

HOME: House may still be saved

Continued from FRONT
Society president Margaret Baker says the preservation of historical sites throughout Innisfil is the duty of its residents, something that may be achieved by signing the petition.

being demolished very quickly," she said. "There are three members of the historical society on the (Innisfil) Heritage Committee, we wish them well on their preservation of historical sites ... all is not lost."

have shown interest in preserving the homestead, by moving it to another property free of charge, or allowing heritage preservationists to collect important items from the house.

Bentley's main concern is preserving the homestead, regardless of where it sits.

"I really don't want to point fingers at a developer or council, or criticize (in the wording of the petition), all I wanted to do was saving the house or moving it to a designated site," she said. "We're hoping a developer will step forward and somehow be a hero for this community."

And several weeks ago, developers demolished the Ness-Adair century home, which was located across the road from McConkey.

But town has taken several steps to ensure local historical sites are preserved. Currently, the town's her-

itage committee is compiling a list of at least 31 historical sites of interest within the municipality, the first step towards preserving heritage buildings.

A copy of the petition is available at Adam and Eve Tanning Salon in the Crossroads Plaza in Alcona.

Committee raises \$3.5 million for rec complex

By Chris Simon
Their mission is complete, over \$3.5 million later. The Innisfil Recreation Centre Fundraising Campaign Committee has officially exceeded its \$3.5 million goal. After nearly three years, the committee — which consists of volunteers from throughout the municipality — has decided to disband. Co-chair Heather MacDonald says all of the committees goals, including raising the funding, promotion and awareness of the pro-

ject and engaging residents in the construction process, have been completed.

"The objectives were to raise funds for the new recreation centre, raise awareness and create an opportunity for citizens to become involved," she said, during a presentation to Innisfil council last week.

The committee earned funding through several different streams. They received over \$3.1 million through their leadership group, while more than

\$197,000 in corporate, about \$90,700 in community and nearly \$25,500 in personal donations were raised. Sport groups also donated nearly \$56,500, said MacDonald.

"The total far exceeds our goal," she said. "Volunteers, sponsors and (town) staff all contributed to the time and effort in supporting our cause, but most important are our donors. Without their donations, our campaign could not have accomplished its objectives."

Seventeen people or orga-

nizations donated over \$50,000 to the complex, said MacDonald.

As part of the campaign, the committee sold 334 seats at the complex. Of those, 179 were purchased by corporations, 93 by residents, 41 by community groups and 21 by sports organizations.

Once complete, the \$29 million recreation complex will feature two skating rinks, an aquatics facility, gymnasium, fitness room, and community space. It is expected to be complete

sometime this summer.

Councillors say the organization vastly exceeded fundraising expectations. The group actually had to adjust its goal twice, after strong community support, said deputy mayor and committee member Gord Wauchope.

"All members of this committee worked hard," he said. "The first meeting, we thought we could raise \$750,000. We reached that in no time, and raised it to \$1.5 million. We exceeded that

and raised it to 2.1, exceeded that and decided to go all ahead for the 3.5. A lot of people gave out of their hearts."

Others were pleasantly surprised by the final amount raised.

"There was a lot of spirit and dedication to accomplish your goal," said mayor and committee member Brian Jackson. "You kept moving along. It's always a pleasure to have someone come before council and say they've exceeded their goal."

Cookstown intersection gets provincial funding

By Chris Simon
Cookstown's main intersection will be getting several hundred thousand dollars in additional provincial funding.

Innisfil council formally accepted over \$200,600 in

provincial funding for improvements traffic lights at the intersection of Queen and King streets in Cookstown, during a meeting last week.

The money, which is funded through the Ministry of

Transportation's Connecting Link program, will be used to lessen the financial impact on the town. Last month, the town approved the reconstruction of the intersection, with the province committing several hundred thousand

dollars to the project, said engineering technologist Grant Shellswell in a report to council.

"This additional funding will eliminate the over expenditure that council previously approved for this project. The Connecting Link funding is based on 90 per cent MTO funding and 10 per cent town funding on a capital works project," he said.

The overall cost for the

reconstruction of the intersection is nearly \$519,000, with most of that being paid for by the province. It includes the traffic signal replacement, and improvements to the intersection's sidewalk, pedestrian signals and storm sewers.

Shellswell says the reconstruction is necessary.

"The additional funding allocated to the town is what the town had request from the ministry," he said. "The

town should accept the additional funding."

Councillor Lynn Dollin is pleased with the funding.

"More money!" she said, jokingly referring to the \$2.8 million funding announced for the Innisfil Public Library's new Cookstown branch recently. "I go away for a week and Cookstown gets \$3 million. Looks like I should go away more often."

As part of the funding requirement, the town will be required to submit a detailed report on the project's final expenditures.

Construction will begin sometime after the Victoria Day long weekend.

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