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SAYING BYE TO MOM

Laura, Amanda and Natasha Deacon follow the hearse carrying the body of their mother, Marion Deacon, arm in arm to the neighbouring cemetery after her funeral at Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church in Gormley Sunday. The Woodbine Avenue church overflowed with mourners. Ms Deacon was pronounced dead after being found in her home one week earlier. Her boyfriend, Paul Kenyon, 43, has been charged with second-degree murder. See additional photograph on page 18.



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

RENEWING LEASE AT IMPERIAL CENTRE ANOTHER OPTION

New civic centre up for debate

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Renew the lease or acquire property and custom-build a facility?

That is the question Whitchurch-Stouffville council will debate Tuesday afternoon during a meeting.

"I think we have to look to the future - what are we going to do," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said in an interview following a closed-door

meeting on the topic Friday.

Town staff moved from what is now the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park to the Imperial Centre on Sandiford Drive more than 10 years ago. The lease was renewed during the last term of council and it is up for renewal again later this year.

"It's like buying a house - do you go out and buy or rent?" Mr. Emmerson said.

Before moving into its current location,

town staff contemplated a few other options, including building its own town hall on 10 acres of property it bought on Hwy. 48 on land purchased from Spring Lakes Golf Course. The land was later sold.

Property in Ballantrae was also on the radar.

"When council looked at it 11 or 12 years ago ... we had no growth at the time. So we didn't go ahead with it (and) we got a good lease rate" in the Imperial Centre, Mr.

Emmerson said.

Now, it's the former site of Stouffville District Secondary School that is on the wish list of Mr. Emmerson's.

The York Region District School Board is demolishing the old school on Bramble Crescent this spring. The town was interested in buying the building and property but could not swing a deal.

The meeting starts at 3 p.m. in the council chambers, 37 Sandiford Dr., fourth floor.

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