

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Stouffville Steppers skipping squad taking many leaps of faith

Opinion6
 Recreation9
 Sports12
 Classified14

NICE DAY FOR A SWIM



Jaimee Hill, 13, a Grade 8 student at Orchard Park Public School, wins the senior girls 50-metre butterfly event during an elementary school swim meet at the Lebovic centre pool Tuesday. Students from Summitview and Glad Park schools also took part in the meet that followed a six-week skills development program. For story and additional photo, see page 10.

NOT A THEATRE, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE OFFICIALS SAY OF \$2.5M PROPOSAL

You get say on arts centre proposal

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The new centre proposed for 19 Civic Ave. is a multi-purpose arts, culture and entertainment centre, not a theatre, town officials stress.

Its fate will likely be determined Tuesday.

A 7 p.m. meeting of council will consider the next stage of this project, the hiring of an architect. The town's consultants will present information on the community consulta-

tion process, program development, an assessment of the structure, anticipated costs and a revised business plan for the project called Nineteen on the Park.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.5 to \$3 million, Dave Cash, the town's CAO, said.

If council approves hiring an architect, a final draft design and detailed project costs would come back to council in May or June. That means construction could start as early as September with completion

anticipated in the spring of 2008.

An arts and culture centre, which was to include flexible theatre space, got the previous council's approval last June. In August, the wheels were set in motion for a project implementation committee.

In October, council approved appointing a project manager and a consultant for business planning. In December, council received the first status report on the project. The reports are on the town's website, at townofws.com

Before any transformation of the heritage building can start, it requires about \$1.5 million in repairs and renovations, of which \$750,000 was put into the town's budget in 2006. The funds would come from the hydro reserve account.

The town will retain ownership of the building.

According to Novita, the town's consultants, the centre would feature a theatre area with 120 to 140 seats, which can be retracted to open the room for other activities.

With the seating retracted, the room could accommodate 150 to 200 people. The second floor would be developed as a low-noise environment. There would also be office space, catering kitchen, reception and box office area and, possibly, a smaller event room.

The centre would be suitable for showing movies and hosting events that combine indoor and outdoor activities. It could also accommo-

See THEATRE, page 8.

Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs
 27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM
 294-8030
 beachcomber 407 7885



MARKHAM SPRING HOMESHOW

February 23, 24 & 25, 2007

Markham Fairgrounds • www.markhamhomeshow.com

YOU COULD WIN! \$10,000 HOME RENOVATIONS

GRAND PRIZES SUPPLIED BY

S.M. SNIDER INTERIORS & EXTERIORS

973-8780

Home hardware

Landscape Ontario HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION

TITANIUM EXCLUSIVE Cookware

Sutton GROUP

Town and Country Realty Ltd.

640-0888