

# Downtown Stouffville businesses facing new town tax

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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When the town takes over the Stouffville Business Improvement Area on Jan. 1, it will impose a special commercial tax levy on all businesses within the downtown area.

"In lieu of the BIA, the town can impose an official levy for services that are additional benefits

on top of municipal services," said Marc Pourvahidi, treasurer and director of finance for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In previous years, according to Mr. Pourvahidi, the BIA has charged an annual levy of about \$42,000, which was divided among the businesses. However, how each business was assessed is not clear.

The municipality is looking at an annual levy between \$50,000 and \$75,000, which will be divided among the businesses based on their MPAC assessments.

The levy will be \$50,000 if the municipality receives the grant it applied for. The grant would pay for a downtown manager the town wants to hire.

However, if the municipality does not receive the grant, Mr. Pourvahidi said the annual levy would be \$75,000.

"We're trying to take a leadership role in the downtown revitalization so that it keeps moving forward," he said.

Information meetings on the special commercial tax levy will

take place on Nov. 18 at 7:30 a.m. and Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. Both meetings take place at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

For more information, contact Mr. Pourvahidi at 905-640-1910 ext. 245 or Andrew McNeely, director of planning and building services, at 905-640-1910 ext. 270.

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## MDs 'can't meet needs'

From page 1.

off, not only once but twice as two new doctors joined the practice.

Dr. Nima Mirtorabi opened up a family practice at the medical centre and is accepting new patients. Dr. Zahara Rasul took on Dr. Petrie's patients and is not accepting any new ones.

"It's been quite overwhelming (for Dr. Rasul), but she's done a good job," Dr. Philpott said.

The two doctors may be familiar to some residents as they both have previous experience at the centre.

Dr. Mirtorabi did some of his resident training at the

centre before taking a position at Mount Sinai in Toronto.

Dr. Rasul covered another physician's maternity leave before moving on to a position at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

"I think both of them really liked the way the clinic worked," Dr. Philpott said. "I think they found it was a good, strong group to work with."

With the addition of Dr. Mirtorabi and Dr. Rasul, Whitchurch-Stouffville has 14 physicians, with four of them accepting new patients.

"We still can't meet the needs in the area and there are people in Stouffville who still have to drive long distances to their doctors," Dr. Philpott said.

## SOME DOCTORS HAVE OPENINGS

► Local physicians accepting patients

Dr. Patrick Wat and Dr. Peter Izso - Stouffville Family Physicians, 6179 Main St.

Dr. Al-Karim Mawani and Dr. Sarah Alkhalaf (both as of January) - Family Health, 6601 Main St.

Mr. Mirtorabi - Stouffville Medical Centre, 34 Civic Ave.

Dr. Brian Taylor - The Health Centre of Stouffville, 6212 Main St.

- Source: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

## WILLOW SPRINGS WINERY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday November 21st  
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL - Dec. 18-19 / 8pm & Dec. 20 / 2pm

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