

GOVERNMENT: New seniors/wellness centre being planned

Gym not moving from leisure centre to new town hall

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The town's fitness centre is not moving.

Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, made the announcement during the June 21 council meeting when asked, point-blank, by Councillor Rob Hargrave, if the current facility in the Lebovic Leisure Centre on Burkholder Street would close down and become a part of the 55+ community/wellness and fitness centre.

Earlier this year, Mr. Raycroft

stated the fitness centre might move to the new town hall and become a part of the wellness centre.

There is 14,000 square feet of available space in the former Cook Canada building on Sandiford Drive the town is renovating and turning into its town hall.

"If you put seniors in there, you've changed the concept," Mr. Raycroft told The Sun-Tribune.

The seniors' new facility, will, however, have a fitness component to it, wherever it is located.

Other aspects of the facility and ideas for its location are part of a

questionnaire that has been sent out to various 55-plus organizations within the community.

It is expected that by 2031, Whitchurch-Stouffville's 55-plus population will grow from 3,400 to about 8,700...

This will be followed up by focus group workshops in the fall and a review of up to three candi-

date sites.

In December, council is expected to receive a business plan for the facility, complete with a preferred location and budget.

Staff have migrated toward a broader, more holistic approach to programming for the new seniors' centre "in recognition of the extent of interests and needs of the 55-plus community," wrote Andrew McNeely, director of planning and building services for the town in his June 21 report to council.

A replacement facility for the

Main and Market streets facility was requested by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Silver Jubilee 55 Plus Club late last year because it had outgrown it.

It is expected that by 2031, Whitchurch-Stouffville's 55-plus population will grow from 3,400 to about 8,700 people, according to Mr. McNeely.

"Leisure trends across Ontario and representative to Whitchurch-Stouffville reveal the need for programming and events tailored specifically to the older adult," according to Mr. McNeely.

9, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Thursday, July 7, 2011



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