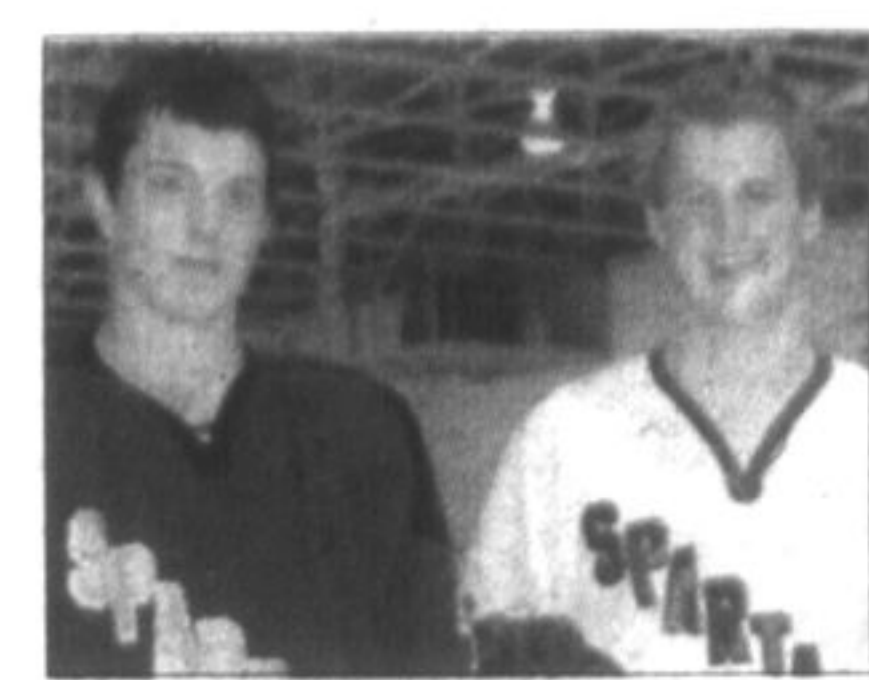


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Pair of Stouffville Spartans on York all-star hockey squad

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Rona hopes to open in Stouffville in 2009

No problem, says Schell Lumber

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Another big box store, building supply retailer RONA, is coming to the Hoover Park Town Centre on Hwy. 48, south of Main Street.

But Ron Schell of Schell Building Centres, a family-run business that's been in Stouffville since 1922, isn't worried.

"We will have no trouble," he said.

He's been anticipating the arrival of the giant retailer for some time.

The RONA store will be considered at the next Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting May 20 at 3 p.m. in the council chambers, 37 Sandiford Dr.

The RONA store will cover about 54,000 square feet, including an outdoor garden centre and lumber yard.

Construction could start as early as mid-summer with the store open by June 2009, the plaza's senior project manager, Josh Kaufman, said, as long as approvals and permits are received from the town.

Located directly east of Wal-Mart, the store will back onto Sam's Way.

When a big box store comes into a town, "typically the first month or so sales drop about 10 per cent" at existing similar businesses, Mr. Schell said.

See SERVICE, page 18.

WE HAVE TALENT, STOUFFVILLE



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Singers Charmaine Medina and Laura Patterson react to the judges' comments during Monday's auditions for Stouffville Has Talent. The finals of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Youth Week talent show will be held Friday night at Latham Hall in Stouffville. See Coming Up, on page 21, for more information.

SPACES NEEDED FOR DOWNTOWN STORES, ARTS COMPLEX: TOWN

Parkland to become parking

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

About an acre of parkland is being taken and a children's play area moved to make way for more parking spaces in the northwest corner of Memorial Park.

The move to increase municipal parking behind the old town hall got the thumbs up from the head of the Stouffville Business Improve-

ment Area at Tuesday's town council meeting.

"I support this," Mr. Eric Button said. "One of the issues is parking in the downtown."

The first phase of construction, involving existing parking spots along Somerville Street and land occupied by a slide and swings, will start in July.

The equivalent of 28 parking

spots will be created on about a quarter acre.

Memorial Park covers around 56 acres.

Noting green space is being removed, Councillor Susanne Hilton asked if there would be landscaping or other means to keep the "green look".

Landscaping at the edges of the parking lot is in the plans, town

planner Andrew McNeely said.

The town's goal is to have a new play structure and swings in place south of the picnic shelter in the park before the old one is taken away. In addition, a tree and a light standard will have to be removed and a fire hydrant relocated to accommodate the project.

The new parking lot is being created

See COMMERCIAL, page 15.

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