



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LIBRARY, LEISURE CENTRE EXPANSION
GETS UNDERWAY IN MEMORIAL PARK**
Sod turning ceremony starts year-long project which
will add 42,000 sq. ft. to the complex

Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON – The expansion to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and Leisure Centre began today after members of Council, the Library Board and the Latcham Gallery Board turned the ceremonial sod.

“It is with great honour today that I stand united with all members of Council, staff, Leisure and Community Services, the Library Board, Latcham Gallery and residents in what is one of the greatest additions to our community for leisure, recreation and education,” said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann. “This ground-breaking ceremony delivers and checks off all the boxes in providing the infrastructure that is required to foster, enhance and enrich our municipality well into the future.”

The ground-breaking ceremony, held on the south lawn of the Centre Tuesday afternoon, was attended by all of the Town’s Council members plus members of the Library Board chaired by Lloyd Pinnock, Ray McNeice representing the Latcham Gallery Board, members of the Toronto-based architect firm Diamond-Schmitt and Construction Managing firm Percon Construction Inc.

“Today is a day where leadership is power with people, not over people,” Mayor Altmann said. “Together we can achieve great goals for our community,”

The expansion, which will add over 42,000 square feet to the Memorial Park complex, will include the doubling of the current library’s size, the relocation of the Latcham Gallery, which currently resides on Main Street, a new gymnasium, a new fitness and aerobics centre, a new pool viewing area and more staff and storage room.

It will be the first expansion to the Centre since it opened in 2001.

Mayor Altmann, Ward 6 Councillor Rob Hargrave, Pinnock and McNeice spoke to the crowd of close to 50 members of the public, staff and media.

“It has been a long and sometimes frustrating journey since the idea of expansion of our Library was first discussed many years ago,” Pinnock said in his speech to the crowd. “But I am happy to see that today we can finally say that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel - and it is definitely not an oncoming train!”

The expansion to the library will be approximately 16,000 sq. ft. and will include an atrium area in the middle of it to allow for access to an outside venue for reading and relaxing.

“On behalf of the Library Board and staff, we all look forward with much anticipation to the occupancy of our new and expanded library facility in January 2018,” Pinnock said.

The Latcham Gallery will comprise 3,850 sq. ft. in the area that now occupies the current fitness space and aerobic studio. The Gallery will have a dedicated multi-purpose room for their use and direct access from the main lobby.

“On behalf of the Latcham Gallery Board of Directors, Gallery staff, members and

volunteers, I wish to express how pleased we are to be part of this new facility,” McNeice said in his address.

“For years, the Library and Leisure Centre has been a meeting place for the community... the Latcham Gallery is proud to be adding to the mix with professional, all-ages programming and thought-provoking, challenging exhibitions.”

“I think I speak for everyone today by saying that we’re excited... and we’re ready to move in now!” he said.

The new 7,800 sq. ft. gymnasium will enhance the drop in programs, daytime programs (including pickleball, badminton and basketball), leagues and rental opportunities.

The new fitness studio will be 5,800 sq. ft. and will include new dedicated change rooms for the fitness users. The new aerobic studio, which will be 2,370 sq. ft., will be adjacent to the fitness area.

Council approved an overall budget for the project of \$15,440,000, inclusive of tax, earlier this year. The total budget includes the design, management and construction costs.

Construction is expected to start in the coming weeks according to Director of Leisure and Community Services, and project lead, Rob Raycroft.

“We are on schedule and on budget for a public opening in early 2018” he said.

“So, let the construction begin!” Pinnock ended his speech with.

The facility is located at Park Drive and Hoover Park Drive in Stouffville’s Memorial Park.

**** PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST ****

Media Contact: **Rob Raycroft | Director, Leisure and Community Services**

Phone: 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642 8697 Ext. 2290 | Email:

rob.raycroft@townofws.ca

Media Contact: **Glenn Jackson | Corporate Communications**

Phone: 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642 8697 Ext. 2451 | Email:

glenn.jackson@townofws.ca