

Next stop, “Stouffville Junction”



The year was 1879. Elijah Miller opened a “first-class” hotel on the corner of Main and Edward. He called it “The Mansion House Hotel”. It is said that the Mansion House was very modern for the time. It was referred to as “one of the best hotels of the first grade north of Toronto”. Guests were provided with amenities such as hot water, heat, and electric light.

The Mansion House Hotel welcomed many guests over the years. Not only people traveling by carriage but also travelers on the Toronto Nipissing Railway line - a railway system that brought dozens of trains a day through Stouffville’s Train Station... the Stouffville Junction.

In the 141 years the building has stood next to the train station, the Mansion House has seen its fair share of transformations. Since Elijah Miller’s original construction of the building, the rear of the structure has had a few additions. As well, a few fires in the building have led to the reconstruction of certain areas. Fast forward a few decades, the 1980s welcomed the addition of the ever so familiar orange stucco. Since then, the building looked fairly similar... until this year.

Enter the developer - a private development company known as “The Stouffville Junction” led by Kelly Carrick. The group, who have deep roots in our town, seek to attract people and business to Stouffville just as Elijah Miller did over a century ago. For this project, the Stouffville Junction is working with local construction management firm, Harrington and Associates Ltd.

Construction on the exterior of the Stouffville Junction started earlier this year. It features a slate tile roof provided by North

Country Slate, copper trim, gutters and downspouts, newly installed dark windows, and much of the original brickwork. Early on in construction, the work crew removed the stucco and took down the exterior walls. During demolition, many original bricks were saved and used in the reconstruction of the building. As Vice President of Harrington and Associates, Chris Flanagan said, “As many original bricks as possible were salvaged for re-use.”

For this project, Harrington and Associates aim to use Canadian products and services whenever attainable.

A few of their suppliers are just next door. As the Stouffville Junction Team says, “Schell Lumber has been able to keep us fully stocked [...] even in a year where supplies have been limited.” Also working on the project is local carpentry company Hughes Brothers Construction and Atkins + Van Groll (who have played an integral role being the project’s prime consultant working with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Planning Department).

The interior will offer 4200 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor currently being discussed with different hospitality groups to find the right partner for the space. As well, the building will include ten boutique “purpose-built” suites on the two upper levels. H.Bee Architectural Design has played an instrumental role in the interior design of the residential space.





As Chris Flanagan said, “The suites will be full of original character. Each will have unique features such as exposed brick, coffered ceilings, plaster details, strip hardwood floors, exposed wood ceilings, operable windows and many new finishes that compliment the heritage elements of the building.” Each suite will include a bedroom, kitchen, three-piece washroom, and resident’s very own individual laundry.

As the development team puts it, “The goal of this development is to combine modern infrastructure with old-world charm.” The Stouffville Junction has been working with local historians and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Committee to uncover pieces of the historic puzzle. “The history of the building plays a major role in selecting the design elements of the building.”

When the building is set to open in mid-2021, it will not only be a community hub but a “piece of history the community can once again be proud of.” During a time when the number of new developments is on the rise, we need to save the historic buildings we have at the same time. As Kelly Carrick said, “Hopefully, the Stouffville Junction will be one of many historic restorations. Hopefully, we can set an example.”