

Buck files appeal in defamation lawsuit

By Brock Weir

Former mayor Evelyn Buck has launched an appeal of her failed defamation suit against several members of the 2006 ? 2010 term of Aurora Council.

Ms. Buck confirmed she formally filed an appeal before the mandated deadline of October 14.

That decision was handed down by the Ontario Superior Court last month by Justice Edwards, who dismissed her lawsuit against former mayor Phyllis Morris, former councillors John Gallo, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern, Al Wilson, and incumbent Councillor Wendy Gaertner, after more than five years in the court system.

Ms. Buck claimed statements published by the Council of the day, regarding her blog posts they argue were ?highly critical? of Town Staff, damaged her reputation in the eyes of the public.

It was an argument dismissed by the judge, who ruled the defendants ?had a duty and a responsibility to set the record straight.?

Last month's decision seemed to be the end of the road in the prolonged and eventful case, which had not only been before the courts since 2009 but had been the subject of a five week-long trial before a five-member jury, who were subsequently dismissed by the judge after what he said was an ?improper? submission by Ms. Buck's lawyer in closing arguments suggesting costs they could award the plaintiff should they find in her favour.

Kevin Macdonald, lawyer for Ms. Buck, did not respond to The Auroran by press time but David Boghosian, lawyer for the defendants, stated: ?the reasons for the decision of Justice Edwards are very thorough and well-reasoned and, in my opinion, appeal-proof.?