

Stouffville gets recreation plan for future

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 Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville should make better use of its many park lands and facilities, local politicians were told Tuesday.

Dennis Murphy, chairman of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

(PRAB) presented Council with the board's 1989/90 annual recommendation report for its support and approval.

"We need to find out what we have and what we need. Our desire is to link accessible green space for better access and each committee has its own priority,"

Mr. Murphy said. The seven-member PRAB, which consists of various committees, held a public meeting in the Rec Complex last November where residents were invited to voice suggestions about facilities they would like to see more of, or improvements to, within the town.

The annual report is an update based on the public's suggestions and PRAB's research with other municipalities, geared to long and short-term recreation and planning needs in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Some of the key PRAB short-term recommendations range

the future that will live longer than council itself," Mr. Murphy said.

Local officials told PRAB its report was well researched and ensured the group it would discuss recommendations with staff.

"I was moved when I read this report. The board members should be congratulated in that it shows a vision of a dream," stressed Ward 3 Councillor Nick Tatone.

"The concept of trails linking through the community is an excellent idea," agreed Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders.

And Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson said it was encouraging to see the board looked at "the community as a whole" and not just residents in the downtown

core of Stouffville, to determine recreation needs.

Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles stressed concern of the "aging population" and said there may be more need for services and facilities for seniors, such as lawn bowling.

Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall said she doesn't usually like reports, but said the PRAB report was a "very logical and sensible" information package.

However, she stressed a lot of the work to be done could be voluntary, leaving taxpayers' money "already stretched" to more pressing emergency funding, such as the fire department.

Council voted to discuss the report with staff before making

No trail for disabled at Pangman Springs

A group that offers therapeutic horseback exercise for the physically disabled is not welcome in the new Pangman Springs Conservation Area, Council heard Tuesday.

The new 243-acre Pangman Springs, located in Whitchurch-Stouffville on Aurora Road between the 5th and 6th Concessions, is owned by the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), which said Community Association of Riding for the Disabled (CARD), would not make appropriate use of the lands.

Local man faces incest charges

A 39-year-old Stouffville man was charged last week with incest, after a police investigation showed signs of assault on a 17-year-old girl April 30 in Stouffville, says York Regional Police Constable Dan Kierstead.

The accused was charged May 10 with incest, assault, forcible confinement and with uttering threats, police say.

The man was held in custody until his court appearance on May 11. The investigation is still continuing.

The accused's name cannot be revealed to protect the identity of the victim, Constable Kierstead says.

The group wants to use the area for a new trail run and stable accommodations to serve handicapped residents, and won local officials' support and backing last month.

Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall, Council's LSRCA member, said she cast the only supporting vote at the authority's May 4 meeting.

"I voted in favor because I am representing Council and it was Council's wish to support CARD's request but I can understand (LSRCA) concerns (to have CARD riding trails on the lands)," Councillor Marshall said at the meeting.

The authority said CARD's proposal is an "unacceptable use for the area, as horse riding trails are not conducive to the Master Plan as determined."

CARD Chairman of the Board Lenord Goldberg didn't know of the LSRCA's decision when contacted last Wednesday.

He said turning the group away "deprives handicapped children and adults the right to recreation," and added the decision is a "complete let down."

"You can't get more natural than horses, and some of our members are from Whitchurch-Stouffville. I'd like to see the documents and get a better explanation from (LSRCA)," he concluded.

I was moved when I read this... it shows a vision of a dream.

- Nick Tatone

from creating more toboggan hills; using paved public areas for basketball hoops and games such as hopscotch; establishing a Whitchurch-Stouffville Trails Association to extend development of marked trails, and linking green space together with parks.

In the long-term, PRAB wants Council to develop a recreational park for the Musselman Lake area; increase swimming and fitness facilities; and build new courts and a tennis clubhouse in Stouffville.

"We want Council to establish parameters and set standards for

Park parking irks residents

More than 25 local residents are appealing to Town officials to minimize parking on several streets during the summer baseball season.

A petition from residents on Rose Avenue, Burkholder Street and Russell Avenue joined in asking council to enforce a bylaw banning cars from parking on both sides of their streets.

According to the residents, baseball fans who come out to watch games played on the neighboring baseball diamond at the southwest corner of Franklin Park and along the eastern limits of Rose Avenue, "has created a very dangerous situation in the area."

Fans are parking cars on both sides of the streets, "making it extremely difficult, and at times, impossible, for the residents to either leave or enter their homes," the petition states.

"Ambulance and fire vehicles could not reach either the homes or the park via that part of Rose Avenue to provide essential emergency service," residents claim.

And Fire Chief Bill Brown agrees the situation could "hamper response time."

"I would support the claim. At times it would be difficult for us to manoeuvre (past the parked cars)," Chief Brown told the Tribune.

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson suggested Council write a letter to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association regarding the concerns.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said if parking is banned from the streets, "we better be prepared to provide parking somewhere else," the mayor said.

And although she agreed the parking situation poses a problem, she objected to a statement in the letter that suggested parking problems were "imposed" on residents by Council.

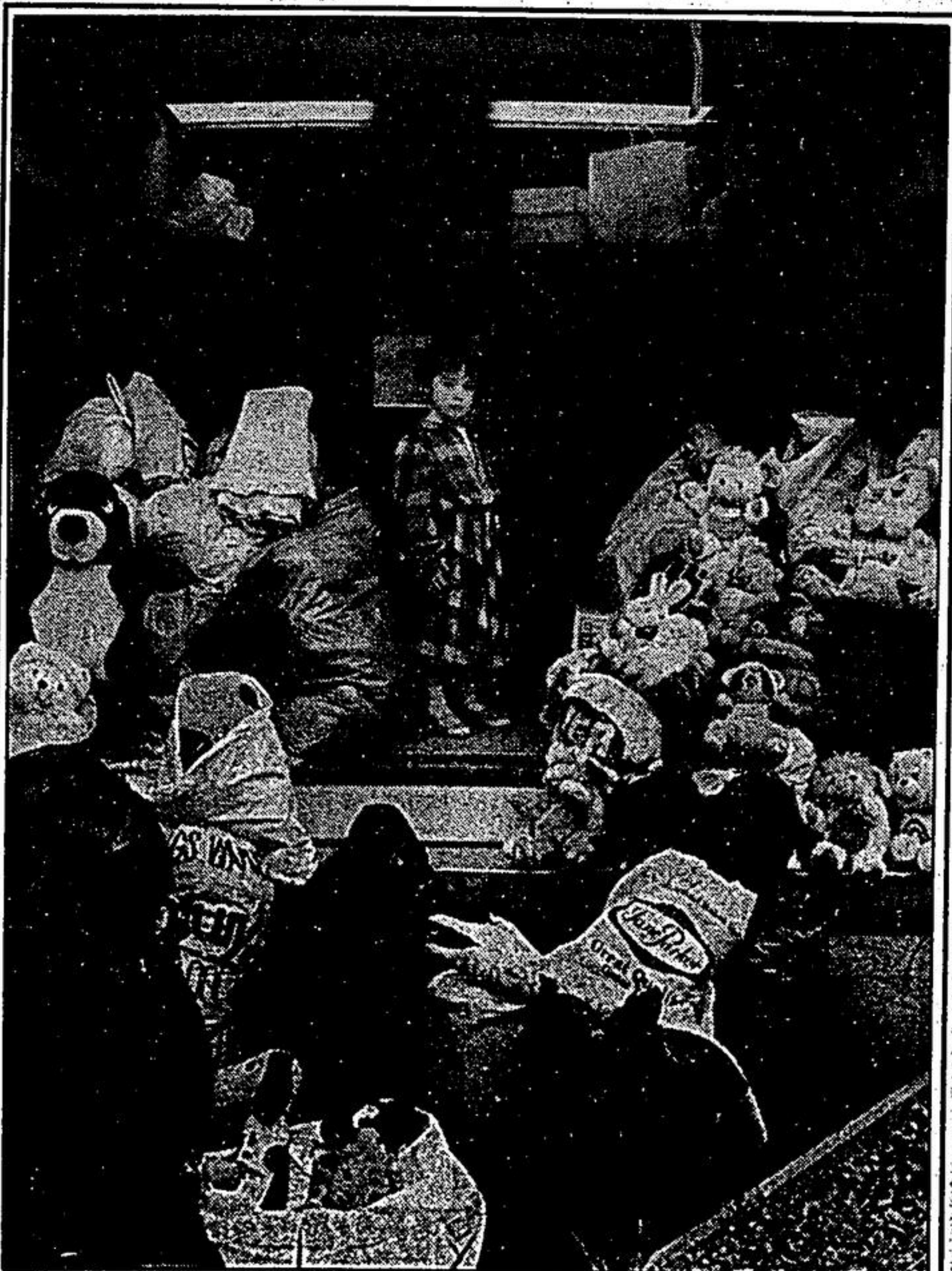
Council received the letter and agreed to notify the softball association about the concerns.



photo/RICK MADONIK

Trinket for the taking

Altona resident Pat Morrison was one of many last weekend to sort through the various items for sale at the Claremont Co-operative Nursery, Craft and Bake Sale held at the Claremont Community Centre. A host of trinkets and other items were offered for sale. The school is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.



Romanian relief

Young Jenisse Galloway, 3, surveys the donations of clothing and other items bound for Romania this summer. Students at Goodwood Public School have been busy collecting items to help the needy in the face of sweeping political change.

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