

Library to move to new location on Mostar Drive for 2017

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The library is moving to a temporary location for much of 2017.

Whitchurch-Stouffville town council unanimously approved the relocation of the public library at a meeting on Dec. 6. The new location will be 175 Mostar Dr. Town staff determined the relocation was necessary due to construction and renovation of the cur-

rent facility at the leisure centre at 2 Park Dr.

Shutting down the library has been identified as the only viable option due to overall occupancy and safety issues related to construction/renovation, the report reads.

The library will operate from its temporary location starting March 2017 for an estimated period of 10 to 12 months. It will close Feb. 13, 2017 for six weeks until the library has fully tran-

sitioned to the temporary location.

The Mostar location was chosen after council and staff reviewed several options.

The location was deemed to meet criteria laid out by staff, including accessibility, cost and location among others.

It will reopen at its new location in the renovated leisure centre in January 2018.

Relocation cost to 175

Mostar Dr. is estimated to be \$350,000, to be taken from the overall project budget.

A closure of the library would lead to a minimum of \$500,000 to \$700,000 in savings, the report outlines. But neither Mayor Justin Altmann nor any councillor considered a closure.

Library board chairperson Lloyd Pinnock supported the decision, saying the new location is adequate.

"We can keep our cur-

rent staff together in one building and provide to the public as much of our current service as we can do," he told council.

Councillor Hugo Kroon argued that it would cost more to keep the library open at its current location during construction/renovation.

"In regards to trying to do some kind of work-around to keep the facility open while we're working in it, it's just not going to

happen," he said.

"We don't have the extra dollars to throw around."

Councillor Rob Hargrave urged residents to "think positive", praising the leisure centre/library expansion project.

"At the end of the day, a little bit of pain to get a long-term gain is well worth it," he said.

"We gotta think positive, we got 12 months we have to wait to birth an unbelievable project."

Stouffville's John Nolan leaves lasting legacy in our community

"He treated everyone with respect".

This legacy, associated with Stouffville's John Nolan, is indelibly implanted in the hearts and minds of all those privileged to know him. As a theatre manager and travel guide, their numbers are in the thousands.

John, son of Innis and the late Charles Nolan, former owner of this newspaper, passed away Oct. 31 following a courageous 2 1/2 year battle with cancer. He was 69.

Born in Stouffville's Brierbush Hospital, John received his formal education at Summitview Public School; Stouffville High School and Carleton University, Ottawa.

Even as a pre-schooler, there was a glint of travel

interest in his eyes. Often he would visit Stouffville's CNR station and watch steam trains arrive and depart. He was fascinated by them, so much so, on several occasion he would hitch rides to Markham in a baggage car and meet up with his grandparents, Garnet and Ella Williamson and his uncle John.

Coming full circle is the fact that John and wife Christine's final trip was by train to Vancouver.

During his growing-up years, John was a member of the Stouffville Air Cadets, an association he much enjoyed. He also sang in the Stouffville United Church choir where for 23 years his mother served as organist.

After receiving his permanent teacher's cer-



JIM THOMAS
Columnist

tificate, John taught at a school in London, Ont., and later served as a private tutor for a family in Bern, Switzerland.

While living in London, England, he resided at the home of sister Lynda, (Mrs Tony Woodbridge). It was there he was introduced to the travel industry.

But the theatre held a special calling for John. He enrolled in London's School of Arts and Crafts, regard-

ed as one of the highest education centres of its kind in the world. At the time he was one of only a few applicants selected to study there. Later, in West London's theatre district he held the position of stage manager for the first showing of 'Annie', a production that went on to thrill audiences globally. He also served as a director of 'The Rocky Horror Show'.

It was during this time, a period of ten years, he met the love of his life, Christine Wood, a theatre wardrobe mistress formerly of Blackpool, Lancashire. Following their marriage, they came to Canada and took up residence in Aurora.

For a time, John was employed on the staff of York University, Toronto, then Brock University, St. Catharines where two theatres are associated with the site and where Christine was already engaged. They would later return to St. Catharines following

time spent in Windsor.

The call of the travel industry prompted John to resume this career path, signing on with First American in 1991 and concluding with Horizon, Canada in 2013. In the role as one of the country's foremost tour guides, he accompanied travelers to areas of interests around the world. His personal site choice was Africa.

John's final trip was Peru. It was there the full intensity of his cancer affliction struck, prompting him to seek medical attention. This was provided at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital and extended over a period of almost three years.

"The physicians and surgeons did everything they could," his mother said. "I can't praise them enough for the wonderful care provided."

Both his wife and mother are thankful John's life was spared long enough to

permit trips to Canada's east and west coasts, Alaska and New York.

The memorial visitation at the Patrick J. Darte Funeral Chapel, St. Catharines was largely attended. Additional family survivors include: daughter Elizabeth Greiner and two grandchildren Jaxson and Lilyanna.

John Charles Nolan - respected by his peers; appreciated by his patrons and forever remembered by his friends.

Favoured floats

The 1st Ballantrae Scouts captured the Mayor's Award at the Kinsmen-sponsored Santa Claus Parade Saturday.

Other class winners were - Stouffville Toyota, Best Theme; Dr. Bob Boadway, Most Original; Glad Park, Best School; and Stouffville Academy of Dance, Most Humorous.

Judges were Sue Smith, Carol Kidd, Bonnie Gribbon and Leslie Huke-Coper.

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