

INSIDE AURORA: Home Show Burning Questions

By Scott Johnston

It's an annual tradition to visit the Aurora Chamber Home Show, which I did again this year.

As I wandered the aisles checking out what was new in the world of home improvement, a number of questions came to mind, including ?

If the Show is put on by the Chamber of Commerce, and is one of the big annual events to showcase this organization and its members, why doesn't the Chamber itself have a booth to promote itself?

Does sunny warm weather like we had last weekend encourage more people to visit the Home Show, or does attendance drop, as, ironically, folks stay away to spend time working around their homes?

Just how much extra overflow parking will be available in future years at the Magna property when that company moves to King? Do people realize that by purchasing those large bags of dirt on sale at the Show to improve their lawns, they are potentially buying back the same soil that was originally scraped away from their properties when their houses were built?

Why doesn't admission to the Show entitle you to visit more than once that weekend, without paying again?

Is the Chamber of Commerce still holding a grudge about the Town's decision to move the Show from the Aurora Community Centre to the current venue at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex?

And if they had the opportunity in the future, would they go back to the ACC?

When did reusable tote bags replace notepads, pens and fridge magnets as the giveaway product of choice for vendors?

Were any home improvement-type companies unable to attend because spaces had been taken up by charities, food vendors, kids camps, health/medical practices, and other non home-related groups?

When you see vendors sitting by themselves texting away on their electronic devices, do you not think it defeats the purpose of having a booth at a Home Show, if they don't plan to interact with the people who by attending, are more likely to have some interest in their products?

Similarly, although vendors must take breaks occasionally, why don't they have someone on hand to back them up, rather than leaving an empty booth and possibly missing out on business?

Who had the best charity-related food in Aurora last week-end; the Optimists (BBQ) at the Home Show, or the Lions (pancakes) in Sheppard's Bush?

It seems fairly high, so what is the percent of participating vendors who are from outside Aurora?

Based on the large number of these vendors, does the popularity of pools, hot tubs and landscape water features in part explain the Town's annual summer water ban?

Why is it when politicians have booths at the Home Show, Street Sale or similar events, they never seem to be there when you are? Or does it depend on whether it's an election year?

Even with the increase and prevalence of various forms of instant electronic information sharing, why does there never seem to be a similar reduction in the amount of fliers, glossy brochures, business cards and other paperwork given out by vendors?

Unlike similar events, why does there never seem to be unallocated or vacant booth space at the Home Show?

Using the same venue and with no obvious change in scope for the Show, what justified a 67% increase in the admission price over last year?

Is it a sign of how small a town Aurora still is that whenever you visit the Home Show, you always unexpectedly run into at least one person you know?

Just asking.

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