

Aurora Banner

Former Aurora mayor awarded court costs

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A judge has awarded former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris \$12,500 in court costs.

The award from Justice Robert J. Spence stems from a March motion aimed at having Mrs. Morris' \$6-million legal action against residents Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson and Elizabeth Bishenden, amongst others, dismissed.

Shortly after, Justice Spence ruled the case would continue, but also demanded the plaintiff provide more specifics with respect to the alleged defamatory words at the heart the case.

In his May 10 ruling, Justice Spence writes the "plaintiff should have partial indemnity on the motion to strike, but reduced to recognize the caveat in the order, plus complete indemnity (approximately) on the motion for security for costs."

That works out to \$12,500 for fees, plus disbursements and GST, which is payable to Mrs. Morris within 30 days of the ruling.

The lawyers for both parties declined comment.

The town wasn't aware of the development and would not comment on whether or not it would pursue Mrs. Morris for the award, Aurora spokesperson Michelle Dudzik explained.

Acting on legal advice from municipal law expert **George Rust-D'Eye**, Aurora council voted to pay about \$55,000 in legal fees incurred up to the time the town ended its involvement in the matter in mid-December. At the same time, council also voted to seek indemnity against Mrs. Morris should she win damages or recover costs.

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