



**21** Spirit assistant coach sports person of year

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## He'll be cooking till it's time to collect award

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
*Staff Writer*

This year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Citizen of the Year, Cliff Dunkeld, packs more life into living than many people half his age.

The award recognizes his involvement in the community for more than 30 years.

"He just pitches in wherever it is needed," Mayor Sue Sherban said.

He will be presented with the award during the Strawberry Festival's opening ceremonies from 7 to 8 p.m. June 29 in the Franklin Park Marquee.

The affable resident with the welcoming face has been volunteering in the Stouffville area since he and wife Glenda moved here 34 years ago.

At age 74, he shows no signs of slowing down. His philosophy is if he doesn't keep on going, he'll seize up.

However, there seems to be little danger of that.

During the winter, he's either at the curling rink or knee-deep in toys and gifts. The toys are collected and sorted before Christmas each year by members of the Stouffville Lions Club before being distributed to underprivileged children. Mr. Dunkeld has been a Lion for the past eight years.

He'll be helping out at the Stouffville Lions beef barbecue before he receives his award.

His most recent volunteer stint these days is at the Care and Share Thrift Store on Main Street.

He just kind of fell into this one. Mrs. Dunkeld began volunteering at the thrift store first and Mr. Dunkeld would drop by to give her a ride home.

So, of course, now he's in the back room helping to receive the donations.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Cliff Dunkeld has been chosen at Whitchurch-Stouffville's Citizen of the Year. He will receive his award at the opening ceremonies of next weekend's Strawberry Festival.

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## UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR \$2.5M PROJECT

# Town hall theatre plan gets green light

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
*Staff Writer*

It took nine years, but Whitchurch-Stouffville council has decided to turn the old town hall into an arts, culture and entertainment centre, including a 120-seat theatre.

Council voted unanimously Tuesday to spend about \$2.5 million to convert the building at 19 Civic Dr. Councillors Harry Bowes and Ken Ferdinands were absent.

The decision was gratifying to Mayor Sue Sherban, who, during her election campaign, promised a decision on the old town hall's future would be made before the term of office ends in November.

"I am very impressed and relieved with this report," Ms Sherban said. "It is a tremendous vision."

"I think we have always referred to the old town hall as the 'old gal' and she might be singing tonight," a visibly moved mayor said later in the meeting.

Longtime theatre and arts and culture advocate Pam Mandich said the project brings the building "back to its roots" since it was originally a concert hall.

Councillor Rob Hargrave was disappointed with size of the theatre, but voted in favour of the project so it wouldn't be delayed.

"This is a glorified community centre," he said. "How do you get a politician to make a decision? Have an election."

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