

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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16 All aboard tourist train for themed summer trips

Opinion 6
 Music 7
 Survey 10
 Sports 18

LITTLE TIGER PROWLING

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Gajan 'Little Tiger' Sivabalasingham was tearing it up at the Ontario Junior Match Play Qualifier at Bushwood Golf Club in north Markham Monday. For more on the young star, see story on page 18.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

ARTS GROUPS, PUBLIC SHOWING INTEREST IN STOUFFVILLE'S NINETEEN ON PARK

Farm market could be part of 'multi-use centre'

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

The \$3.4-million arts and culture centre is still under construction, but that's not stopping residents and business owners from making plans to fill it.

"The plans are to have the building being used day in, day out all the time," said Councillor Susanne Hilton, who is on the Nineteen On The Park start-up team. "It's going to be a multi-use facility."

The 10-member start-up team held a public meeting June 26 in the council chambers and asked for the public's opinion and suggestions for potential uses of the centre.

Several business owners said they had their own uses for the facility ranging from recitals to decorating demonstrations, Harry French, head of the start-up team, said.

"It's (for) more than just performing arts."

The centre will be in the renovated old town hall on Civic Avenue in downtown Stouffville.

Two Stouffville arts groups, Motus O Dance Theatre and the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts, have requested space, he said.

The idea of a farmers' market around the building site was also brought up at the meeting and will be considered, Mr. French said.

At the meeting, Dorie Billich, the town's manager of culture and museum services, presented photographs and historical facts on the building.

The 40 participants were divided into four groups focusing on communication, fundraising, partnerships and uses for the building.

"All the feedback was great," Mr. French said, adding residents and business owners made "pages" of

suggestions for marketing ideas and uses for the facility.

Two people also donated \$250 each to the project.

Stouffville's Lisa McGill, the former chairperson of ArtsLink York Region, said the meeting restored her enthusiasm for the centre.

"It's lovely to see it (the construction) finally happening and to give

See \$3.4 M, page 11.

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