

Delegation Request

This request and any written submissions or background information for consideration by either Council or Committees of Council is being submitted to Legislative Services.

Council or Committee (Choose One) *

Council

Council or Committee Meeting Date * 

2024-6-25 

Subject *

Item 8.7.2 - PDS24-060 - Results of Consultation with Owners Regarding Heritage Designation

Full Name of Spokesperson and Name of Group or Person(s) being Represented (if applicable) *

Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority

Brief Summary of Issue or Purpose of Delegation *

Provide context of heritage value for 9 Wellington Street East.
Propose enhancement of heritage characteristics of 9 Wellington Street East.
Propose amendment to motion to designate 9 Wellington Street East.

Have you been in contact with a Town staff or Council member regarding your matter of interest? *

Yes

No

Full name of the Town staff or Council member with whom you spoke

Clrs Weese & Gallo. Heritage Planning Manager

Date you spoke with Town staff or a Council member

2024-4-8 

I acknowledge that the Procedure By-law permits five (5) minutes for Delegations. *

Agree

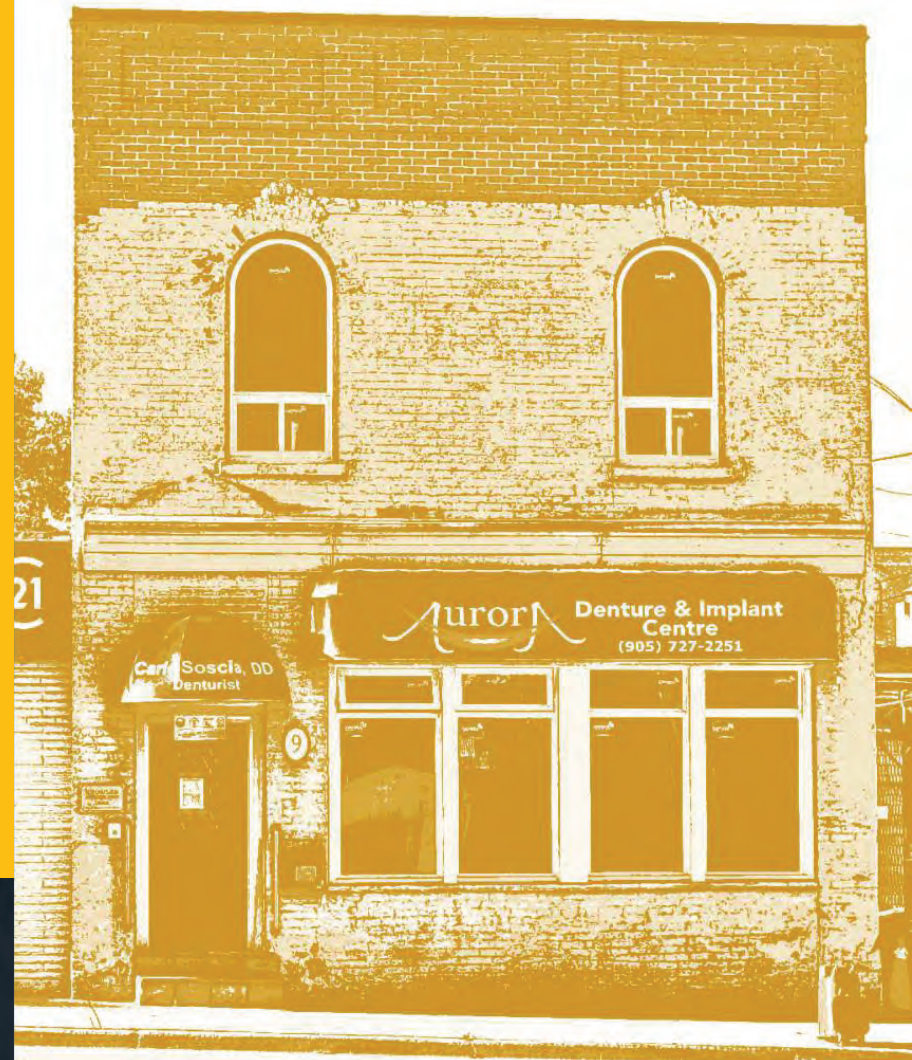
a **SIGN** of the times

HERITAGE CHARACTERISTICS & DESIGNATION of
9 WELLINGTON ST. E

A proposal to the Aurora Council by



Photograph by **Peter Cameron**



For **117** continuous years 9 Wellington St. East operated as an area butcher

Donald & Ruth Caldwell



Dave Taylor & Bob Wilson



Photo supplied by Anna Lozyk Romeo

Shugart & Associates



a changing face

Knowles BUTCHER SHOP



George & Sarah Knowles, & Family



95 of those years by four generations
of the Knowles Family

Photograph from Aurora Museum & Archives

the first cut



Photograph supplied by **Bob McRoberts**

William John Knowles moved his butcher shop from a location on Yonge st. to 9 **Wellington St. E** in **1885**



5. **William John KNOWLES** was born on 23 Feb 1860 in Aurora, York, Ontario. He died on 29 Mar 1944 in Aurora. He was a founder of Butcher Shop, Aurora, 1885. He was buried in Aurora. Mayor of Aurora, Reeve, Member York Pioneers, 1918
Founder Knowles Butcher Shop, 9 Wellington St., Aurora
1901 Census shows Emma Kendall (b 30 Aug 1873) Domestic Servant

a family build

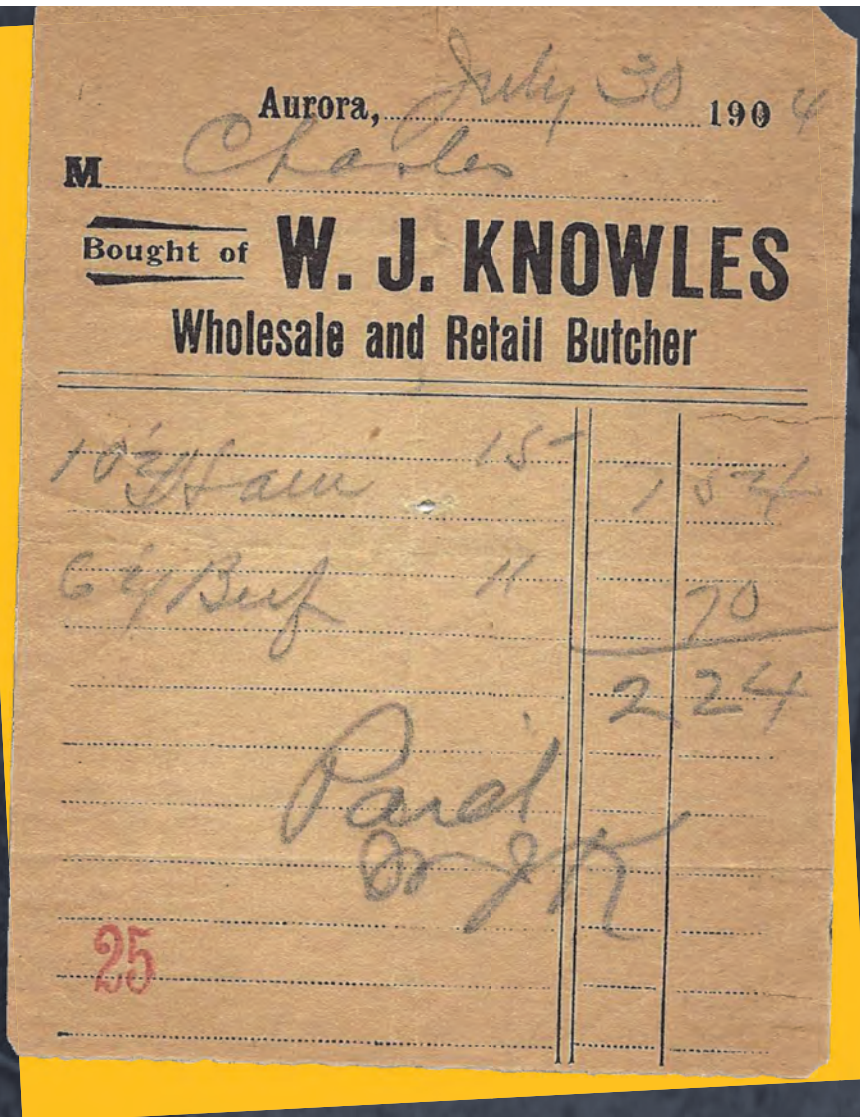
Construction of the Butcher Shop involved his father
George Knowles who ran a 4.5 acre brickyard
Located at 72 Kennedy Street West (*L1, Plan 38*)



8. **James(Jim) Albert KNOWLES** was born on 27 Sep 1867 in Aurora, York, Ontario.¹⁰ He died on 22 Apr 1949 in Aurora, York, Ontario. He was a Builder. He was buried in Aurora. Uncle "Jim" Builder, Clockmaker, Woodworker
?10 Catherine Street, Aurora?
obit. Aurora Banner april, 1949

He was married to Annie MCKINNON on 27 Nov 1888 in Aurora.

As well as his Brother **James Albert Knowles** who became an established mason/builder of many houses of the period in Aurora



Original receipt from Aurora Museum & Archives

getting down to business

There were reportedly **7 butchers** operating in the area.

What gave Knowles Butcher Shop a competitive advantage was being **the first in town to acquire a freezer** in the 1920s, as well as **the first to equip their delivery carts with rubber wheels.**

Knowles Butcher Shop made deliveries of meat and dairy through **Holland Landing, Schomberg, Pottageville, Lake Wilcox** and down into **Toronto.**

customer service community service

In addition to his business acumen William John Knowles was one of Aurora's most prominent and longest serving politicians holding office as **Warden of York County, Town of Aurora councilor, reeve and mayor.** Over 30 years of service never suffering a defeat in any municipal contest.

Town of Aurora Municipal Councils 1863-2026

Term	Mayor / Reeve / Deputy Reeve	Councillors
1890	Horace D. Lundy, Mayor Herbert W. Fleury, Reeve*	G. S. Baldwin W. C. Cliff W. J. Knowles W. G. Lloyd H. H. Read James Reynolds W. B. Richardson David E. Rogers George Russell
*Resigned January 1890; replaced by D. C. Robinson, who resigned June 1890 and was replaced by William Ough.		
1891	Horace D. Lundy, Mayor William Ough, Reeve J. W. Lloyd, Deputy Reeve	G. S. Baldwin W. C. Cliff J. B. Clubine J. S. Flumerfelt W. J. Knowles W. G. Lloyd A. Love A. Neilly David E. Rogers
1892	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor Andrew Yule, Reeve J. H. Ross, Deputy Reeve	J. Anderson G. S. Baldwin Thomas Browning R. M. Coulter H. Danbrook J. S. Flumerfelt David Johnston W. J. Knowles H. H. Read
1893	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor Andrew Yule, Reeve J. H. Ross, Deputy Reeve	J. Anderson G. S. Baldwin R. M. Coulter H. Danbrook David Johnston W. J. Knowles H. H. Read D. E. Rogers William J. Stephenson
1894	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor Andrew Yule, Reeve J. H. Ross, Deputy Reeve	J. Anderson G. S. Baldwin R. M. Coulter H. Danbrook T. Lloyd H. H. Read D. E. Rogers William J. Stephenson

Town of Aurora Municipal Councils 1863-2026

Term	Mayor / Reeve / Deputy Reeve	Councillors
1896	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor George S. Baldwin, Reeve D. E. Rogers, Deputy Reeve	J. Anderson R. M. Coulter W. A. Hutt W. J. Knowles Robert Newbury J. C. Querrie J. Reynolds John Stephenson Albert E. Taylor
1897	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor George S. Baldwin, Reeve D. E. Rogers, Deputy Reeve	R. M. Coulter William Hastings W. A. Hutt W. J. Knowles Robert Newbury George A. Pollock J. C. Querrie Albert E. Taylor William Winter
1898	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor Francis T. Daville, Reeve Albert E. Taylor, Deputy Reeve	P. T. Bond Joseph J. Davis William Hastings R. M. Hillary W. A. Hutt George A. Pollock J. C. Querrie ? Webb William Winter
1899	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor	Francis T. Daville Joseph J. Davis W. J. Knowles George A. Pollock Albert E. Taylor William Winter
1900	Francis T. Daville, Mayor	J. Anderson W. J. Knowles T. H. Lennox D. E. Rogers Albert E. Taylor William Winter
1901	Francis T. Daville, Mayor	Joseph J. Davis W. A. Hutt W. J. Knowles T. H. Lennox** Albert E. Taylor William Winter

*Died November 1901.
**Resigned May 1901 to represent Town in suit brought by Markham.
These Councillors were replaced by W. Brooksbank and G. A. Pollock in November 1901.

Town of Aurora Municipal Councils 1863-2026

Term	Mayor / Reeve / Deputy Reeve	Councillors
1904	Francis T. Daville, Mayor	W. J. Bassett William Brooksbank Thomas T. Caster Albert E. Taylor Charles Webster L. A. Willson
1905	Francis T. Daville, Mayor	W. J. Bassett William J. Knowles D. E. Rogers William C. Towns Charles Webster L. A. Willson
1906	Francis T. Daville, Mayor*	W. J. Bassett J. J. M. Butler Thomas T. Caster W. J. Knowles William C. Towns L. A. Willson
*Resigned July 16, 1906; replaced by W. J. Knowles. R. B. Dennis (elected) replaced Knowles as Councillor.		
1907	Herbert W. Fleury, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Baldwin John Bond G. T. Browning Christopher Kennedy William C. Towns L. A. Willson
1908	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett John Bond G. T. Browning William Hastings Christopher Kennedy D. E. Rogers
1909	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett John Bond G. T. Browning William Hastings P. Delahaye J. C. Querrie
1910	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett Alex W. Brodie Archie Murray Thomas Scrivener J. W. Stephenson William C. Towns
1911	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett John Bond Archie Murray Thomas Scrivener Frank Staples John D. Steele
1912	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett Fred Browning A. A. Conover B. F. Davis T. A. Manning J. A. Mitchell James Crockett T. M. Hulse

Town of Aurora Municipal Councils 1863-2026

Term	Mayor / Reeve / Deputy Reeve	Councillors
1915	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. T. Andrews W. J. Bassett James Crockett A. E. Hancock T. H. M. Hulse A. W. Murray
1916	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. T. Andrews John Ausman W. J. Bassett A. E. Hancock S. C. Taylor William A. Winter
1917	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett Fred Browning E. G. Reeves Herbert Sisman S. C. Taylor William A. Winter
1918	William J. Baldwin, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. J. Bassett Fred Browning E. G. Reeves Herbert Sisman S. C. Taylor William A. Winter
1919	William J. Bassett, Mayor William J. Knowles, Reeve	W. T. Andrews Fred Browning James Hill E. G. Reeves Herbert Sisman S. C. Taylor
1920	William J. Bassett, Mayor Thomas Scrivener, Reeve	Fred Browning Fred C. Davis John Hickson R. R. Matson



fire

June 25th 2021

'Another sad day for heritage': Mayor Tom Mrakas hopes Aurora's Knowles Butcher Shop can be repaired after fire

Knowles Butcher Shop building has stood in downtown Aurora since 1885

Photograph by [Anna Lozyk Romeo](#)

repaired



Mayor Tom Mrakas ●

June 25, 2021 · 🌐

Another sad day for heritage in our downtown core as the Knowles Butcher Shop building has most likely been irreparably damaged due to fire. This building has stood in downtown Aurora since 1885 and I am hoping that it will be able to be repaired. This will be a significant loss to our downtown, if it can not be repaired... I do want to thank [Central York Fire Services](#) for working to put the fire out quickly & ensuring that residents in the area remain safe. Our firefighters continue to work hard to make sure that the entire fire is extinguished. I ask that you please avoid the area to allow CYFS to do their job.

Photograph by Peter Cameron





Painting by [Jianming Chen](#)

Photograph by [David Heard](#)



Aurora, Ontario / Heritage & Tourism · [Join](#)

Dave Heard · September 20, 2023 · 🌐

It was a visually rewarding day to watch artist Jianming Chen capture a piece of our town.

A neighbour from Newmarket who has created quite a following for his work.

The white building on the right is the former Knowles Butcher Shop.

I am so glad I stopped to watch and say hello.

It's amazing the gifts you can receive from just sharing a pleasant greeting.

Thank you for allowing me to share the before and after Mr Chen.

respected



disrespected

Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Highlights of Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Clean Communities Bylaw

Aurora Town Council enacted a new Clean Communities By-law #6257-20 replacing the Clean Yards By-law No. 4754-05.P and Debris By-law No.4738-05.P. The new by-law consolidates both former bylaws and introduces new standards on graffiti and maintenance of boulevards. The former bylaws were written in 2005 and this new standard provides more progressive and updated regulations. Many of the existing items from the combined bylaws still remain. For specific requirements and more information on the Clean Communities Bylaw, please visit aurora.ca/bylaws.

- 3.8 Every owner of a property or a building shall keep free of graffiti any parts of the property or the building that are:
- (a) common elements,
 - (b) common access corridors and passageways,
 - (c) visible from any areas to which the public has access,
 - (d) areas that are owned by multiple unrelated persons,
 - (e) and areas to which the public has access.

For clarity, the requirements under this section do not apply to any parts of a building that are the inside of a residential dwelling.



Photograph by [Anna Lozyk Romeo](#)

ghost sign



Photograph by [Peter Cameron](#)

the upper storey modern glazing with a sliding opening had already, in an earlier modernization, replaced the old sash windows. Perhaps above and between these windows, under the several layers of paint on the brickwork, are remnants of the old painted signs “W. J. Knowles” and “Dutchman”



proposed enhancement

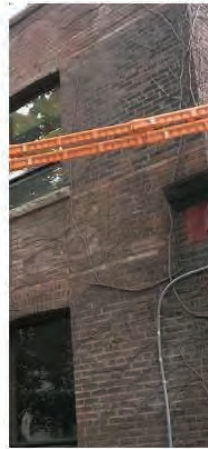
The town approach the current owner for consent to commit to a paint refresh on the second story returning the “W.J. Knowles” and “Butcher” signs to the 139 year old building without issue of interference with the current business signage on the main floor.

local experts

Reaching out to professionals that work to restore high-impact ghost signs have provided a sub \$10K ballpark costing for this effort

MURALFORM

[Home](#) [About](#) [Portfolio](#) [Mural Painting](#) [Sign Painting](#) [Blog](#) [Contact](#)



128 STERLING RD – SCYTHES & COMPANY LIMITED SIGN RESTORATION – 2015

Warehouse space for loft and office use

[128 Sterling Rd, Toronto ON M6P 0A1](#)

We were contacted by a construction company to bid on the restoration of some old signs/ghost signs that were painted about 30 -50 years ago and maybe even longer. The landlord was renovating and updating the space for a new life of rentals for warehouse and office space. It was the wish of the landlord to pay respect to the history of the building. Ghost signs have a unique history to buildings their preservation is a benefit to the whole community.

Schedule:	SP3
Reserve Fund Category:	Special Purposes
Reserve Fund Name:	Heritage

The Heritage Reserve Fund (the "Fund") is hereby established to receive and hold proceeds of agreements or donations in connection with the demolition or preservation of heritage structures, facilities or sites.

Balances in the Fund shall be used to help the Heritage Advisory Committee achieve their duties and functions as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference, as approved by Council from time to time, and to help facilitate any special programs, projects, or initiatives of the Committee which have been given Council approval.

Balances in the Fund will be planned for specific projects recommended to or by Council during the annual budget process, or other times throughout the year, having consulted with the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Due to its nature, there is no target balance for this Fund.

In the event of the dissolution of the Committee by Council, or any time following such, acting in the best interests of the Town, Council may direct that some or all balances in the Fund be transferred to other reserve funds, or used for other purposes.

The Fund is established by transfer of the current balance in the Town's Heritage Reserve Fund account.

Heritage Grant vs Heritage Fund

Eligibility for grant requires designation.

Would my property be eligible for the Heritage Grant Program?

Your property would be eligible so long as it is designated under Part IV (individual property designations) or Part V (property included within the boundary of a Heritage Conservation District) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

If the owner is opposed to designation it is unlikely they will apply for a grant.

Amendment:

That the eight properties whose owners indicated support for heritage designation (listed under Attachment #1) be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act:

71 Connaught Avenue, 15 Kennedy Street West, 19 Kennedy Street West, 29 Kennedy Street West, 77 Spruce Street, 80 Spruce Street, 139 Temperance Street, and 59 Tyler Street;

**That one property whose owners did not indicate support for heritage designation (listed under Attachment #1) be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act:
9 Wellington Street East**

That staff be authorized to publish and serve Council's Notice of Intention to Designate the respective properties Council chooses to pursue for designation in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act; and

That the respective designation by-laws be brought before Council for adoption if no objections are received as per the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act.

the writing on the wall

defer

failure to
“get things done”

vs.

designate

Pay much needed respect to Aurora's unique built heritage for the benefit of the entire community

Work to protect and designate a vulnerable business landmark in Aurora's downtown core

Contribute to downtown revitalization efforts including a more welcoming streetscape