

Riding, horse-care mix at Club



Future equestrians learn the basics

Jim Doyle (left), district commissioner of the Claremont Pony Club, has been instrumental in organizing a local chapter of the Canada-wide equestrian body. He's pictured here with club member Karen Walker, during a testing session at

Dreamcrest Farm Sunday. Riders had the opportunity to display skills they've learned since the group's formation in April.

—Chris Shanahan

CLAREMONT — Riding and horse care go hand-in-hand at the Claremont Pony Club.

The group, started in April of this year, is one of 25 clubs forming the Central Ontario Region of one of the biggest organized riding groups in the world.

There are a total of nine national regions within the Canadian Pony Club.

"Most of the top riders in Canada were at one time Pony Club members," explained Claremont's district commissioner Jim Doyle. "It teaches

about taking care of the horse as well as riding."

The club's chief instructor, Kelly Plitz, herself a former Club member, is now one of the country's top equestrians. She was a member of Canada's three-day eventing team at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and recently placed second at an international competition in Pennsylvania.

The local chapter, based at the Plitz family's Dreamcrest Farm in north Pickering, will soon be entering its winter season.

Beginning in November, classes

will run every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Instructional sessions in a number of related fields will help broaden the young riders' understanding of horsemanship, according to Mr Doyle.

Riders are tested according to their individual skill levels. Classification begins at the 'D' level and ranges up through 'C', 'B' and the top 'A' ranking.

Participants can start as young as age seven and continue through until 21.

They gain additional experience through frequent competition against riders of comparable skill levels. Most are held within the

region, but there are also national events.

Popular annual meets include the Prince Phillip Games, tetralathlon; competitive trail ride; and dressage and show-jumping championships.

Claremont club members Dina and Anna Foscarini of West Hill, represented Central Ontario Region in Ottawa this August.

Goals listed in club literature are: to encourage young people to ride and learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding; to provide instruction in riding and horsemanship and to in-

still in members the proper care of their animals; and to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.

A small annual membership fee is supplemented by fundraising projects such as successful cheese sales.

The Claremont chapter already has 26 students, but Mr. Doyle says, there's room for more. For further information on the Claremont Pony Club contact Jim Doyle at 649-3005 or secretary Wendy Dworak at 293-8495.



Riding skills tested at Pony Club

Vicki Murray of Whitby guides her horse over a jump during the pony club's level 'D' testing day. Riders, from age seven to 21, combine riding with

instruction in various areas of horsemanship. There's now 26 club members and newcomers are welcome.

—Chris Shanahan

Golf course owner fears errant balls hazard

STOUFFVILLE — Plans for rezoning of lands at the westerly and northerly approaches to Stouffville were brought before a public meeting Sept. 25.

The proposed Official Plan amendment would change land use designation on lands with frontage on Hwy. 48, Hwy. 47, Regional Road 14, Main Street East and the 10th Line.

It includes Lots 33, 34 and 35 (Markham) and Lots 1 and 2, Conc. 7 and 8 on the westerly approach, as well as Lots 34 and 35 (Markham) and Lots 1, 2 and 3, Conc. 9 and 10, on the north entrance.

Proposed land-use designation for

these areas includes community residential, open space environmental, general commercial, recreational commercial, industrial/commercial, rural, suburban residential, and urban residential.

A number of property owners in the affected areas voiced their concerns at the meeting.

Mac Frost, co-owner of Spring Lakes Golf Club in Ringwood, is concerned that future residential development next to the Ringwood course could create a safety hazard.

Golf balls often go astray in the area around the course's 13th hole, he noted.

"If it becomes re-

sidential we're responsible for injuries," Mr Frost said, suggesting that a 75 to 100-foot buffer area be established between the course and the residential zone.

"It would be as a safety measure," he added. Sheep in a

nearby rural area have already been a target of some golfers' errant slices.

Town Planner Michael Saunders stressed that the proposed land-use designations would only be guidelines for future growth.

"It's an area of

transition," the planner explained, "so that's why we've included these designations as a buffer between rural and urban areas."

The Town received five written objections to the proposed official plan amendment. These concerns will be referred to the planning advisory committee.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is currently undertaking a program of upgrading and renovating municipally owned buildings in accordance with the requirements of The Toronto Fire Code, Part 9 (Retrofit).

A number of buildings are involved and the work will cover a broad range of trades.

General contractors who are interested in quoting on the work as it develops should contact the undersigned.

Bruce Arrowsmith
Chief Building Official
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
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Zone name a concern

STOUFFVILLE — Hazard land. It's a zoning designation that can frighten prospective property owners!

That concern surfaced Sept. 25 during a public meeting concerning a proposed zoning bylaw amendment.

The proposal would change the zoning from rural residential to hazard land on a 2.7-acre property, located at the northwest intersection of Vivian Road and Kennedy Road.

The hazard land designation prohibits development except where buildings or structures are used for purposes of flood or erosion control.

Objection came from Dave McCowan, whose Cedar Valley property would be affected by the bylaw amendment.

Mr. McCowan said he would like to sell a portion of his land before any zoning change would take place.

The hazard land name is disturbing to prospective purchasers, he noted.

"That word 'hazard' frightens everyone," agreed Councillor Wilf Morley.

Ron Stein, representing the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (SLSCA), explained that hazard land consists primarily of swamps, ponds and steep slopes.

It refers to areas that it would be hazardous to build on, he added.

A motion was passed referring the matter to the Town Planner for resolution between Mr McCowan and the SLSCA.

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