

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SURE SIGN OF SPRING

Volunteers Audrey Gibson (left) and Bettyanne Pajot will be selling Canadian Cancer Society daffodils this weekend. Look for flower sales at retail outlets throughout Stouffville. Volunteers will also go door-to-door to neighbours on their street asking for support and offering information on the services of the society.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Costs up, time lost at arena/fire hall project

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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They say everything happens in threes. If that's the case, the new fire hall/arena project has already fulfilled its quota and the buildings are still five to eight months away from completion.

The first glitch occurred back in October when the site, on Weldon Road next to Stouffville District Secondary School, had to be remediated and prepared for construction.

More than 6,000 tonnes of unanticipated contaminated fill ended up having to be removed and disposed of. The cost? An addi-

tional \$454,000, on top of \$1.2 million paid to Ron Robinson Limited for earthworks and underground service.

Fill was also required to replace the tonnes removed.

"It was expected that the fill would be available from town sources at no cost," Chris Powers, Whitchurch-Stouffville's chief of fire and emergency services, said in a report to council. "Due to the shortage of appropriate town fill at the time, last summer's excessive rainfall was a factor, an additional 3,300 cubic metres of clean fill was required to restore the site."

The clean fill came to \$55,440, which

increased the total cost for site remediation/restoration by \$509,440, plus GST.

The money is being allocated to the public works department's capital budget, which means despite the added expense, the project is still within its budget of \$26,337,172.

The second glitch came when Tom Graham, the municipality's director of leisure services and department lead for this project, resigned earlier this year.

Fire Chief Chris Powers was handed the task of the project's department head lead. He will be working with Rob Raycroft, Whitchurch-Stouffville's manager of facilities and parks.

The third problem to plague the arena and fire hall's construction was courtesy of Mother Nature.

The frigid temperatures and relentless dumping of snow in December and January slowed the project down by a month-and-a-half to two months.

"We're hoping they can make that time up in the summer," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson at council last week.

Norlon Builders now projects a completion date of October for the fire hall and EMS building and December/January for the twin-pad arena.

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A black and white photograph of three smiling children of diverse backgrounds.

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