

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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RUNNING WITH THE PACK



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

It's a big group at the start of the girls 800m final during the York Region public school track and fields finals at the Connell-Franklin Track next to the Stouffville Arena Wednesday.

What to do with Nineteen on the Park arts centre?

Public, groups invited to share vision with start-up team, town

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Harry French can see the vision of Nineteen on the Park — and not just because he lives steps from the former town hall.

As chairperson of the start-up

team for the arts centre, he's got the bug.

Now, he's spreading it.

The centre, being transformed at Civic Avenue and Main Street, is set to open in May.

It's being called an "arts, culture and entertainment centre" in municipal documents, but the exact uses are to be determined.

You can attend a meeting June 25 to help plan the future of the facility. Business, cultural and ser-

▶ Go to townofws.ca for more information on the project.

vice group representatives are also being invited.

Mr. French is relatively new to Stouffville, but he knows of the many attempts to re-open the building as a theatre, among other uses. He knows of the "civil controversy" over the size of the building, especially over seating.

No longer a theatre, the multi-purpose room will be able seat 124 people on retractable, tiered seats. The main hall of the building can also be an open room, with the seats pulled back.

"The decision has been made and now we have to take this footprint and move it forward," he said. "How do we make this a place where people connect?"

That will be put to people attending the June 25 meeting and divided

into small groups for round-table discussions.

They will be asked if they plan to use the building for activities.

They won't have to worry about raising large sums of money.

A shortfall of "about \$100,000" for the \$3.4-million project is expected.

Money will come from a \$930,000 provincial grant, a corporate event

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