

Grain elevator still open to demolition

Council won't designate building

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

There was no satisfaction for Wayne Kelly of the Whitchurch-Stouffville heritage advisory committee at last week's council meeting.

He came to convince local politicians to designate the town's grain elevator as an historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act.

This was his second attempt. Mr. Kelly presented council with the same request in June — and got the same answer: no.

Although council stuck by its previous decision not to designate the building, they assured Mr. Kelly that if GO Transit, which owns the building, ever tries to demolish it, the demolition order will have to come before council first.

But that may end up being of little consequence.

"The building is safe from demolition only if council designates it as a heritage building," Mr. Kelly said. "This is one of only a handful of this type of building left in southern Ontario."

Meanwhile, the grain elevator isn't in any immediate danger of being torn down to make way for more GO parking.

"There are no changes to the parking lot. We will plan around that building," GO Transit spokesperson Stephanie Sorensen said earlier this summer.

The cost of maintaining the old building, liability

issues and the need for more parking spaces are main considerations for GO Transit in deciding what to do with the historic building. If the building were demolished, 25 more parking spots could be created, Ms. Sorensen explained.

"We don't have the resources to maintain heritage buildings in all our areas," she said, adding that this is not a building that GO Transit could use.

During the past two years, the heritage advisory committee has tried to have council guarantee the building will survive.

"The building has the potential to be a beautiful landmark in the downtown core as a testament to the hard-working people who built this community," Mr. Kelly said.

Councillor Ken Ferdinands noted that although the idea of putting a climbing gym inside the building has been floated around for some time, there are no concrete plans for the building.

"We were asked to designate it with no plan for the future," Mr. Ferdinands said.

Councillor Clyde Smith felt the idea of a climbing gym would be unique for this area, especially in light of the town's brain-storming session this weekend which is looking for innovative new ideas for the downtown core of Stouffville.

There was a concern among some councillors that the building could sit empty for years and deteriorate.

Hear Spirit hockey live on new webcast

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Beginning Sept. 17, Stouffville Spirit games will be webcast over the Internet.

Hockey fans can tune in on the 7:30 p.m. game and listen to the Stouffville Spirit play Couchiching by logging on to whistleradio.com to hear live play-by-play.

The only software necessary is Windows Media Player, which is available free of charge, Whistle

Radio general manager Jim Priebe said.

Mr. Priebe continues to work on bringing community radio to Stouffville.

Ryan Fabro, a recent radio broadcasting graduate, will be the lead announcer.

"Ryan is very talented," Mr. Priebe said. "We're lucky to have him."

Priebe asks for patience on the part of listeners.

"This is our first game, so it should be considered more like a test run," he

said. "As we gain more experience we'll iron out the technical glitches."

Community amateur sport is part of what Whistle Radio is all about," Mr. Priebe said.

"We're very excited to have the opportunity work with the Stouffville Spirit on this initiative," he said.

Sponsors for the webcast are being sought.

The Spirit, which opens its 11th season in the provincial Jr. A. Hockey league tonight (Thursday),

is also excited about the broadcasts.

"The added exposure will be wonderful," said Spirit director of operations Marshall Starkman. "Whistle Radio will allow our fans and the families of our players to follow our games like never before."

For more information on the whistleradio project, call 905-640-8294, e-mail jim@whistleradio.com, or log on to www.whistleradio.com


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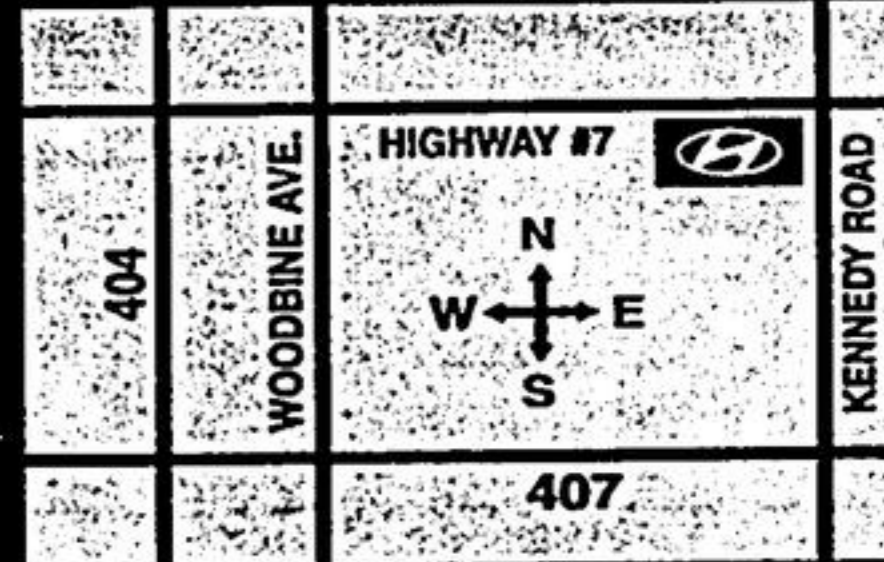
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