

Stouffville residents like to swim; survey shows

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

It looks like Whitchurch-Stouffville may need a pool, but local fitness buffs will have to drive out of town to pump up, according to recommendations from Leisureplan International Inc., a town-hired consultant.

Leisureplan submitted its Phase I report to Council Tuesday, which outlines the need and public demand for each facility.

According to the consultants "The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville should not develop a specialized fitness facility nor directly provide fitness programs."

The findings are based on telephone surveys of 375 homes, which Leisureplan says is a "statistically valid representation of the population in terms of number of households, sex, age and household type."

Other findings showed there are four other fitness facilities operated in three other municipalities in the region, and the number of members at each "fluctuated during the past five years."

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents use both Markham's Centennial Fitness Centre and Uxbridge's Uxpool, but only represent 7 per cent of memberships at both facilities, the report states.

The findings also indicate Whitchurch-Stouffville residents make up only 24 per cent of the 28 private fitness facilities in the area, and that adults (19-54) account for the majority of the users.

The study indicates, however, that aquatic use has increased during the past five years and that residents use six other pools in Durham and York regions.

Leisureplan found "half of all the aquatic programs currently provided in public pools are expected to experience increases in the number

of participants in the next three years.

The report shows swimming is the most popular activity of Whitchurch-Stouffville households, and that nearly 60 per cent of all survey respondents indicated they would like to participate in a swim program.

Recreation Director Marlane McKee-Wetheral told local officials that Phase I was designed to "demonstrate a need" for the facilities and that Phase II would give more detailed facts and figures.

But Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall said Council "has been led down the garden path when it agreed to the survey. Times have changed. With road repairs more on the forefront, people will be thinking less and less of recreational facilities. I don't know what's wrong with this council. The survey is a waste of time and the need (for a pool) is not that desperate. We don't have the money," Councillor Marshall fumed.

But McKee-Wetheral said the study was 75 per cent funded by lottery-based grants from the Tourism and Recreation Ministry and that council approved the study last year. She also pointed out that the decision to go ahead with Phase I, meant a commitment to continue with Phase II.

She said Phase II would determine the type of pool, space, site and location requirements, capital and operating costs and funding potential for such a facility.

"Still, (Leisureplan) may say yes you need a pool, but you can't afford it."

She added the study gives council valuable facts and information to help them make the right decision.

However, council, sitting in committee deferred the study until Mayor Fran Sainsbury returns from a trip to Quebec.



Photo/BILL LANNING

Unionville blaze

Markham Fire Department says a car ignited to start this fire at 44 Nadine Cres. in Unionville. The fire took place Wednesday at 6:27 p.m. The car, garage and the roof of the house were destroyed in the blaze estimated to have caused \$280,000 damage.

The driver of the car had just shut it off and was barely inside when his mother arrived home to find smoke coming from the garage. The neighboring home at 42 Nadine suffered some damage to its garage as a result of the large flames.

Stouffville wants to cash in on dump clay

Local politicians would like to cash in on the clay removal from Gormley Aggregates, after learning the local company will provide the dump lining to the Keele Valley Landfill Site in Maple.

Regional council recently received information from the Ministry of Natural Resources that stated clay, to act as a lining for a further pit at Keele Valley, will be trucked from Gormley Aggregates.

Metro Toronto will pay for the 600 truck loads a day back and forth from the Warden Avenue and Bloomington Road site to the 26-mile route to Keele Valley.

But council saw dollar signs and want to inquire, under the Aggregates Act, if the Town can collect on the clay per tonnage removed.

"If we can get the six or eight cents a tonne for the clay it would be a great benefit for Whitchurch-Stouffville if it were levied," said Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson.

"Six hundred truck loads a day is a lot of tonnage and I'm surprised York Region hasn't thought of this," Councillor Emmerson added.

Council, sitting in committee Tuesday, voted to refer the matter to staff to inquire if the Town can collect on the removed clay under the Aggregates Act.

Impaired driving rules don't sway regional councillors

Members of the regional health committee rejected a request from a group of Woodstock citizens to endorse their recommendations for a government policy on impaired driving.

The brief of recommendations was submitted by the Driving Under the Influence Committee (DUTI) based in Woodstock, Ontario. Recommendations included raising the legal drinking age, removing beer and wine advertisements from print and television media, lowering the legal blood alcohol level, raising fines and jail terms for offenders and impounding the vehicles of drivers whose licenses are under suspension.

Since committee members did not agree with all the recommendations, it was decided not to endorse the brief. But Newmarket mayor Ray Twinney, a member of the committee, did not rule out the possibility of the region developing its own recommendations.

Twinney considered some of the recommendations more anti-drinking initiatives rather than drinking and driving deterrents.

He was unsure the drinking age should be raised to 21 and was definitely against confiscating a family car or lowering the legal blood alcohol level.

"If the legal limit were .05 milligrams per 100 milliliters (instead of the present .08), that would be one drink," explains Twinney. "You could have one drink of wine during lunch and you could be subject to impaired if you left right away, so I just don't agree with it."

Public schools make promises to nature

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

For the next year, 50 York Region schools will keep a promise.

This promise is to take on an environmental project to help preserve our planet, and hopefully keep on making promises for the next 10 years.

Of the fifty schools to submit their pledge to the York Region Board of Education, one third are from Markham, Unionville and Stouffville.

The schools decided on an environmental action project, and each promise was placed into a globe, which was presented to the board last Monday and is to be on display at the Aurora office. The projects will be updated yearly on Earth Day until the year 2000.

Following is a list of local school along with their promises to the planet:

Aldergrove Public School: recycling in the school.
Armada PS.: promote reduction of waste and continue to implement a

recycling program.

Ballantrae P.S.: reduce, reuse and recycle at the classroom level and begin a paper recycling program in the fall.

Central Park P.S.: reduce waste, Coledale P.S.: demonstrate a concern for the environment in the school and the community.

Dickson Hill P.S.: clean up the school yard and set up a system for keeping it clean.

Highgate P.S.: educate parents about environmentally friendly lunch packaging.

James Robinson P.S.: collect pennies to become Guardians of the Rain Forest. Each \$25 collected will help save one acre of the Amazon Rain Forest.

Ramer Wood P.S. continue bottle, can and newspaper recycling and implement fine paper recycling as well as participate in the Area F Forest.

Unionville P.S.: continue recycling pop bottles and cans and start recycling fine paper.

Whitchurch Highlands P.S.: reduce waste in the school created at lunch by

using reusable containers and keep the schoolyard free of litter as well as start a recycling program at school.

Wilclay P.S.: institute a program of pop can recycling and reduce the use of fine paper. Students will be reminded to conserve energy at home.

William Berczy P.S.: create an environmental resource centre in the school library and an environment club responsible for upkeep of school compost and lunchroom recycling bins.

Markham District High School: reduce paper consumption and reuse and recycle fine paper used at the school.

Milliken Mills High School: create a litter-free school and continue recycling paper and aluminum cans.

Stouffville District Secondary School: reduce cafeteria waste by returning to real plates and cutlery and starting a compost.

Christine Milton, chairperson of the York Environmental Action Group, said promises are still being taken from schools wanting to participate.

Local musicians perform

After a week of intense practice, 76 of York Region's most talented young musicians are performing today at Ontario Place.

Auditions for Grade 7 and 8 public school students were held last February for the York Region Enrichment Band and this past week was filled with day-long practices in preparation for two performances.

Last night, led by professional conductors Bob Herriot and Brahm Smith, the band put on a concert at Aurora High School.

At 11 a.m. today, the students will play at the Ontario Place Forum.

Local band members are: Kim Neill, alto saxophone, of Franklin Street Public School; Marcia Pritzker, flute, of Orchard Park Public School; Julie Wong, flute, Joseph Doria, trumpet, and Mark Scott, trombone, of Ramer Wood Public School.

Chandra Kipfer, flute, Jessica Robertson, flute, and Craig Marlatt, trombone, of Reesor Park Public School;

Andrea Coulson, flute, Nicole Carrington, bass clarinet, and Geoffrey Duffey, trumpet, of William Armstrong Public School.

Angela Lee, flute, Erica Hayashi, flute, and Valerie Shin, clarinet, of Aldergrove Public School.

Bobby Panesar, clarinet and Edward Lam, clarinet, of Milliken Mills Public School.

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