

Other Development News

- **South Yonge Street** is being renewed! The **Shoppers Drug Mart** completed a \$2.5M facelift and expansion in November 2008. Across the street, the **Aurora Shopping Centre**, underwent an \$800,000 exterior alteration. The renewal of this stretch of Yonge Street will continue in the near future as there will be a new development consisting of the Royal Bank and other retail and office space at the site of the former Aurora Toyota dealership.
 - There is a lot of construction activity at Hallgrove Business Park:
 - Two companies, at 224 Don Hillock , are the first to open in this business park. Video Furniture Inc., a manufacturer of plasma and LCD stands, employs 40 workers and Audio Video Metals, a metal fabricator, employs 15 workers.
 - Cherry Hill Park Developments has just finished constructing an Industrial Condominium at 125 Don Hillock Drive. Condominium units are selling fast. New tenants include I & J Flooring Ltd., Essential Skills Software Inc., Key Link Management Inc., and Underrock Inc..
 - Veritime Ltd. is building a large spec industrial building (90,400 square fee) at 159 Don Hillock Drive.
 - NCI Marketing has just built an office and warehouse at 66 Don Hillock Drive. Future developments at this Business Park include the Region of York Investigative Services facility and an extended stay hotel, Main Stay Hotels.
- Many new businesses are moving into the new industrial condominium at 235 Industrial Parkway. To date, the Tech Zone, Executive Planning, Best Climate, the Embroidery Studio and Spartan Janitorial Supplies have set up shop there.
- Morguard Realty Holdings is expanding its Aurora Centre retail development at 15500 Bayview Ave. A new Goodlife Fitness Centre is part of the expansion.

Aurora Graffiti Clean-Up Program

The 1st Annual Graffiti Clean-Up day, on September 25, 2008, was a success! Local businesses, non-profit organizations, high school students, community volunteers and town staff, under the leadership of the Graffiti Abatement Committee, removed over 1,500 graffiti tags from 30 locations in the core area of Aurora. Local businesses were very supportive of this initiative, donating painting supplies and a local graffiti removal company offered their time and supplies at no cost.



The 2009 Graffiti Clean-Up Committee is looking for further support from local businesses. If you are interested in helping this worthwhile cause, please contact Police Constable Shayne Mulligan at 905.895.1221, ext. 7120 or e-mail him at 1359@yrc.ca.

BUSINESS Bright Lights

Aurora Mayor Proclaims 2009 Year of Business Initiative

Mayor Phyllis Morris delivered a proclamation to Members of Council on February 24th, declaring 2009 as the Year of Business Initiative in the Town of Aurora.

"I feel strongly, along with Members of Council and staff, that by focusing our Economic Development efforts on revitalization, retention and education initiatives, the Town can help create and retain local jobs by providing a supportive business environment," said Mayor Morris. "Aurora is known for its innovative, diverse and world class businesses and that, contributes to our investment appeal, supporting sustainability and quality of life, especially in our current economic climate. The Town has planned many activities to support businesses throughout 2009 including; small business support workshops to help businesses focus on human resource development; a Business Retention Strategy that will include focus groups and discussion with the Mayor to assess business needs; and the re-development and launch of a newly improved economic development section on our Town's website," continued Mayor Morris.

The planned business events will build on two themes; 'Supporting our Downtown' and 'Supporting our Businesses'.

"The approach we're taking to support our downtown business area begins with a Yonge/Wellington Corridor Study, with the goal of preparing a secondary plan and implementation strategy to guide redevelopment and promote new opportunities in the downtown core," said Mr. Chris Ballard, Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Mayor Morris and Members of Council urge residents and visitors to celebrate business success and innovation in Aurora, and to learn more about our local merchants, their offerings and to consider new ways to support the quality businesses and entrepreneurs in our community.



WHAT'S INSIDE

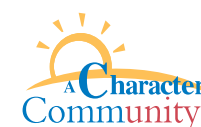
Upcoming Events

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Development News

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Upcoming Events "2009 Year of Business Initiative"

Small Business Workshops at Aurora Town Hall

- May 12 - "Expanding your Business"
- Sept 8 - "Developing a Marketing Plan"
(go to www.e-aurora.ca for a list of other workshops hosted by York Small Business Enterprise Centre)

Yonge/Wellington Corridor Study

- May 13 - Downtown Revitalization Open House - Aurora Public Library, Magna Room, 9am-10pm
- June 15, 16, 17 - Design Workshop and Walk 'N Talk, Open House - Aurora Town Hall, Holland Room, 9am-10pm everyday.

Business Retention & Expansion Study*

- May - Series of business focus groups to assess business needs
 - June - Mayor's Business Roundtable
- * Please go to www.e-aurora.ca for specific dates, times for these events.

Axiom Receives \$2.4 Million From Ontario Government

On Friday, January 23rd, Ontario's Minister for Economic Development announced that Ontario would support Axiom, an Aurora auto parts company, with a \$2.4 million grant. Provincial funding will help Axiom to invest in technology that should create more than 100 new jobs. The company is also investing \$16 million in the project which will develop a new high-output exhaust system. The Axiom Group product is touted to be smarter, greener and less noisy than current components.

"The support from the McGuinty government helps us to accelerate our growth plans and make the investments in our operations and workforce that allow us to remain competitive. Their support in commercializing our new technology and the skilled and educated workforce anchors our investment in Ontario," said Perry Rizzo, President of Axiom Group.

The funding support comes from Ontario's next "Generation Jobs Fund", a \$1.15 billion business incentive program designed to create and protect jobs in Ontario. It is designed to help companies with their growth plans, but the firms must also invest their own money.

The Ontario Government is helping auto parts manufacturers invest in new technology, which in turn leads to new jobs," said Michael Bryant, Minister of Economic Development. "The Ontario government's economic strategy is to support companies that are investing in innovative technology so Ontarians can have the jobs they want and the prosperity they deserve."



Perry Rizzo, President of Axiom Group



Boston Pizza was one of the 66 new businesses that opened in 2008.



Pictured here are Mayor Morris and the Boston Pizza management team cutting the red ribbon for the Grand Opening.

2008 Investment Review

In 2008, there was an increase of 63% in the number of non-residential permits issued by the Town of Aurora compared to 2007. These 2008 non-residential permits represent a construction value of \$98.5 million and an additional 852,976 square feet of floor space. In terms of new employment, the 2008 level of non-residential building permits activity is expected to generate approximately 1,000 to 1,300 jobs.

The Town of Aurora issued 22 industrial building permits in 2008 compared to 13 in 2007. The value of this industrial construction totalled \$7.4 million. For the Business Park designation, there were 47 building permits in 2008 for a construction value of \$18.3 million. The number of commercial building permits in 2008 was similar to that of 2007; however, the construction value of these permits was greater. Commercial permits totalled \$21.1 million in construction value in 2008.

Two large institutional projects, the construction of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School and Hollandview Trail retirement home on 200 John West Way have a construction value of \$34 and \$18 million, respectively. St. Maximilian Kolbe will employ 60 employees in 2009 and will employ up to 100 employees when it is fully operational. Hollandview Trail will employ 40 to 60 full and part-time staff.

