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**3** A year after a Newmarket teen was the victim of a beating, his family gets on with life.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

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**WHEN:** Today through Sunday  
**WHERE:** Whitchurch-Stouffville



**8** Digging deep beneath the surface uncovers York Region's colourful past.

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'SICK' BUILDING ORDERED SHUT FOR AT LEAST 60 DAYS TO REMOVE MOULD

## Toxic mould locks courthouse doors

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

The Newmarket courthouse will be closed for two months so toxic mould can be removed from the building. Attorney General Jim Flaherty announced yesterday.

While he insisted the building doesn't need to be closed, despite dozens of workers and prisoners falling seriously ill, Flaherty said the

courthouse will shut for about 60 days beginning tomorrow night because of health concerns raised by judges and employees.

"An independent health expert and an independent environmental consulting firm advise us that a complete closure is not necessary," Flaherty said.

However, the ongoing cleanup is making it increasingly difficult to

continue operating; the courts effectively. I feel that it is in the public's best interest that the courts be temporarily closed to allow for an expedited comprehensive cleanup.

While the piecemeal removal of mould was expected to take three to four months, Flaherty said that closing the courthouse will mean the cleanup will take about 60 days.

"I am confident that this is the right course of action," he said.

"The temporary closure of the courts will ensure the administration of justice will not be compromised. It will also ensure cleanup is completed more quickly and court staff and the public, who must attend court proceedings, are in a safe and healthy environment."

Flaherty's announcement

comes a week after three people had to be taken to hospital by ambulance from the "sick" building plagued with toxic mould.

"I honestly don't know what it's going to take for them to close this building," Val Erwin, a court reporter and union steward with OPSEU, said last Friday.

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## Latcham's generosity remembered

BY CINDY WHITE  
 Special to The Tribune

As construction gets under way on Stouffville's new pool, some might remember the man who gave the town its first pool in 1957.

It was the same man who donated funds for the floodlights, grandstands and picnic shelter in Memorial Park; the hall where Girl Guides and Lions meet; the art gallery; land for the library and the 50 acres of land that are home to Markham-Stouffville Hospital, Participation House and High Point Lodge.

Arthur Latcham was the man who some say got more done for this town and many towns surrounding it than any council could hope to accomplish.

In 1972, town council honoured him by declaring July 1 Arthur Latcham Day in Stouffville and presented him with the keys to the town at the official opening of Latcham Hall.



Leslie Clarke poses with a portrait of his friend, the late philanthropist Arthur Latcham. Clarke is wearing Latcham's famed red-checked jacket and displays his chequebook and charitable disbursement documents.

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