

Town will have to come up with more than \$1 million

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available. The fund is designed so the federal and provincial governments equally invest two-thirds of the awarded project's eligible costs. The municipalities are responsible for the remaining one-third of the project's cost.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville's case, the municipality has to come up with about \$1.09 million, which it expects to get through selling the existing Vandorf Commu-

nity Centre and through the Voluntary Assistance Agreement.

"The developers have up-fronted some extra money not covered by the development charges" to offset the cost of larger projects, Mr. Emmerson said.

PROJECT DETAILS

The museum's expansion has been in the works since 2002, when a future attendance study projected it would double to 12,000 by 2026, which is about three per cent a

year. When the museum opened in 1995, attendance was around 5,000 year, it is now at 6,000.

In order to create enough space to hold the increased number of visitors, a new visitor's centre was going to be added to the museum. However, it was quickly realized a community centre was also needed, so that was added to the plan.

"Putting them together is an economy of scale' (issue) and works better," Mr. Emmerson said.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's Visitor/Community Centre's 10,000 sq.-ft. L-shaped expansion will not only accommodate more people and programs. It will also link the Vandorf Public School and

Bogartown Schoolhouse buildings.

"Right now, there are so many buildings, it's confusing to visitors," Dorie Billich, manager of culture and museum services said.

The expansion consists of adding another 6,500 square feet to the main floor to provide a welcoming 'front door' to the museum site as well as create a public facade that respects and complements the existing heritage buildings.

Other new features include a multi-purpose room with a capacity for 150 people; a gallery specifically for temporary or rotating exhibits; a hands-on seminar room for interactive meetings; a public research area; circulation area that will act

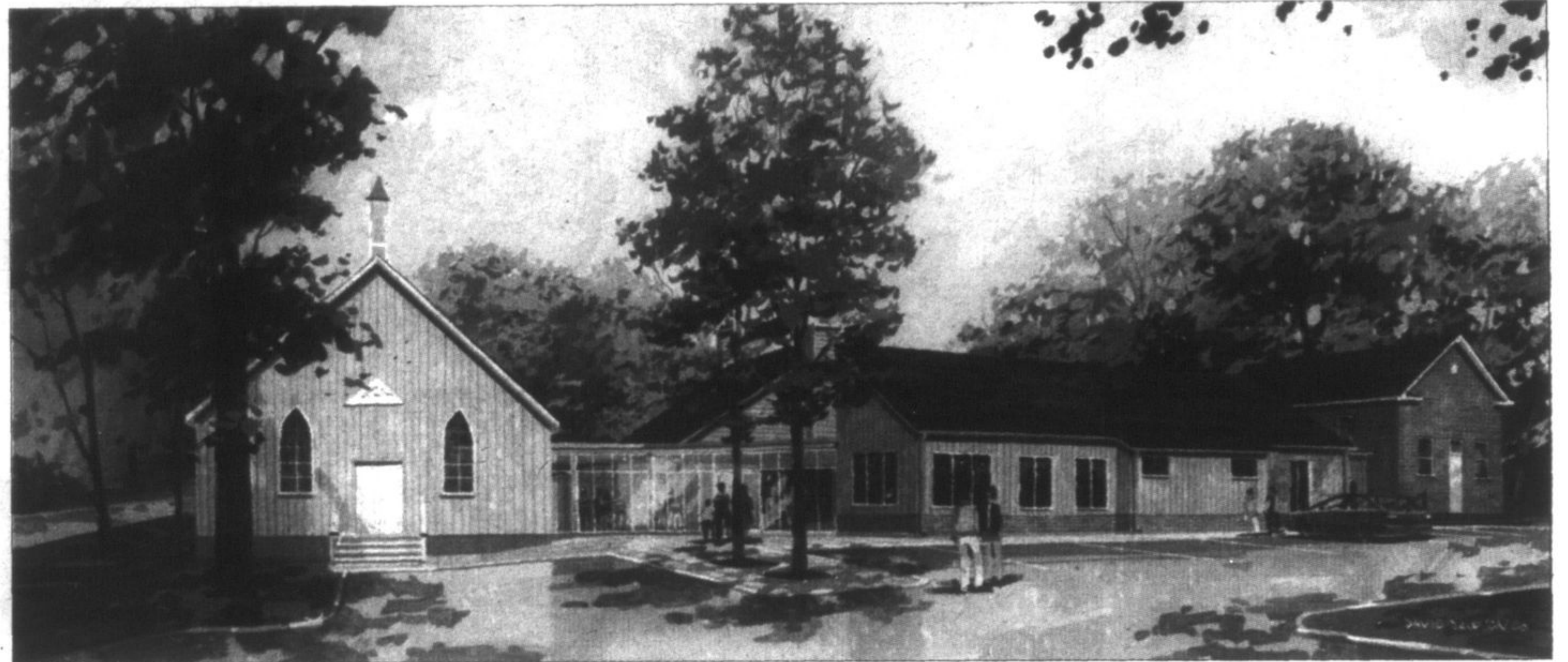
as an indoor link to most museum activities, as well as handle the overflow from larger events.

A reception area that will have the potential for a retail area, along with a washroom cloakroom and staff offices, will also be constructed.

"It enables us to really diversify our programs but still maintain a small staff," Ms Billich said.

A 3,500-sq.-ft. basement will provide additional space for artifact storage, as well as provide another area for community usage.

If all goes according to plan, construction is slated to begin in 2010 and be completed in early 2011.



This is an artist's rendering of what a new visitor/ community centre for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum in Vandorf would look.

Andy Carmanico of



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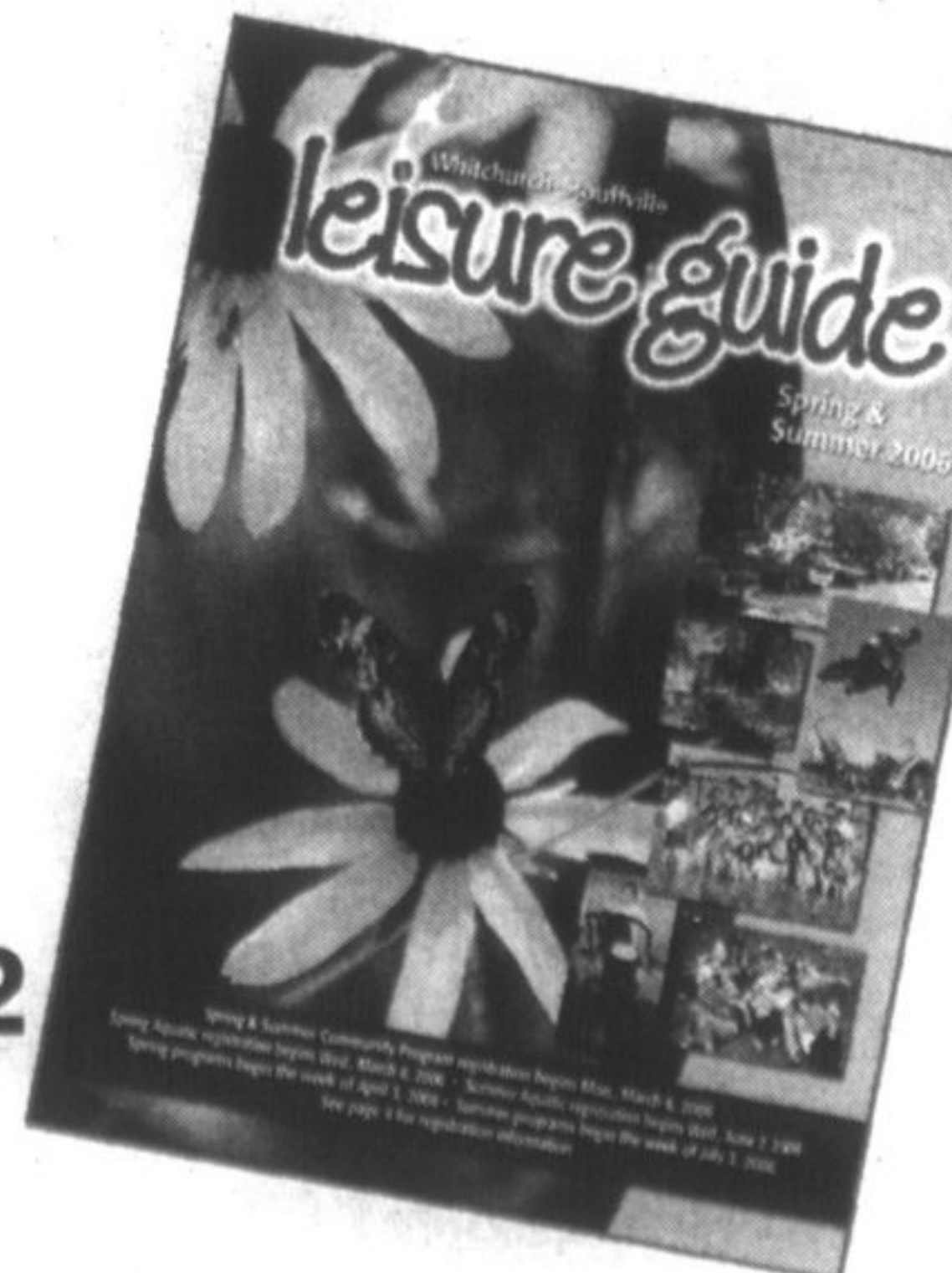
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Riding more populous than Prince Edward Island

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imagine our boundaries will take a different shape. Theoretically, Oak Ridges-Markham could be split in half."

The riding, an amalgamation of the former York North and Vaughan-King-Aurora hustings runs the width of York Region.

Redefining or creating new federal ridings wouldn't happen until after the next census in 2011 or the next election, he said.

"If the current parliament lasts four years, it'll be in 2013," he said. "The riding is huge rural and urban and culturally diverse. It's like a microcosm of Canada. One thing we'd want is to keep communities whole."

Liberty Party of Canada (Ontario) executive director Judi Longfield also anticipates riding changes in York Region.

"It should be done based on the numbers," she said. "There should be an equitable redistribution."

Giving MPs a manageable number of constituents would benefit the electorate Ms Longfield said.

MAKES IT FAIR

"What it does is make it fair for the individuals in the area," she said. "It gives better service to the people."

The process towards making riding changes will involve public hearings and municipal representations, she said. Her organization plans on making a submission when the time comes.

"In the next while we'll begin to learn about the criteria and the process," she said. "Ultimately, all the input will go to a House of Commons committee."

Mr. Calandra hopes the process begins soon.

"I love representing the riding," he said.

I'm not finding it too difficult to do so. But, it's about people and making sure votes count and that there's equal weight."