

Another district being considered

A second heritage district for Aurora is now being considered.

More than 60 people attended a neighbourhood meeting at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church hall last week to discuss the potential of conducting a heritage conservation district study in the southeast quadrant of Old Aurora.

The meeting was hosted by the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora and featured displays and presentations about the heritage conservation district concept.

Following the meeting

and a question and answer session, attendees were asked to complete a survey to help determine neighbourhood interest in the possibility of proceeding towards a heritage conservation district study in the future.

Residents also were able to comment on boundaries for the potential new area.

Copies of the survey are available on the Town of Aurora website, www.e-aurora.ca.

For further information contact Michael Seaman, Community Planner at 905-727-3123, ext. 4351 or mseaman@e-aurora.ca



This is the view that greets commuters on the southbound GO Train to Toronto, once the train crosses the Yonge Street overpass. This sound barrier is covered with graffiti that offends some riders and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees has promised to look into the matter.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Klees views town graffiti

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees boarded the GO Train in Aurora last week to see for himself the walls of graffiti that line the tracks in Aurora.

House will be a restaurant

A house on Temperance Street will become a restaurant.

With council agreeing to waive a road widening requirement in the official plan for the street, the green light was given to convert the house into a restaurant.

The house is located across from the Farmer's Market location in the Temperance Street parking lot and is south of the Bacon Basketware building.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern asked when Planner Terry Kelly knew about the requirement and suggested a two-week delay.

The planner replied he was aware of the official plan requirement about the road widening but understood he could work it out with staff during the preparation of the site plan, but had just learned that it was only council who could approve the waiving of the requirement.

He said there was some urgency as the applicant wanted to complete construction of the parking lot before winter.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out the number of buildings on Temperance Street close to the road and that road widening was almost impossible, especially in the older part of town.

She suggested the request be approved.

With assurances from Works and Planning staff that they had no objections and as it had been done before in other areas of the town, council adopted the Buck motion.

service complained to the MPP about the graffiti while he was campaigning at the Aurora GO Station during the October provincial election.

"A number of people expressed concern about the graffiti and I promised to look into it," he said. "One individual told me that some of it was highly offensive and he was embarrassed to have his young daughter exposed to it. That's why I wanted to see for myself."

Klees invited photographer Rob Schuetze of Aurora to ride the train from Aurora to King City with him Friday morning and had no trouble finding the displays along the rail line.

He met later in the day with Heather Green,

Aurora's Provincial Offences and Property Standards/Licensing Officer who is coordinating an Ad Hoc Committee that has a mandate to address the issue of graffiti within the Town of Aurora.

The Committee, chaired by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, has the responsibility to develop recommendations for a graffiti abatement program for Aurora in cooperation with community groups, the business community and York Regional Police.

"Apparently this is an issue that is of growing concern," said Klees. "The number of graffiti sites is expanding and includes both public and private property. Fences, buildings, utility boxes and even street

signs are being used as canvas. In some cases the messaging is not only offensive, it can be downright intimidating. It's something that has to be dealt with now before it gets completely out of hand."

The MPP said he will support the Town of Aurora's Ad Hoc Committee's work and will investigate the possibility of provincial support for a graffiti abatement program.



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