

Large furniture showroom to open in September

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they would face a rent increase in the not-so-distant future.

"We made the final decision to stop renting and put the purchase plan in place. The building is ours. We'll open Stouffville Fine Furniture in six short weeks. It's a perfect location. It has parking at the back. The renovation begins right away. There's much to do."

In the meantime, starting today, all merchandise at Stouffville Furniture in the west end of town will be reduced by about 40 per cent. "We'll sell it at cost," said Mrs. Papas. The Stouffville Furniture store is remaining open, however, Mrs. Papas stressed. "With two stores open, we'll be hiring staff," she said.

The new 10,000-square-foot showroom at Stouffville Fine Furniture will feature high-end, name-brand merchandise. The wood used in the furniture is birch, oak and cherry. "It's the finest of woods," said Mrs. Papas.

One of the key advantages of having such a large showroom is, it allows the store owners to set up small display rooms, giving customers a clear idea of



ville and George Papas at the former IGA store in downtown Stouffville — the new home of Stouffville Furniture.

what a complete living room, bedroom or dining room will look like.

As well, Stouffville Fine Furniture will offer a unique fabrication service seldom found in the furniture business. Mrs. Papas explained that when choosing a particular piece of furniture, a customer can mix and match by picking a specific style, a specific frame and a specific fabric. The piece will be made according to the selections.

One of the carryovers from the old store will be the free delivery within Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The plan calls for the original Stouffville Furniture to switch to a dis-

count store to sell "odds and ends," said Mrs. Papas. "I expect this store will be successful. It will be a discount store. There's a market for it here."

The couple opened the furniture business in Stouffville in 1993. A year later, the family left their Thornhill home and moved to the Preston Lake area in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The couple have five children, Peter, Nicholas, Kristy, Demetre and Alexander, and two grandchildren, Brandon and Jade. So far, Nicholas has joined the business. He looks after the deliver service.

Mr. and Mrs. Papas were born in Greece. Mr. Papas came to the furniture business with experience. He use to own a kitchen-cabinet manufacturing business. "George was very familiar with woods," said Mrs. Papas. "He knew quality and he taught me. We're now passing this and our business knowledge onto our children. This is a family enterprise," said Mrs. Papas.

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