

# Seniors have wish list for move to old town hall

By Hannelore Volpe  
Stouffville Sun

Renovations allowing the Silver Jubilee Club to move its operations to Stouffville's historic municipal building could start by this summer, town officials say.

Local architects Arrowsmith and Associates recently started assessing how best to turn the building's ground floor into a large, open, multi-purpose area for the Stouffville seniors' club.

Ironically, last spring, the town accepted Arrowsmith and Associates' bid to use the top floor of the building for office space and share the building's restoration costs with the town. However, that deal fell through last September.

At its Dec. 3 meeting, Whitchurch-Stouffville council decided to award the first floor of the building to the local seniors' club, even though the Clock Tower Theatre Association and other groups tried for a number of years to have the building developed into a theatre and cultural facility.

Meanwhile, the Silver Jubilee Club's members are working on their wish list. That includes a large new kitchen stretching

## COMMUNITY

across the south end of the building, as well as facilities for shuffleboard and carpet bowling.

"We want to get a new billiard table and a ping pong table. We are looking at an elevator and a set of stairs at the front," said Clarence Fockler, president of the Silver Jubilee Club.

He sees an area for entertainment in front of the kitchen, which could be separated by two or three roll-up windows. Washrooms will be wheelchair accessible, and a small information office could be located at the front.

Knocking down some interior weight-bearing walls means the building would have to be structurally reinforced with steel beams.

The renovations will allow the building to be used for groups "including seniors and any other group that may come into the facility," noted Kelly Batt, the town's manager of facilities and parks.

The building's current heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems have to be upgraded. "The allocation of the second floor will be determined on the square footage needs of

the seniors' group," he added.

When the municipal offices moved to their new quarters on Sandiford Drive in 1998, there was some concern about the old building. "The building was never structurally unsound," said Nick Kristoffy, the town's Treasurer/Administrator. "Most of the deficiencies regarding its use as an office were already rectified."

The seniors' club can apply for funding from Ontario's Trillium Foundation to make the washrooms wheelchair accessible, he noted.

Outside renovations to the brickwork, windows and an outside walkway could cost around \$750,000. Renovations would be in keeping with the building's designation last year as a heritage site.

The changes to the building's interior will most likely jack the total costs up to just over the \$1 million mark.

The seniors will have a chance to add more input after the first drawings and sketches become available, most likely in the next couple of weeks.

Some of the seniors may be visiting other seniors' centres in neighbouring municipalities to see what's worked best for them.

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