

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Accident victim's dream lives at centre

More than martial arts at downtown gym

BY JIM THOMAS

A new martial arts centre in downtown Stouffville was Michael Tawadros' dream.

United Martial Arts Canada opened its doors at 6276 Main St. in a former furniture store Thursday.

The centre was the vision of Mr. Tawadros, a Unionville native.

Mr. Tawadros, a former bartender at Stouffville's Shoeless Joe's restaurant, was killed in a multi-vehicle collision on Stouffville Road June 5.

But his vision didn't end there.

Doug Job, the centre's chief martial arts instructor, said Mr. Tawadros' parents made sure their son's dream lived on.

"We thought everything would be done and over with when Mike died.

But Mike's parents wanted to follow up on his vision," Mr. Job said.

"It (is) be very unique," he said.

The fourth-degree black belt said the facility, with more than 5,000-square feet of floor space, will be the only place in Stouffville that will provide a variety of choices for people wishing to find a place to improve their physical and mental well-being.

"It's just not a martial arts school. The martial arts will take place in the upstairs and down-

See YOGA, page 4.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Mary Babler of Over The Moon and yellow labs Willow (left) and Tonka, owned by Jeni Hoover, are ready for Christmas in July, a downtown Stouffville street sale with a Christmas flavour next Saturday. For more information, call the Stouffville Business Improvement area at 905-640-0749. Yes, Santa Claus will make an appearance.

'I hope she knows I love her'

Former Stouffville resident killed in apartment fire

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

Isabell Hammond was the "social fabric and the glue" of her family, her son Zubin Abidi said.

Ms Hammond, 57, died Saturday at her Newmarket home after a fire ripped through the three-storey Queen Street apartment.

A woman known to her family as a great cook who would make homemade cakes for birthdays and loved riding her bicycle, her motto was "the early bird catches the worm", Mr. Abidi, 23, said.

"She was always up at the crack of dawn," he said.

As Mr. Abidi grew up, his mom was his confidante — someone he could tell about school issues and relationships. He saw Ms Hammond and her daughter, Maryann Holmes, develop a "beautiful mother-daughter relationship."

Mom always made him feel like the decisions he made in life were the right ones, Mr. Abidi said.

"I hope she knows I love her," he said, adding if he could he would "hug just a few seconds more each time because she gave the greatest hugs."

The third youngest of 10 children, Ms Hammond moved to Newmarket after living briefly in Stouffville and Richmond Hill.

Her brother, George Hammond of Newmarket, called her a "lovely lady."

See FAMILY, page 7.

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