

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 19, 2007**

### **DOORS OPEN VAUGHAN, 2009**

#### **Recommendation**

Councillor Tony Carella, Co-Chair, Vaughan Tourism Advisory Committee (VTAC), Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, Chair, Arts Advisory Committee (AAC), and Councillor Alan Shefman, Chair, Community Equity & Diversity Committee (CEDC) jointly recommend that the City Manager direct appropriate staff to conduct a feasibility study with respect to an annual *Doors Open* event in the City of Vaughan, such study to examine the costs and benefits of such an event in improving, respectively,

(1) the perception of Vaughan as an area of tourist interest

(2) the awareness on the part of the general public of significant examples of contemporary architectural and interior design styles within the City of Vaughan, and

(3) the appreciation by local residents of the diversity of the community in which they live, as evidenced by the range of religious, ethnocultural, and institutional facilities across Vaughan,

and

that such study be provided to a future Committee of the Whole, by the end of June 2008, for implementation in the spring of 2009, subject to 2009 budget approval.

#### **Economic Impact**

Nil

#### **Purpose**

To determine the feasibility of pursuing from additional perspectives a project usually viewed solely as “heritage-related”

#### **Communication Plan**

As this is an internal matter---exploring the feasibility of a city-sponsored, annual event---a communication plan is not required at this time.

#### **Background – Analysis and Options**

According to its own information “package” (see Attachment 1) *Doors Open Ontario* is a province-wide celebration of community heritage sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Trust, designed to create access, awareness and excitement about heritage while providing residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy hidden and always interesting places and spaces in Ontario cities, towns and villages.

The City’s sole previous Doors Open Vaughan event, held in September 2003, reflected this essentially “heritage” focus of this province-wide initiative in the choice of doors that were opened at that time (see Attachment 2).

In the view of the chairs of VTAC, ACC, and CDEC, this focus---while inherently interesting---is limited in terms of what might be accomplished by broadening the basis

upon which sites are selected. Granted, "heritage" sites are of interest to local residents, and indeed to visitors touring the City of Vaughan, but there are a host of other sites of interest to tourists which, given the parameters of the Doors Open concept, would *never* be listed in a typical Doors Open guidebook.

Strictly by way of example, and without suggesting in any way that participation in a wider Doors Open initiative has been agreed upon by the administrators of any of the sites located below, how many residents/tourists might be interested in a "behind the scenes" tour of Canada's Wonderland, via an open "back door", or of the McMichael Collection, or the local fire hall?

And if such sites---non-heritage-related sites of interest to residents/tourists---do exist, there are others non-heritage sites which possess a substantial measure of appeal for purely architectural or interior design reasons. For instance, the soon-to-be-opened Power Stream building, the new city hall, once built, or the Miele Canada building.

Furthermore, as the population of the City continues to grow and diversify, the opening of doors to buildings associated exclusively with only certain segments of the general population would add greatly to the promotion of mutual understanding between different religious and/or ethno cultural groups. For instance, Beth Avraham Yoseph synagogue in Thornhill, Bait-ul-Islam mosque in Maple, and St. Margaret Mary Church in Woodbridge.

Beyond all of the above, there are other sites---primarily institutional---which are known to residents solely as streetscape markers, places they may pass every day, but entry to which they might feel is barred to them if their only motivator is curiosity.

The proponents of the above recommendation do not wish to see a Doors Open initiative that neglects our built heritage. Rather, they wish to build on the foundation established by Vaughan's first Doors Open event, by adding sites of inherent interest---or even just curiosity---on bases other than "heritage".

### **Regional Implications**

Nil

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

A feasibility study in respect of a broadened Doors Open concept could lead to an annual event that has merit in respect of promoting tourism, the appreciation of local contemporary architecture, and intercommunity understanding.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: Background on Door Open Ontario (including DOV 2003 budget)

Attachment 2: Extracts from Door Open Vaughan brochure, 2003

### **Report prepared by:**

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella  
Councillor – Ward 2

Sandra Yeung Racco  
Councillor - Ward 4

Alan Shefman  
Councillor - Ward 5

# Doors Open Ontario

## **Background**

Doors Open Ontario is a province-wide celebration of community heritage sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Trust. The program is designed to create access, awareness and excitement about heritage and provides residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy sometimes hidden and always interesting places and spaces in Ontario cities, towns and villages.

## **Registration Criteria**

The following criteria must be met for a community to register an event in the Doors Open program:

- An organizing committee must be formed; the committee should consist of a range of community partners, including (but not limited to) the heritage sector, cultural sector, tourism sector, municipal sector, corporate sector and community volunteers.
- One lead contact must be appointed by the local Doors Open organizing committee to co-ordinate, manage and act as liaison between the Ontario Heritage Trust and the participating community/community cluster.
- Sites included in Doors Open events must be of historic, architectural, natural or cultural significance.
- Events must take place between April and October.
- Communities must have the ability to open a minimum of 12 sites of historic, architectural, natural and/or cultural significance for public access during a specified time period.
- Admission to the main attraction at each participating property must be free to the public; sites that are normally open should consider opening an additional part of the property or arranging a special event or activity.
- Sites should provide some interpretive/tour information to visitors and must be manned by volunteers.

## **Benefits to the Community**

A Doors Open Event provides many benefits to the community. Some are listed below:

- Promote pride in your community's heritage.
- Draw visitors from other areas of Ontario, Canada and abroad
- Build a legacy by integrating heritage and culture into community planning and events.

- Generate economic and business opportunities at the community level through programming and heritage tourism packages, and in some cases, the development and sale of related merchandise.
- Foster strategic alliances among a range of community partners.
- Create opportunities for sustainable community tourism development and partnerships.
- Maximize tourism opportunities.

**Requirements**

- Each community must form a Doors Open organizing committee, usually consisting of representatives from municipal or regional heritage, tourism, arts and culture units, Municipal Heritage Advisory (Heritage Vaughan).
- Budget funds, sponsorship or donations must be secured by the organizing committee.
- Timelines must be met as it relates to submitting sites and information to the Ontario Heritage Trust.

**Budget**

The following budget represents minimum requirements to produce event based on past event in 2003 however, represent current costs:

*Graphics for brochure with in-house photography and text write-ups.	\$3000
*Brochure production/printing @ 83 thousand households + general Distribution and brochures for sites= 90 to 95 thousand	\$12000
*Ad mail Distribution (confirmed price- all Vaughan residents)	\$8000
* City Ads in Paper (Free and paid)	\$1000
* Registration to Doors Open	\$1500
* Banners/signage for each site	\$3000
* Opening Ceremonies Refreshments	\$1000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$29,500</b>

## Information To Know Before Starting Your Visits!

Entrance to all heritage sites are free of charge except for Kleinburg historic core sites on September 6th, 2003. The Binder Tyvine Festival is being held on this day and an entrance fee to the Kleinburg core will apply to visitors. Sites that will be effected on this day are the Kline House, and the Kleinburg Book Company.

Access to the interior of buildings is available at most sites except where noted. Please respect signage identifying restricted areas at all sites.

Wheelchair accessibility is limited at certain sites and is noted where it is limited.

Public Washroom facilities are only available at limited sites and are noted where available.

Please do not park illegally when visiting sites. All posted parking signage should be obeyed.

Please use caution & care when parking, entering, exiting and driving to sites.

No food or refreshments will be available at sites.

**All sites feature self-guided tours only.** We will have volunteers at every site to answer any questions. Information brochures will also be available for pick-up at every site that outline historical information of the property.

Lastly-Enjoy your visits!

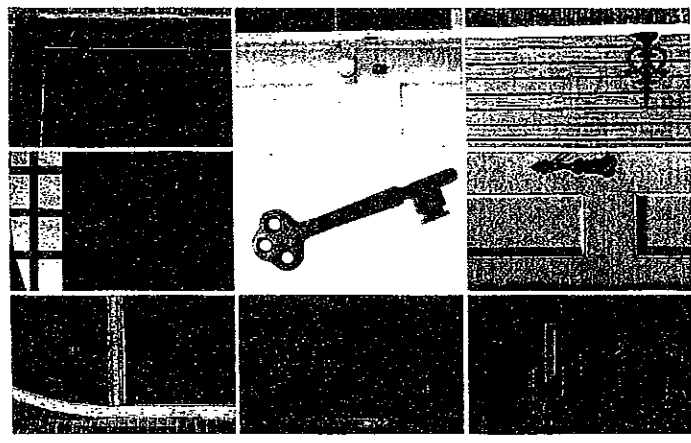
The City of Vaughan gratefully acknowledges volunteers and heritage property owners that have given their time and resources for this event. Without their assistance, this community event would not be possible.



For More Information, please visit  
[www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca) or  
[www.city.vaughan.on.ca](http://www.city.vaughan.on.ca)  
 or call the Department of Recreation and Culture  
 at (905) 832-8585 ext. 3128  
 or email [culture@city.vaughan.ca](mailto:culture@city.vaughan.ca)

# DOORS OPEN VAUGHAN

Over 150 years of history to visit

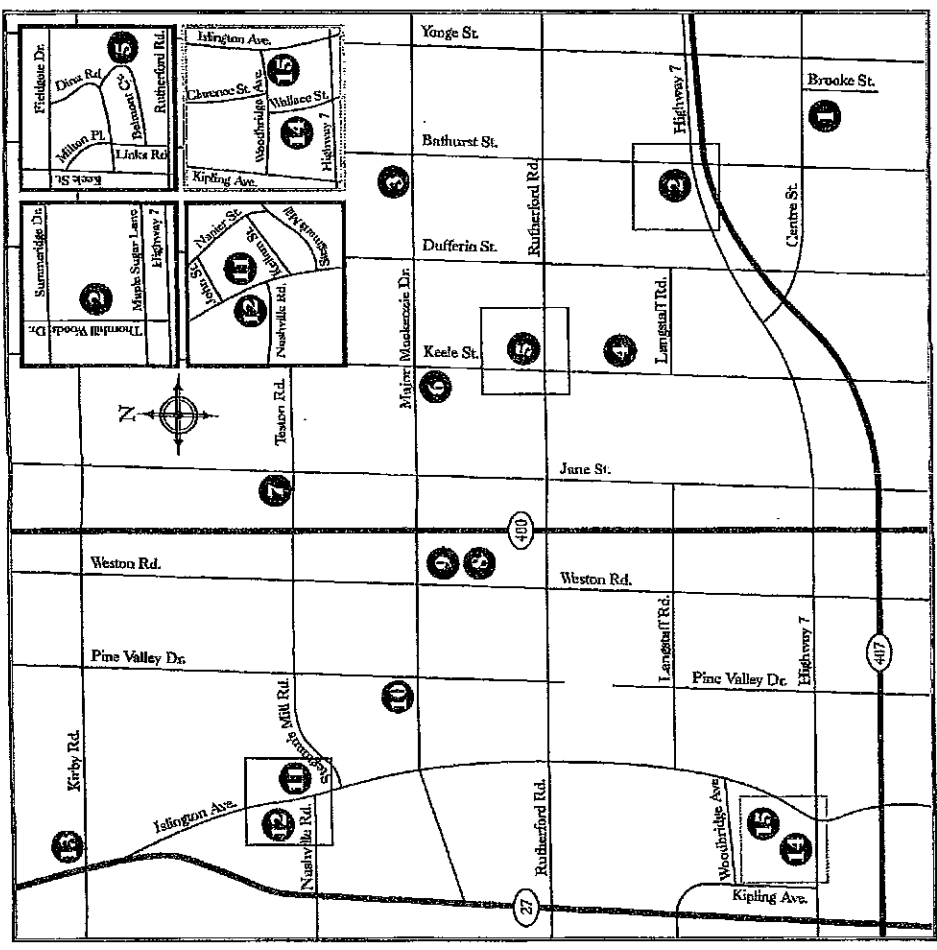


Saturday, September 6th &  
 Sunday, September 7th, 2003

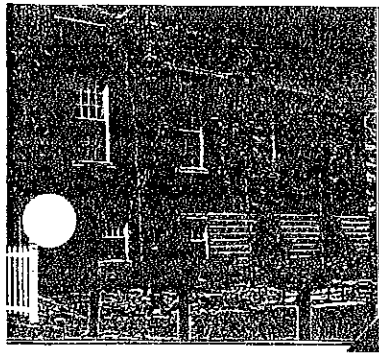
Sites Open between  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 both days



The City Above Toronto



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. J.R. H. Thoreum MacDonnald Property<br>121 Centre Street | 6. Maple United Church, Maple<br>9954 Keele Street, Maple     | 11. Kleinburg Book Company<br>Murray Log House<br>10499 Islington Avenue         |
| 2. Baker House<br>91 Thornhill Woods Drive                  | 7. Teston United Church, Teston<br>10778 June Street          | 12. John N. Kline House<br>8 Mainville Road, Kleinburg                           |
| 3. George Munshaw House<br>980 Major Mackenzie Drive        | 8. Veilore Historic Township Hall<br>9541 Weston Road         | 13. J&L Herman Pottery Studio/<br>Mount Lebaron Public School<br>5970 Kirby Road |
| 4. Zion Lutheran Church, Maple<br>5795 Keele Street, Maple  | 9. Veilore School<br>9541 Weston Road                         | 14. Woodbridge Memorial War Tower<br>80 Wallace Street, Woodbridge               |
| 5. Peter Rupert House<br>51 Belmont Crescent, Maple         | 10. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church<br>10150 Pine Valley Drive | 15. Nathaniel Wallace House<br>137 Woodbridge Avenue                             |
- Please note: Map not to scale.**



1 (north of Rutherford)

constructed in 1868 on this site original log schoolhouse built in 1837. raged extensively in the early century; however, it maintains a riginal one-room schoolhouse plan. l architectural features include a od paneling on the interior and ell tower on the exterior. The red to its 1920 appearance by 1. Today it is used for recreation ed to community groups.

facilities are available at this is not wheelchair accessible.

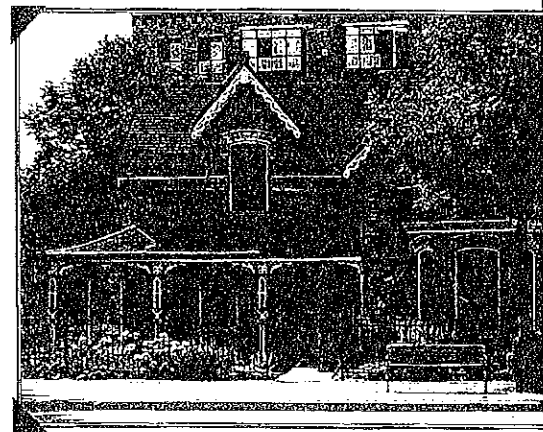
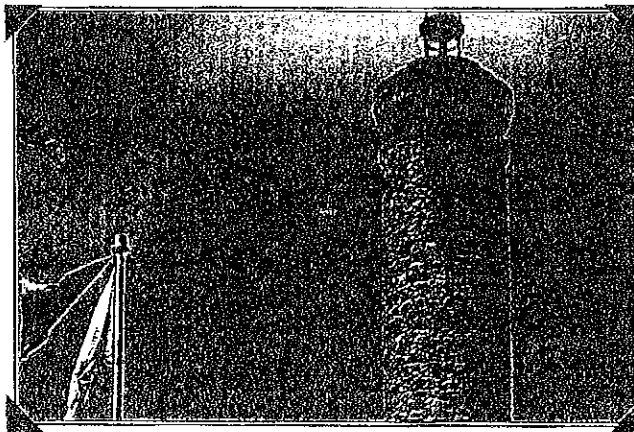
10. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
10150 Pine Valley Drive  
(north of Major Mackenzie Drive)  
Year built: 1888

The original congregation of the church can be dated to 1844. At that time church services were usually held in people's homes by a traveling church minister. The brick church structure has a unique Italianate style detailing. Surrounding the church is an early cemetery that holds some of Vaughan's pioneer settlers.

*A church service will take place on Sunday, September 7th between 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome to attend, however, no touring of the interior of the church will be permitted while the service is in progress.*

11. Kleinburg Book Company/  
Murray Log House  
10499 Islington Avenue (at Kellam Street)  
Year built: log structure ca. 1830,  
reconstructed at the site in 1995

The log structure that is the home to the Kleinburg Book Company was once located on Jane Street and moved to its present location by its owners Paul & Zena Reinhardt in 1994. The log structure was original to the Murray family farm and constructed in 1830. Over a two-year period the house was re-erected and renovated in Kleinburg historic core. The log structure and the bookstore was a welcome addition to the historic village nestled north of Major Mackenzie Drive. The Kleinburg Book Company sells current bestsellers and is a unique place to visit for book lovers.



13. Ian Pottery Studio/  
Donnon Public School  
(east of Regional Road 27)

1976 as a typical one-room schoolhouse. The board & batten structure is used as a ceramic art studio by Jack and Jill. The structure still retains most original features. It served as a classroom #20 until 1961 and was demolished in 1963. Fine pottery is designed and created by the studio display.

14. Woodbridge War Memorial Tower  
80 Wallace Street, Woodbridge  
Year built: 1924

The local community built the Woodbridge War Memorial Tower in memory to those who served in the First World War. It later became a memorial to those men and women who served in the Second World War and the Korean War. German field guns, a donation from the Ministry of Defense, were brought to the site via the railway line that travels behind the tower. The City completed a new landscape plan that included the restoration of the beacon tower in 1995 with the assistance of the Woodbridge Legion. The beacon light of the tower, a symbol of eternal and guiding light, still shines at night for those that made the supreme sacrifice.

*Tower is not wheelchair accessible.*

15. Nathaniel Wallace House  
137 Woodbridge Avenue (west of Clarence Avenue)  
Year built: 1873

The history of the Wallace family in Woodbridge spans four generations and is a story of pioneering individuals that attained recognition as successful political representatives in both municipal and federal government elected offices. The Wallace family also owned a local hotel and successful general store. Captain Nathaniel Wallace, the senior of the Wallace family members built this Gothic Revival style structure during the later part of his life. The building has maintained its original architectural integrity; few changes have been made to the structure since its construction in 1873. The house is owned by the City of Vaughan and currently, a task force spearheaded by the Woodbridge Rotary Club is examining the future use of the house.

*Public washroom facility is available at this site. Second floor is not wheelchair accessible.*

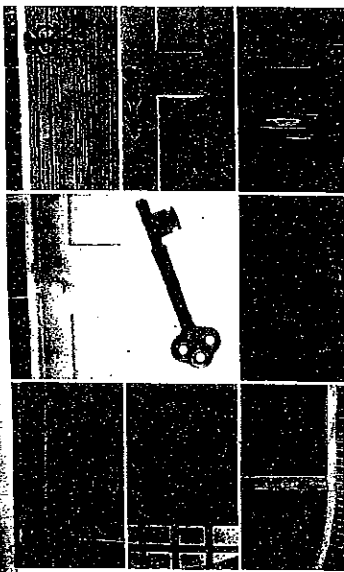
Opening Ceremonies  
& Launch of the Event  
will take place at  
Vellore Township Hall  
9541 Weston Road, Maple  
Saturday, September 6th - 10 a.m.

Doors Open Vaughan is organized in conjunction with Doors Open Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Doors Open events are aimed at opening the otherwise limited access to heritage sites in local communities. Vaughan has over 700 heritage properties, 40 of which are designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The City owns 13 heritage sites used by community groups and for recreation programs.

Vaughan was first incorporated as the Township of Vaughan in 1850 and became a City in 1991. Its rich agricultural land and Humber & Don River systems made it an ideal place to settle for early pioneers. Settlement in the area dates from 1798 by the United Empire Loyalist from the United States. The second and more recent phase of settlement originated from the British Isles (1820-1900) and more recently, western and eastern Europe (post-1945). Today, the City boasts a population of 215,000 and is considered one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada. Its combination of diverse cultures, historic cores and urban amenities make it a great place to live.



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Vaughan  
The City Above Toronto



Over 150 years of history to visit  
**DOORS OPEN VAUGHAN**

# Doors Open Vaughan Heritage Sites

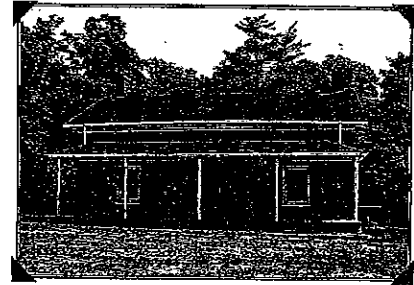
Sites Open: Saturday, September 6th & Sunday, September 7th, 2003



**1. J.E.H./Thoreau MacDonald Property**  
121 Centre Street (south side of Centre Street, west of Brooke Street, parking located south of Holy Trinity Church, 140 Brooke Street parking lot only, entrance to property here)  
Year built: ca. 1900

J.E.H. MacDonald was a founding member of the Group of Seven painters. MacDonald bought the 121 Centre Street property in 1916. His famous painting, the "Tangled Garden" was painted on the property that now hangs at the National Gallery, Ottawa. His son, Thoreau, inherited the house and property after J.E.H.'s death in 1932. Thoreau lived on the property until 1980. The City of Vaughan purchased the site in 1974.

The site will undergo a major landscape revitalization plan scheduled for 2003/2004. It will see the introduction of a pathway system and garden areas. Additionally, the "Tangled Garden", will be re-introduced to the site at its original location.



**2. Baker House**  
91 Thornhill Woods Drive, Thornhill  
(Regional Road No. 7 & Langstaff Road)  
Year Built: 1840-60

The Baker Homes at this location were once part of a larger homestead owned by the Bakers - a pioneer Mennonite/Dunkard family that first settled in Vaughan in 1802 from Pennsylvania. The buildings at this location include the original Baker homestead house built in 1850. This is a red brick vernacular Georgian style structure designed with simplistic lines common in Mennonite/Dunkard construction. This structure was moved 100 metres east to its present location in 2000 and renovated (that included a new rear addition) by the City of Vaughan, with the assistance of the Philippine Heritage Band. The second building at the site is an early ca. 1840 board-on-board construction house once located along Bathurst Street. A maple syrup processing building dating from ca. 1888, also found at the site, was once used by the Baker family to process the maple sugar sap gathered from the woodlot adjacent to the site.

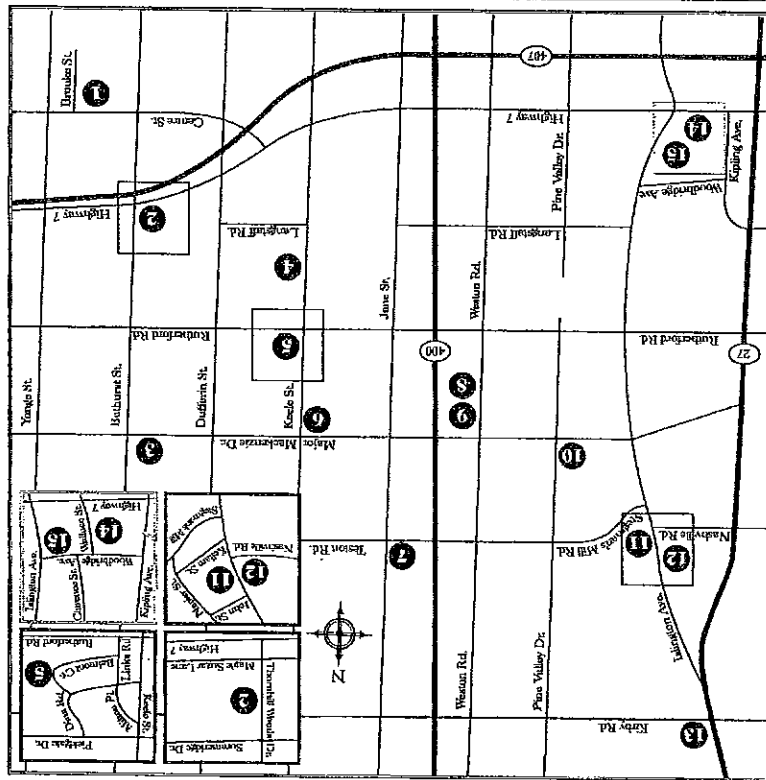
Please note the Philippine Heritage Band will be giving a performance to visitors during the afternoon of Sunday, September 7th.



**3. George Munnshaw House**  
980 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Year  
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Please note: Map not to scale

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4. Zion Lutheran Church, Maple	9755 Keele Street, Maple
5. Peter Ruppert House	51 Belmont Crescent, Maple
6. Maple United Church, Maple	954 Keele Street, Maple
7. Teston United Church, Teston	10775 Jane Street
8. Yellow Historic Township Hall	9541 Weston Road
9. Yellow School	9541 Weston Road
10. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church	10150 Pine Valley Drive



Maple  
The  
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