Sequeira, Audrey Robertson; Bronze: Gloria Smith, Rose White, Carole Bell, Isobel Garrett.

**Pickle Ball Women:** Gold: Joanne Keates; Silver: Aghdas Akhavan.

**Pickle Ball Men:** Gold: James Alberga; Bronze: Manuel Batalla.

**Carpet Bowling:** Gold: Elizabeth Rioux, Robert Preston.

This year's "Everybody's Birthday Luncheon" earlier this month was highlighted by the celebration of Anne McKenny's 90th birthday celebration. Anne is a wonderful sprightly lady and appears to be much younger than her age.

She was presented with a certificate from the Town and members of Council, and President Charles Sequeira presented Anne with a lifetime membership in the ASA, starting in 2009.

A musical hour of Cara Chisholm singing beautiful

songs elevated this Birthday Luncheon to being among the finest to date.

I am informed as I write this piece that the Aurora Town Council has formally endorsed the windrow program and The Town of Aurora's Parks Department has commenced the administrative work to get it started.

The program is for seniors and physically challenged residents. A snow windrow is the snow bank that is deposited at the foot of a driveway when the road snow plows pass by. The annual cost of the windrow program is \$70 per household.

Applications will be available Monday, December 8th at the Town Hall and at the centre, 5 Municipal Drive, or can be downloaded from the Town's website as a PDF document.

Once the application is complete, return it to the Town Hall, Public Works Department on the 3rd floor at 1 Municipal Drive, Aurora.

For further information call Angela Pucci at 905-727-3123, ext:3447.

# Two Aurora students honoured by school

At a special ceremony held last week, two former Aurora student athletes were recognized by Peterborough's Trent University as Academic All-Canadians (AAC).

Travis Freeland, who excels in fencing, and Rebekah Oomen, a soccer player, were among the 54 students honoured by the school.

The annual awards event, which is hosted by Trent's Department of Athletics and Recreation, honours students who participate in varsity sports and achieve an academic average of 80 per cent or higher.

Of this year's recipients, 20 are multiple-year AAC winners, and six were honoured for the fourth time.

"At Trent, we are proud of our students

who make an impact on the field, in the gym, or on the water as well as in the classroom," said Trent President Bonnie Patterson. "Having such a high number of Academic All-Canadians each year at Trent shows how, as a University, we strive to encourage balance and excellence in all of our students."

Trent has 300 varsity athletes and 17 varsity teams that compete within the Canadian Interuniversity Sport organization, Ontario University Athletics and the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

Travis is in his second year of study in anthropology is a first time winner, while Rebekah is also in her second year studying forensics, and is a two-time winner of the award.

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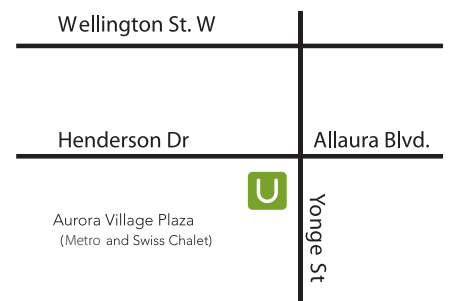


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