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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

Re: Plaque Wording – 10-12 Spruce Street

To: Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Adam Robb, Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage

Date: February 9, 2026

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Plaque Wording – 10-12 Spruce Street be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Plaque Wording – 10-12 Spruce Street be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

Heritage Permit HPA-2025-03 for 10-12 Spruce Street was approved by Council in 2025 with a condition that a commemorative heritage plaque be installed by the owner. The draft wording of the plaque is being presented to the Heritage Advisory Committee for review.

Analysis

The proposed plaque wording for 10-12 Spruce Street is as follows:

On this site once stood the home of the Watson family, who moved to the property circa 1910. Wilmot Watson was the founder and dairyman of Elm Leaf Dairy and Watson's Dairy, which also operated on this site. The dairy business history on this site would continue as the dairy buildings were leased to Cousins Dairy (1928), and then acquired by Markle's Dairy (1930), before eventually becoming owned by the Aurora Dairy (1934). The Aurora Dairy was operated by Charles E. Sparks, his wife Annie, and their son Charles Lyle Sparks. In 1938, the Sparks also purchased a property at the northeast corner

of Yonge and Centre Streets, building the new Aurora Dairy commercial building there. Mr. Charles E. Sparks further served as the Reeve of the Town of Aurora from 1941 to 1947.

The plaque wording remains draft and can be reviewed and refined by the Heritage Advisory Committee as required.

The final grading and landscaping of the property is still to occur, upon which the plaque would be installed thereafter. The plaque is anticipated to be cast iron and can potentially be mounted on a landscape stone visible from the sidewalk. Staff are looking to finalize the plaque wording to prepare for installation shortly after final grading and landscaping are completed on the property.

Attachments

None