

# Museum expansion, McCowan construction next

From page 1.

expansion of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum with a visitor/community centre.

"There's no sense pushing mud around because that's what you do in April," Mr. Emmerson said.

The tender for McCowan Road was approved at the end of February and construction is expected to begin next month.

The museum's tender has just been released, with bids due back April 28. Dorie Billich, manager of culture and museum services for the municipality is hoping construction will begin in May.

In order to receive the money awarded by the province, each project must be 90-per cent complete by March 31, 2011.

"We feel fairly confident we'll make the March 31 deadline and I'm pushing as hard as I can," Ms Billich said of the museum.

As for the other four projects, "we'll have it all done" by March 31, Mr. Emmerson said.

Work on the Stouffville Sports Field is about 70 to 80 per cent complete, according to Mr. Pourvahidi. What remains is the paving of the parking lot and irrigating the soccer pitches, which will take place following the upcoming soccer season.

Some work at Memorial Park has been done, which is receiving a completely revamped walkway, new grandstand, fences and irrigation system. Construction will begin after the Strawberry Festival, according to Mr. Emmerson.

The Stouffville Arena has received a bit of a facelift with new dasher boards, glass and lights.

The overhaul to the washrooms and lobby, as well as the installation of a sliding door to Pad B and the new windows above Pad A, will be done at the end of the skating season.

"There wasn't enough time last year because the grant was approved so late last year," Mr. Pourvahidi said.

The total cost for all five projects is

## DEVELOPERS PAYING 62% OF \$37-MILLION DEBT

► The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has a current debt load of \$37,193,339, including \$6 million it debentured last month for the purchase of the Cook Canada property for a new civic centre.

Town officials say developers will pay 62 per cent of the debt, with taxpayers picking up the remaining 38 per cent.

"It's a mortgage process," town treasurer Marc Pourvahidi said. "You can treat the developers as your tenants. They are building things in our town and paying for a portion of that debt."

"We're quite confident the debt will be handled," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said. "We will handle this debt and there will not be any more impact to our residents than what we have put in our fiscal impact study."

\$7,445,055 and is being funded equally between the provincial and federal governments as well as the municipality.

The province approved 249 projects amounting to \$79,390,511 in provincial funding. The total cost of the projects is \$239,982,172.

For more information, go to [www.infrastructureapp.mei.gov.on.ca/en/results\\_projects.asp?region=29](http://www.infrastructureapp.mei.gov.on.ca/en/results_projects.asp?region=29)

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