

# Museum banks on funds matched by province

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Two years of fund-raising projects have paid off for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum as it reached its \$50,000 goal — with a little last-minute help from the Friends of the Museum.

The museum had until the end of June to raise up to \$50,000, which would be matched by a Heritage Challenge Fund Grant it received from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

When the total raised came to just over \$49,000 shortly before the grant's deadline, the Friends of the Museum came to the rescue and topped up the amount, enabling the entire \$50,000 to be matched.

The museum's first fund-raising event for the challenge grant was its Boxed Lunch Auction at its Family Picnic Day two years ago.

Specially prepared box lunches were donated by celebrities including York Region Chair Bill Fisch and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Since then staff and museum volunteers have held a number of fund-raisers including a barn dance, classic car shows and an interactive theatre evening, *Rendezvous at the Inn*. Local residents and businesses also donated.

It's pretty impressive for a comparatively small community to raise

that amount of money," said Stephanie Foley, the museum's assistant curator.

The interest generated from the \$100,000 Building Conservation Endowment Fund will go to capital projects and building maintenance.

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