

Will third attempt finally establish cultural policy?

We need youth, senior input, councillor says

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

A plan suggesting, among other things, looking into establishing a cultural centre in downtown Stouffville has been sent back to the drawing board.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council is hoping its third swing at a draft cultural policy in June will hit the sweet spot.

For the second time since November, councillors last week

sent a draft policy back to committee for review.

Meant as a guide for municipal cultural endeavours, the draft recommends establishing a cultural advisory committee, undertaking a feasibility study for a cultural complex, recognizing the Latham Gallery as worthy of long-term municipal support and establishing a cultural grant policy.

There is \$150,000 in the 2006 capital budget for downtown Stouffville strategic plan initiatives, including funding for a cultural complex feasibility study and business plan.

'This implies a massive funding commitment on behalf of the community.'

Having a cultural policy in place was recommended in 2003.

The municipality has to make clear it supports culture, said Councillor Susanne Hilton, a member of the cultural policy task force.

In working on the policy, the task force sought comments from more than 35 cultural organizations and the public.

Even so, Councillor Phil Bannon charged youth and seniors weren't well-represented, which led to further review.

The underlying theme of the cultural policy is the town should act as a leader by encouraging cultural services.

This could be done by through municipally operated services, acting as facilitator or co-ordinator or through partnerships with the private sector.

The town currently provides cultural services through the leisure services department, Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Whit-

church-Stouffville Public Library.

Resident Stephen Sword told council the town shouldn't have an initiating and co-ordinating role because culture "should percolate up from the grassroots level".

Councillors Bannon, Ken Ferdinands and Clyde Smith agreed.

Culture in the community needs to be enhanced, but "this implies a massive funding commitment on behalf of the community", Mr. Ferdinands said.

After more input is gathered, the draft document is to come back to council in June after it is reviewed by culture committee members.

Durham Steam Cleaning
642-5111 852-6711
LOOSE RUGS
BROADLOOM
UPHOLSTERY
3M Scotchguard

STOUFFVILLE PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC
Is grateful to be accredited as Teaching Facility with the Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.
Serving Whitchurch Stouffville & Markham since 1970
NO WAITING LIST
Physiotherapy covered by OHIP, WSIB, Auto Insurance & Extended Health Plans
Call: 905-640-1818

Here Today
... Here TOMORROW!
War Amps programs are a time-honoured tradition. Today, there are programs like CHAMP, Matching Mothers, and JUMPSTART. Tomorrow, CHAMP graduates will carry on The War Amps legacy of "amputees helping amputees."
For more information, or to order your 2006 key tags, contact The War Amps. E-ZEE ACCESS: Tel.: 1-800-250-3030 Fax: 1-800-219-8988
Or visit our Web site at www.waramps.ca. Charitable Registration No.: 13196 9628 RR0001

Are you having a baby?
Join us at the **ABC All Babies Count Prenatal Nutrition Program**
• Prepare & eat a healthy meal
• Learn about healthy eating for yourself & your baby
• Meet other prenatal women in a supportive & relaxed environment
CALL 1-877-516-3715 for information about a program near you
This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Sun-Tribune

It's natural to feel this good.
Lose your weight for \$1 a day!*
**limited time offer, based on full program, excludes mandatory product*



Louise lost 22 pounds and 30 inches!

- one-on-one support
- all-natural products
- grocery store food

905-642-6906
6162 Main Street
Stouffville

www.herbalmagic.ca

Herbal Magic
WEIGHT LOSS & NUTRITION CENTRES

As our clients vary, so do their results.