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*celebrate their*  
**20th Anniversary**  
**Saturday**  
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 1:00 to 5:00 pm at  
**Latham Hall**  
 8 Park Drive S. Stouffville

*'No funds' for Clock Tower Theatre plan*

# Multi-purpose community centre possible for former town offices

**BY JOAN RANSBERRY**  
*Staff Writer*

In the wake of the death of Stouffville's Clock Tower Theatre, the option of turning the old town hall into a multi-purpose community centre was discussed at Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday.

An independent study, carried out to determine the feasibility of having a 350-seat live theatre, valued at \$2.5 million, is now complete. It's official: The Civic Ave. building will not house the Clock Tower Theatre.

"We simply do not have the finances," Clock Tower Committee chairman Eric Button told council.

Button stressed that while the community embraced the concept of a large theatre facility, it is not to be. "While most people thought it (theatre) was a good idea, they are not willing to dip into their pockets. We just couldn't carry on," said Button.

Council did, however, grant the theatre committee the right to occupy the building until after the New Year. The committee sub-leased parts of the building to tenants including

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit.

Council decided to include the old municipal building with the soon-to-be empty library building. In January, a public meeting will be held to help determine the fate of the library.

"When we have the public meeting we'll lump the two buildings together. We'll sit down and look at the two together," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

**"While most people thought it (theatre) was a good idea, they are not willing to dip into their pockets. We just couldn't carry on."**

*Eric Button, Clock Tower Theatre*

The old town hall is "a good meeting place" stressed Emmerson. "We could have five or six different items in place to enhance the downtown."

More than a year ago, the Clock Tower Theatre group was given the go-ahead to renovate the former municipal building into a theatre. At that time, local council handed over the Civic Ave. building in a five-year lease agreement at \$1-a year.

A Stouffville cultural facility was proposed when the municipal offices moved to the Imperial Centre at Sandiford Dr. and Main St. two years ago.

When the theatre group proposed a fundraising plan, other fundraising campaigns for the new library and swimming pool complex were launched.

Many suggested Whitchurch-Stouffville was too small to accommodate three major fund-raising campaigns at one time. "It was difficult with the other projects underway," said Emmerson.

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