

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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7 Former mayor remembered for centennial, dump fight

Opinion	6
Calendar	17
Sports	18
Classified	20

New pastor uses laughs to get his message out

'You will be dead' without humour

BY LAUREN MARKS
Correspondent

After being installed in a mass rich with tradition and symbolism Sunday, Father Lorenzo Salandanan is officially the pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church in Stouffville.

The church was packed with parishioners standing shoulder to shoulder inside the sanctuary and vestibule, all the way down the front steps.

About 15 Knights of Columbus were there in full regalia, including capes, plumed hats and swords. Friends of Fr. Lorenzo from the Filipino community brought indigenous dishes for the celebration afterwards. Some travelled from across Ontario.

After only a year at St. Mark's Church, Fr. Lorenzo is already well loved, shares a keen sense of humour, and is working to get people more involved with their faith and community.

The popular priest was installed by the Most Rev. Bishop Peter Joseph Hundt, auxiliary bishop of Toronto.

During his first year, Fr. Lorenzo has got down on his knees to plant flowers alongside his parishioners, as well as to pray. He's not afraid of pitching in when work is to be done. He'll get up a ladder to fix something, does his own cooking and enjoys barbecuing.

See CHILDREN, page 8



PHOTO GUS SARINO

Firefighters can only watch a historic home go up in flames near Stouffville Memorial Park Saturday morning. Boulders blocked the entrance to the Harper House and had to be removed by public works crews before firefighters could enter the property.

SOCIETY WANTED TO PRESERVE RARE AND HISTORIC HARPER HOME

Investigators probe fire

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Arson specialists are investigating a fire that destroyed the rare and historic Harper House in southern Stouffville last weekend.

The abandoned house, which dates from pre-Confederation, burned under suspicious circumstances, York Regional Police said.

Calls came in to Whitchurch-

Stouffville fire and emergency services Friday before midnight. Trucks and crews from fire halls in Stouffville and Ballantrae were dispatched to the burning fieldstone house at the end of O'Brien Avenue on a former farm now owned by Lebovic Enterprises, just west of the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

Fire crews had to call on public works staff to remove large bould-

ers blocking access to the road leading to the vacant house. By the time they could get to the two-storey house, it was fully engulfed in flames.

Firefighters worked to contain fires that had spread outside the house and to a nearby tree.

A representative from the Office of the Fire Marshal Ontario deemed the house structurally unstable,

requiring the remaining walls to be pulled down.

York Regional Police, including arson officers, are investigating.

"There is no reason to believe it was natural or accidental in nature," Det. Scott Baker said. "The fire devastated the house."

There were no weather conditions, such as lightning, that

See RARE, page 9

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