

Stouffville firm's roots grow deep

By BRUCE STAPLEY
His business sees him create contemporary environments in some of the most posh Toronto office towers. But for Stouffville's Gary Murphy, all roads continue to lead home.

Commercial offices in and around the Toronto area. Gary has recently shifted the company headquarters from its Dickson's Hill location of 15 years to its just-completed building in the industrial complex on Sandford Dr. in Stouffville's west end — which puts it within striking distance of Gary's Stouffville area home.

A strong booster of his hometown, Gary holds the distinction of being the longest standing sponsor of Ontario Minor Hockey Association teams in Stouffville.

He served as coach of several Rep teams his sons played on through the years, with both boys playing on Ontario Championship teams.

"I'm a Stouffville guy," says Gary, whose daughter, Nora also distinguished herself locally with her equestrian skills. "I live around here and the potential exists in years to come in an industrial sense."

His company's services have been used primarily by Toronto area businesses since Gary and his partner, Eric Edwards, founded the decorating firm 29 years ago. Mr. Edwards retired in 1971.

But with the rapid development of the Markham-Stouffville area, Gary anticipates a growth in local

business in the years to come. Major contracts. In the meantime, his men are setting up shop in the corporate offices and boardrooms of some of the major downtown Toronto office towers.

His tradesmen paint, stain and apply start-of-the-art wall coverings. They use the most advanced materials: linens, silks, grass cloths, and special coverings such as multi-speckle finishes.

"In almost every job we go to, we're doing something new," says Gary.

And it takes more than the average painter or paperhanger in this business. A good tradesman is hard to find in his industry, Gary contends.

"I'd have to say that is our biggest problem."

Gary has made his mark on the decorating industry. He served six years on the board of directors of the Toronto Construction Association.

Promotes industry. "I promote the industry because I have made my livelihood in it, as has my son, who is now vice-president and a partner in the business."

"I honestly believe you should put something back into

an industry to improve it. Gary's dedication to that industry has earned him recognition south of the border as well as on the home front.

He was recently made an honorary member of the New York State Council of Painting and Decorating Contractors of America.

"And times are good for the paint and decorating industry," he declares.

"The economy, from the standpoint of our business, is booming, as is the entire construction industry. I'm optimistic it will continue for several years anyway."

Stouffville home. The new Edwards-Murphy building in Stouffville houses Brinomar Realty, another Murphy-owned holding, as well as the decorating operation.

Gary sees the move as being a positive one for the company and expresses optimism for the future of Stouffville, as well as Council's ability to keep on top of things.

"We have a Council that recognizes we need industry, but we have to be careful too. If properly controlled, Stouffville's industrial growth will be successful."

Gary Murphy is proud to be a part of that success.

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