

Gallery, radio station want in on new arts centre

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enhance its downtown buildings, Eric Button, president of the Stouffville Business Improvement Area, said. "This is important for the downtown and arts and culture."

Doug Alles, Latcham Gallery board chairperson, suggested the building could be home to the gallery, which would serve as an "anchor" for the building.

The multi-purpose aspect of the programming would draw people mainly on weekends and evenings, he said. And since most arts

groups are short on funds, he questioned how they could afford to rent the rooms in the building.

WhiStle Radio founder Jim Priebe said the station, which is set to launch in July, could use more than 300 square feet.

The radio station could air events such as book and CD launches, taking place in the new centre.

Currently broadcasting over the Internet, the station is operated out of Mr. Priebe's home.

Although no representatives spoke at the meeting, the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts and Music Mania have both

indicated the space in the old town hall would be too small for their performances.

'Please don't overspend the taxpayers' money'

Don Barker
2006 mayoral candidate

Mayor Wayne Emerson and Councillor Phil Bannon volunteered to be on a fundraising committee, while Councillor Susanne Hilton is on the implementation sub-committee.

Suggestions for the building from residents

included taking apart the structure brick-by-brick and rebuilding it.

There were also worries about spiraling costs, under-use of the building and lack of parking.

Bob Bental, a co-owner of neighbouring 34 Civic Ave., said the old town hall "parking lot is packed already". Another resident, Carol Guinane, said many theatres in southern Ontario have no parking and still thrive.

"Please don't overspend the taxpayers' money," Don Barker, a mayoral hopeful in the last election, said.

A proposal for a 300-

seat, \$4-million theatre on the site was defeated two years ago.

The road to the multi-purpose centre began later in 2005, when council asked staff to look at alternate uses for 19 Civic Ave. with an eye to revitalizing

Stouffville's downtown area. Council chose to go with an arts, culture and tourism centre.

In June 2006, council decided to use the building as flexible programming space for arts, culture and entertainment.

Town welcomes new residents with package of freebies

If you've just bought a new house in Stouffville, watch for a Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville brochure you should be receiving from your builder.

Residents are encouraged to visit the town offices on the 4th floor at 37 Sandiford Dr. They'll receive a free blue box for recycling and a canvas grocery bag with the town logo.

The package also includes a free swim pass to the indoor pool at the Lebovic Leisure Centre, a leisure guide, information on garbage collection and recycling schedules and information on fire safety.

Most of the questions that crop up when you move into a new house are answered in the town's new resident information brochure.

To help you to get to know your new community, maps of Stouffville and of municipal parks and trails are also included.

The town can be reached by calling 905-640-1900.

Do you have used books?

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