

# Black pleased with plans to eliminate need for left turns onto 400

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The parking lot is currently in the southeast corner of the interchange, and the plan is to move it to the northwest corner. As well, the new lot will have at

least 233 spots, as well as an area for buses to load. Clarke said that's about 50 per cent more spots than are in the current lot.

"It fits better," he explained, justifying the relocation of the lot. He

added it ties in with the ramp pattern the ministry has been looking at.

Don Cleghorn, of SNC-Lavalin Group, said there are also concerns that the current lot is accessed directly from the ramp off

the northbound highway, with slowing traffic in such a high-speed area producing worries. He added this is a design issue, as opposed to a collision concern.

Clarke also said the bridge over the highway will be larger and higher to accommodate the widening. It will be built in two halves, thus allowing for the passage of traffic during construction.

In terms of the way the project is progressing, Clarke said they are in the detailed design stage of the class environmental assessment (EA) process for the intersection reconstruction, and the purpose of Thursday's session was to obtain input

from the public. A previous session had been held in Kettleby at the start of the process, about six years ago, he said.

He added Cansfield has stated construction on this part of the project should start sometime next year, subject to the completion of the EA and acquiring the necessary property. There are only strips of land needed to accomplish the work.

Clark said that timeline is doable.

"We're working towards that," he said. "It's realistic."

Clarke also said they have been working with York Region officials on this, since King is a Regional Road.

Mayor Margaret Black said she's received letters from the Ministry about what's in the works.

She said she was pleased with the plans to do away with the left turns to get on the highway. "That's a good thing, a very good thing," she remarked.

She also observed reducing congestion in the area will benefit fire and ambulance personnel.

Despite that, Black pointed out the work on the highway will lead to more traffic in King.

"I'm never okay with more traffic going through the township, but I have no control over it," she remarked. "It's a result of the growth around King."

## Council asked to act on 'monster homes'

By Bill Rea

The building of excessively large homes in the King City area has prompted concern in the community.

Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) made their concerns known earlier this month, through a letter from CCKT Vice-chair Ron Mitchell and a deputation from CCKT

Chair Debbie Schaefer. Councillors received Schaefer's presentation.

In his letter, Mitchell complained about a house of "overwhelming size relative to any neighbouring homes" being constructed in King City. While he agreed the house has "attractive design features," he stated it's out of place, in terms of its lot, street and local

environment.

While he defended property-owners' rights to develop land as they please, he maintained there are responsibilities too, and that hasn't been shown in this case.

Mitchell said he had been told verbally that the house complies with zoning

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## Councillor trying to protect historic character in neighbourhoods

By Bill Rea

King councillors recently backed the motion of Councillor Cleve Mortelliti, calling on the Township planning director to report back on "neighbourhood specific" or "era specific" policies to be enacted in a bylaw, with the aim of preserving King's historical character in the communities and neighbourhoods.

In the preamble of his motion, Mortelliti pointed out King is made up of several communities that

different types of growth over different periods in more than the last 100 years, and that had contributed to what he called the "built heritage" of the Township. He added the physical character of communities and neighbourhoods are distinguishable according to the decade or era in which they were constructed.

He stated current and proposed zoning bylaws provide only general criteria, which means replacement homes could be constructed with little regard

to the historic nature of what's there. "Many of these replacement homes are incongruous with not only the homes they've replaced, but also with their respective neighbourhoods, particularly in regard to height," he stated.

Mortelliti told his colleagues he realized stressing "built heritage" provisions could be a problem, adding he was more concerned about character matters.

"It sounds good," commented Councillor Jack Rupke, who also wondered how long the report would take. Planning Director Stephen Kitchen said he would try to have it back by the end of 2007.

Rupke was also concerned about how council is to define property rights, as well as which ones are to be taken away. He added there have been cases where streets with older homes have eventually evolved into streets with newer homes over time. He added that can all be discussed when council gets the report.

Mortelliti commented this issue was started by residents with concerns, adding it's something everyone should have input on. He added the point is to get discussion started so the voice of the community can be heard, as well as to make sure policies are developed that are enforceable.



## Jazz lovers flock to King Swings

The annual King Swings Jazz Festival took place over the weekend, in support of Hospice King-Aurora. Jeff Healey and the Jazz Wizards were back to open the show Thursday night and they had a packed house. He was accompanied by Reide Kaiser, Gary Scriven, Jesse Barksdale, Drew Jurecka, Colin Bray, Ross Wooldridge and Chris Plock.



Mark "Bird" Stafford and the Harmonica Knights entertained the audience Friday night. The group consisted of Aaron Griggs on guitar, James Rasmussen on bass, Al Webster on drums and Geoff Daye on keyboards. The group was later joined by fellow harmonica master Chuck Jackson.



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