

Town should sell club: mayor

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The building occupied by the members of Silver Jubilee Club should be sold when the seniors move to the old town hall, Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

While the fate of the former post-office, at the corner of Market and Main streets, will be determined by a new council to be elected in the fall, Mr. Emmerson suggested the best option is to put the 2,500-square-foot seniors centre on the auction block.

"What our downtown needs most is business," Mr. Emmerson said. "If the seniors move out, we should sell the building. It would be a good spot for a store. It would help improve our downtown."

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On April 15, Whitchurch-Stouffville council approved a \$1.2-million renovation plan for the old town hall, at 19 Civic Avenue. Renovations will take about a year. The seniors will remain in their present quarters until renovations on



The fate of the Silver Jubilee Club, at Main and Market streets in downtown Stouffville, will be up to the next Whitchurch-Stouffville council.

the town hall are complete.

Clarence Fockler, president of the Silver Jubilee Club, told council there are at least 4,000 residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville 55 years and older, suggesting the seniors have out-grown their present quarters.

Approving the design plan to renovate the old town hall paves the way for federal grants to preserve the heritage look of the building.

"The new council will make the final decision on what happens to the (Silver Jubilee) building," Mr. Emmerson

stressed. Voters goes to the poll to select a new council on Nov. 10.

Mr. Emmerson is not seeking re-election.

While rendering the Silver Jubilee Club building surplus property and putting it up for sale is one choice, there are other options, chief executive officer-treasurer Nick Kristoffy pointed out.

The town could lease the building or it use it for municipal purposes, Mr. Kristoffy said. The building was constructed where it sits in the early 1900s, he added.

Environmentalists want tree-cutting investigated

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feel any is necessary."

The city is aware Rosebank was formed after the cutting took place, but decided to charge the firm, along with the three Burkholders whose names were on the deed, Pickering clerk Bruce Taylor said this week.

Each charge could result in a fine of up to \$10,000. The first court date in the case is Monday, April 28.

Mr. Colucci is also president of Erosion Control Gabions Ltd., a company whose phone number and Bradwick Drive address in Concord match those for Rosebank Farms.

Calls to Mr. Colucci were not returned, however, and yesterday an employee said he would be unavailable for two weeks.

On Tuesday, Mr. Taylor said the city was not aware any other company was involved in cutting the trees.

Conservationists who hope to keep development out of the area are urging Pickering to keep inves-

tigating the incident.

"The real culprit should be prosecuted," said Jim Robb, a Scarborough man leading a group called the Rouge Duffins Coalition.

We certainly did not want the trees out of there. We did not want that bush cleared out.

This week, Municipal Affairs Minister David Young announced he would use a zoning order to stop development on 4,900 acres of Pickering, once part of the former Duffin Rouge Agricultural Preserve and including the property where the trees were cut.

But Glenn De Baeremaeker, president of Save the Rouge Valley System, said the province is failing to preserve an additional 3,000 acres of the preserve in Markham that are still in public hands.

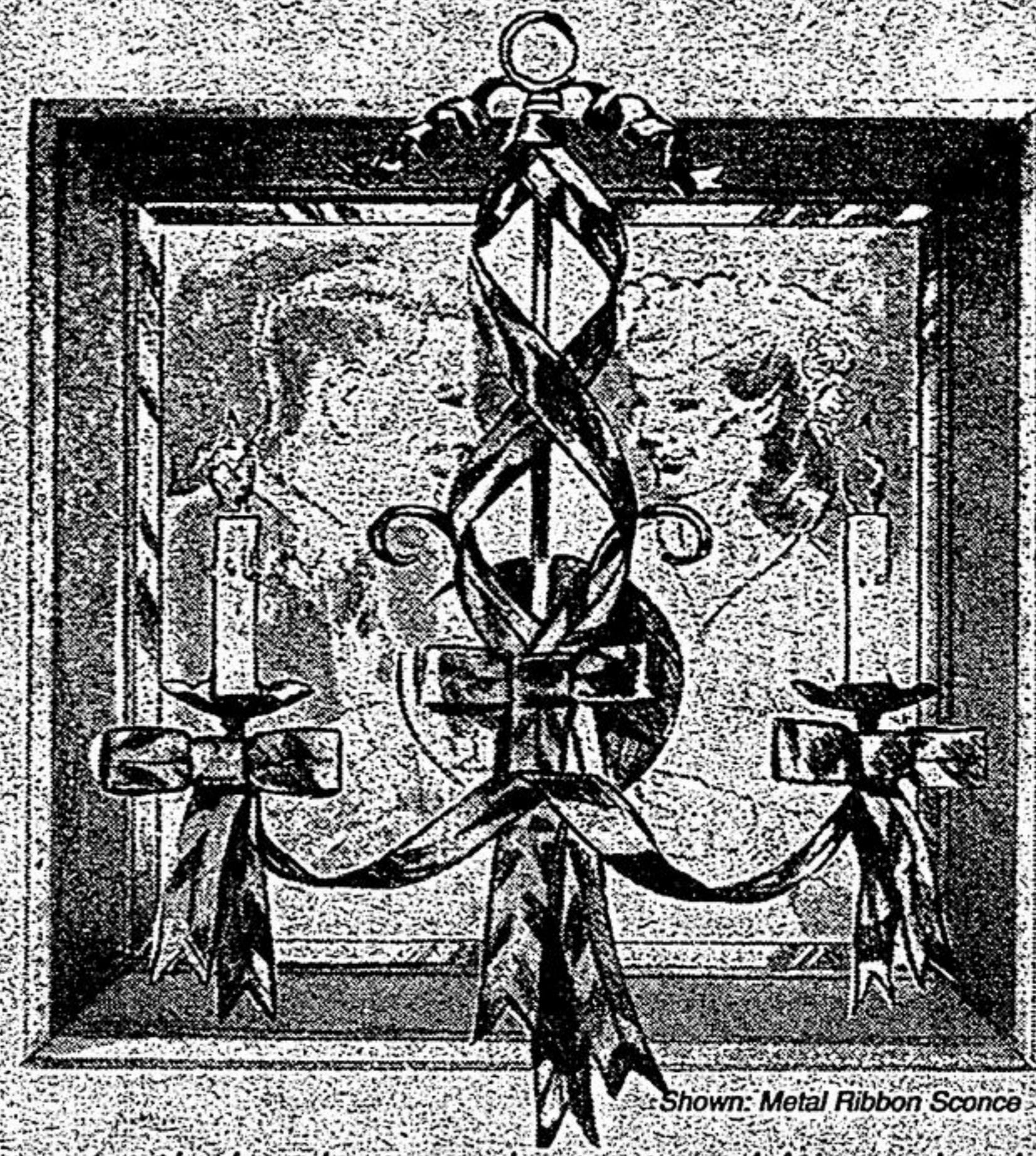
The lands are part of holdings the province expropriated in the 1970s. It announced plans to sell them in 1996.

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