

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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STOUFFVILLE NEW YEARS
40-60% OFF ON ALL NUTS, CHOCOLATE, CANDY & SNACKS
 PLANTERS DRY ROASTED PEANUTS Large 600g jar

NEWSMAKERS: As the year ends, we look back at people, places and issues at the centre of Whitchurch-Stouffville news in 2009

'Twas the year of new additions

LONG-AWAITED STOUFFVILLE ARTS CENTRE, FIRE HALL OPEN, WITH MORE FACILITIES ON THE WAY

NINETEEN ON THE PARK: Town crier Marcel Bossi declared Stouffville's new downtown arts centre open in May.



STOUFFVILLE CLIPPERS: Three Ontario minor hockey titles and its name on the new arena in 2009.

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Officially, 2009 was the year of the ox. In Whitchurch-Stouffville, it was more like the year of the construction crane.

New-home construction was not news in a town whose population shot to more than 30,000 earlier in the decade.

What was new were the buildings and other infrastructure constructed during the last 12 months largely because of that growth.

An arts centre, fire hall and twin-pad arena were all being built in 2009, but not without controversy.

There were record numbers of hockey championships earned and an NHL career launched.



We honoured our top citizens, while marking the 25th anniversary of our summer festival.

But, it wasn't all fun and games. Several sudden deaths also rocked the community.

NINETEEN ON THE PARK

Since 1889, the building behind Main Street's clock tower has been a town hall, concert venue and marketplace, as well as a movie theatre before returning to being the municipal offices.

In May, following years of false starts, council rejections, planning and \$3.8 million worth of renovations, the building now known as the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the

Park opened. The facility was named after Stouffville resident and local businessman Joe Lebovic who paid \$100,000 for the naming rights, as well as for the building's location - 19 Civic Avenue.

The facility, which consists of the original brickwork and ceiling, has a great hall with 124 retractable and tiered seats, a kitchen and state-of-the-art sound system for movies and concerts.

"It's a really classic, beautiful facility that I think has a 'wow' factor," said Dorie Billich, manager of culture and museum services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville at the building's unveiling.

The building has been busy this month with Christmas concerts, press conferences, the centre's professional series and the Olympic



MICHAEL DEL ZOTTO: New York Rangers draft pick got off to huge start in the NHL.



DIANE WARD: Citizen of the year continues to work with several organizations in Stouffville area.

Torch Relay reception.

ARENA & FIRE HALL

Calls for a new fire hall and arena ice were being answered in 2009. The cost? \$26,337,172.

That was the winning tender for construction of a twin-pad arena and fire hall on Weldon Road between Nofrills and Stouffville District Secondary School.

The fire station, named in honour of former fire chief Walter Smith, opened last month.

Twenty-four-hour service by full-time firefighters will be introduced to Stouffville next week. Those firefighters have classy new digs, including a large kitchen and lounge, gymnasium, sleeping quarters and training area.

However, at least one council-

lor thought the building was too opulent.

The arena, the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex, is scheduled to open Feb. 2.

The ice pads are close to identical. There are individual seats on each pad and standing room on top - where you can see two games at once through the glass divider.

The place is big on glass and Clipper colours - red, black and white.

STOUFFVILLE CLIPPERS

Not only did they have an arena named for them, the Clippers, Stouffville's rep hockey teams, won banners for their rinks in 2009.

The Stouffville minor midget Clippers, peewee Clippers and

See CLIPPERS, page 3.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM THE STAFF OF THE SUN-TRIBUNE

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