

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 18, 2007

TREE SCULPTURES – MAPLE CORE

Recommendation

Councillor Peter Meffe recommends:

1. That in support of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Staff review opportunities to establish a Tree Sculpture Program; and
2. That Staff be directed to confirm that the Maple tree located at the north east corner of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is an option for this initiative; and
3. That Staff be directed to contact Udo Schönberg in order to ascertain the extent of the branches which should be removed in order to facilitate the carving of this tree into the likeness of Reverend William Aitken.

Economic Impact

Nil.

Communications Plan

Staff is to contact Udo Schönberg to ensure that the tree is cut to specific criteria in order to ensure the proper carving of the tree.

Purpose

Mr. Schönberg contacted my office and advised me of the condition of this tree, he suggested rather than removing the tree that we should consider its carving. He also advised me that Orangeville was successful in the preservation of trees and now has 35 sculpted trees along their main street.

Background - Analysis and Options

In keeping with the historical designation we are presently working on in the Maple core, I believe this is a desirable addition. Instead of removing these old historical trees we can preserve and beautify the neighbourhood. This could be the first of many trees which would also encourage another pedestrian tourist attraction through the Maple core. I also believe that the choice of Reverend William Aitken will also be significant as he was the minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, His son Maxwell was born in Maple and later become Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of aircraft production for Britain.

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.

Regional Implications

None.

Conclusion

The encouragement of preservation of our history is important; it allows us a glimpse of our past and provides our future generations with important insights as to what has shaped our community.

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Attachments

1. Letter of Udo Schönberg;
2. Orangeville Art Walk of Tree Sculptures; and
3. Picture of proposed carving.

Report prepared by:

Adele Panicali,
Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meffe,
Councillor, Ward 1

June 1, 2007

City of Vaughan

Councillor Peter Meffel

This is a request to improve the streetscape in Maple

A Maple tree in the north east corner of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is dying. Dead branches falling down present a significant danger to the public using the church parking lot, as well as the churchgoers.

Rather than cutting the tree off at the roots and thus destroying a significant part of history, (the tree is an estimated 130 years old) it has been decided to remove the top branches and carve a likeness of Reverend William Aitken, based on a church photograph ,into the remaining trunk left standing. The carving would be facing Keele St. at about a 45 degree angle. You may be aware that the city of Orangeville has done this with at least 35 trees located primarily along its main street.

As you no doubt know, Rev. Wm Aitken was the minister at St. Andrews from 1865 to 1880, when he moved to New Brunswick. His son Maxwell Aitken was born here in Maple and

later in life became Lord Beaverbrook. He was the Minister of aircraft production in England during the 2nd WW. (I am led to believe that he was on a first name basis with then Prime Minister Winston Churchill.) Also Rev. Aitkens daughter Katie is buried in the grave yard across from the church on the east side of Keele street.

Lord Beaverbrook donated the carillons to St. Andrews in 1964. Unfortunately the church was struck by lightning in about 1979 and the electronics were destroyed.

Clearly the Aitken family has close connections to Maple and particularly St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Preserving the tree trunk in form of a carving would be most appropriate.

I have met with a carver, he examined the tree and has no problem with the work. The life expectancy of this carving would be 25 years.

However, there is the problem of removing the top portion or dead branches of the tree. Since they are big, high up, and close to the hydro wires, to have it done by church members presents dangers that are possibly significant.

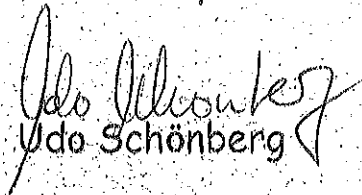
Therefore, this is a request to you and the city to have the work done by the city forestry division. They have the equipment, know-how and experience to do it quickly at very little, if any cost while adding significantly to streetscape, which is of great interest to the city.

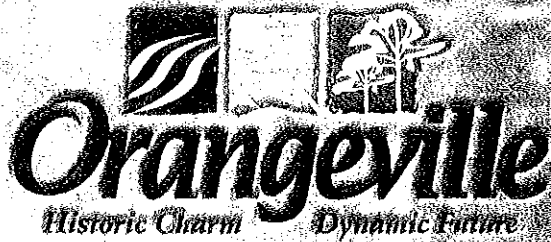
Given that the city is trying to create a historical area around Keele street and has spent significant amounts of money on consultants, this should not create a problem. (The cost of the carving has already been assumed by a resident of Maple)

In addition, at some future date, it would probably appropriate to erect a plaque near the statue explaining the significance of this carving to the public.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Yours truly


Udo Schönberg



If you would like further information on the
Art Walk of Tree Sculptures for Orangeville
Please contact

Town of Orangeville
519-941-0440
www.orangeville.ca

If you would like visitor information for Orangeville
or the surrounding area
Please contact

The Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association
519-942-0314
1-800-332-9744
www.thehillsofheadwaters.com

Orangeville Art Walk of TREE Sculptures





269 Broadway
Subject: Homage to the Tree that Was
Artist: John Taylor
Background: Relief carving - Homage to a Tree.



315 Broadway
Subject: The Mouse
Artist: Walter vanderWindt
Background: A mouse heads down the tree stump to reach some berries at the bottom.



293 Broadway
Subject: The Eagle & Salmon
Artist: Jim Menken
Private sponsor



295 Broadway
Subject: Female Tree Spirit
Artist: Colin Partridge
Background: This tree spirit is Mr. Partridge's interpretation of "Patience" - the lady-in-waiting and life-long friend to Catherine the Great. Because Catherine was illiterate, Patience read and wrote all correspondence and literature for her. When Catherine died, Patience was devastated and very depressed. She wandered off into the woods, never to be seen again. At least, that is, until Mr. Partridge found her hidden in an Orangeville tree stump and released her for the world to see.



256 Broadway
Subject: The Fiddler
Artist: Nick Orac
Sponsored by Alison, Drew, Ian & Christopher Brown



305 Broadway
Subject: Thomas Jull
Artist: Peter Mogensen
Background: Thomas Jull, 1817-1896, was born in Kent, England, and moved to Orangeville in 1848 where Mr. Jull and his brother-in-law J.W. Red (both sons-in-law of Orange Lawrence - the town's founder) built the stone grist mill on Mill Street. Mr. Jull also owned a saw mill on Wellington Street. One of Orangeville's early entrepreneurs, Mr. Jull was also active in municipal politics and was a leading member of the Methodist Church.



295A Broadway
Subject: The Farmer
Artist: Jim Menken
Background: The Farmer represents the area's agricultural background.



250 Broadway
Subject: The Indian
Artist: Jeff Waters



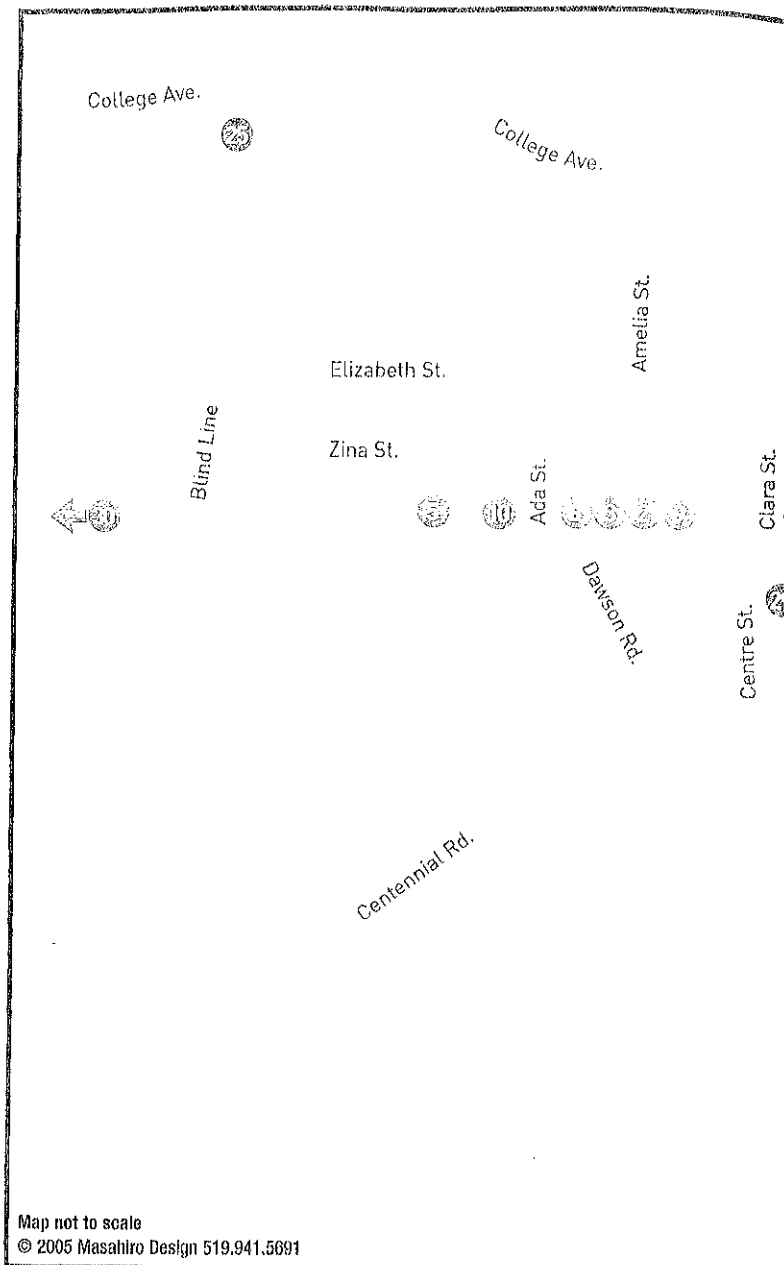
255 Broadway
Subject: Alexander Dunlop McKittrick
Artist: Peter Mogensen
Background: A.D. McKittrick, 1871-1949, was born on a farm in East Garafraxa. As an adult, he went to work at Orangeville's local paper, The Banner, first as editor and then as partner in 1931 Mr. McKittrick became the sole owner, publisher and editor of The Banner and continued in these roles until his death in 1949. Mr. McKittrick served on town council and as Mayor of the town. He was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Orangeville.



267 Broadway
Subject: Tree Spirit
Artist: Colin Partridge



297 Broadway
Subject: Braided rope with faces
Artist: Jeff Waters



21 York Street
Subject: Dr. A.G. Campbell
Artist: Peter Mogensen
Background: George Harold "Doc" Campbell, D.D.S. was born in 1878 in Orangeville and died in 1972 in Orangeville. Dr. Campbell opened a dental practice in town in 1902. Active in his profession, he was made a life member of the Ontario Dental Association in 1952. A keen sportsman, Doc was a renowned field lacrosse player, and won an Olympic gold medal as part of the Canadian Team at the 1908 Olympics in England. He was a founder of both the Orangeville Curling and Golf clubs, and helped organize the Orangeville Arena building project.

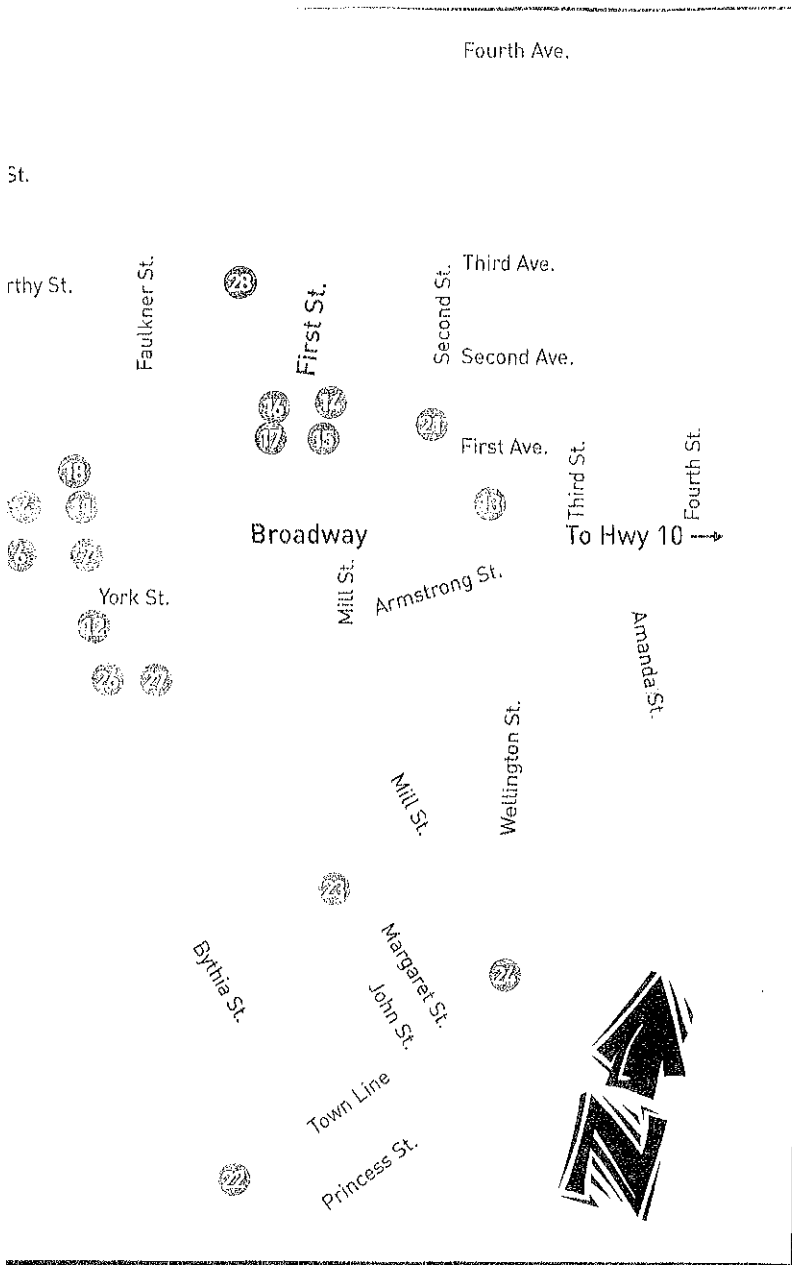
Dr. Campbell served as Councillor, Reeve, Mayor (1914-1916) of Orangeville and as a member of both the Board of Education and the Hydro Commission when electricity was installed in the town.
Private sponsor



Alexandra Park
Subject: The Balance
Artist: Robbin Wenzoski
Background: The ying yang symbol and the earth are carved at the top of the sculpture, as the artist's interpretation of world peace. The intricate links in the trunk represent roots and branches.



11 First Street
Subject: Waving Bear
Artist: Walter vanderWindt



62 Zina Street
Subject: The Judge
Artist: Jim Menken



30 Margaret Street
Subject: The Hobbit House
Artist: Walter vanderWindt
Private sponsor



Bythia Street (at Kay Cee Gardens)
Subject: Elves
Artist: Peter Mogensen



Clara Street (near Zina St.)
Subject: The Eagle
Artist: Jim Menken



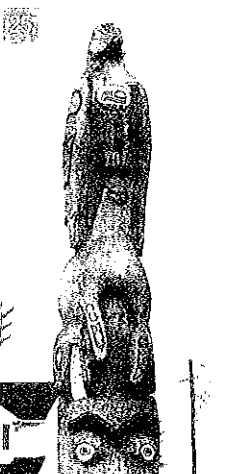
Townline (between Mill Street & Wellington Street)
Subject: The Conductor
Artist: Jim Menken



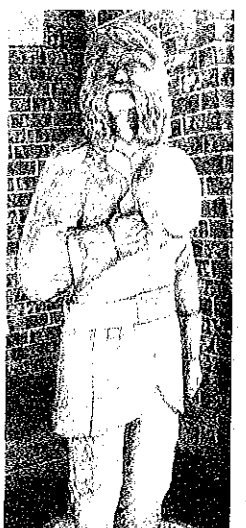
9 McCarthy Street
Subject: The Angel
Artist: Walter vanderWindt



Clara Street (at Zina Street)
Subject: Great Horned Owl
Artist: Tim Braithwaite
Sponsored by artist



Blind Line (south of College Avenue)
Subject: Tolem Pole
Artist: Billy Watterson



9 Centre Street
Subject: First Police Chief
Artist: anonymous



Second Street
Subject: Bear on the Telephone
Artist: Walter vanderWindt



Bythia Street (at Kay Cee Gardens)
Subject: Kris Kringle
Artist: Peter Mogensen
Sponsored by Orangeville Optimist Club



72 Town Line
Subject: Troll
Artist: Walter vanderWindt



First Street (at First Avenue)
Subject: "An Axe to Grind"
Artist: Walter vanderWindt
Background: Abstract sculpture represents the working man, depicted by a stick figure with an axe.



18 First Street
Subject: Tree Spirit
Artist: Colin Partridge



First Street & Zina
Subject: The Prince of Wales
Artist: Jim Menken
Background: Prince Albert was the Prince of Wales when this street was named the Prince of Wales Road. He later became King Edward VII.

Greenwood Cemetery
Subject: Robin
Artist: Jim Menken
Sponsored by Brenda Chabot & family

Art Walk of Tree Sculptures

The Art Walk of Tree Sculptures for Orangeville has attracted a lot of attention from residents, visitors and other municipalities in a relatively short period of time. After visiting Truro, Nova Scotia one summer, where Mayor Drew Brown saw some historical figures carved out of stumps, he decided Orangeville could bring trees back to life after they have been declared beyond hope by the municipal arborist. Hence, in 2002 the project was initiated - and the plan, in the future, may include some outdoor metal sculptures as well.

Carvers are eager to be part of the project, and residents and visitors alike are eager to show off the pieces and to see what is coming next. The most popular sculptures are the ones with the bears - but everyone seems to have a different favourite.

The Town, with a broad artistic community in the region, has put art front and centre with this project. Orangeville is proud of its outdoor art on public display. The Town of Orangeville invites you to come and see the sculptures for yourself - and decide on your own favourite.

Participating Artists

Peter Mogensen

The Mount Forest resident spends his time travelling around Canada, as well as parts of the U.S., carving pieces as private commissions. A native of Denmark, Mr. Mogensen grew up in Allston, and has spent most of his life selling and fixing outdoor power tools. A self-taught carver, he has made that his full-time livelihood for several years now - and is well-known in carving circles. He carved three historical figures for the Town of Orangeville in 2005 but maintains that his specialty is wildlife, particularly bears.

Jeff Waters

Jeff Waters has two carvings on Broadway: the native carving and a rope post - his specialty. A native of Niagara Falls, Mr. Waters lives in Stayner where he is employed as a baker and where his wood carving hobby has become a part-time business.

Jim Menken

Jim Menken of Mono has been in demand since he created "The Farmer" on Broadway. Born in Thornhill, this Mono resident is a school teacher who has always been interested and involved in art. Carving tree sculptures fosters his love of the outdoors and his love of art.

Nick Onac

Nick Onac is well-known as an artist and wood carver in Peterborough - and other parts of the world. A native of Transylvania, Romania, Mr. Onac taught economics and history at a high school in Transylvania for six years and carved wood sculptures on a commission basis, primarily for churches. He says his sculptures are inspired by his homeland and European culture. He particularly likes to carve human subjects.

Walter vanderWindt

Walter vanderWindt brought his chainsaw to Orangeville and he left some characters behind. The chainsaw woodcarver from St. Catharines likes to carve pieces with animation and personality. From a troll to a hobbit house, he has left behind some unusual works of art. A native of Holland and a former sales trainer, Mr. vanderWindt turned his wood-carving pastime into a full-time career. Creating sculptures out of wood, he says, is very therapeutic but it is also a chance to elicit an emotional response from others.

Billy Watterson

Billy Watterson of Brampton transformed a dead tree on Blind Line into a totem pole. Employed by Hydro One in Brampton, Mr. Watterson is a native of Ireland who emigrated to Canada in 1987. He has been carving ever since he was 10 years of age. "I've never had a lesson in my life; I was always hacking away at wood and just progressed from there." He taught wood carving in Ireland, for the Belfast Art Committee. A former taxidermist in Ireland, Mr. Watterson knows about detail when carving and likes the skill and challenge that's involved in a detailed piece.

John Taylor

John Taylor of Palgrave kicked off the carving of tree stumps in downtown Orangeville in 2003. Mr. Taylor studied wood carving at George Brown College for several years in the night program. During the day, he was chairman of the English and Liberal Studies Department at George Brown.

Colin Partridge

Colin Partridge is known for his tree spirit carvings. He carved his first-ever female tree spirit at 295 Broadway. Mr. Partridge joined the Canadian Forces after coming to Canada from his native England at the age of 16. He subsequently became an RCMP officer. One day while visiting his son on Vancouver Island he imagined seeing faces in the driftwood along the beach and his carving career was started. "Every tree has a spirit and it takes the artist to bring it out."

Tim Braithwaite

Tim Braithwaite entered the ice sculpture competition at Toronto City Hall for five years. He won first place four times and peoples' choice three times. The Shelburne resident has brought his carving skills to Orangeville as he created a great horned owl on Clara Street. A native of Newfoundland, Mr. Braithwaite spent his formative years in Montreal and different parts of Ontario before working in the trucking industry for 34 years. Now retired, Mr. Braithwaite says he's got the time to carve. He specializes in full-size carvings and his favourite carvings are birds of prey.

Robbin Wenzoski

A native of British Columbia and current resident of Stratford, Mr. Wenzoski started his carpentry/carving experience by building log homes and timber frames in western Canada. An artist of fine sculpture, chainsaw carving and custom wood signs, Mr. Wenzoski says the final texture can only be achieved after hours of hand sanding due to the intricacy of his pieces.

REV. WM AITKEN

THE CARVING WILL BE LESS FORMIDABLE ☺

UDO

