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Town tender wasn't standard, association says

From page 1.

Norlon officials did not return The Sun-Tribune's calls.

Four companies bid on the project, which is expected to be complete late in 2009. The site, on Weldon Road between Sobey's and Stouffville District Secondary School, is being prepared for construction.

Mr. Aquino said not only was the company surprised to find out their tender may be disqualified, he was "concerned" the town would spend an extra \$300,000 of taxpayers money and award the tender to the second-lowest bidder.

"They (Norlon) don't hire any local people, their people don't pay taxes here," he said. "I don't know why they'd pay more money to give it to a non-local contractor. They could use that money to upgrade the facility and do something better."

"The bottom line is, they had to include all applicable taxes," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said. "If you don't do everything according to what (the tender says), then your tender could be disqualified."

Mr. Cash said despite Bondfield being the lowest bidder, the town does not have to award the contract to the lowest price.

"In order for us to award to the lowest tender, we need to know what the full price is, that's why we do our analysis very carefully," he said.

He said the town treats every bidder fairly.

Mr. Emmerson said another company missed the 3 p.m. bid deadline by seconds, and its bid was not accepted.

The town's recommendation of which tender to accept will be brought before council Tuesday night.

Town staff was reviewing the tender documents this week.

Clive Thurston, president of the Ontario General Contractors Association, said the town did not follow the industry standard with the tender. GST is not normally included, he said.

Bondfield is a member of the association. Norlon is a former member.

"This same stuff keeps coming back

'It delays the project and it's so simple to avoid. And it's the taxpayer who is always on the hook'

President Clive Thurston,
Ontario General Contractors Association

to haunt us," said Mr. Thurston, who has led the association for seven years. "We have good, established practices, but some people want to re-invent the wheel."

He recommended the town take the issue to arbitration. It could end up in court.

Recent judgments favour Bondfield's argument, he said, but that could change.

"It's unfortunate," he said. "It's a waste of time for everybody. It delays the project and it's so simple to avoid."

"And it's the taxpayer who is always on the hook."

In May, a Scarborough company that was low bidder for work at the Stouffville Arena cried foul after another firm was granted the contract by the town.

Black & McDonald Ltd. quoted \$97,985 for refrigeration plant upgrades while the successful bidder, Cimco Refrigeration, quoted \$98,000. Both companies were invited to bid on the job.

Black & McDonald officials said they may not bid on work at the town's new twin pad arena because of the decision.

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Established in 1993, Newman Concepts in Dance has become the largest dance facility in Stouffville and maintains only the highest standards in both teacher selection and student training. Along with the great care taken to ensure an excellent learning environment, the goal of the school has been to add new programs and improve existing programs each year. This year the school has expanded, adding private and group music lessons to its extensive dance program.

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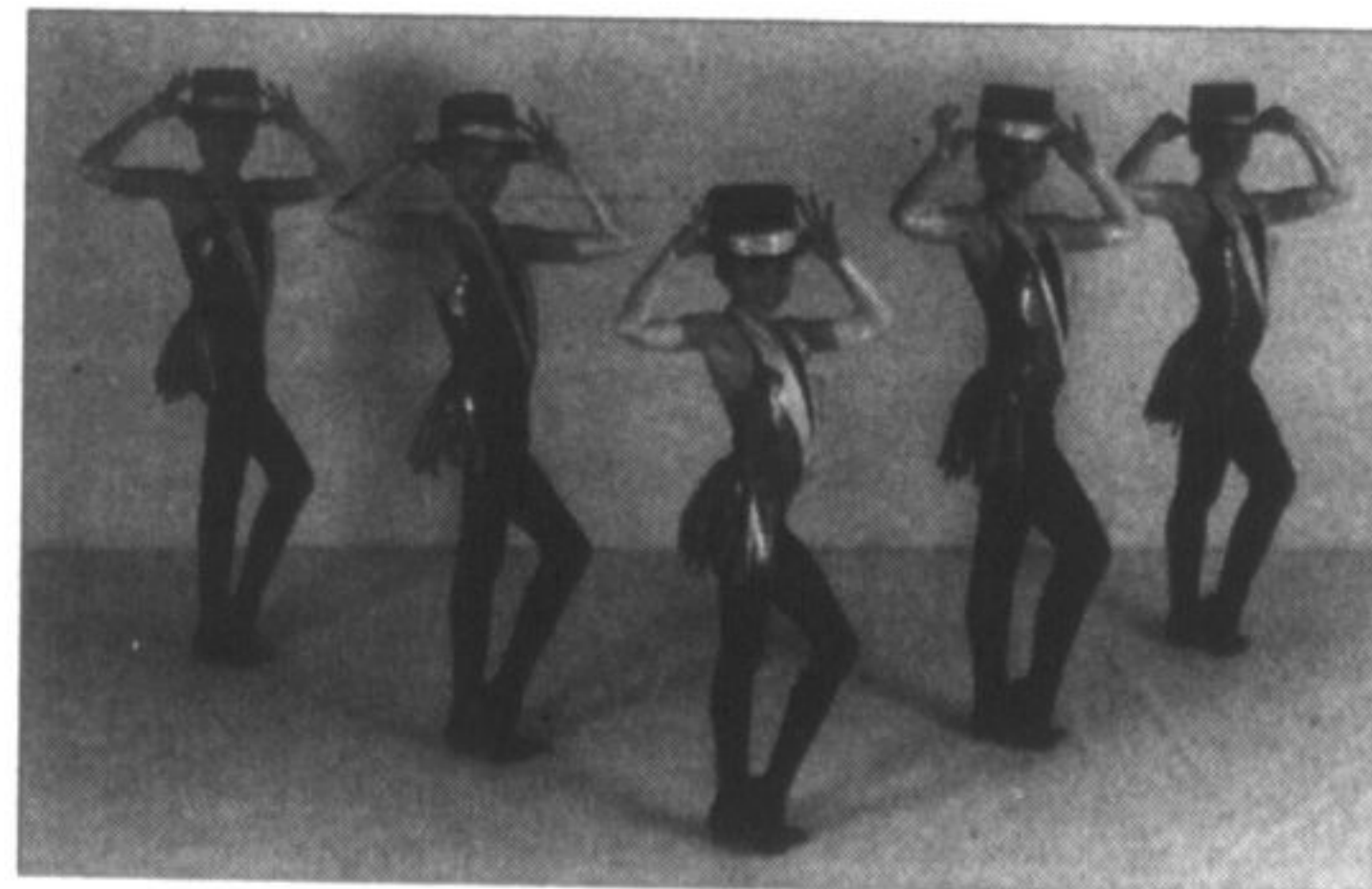
hop, ballet, pointe, lyrical, acro, modern/contemporary, musical theatre and ballroom/social dance. There is a specialized kinderdance program (levels 1, 2 & 3) for children aged 2 1/2-6.

In music, private instruction is available in piano, vocal, guitar, violin and percussion. There is also a pre-school music program for children aged 3-5, an introduction to music program for children aged 6-7, and children's choirs for ages 7-13.

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as workshops, examinations, festivals and competitive teams. "We want each child to have an invaluable learning experience in dance and music regardless of age, background or ability," says Lee. "The school's aim is to enhance the dynamics of life through art."

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