

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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breakfast speaker

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APPLYING THE TAG



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Richmond Hill Bayview Bengals' catcher Ryan Cameron tags Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan Tyler Harvey out during Stouffville's 11-1 win last week in Markham.

WALTER SMITH, 1921-2008

Hundreds pay tribute to town's first full-time chief

BY JIM THOMAS.

He was Stouffville's first full-time fire chief.

But for Walter Smith, the position was merely an extension of the 20 years he had already served as a fire department volunteer.

He was and always would be "one of the boys".

That's how Walter Joseph Smith was remembered by hundreds attending the receiving Monday

evening at the O'Neill Funeral Home and the funeral at Christ Anglican Church Tuesday.

Mr. Smith died at his Stouffville home Friday.

He was 86.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson paid tribute to Mr. Smith at Tuesday's town council meeting, noting the hundreds who attended the funeral.

Born and educated here, Mr.

Smith served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1942 to 1946. When the Second World War ended, he became the town's first electric welder, setting up shop south of Main Street near the CIBC.

The same year, he joined Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion and assisted with the construction of the Ninth Line Legion hall. His membership there spanned 62 years.

In 1948, Walter married Aurelia Jennings, a partnership of 60 years.

For a period of 17 years, he held the position of treasurer with the Stouffville Figure Skating Club. Through this association, he was able to watch daughters Janice (Percy), Stouffville and Jo-Ellen (Carrington), Burlington, excel beyond his highest dreams.

He was equally proud of their four grandchildren, Owen and Leah

Percy and Meghan and Kendra Carrington, spending countless hours with them at the family cottage on Hawk Lake, Haliburton.

Other interests included baseball, softball, lawn bowling, gardening, traveling, music and poetry.

But first and foremost, he was a firefighter, a camaraderie that gained him a host of friends.

See **SANCTUARY**, page 22.

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