

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

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LONG WEEKEND CRASH

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services Captain Trevor Wawryk examines an ATV that rolled off a pickup truck following a motor vehicle collision on Aurora Road at McCowan Road Saturday. A Jaguar XJ6 and Ford F150 pickup truck carrying an Arctic Cat ATV collided. Occupants of the two vehicles suffered minor injuries and were out of their vehicles by the time firefighters arrived.

New plan would help downtown Stouffville

Grants, loans would help owners improve buildings

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Whitchurch-Stouffville staff have proposed another downtown improvement plan to help bolster the former economic centre of town, which would expand beyond the traditional commercial core.

Under the plan, the downtown area would be expanded to include the approaches into

downtown along the Ninth Line to the east and west, and key properties along Market, Commercial, Edward and Somerville streets.

"We do want to increase the boundaries. When you hit the Ninth Line, you really are hitting the downtown," said Ruth LeBlanc, manager of Stouffville Business Improvement Area. "It's a wonderful gateway because you have all those beautiful homes," some of which have businesses in them.

The Community Improvement Plan is designed to provide downtown businesses with financial assistance in two areas — redevelop-

ment/rehabilitation and building/facade/signage improvement. The plan also includes a fee grant program and the municipality's ability to sell or lease its buildings or land holdings.

Merchants received news of the plan at a meeting yesterday.

The redevelopment/rehabilitation grant program was created to promote the redevelopment and rehabilitation of sites deemed appropriate by the town.

The money granted would not exceed the total value of the work to be completed and it would be based on the construction and

improvements to the building/property.

"Under the program, the town would permit a phased-in collection of the local portion of any tax increase resulting from the building improvements," according to Mr. McNeely, the town's director of planning.

The building/facade/signage improvement loan program is designed to encourage the building's appearance and function within the area. But it must also be consistent with the municipality's vision.

The loan would match the amount spent

See **DOWNTOWN**, page 18.

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