



SUN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Stouffville historian Fred Robbins and others wanted to save the Bartholomew house on Stouffville Road. But the 160-year-old home was beyond repair, says the company that now owns the property.

# Going, going...

## Demolished Stouffville Road home beyond repair: owners

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Henry Bartholomew's house is close to gone.

Council granted the land's current owners — Adena Stallions — permission to demolish it and a barn last week.

Crews were close to bringing down the entire house yesterday afternoon.

Company representatives for the land owned by Frank Stronach made the original request 13 months ago. But the town's heritage advisory committee stalled the process with potential last-minute saviours and their request for council to give it heritage protection.

"I really saw some people who had passion for this home (that) had historical value ... to fight for what they believed in," Mike Rogers, business manager for Adena Stables told The Sun-Tribune.

"I think they were thinking more with their hearts," he said.

The Georgian-style home had historical value. It was built about 160 years ago on 260 acres of land on the south side of Stouffville Road between Hwy. 48 and McCowan Road in Ringwood.

Until this week, the home was boarded up, mould-invested and there may also be asbestos-containing materials inside it. It may, at one point, have been used as a grow-op, all of which have compromised its structure and ability to be refurbished into the home it once was.

Its significance to Whitchurch-Stouffville, however, will not be for-

gotten.

A plaque will be placed on the property and some pieces of the home may be salvaged and given to the heritage committee. But "unfortunately the house is very contaminated so it's a bit of a risk", according to Mr. Rogers.

Two walnut trees will also be preserved.

If council did not grant the demolition permit request, the home would have remained boarded up as it was too expensive to remediate.

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There are no mechanisms in place for the town to force the property owner to fix it.

"I don't think it would have done Stouffville any good," Mr. Rogers told The Sun-Tribune.

"I feel disappointed the people who had it the last 10 to 15 years ... disregarded it and let it go into disrepair," said Mayor Wayne Emmer-son during last week's council deliberations.

Once the area has been cleared, it will be used for agricultural feed production for Adena's thoroughbred horses.

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