

Former AHS president backs Curator decision

After reading the May 6 Council Meeting Minutes, it is gratifying to know that Council does indeed recognize and appreciate the importance of the Aurora Collection and does consider this collection to be a valuable asset for the community.

By voting in favour of hiring its own community curator and dedicating the resources towards its exhibition, its preservation and continuing the work started by the Aurora Historical Society (AHS), Council is ensuring that part of your community's heritage will be accessible for all to enjoy.

Over three years ago, the AHS Board made the important decision to approach the Town of Aurora to take over the ownership and management of the Aurora Collection.

The AHS recognized that in order to re-establish a vibrant Aurora Museum, the Aurora Collection needed more funding and resources that the society did not have.

The groundwork that led to a successive transfer could not have been accomplished without the dedicated efforts of Catherine Richards, AHS Manager/Curator and Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A sincere thank you to Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Buck, Councillor Abel, Councillor Pirri, Councillor Thompson and Mayor Dawe who all voted in support of Councillor Buck's motion at the May 6 Council Meeting. They are to be commended.

AHS can now focus on Hillary House. Built in 1862 as a home and office for a local doctor, Hillary House is a national historic site recognized as one of the best examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Ontario.

Over 30 years ago, Hillary House, a barn and two acres of land was generously donated to the society by the Hillary family, some of whom still reside in your community today. This living house museum retains most of its original furnishings and personal possessions and includes the Medical Collection, another important collection due to the extensive archive that represents the history of medical practice in Ontario.

Aurorans, appreciate what you have because not every community is so fortunate to have such history on its doorsteps.

Suzanne Reiner
Past President, AHS
Courtice