

# Town asks feds for extension on museum expansion

1 / Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010

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"The contractor remains confident and has issued revised schedules that continue to reflect the original required March 2011 deadline," wrote Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in his Nov. 23 report to council.

The architect has subsequently written a formal notification of concern and indicated the project has slipped by as much as six weeks in some areas and by two weeks in others.

Earlier this month, town staff notified the Building Canada Fund grant agents of the potential delay and formally requested a 90-day extension, moving the completion date to June 30, 2011.

No response has been received by the town as of press time.

"I'm hoping they would agree to that. If they do not over the next three to four months we'll have to work 24/7," said Marc Pourvahidi, treasurer and director of finance for the municipality. "I have my doubts they would hold back money that is for a project that is 80- to 90-percent complete."

The museum's renovation project consists of a 9,000-square-foot addition that will connect the existing Bogartown Schoolhouse and Vandorf Public School buildings.

Through the Building Canada Fund's Recreation Infrastructure Program, the town received money to renovate and/or maintain recreational spaces and sports facilities.

Memorial Park's ball diamond is being overhauled. The Stouffville Arena soccer fields were upgraded to include improved drainage and were re-sodded.

Both facilities will be completed by the March deadline and operational in May 2011, in time for the start of the baseball and soccer seasons, according to Mr. Raycroft.

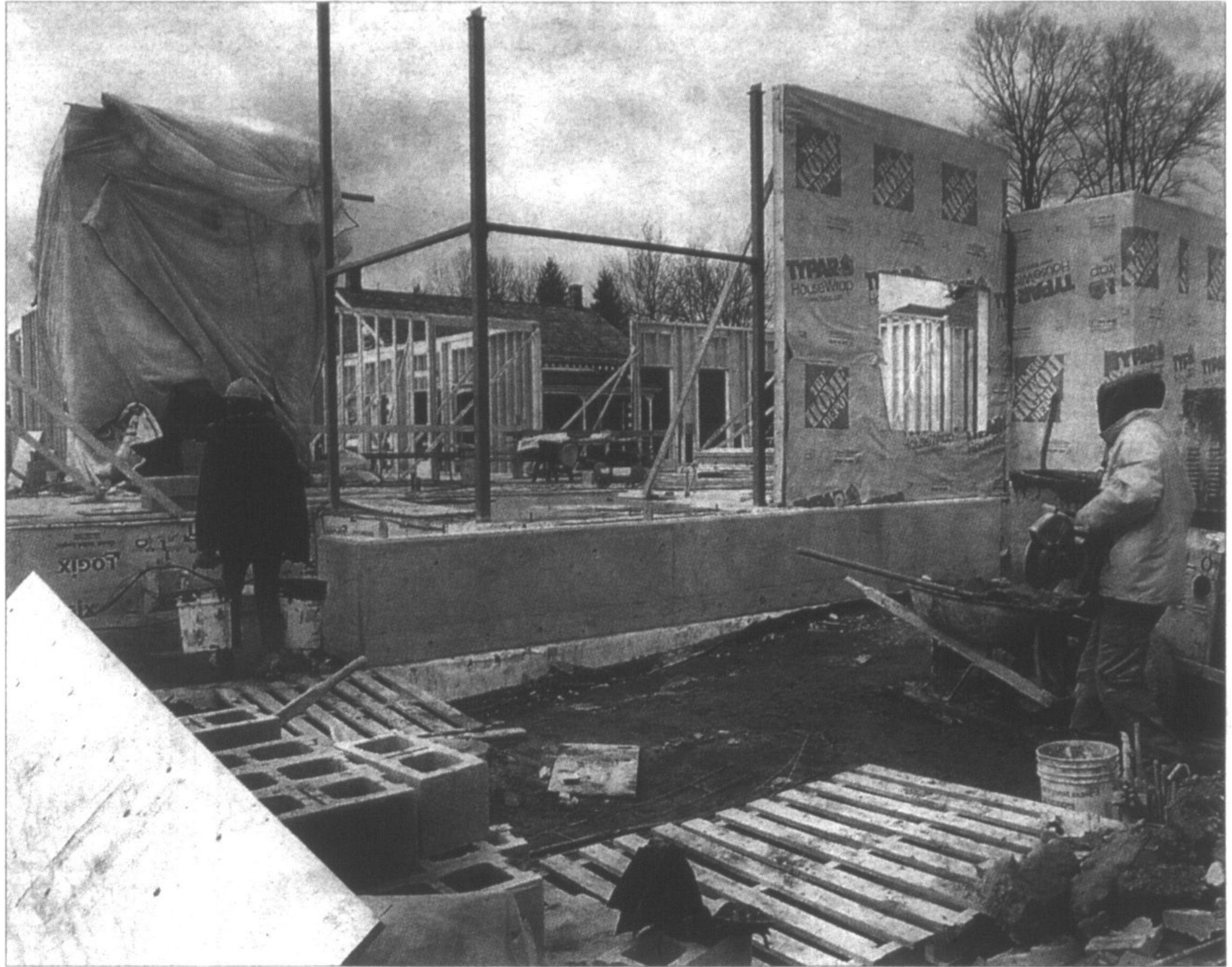
Also included in the RINC funding was the Stouffville Arena renovation, which consisted of numerous smaller projects, such as new dasher boards and glass, lighting for pads A and B, parking lot paving and lobby refurbishment.

All of this work will also be completed by the March 31 deadline, according to Mr. Raycroft.

McCowan Road was reconstructed between Vandorf and Aurora roads and is complete, except for some minor deficiencies.

"Currently, we're tracking on budget for all projects," Mr. Raycroft told council last week.

Councillor Rob Hargrave requested Mr. Raycroft provide council with information immediately upon realization that overages may occur, to which Mr. Raycroft responded: "We would, but we won't go over."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

VGN Construction employees work on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's new Welcome Centre Friday. Completion of the \$3.25-million project before a deadline for funding expires is in doubt.

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