

# ST Track project questions posed

Dear Editor,  
Having had the opportunity to view the plans and drawings of the proposed Stouffville Recreation Centre Complex in detail, I would like to make my concerns and comments known to others who may be affected by this project.

As some of us are aware, the facility will contain a 400-metre track surrounding one of the soccer fields, one other soccer field, and also tennis courts.

These three areas will be lit by 15 different 50-foot poles containing six and seven high-powered (1,000 watts) light fixtures on each pole.

First, I would like to state that I wholeheartedly support the track and field part of the project.

This facility will be a valuable asset to the school and I am sure it will be well used by our youth.

However, I am concerned and have expressed my objections to Town council regarding the flood lights.

To date, I have seen no justifi-

cation to light the area until the late evening hours.

At present we have only two senior soccer teams from Stouffville, one of which has a joint membership of players from Stouffville and Markham.

They play alternate weekends on Saturday and 5 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m., representing one game per week by the seniors.

Does this mean out-of-town teams, with no Stouffville representation continually using the lit soccer fields at our expense and inconvenience?

Let us not forget our 200 plus six and 12-year-old youngsters - who are probably in their last season due to this project - who currently enjoy using these fields to full utilization four evenings a week.

In my book, I see the well-advertised donation given by the soccer association to partly fund these lights as a poor hand-out for the sacrifice for the youngsters' playing space.

They say the project is funded by donations and will not be

built at the taxpayers' expense. Great, but what about the ongoing hydro and maintenance costs of these lights?

A signed agreement between the Town and York Region School Board states the Town is responsible.

I wonder where the donators will be then, when they have achieved their dreams and we, the taxpayers, pick up the cost.

How much has the Town committee considered in regards to the safety aspect of this project?

Again, I must emphasize the age of the youngsters, running with a ball at their feet, with 15 concrete poles scattered around the fields.

Some of these youngsters play on the soccer pitches while others have to find whatever available space is left.

Do we wait for a broken arm, fractured leg or serious head injury?

I certainly hope town planning department considers this.

D. Holroyd,  
Millard Street

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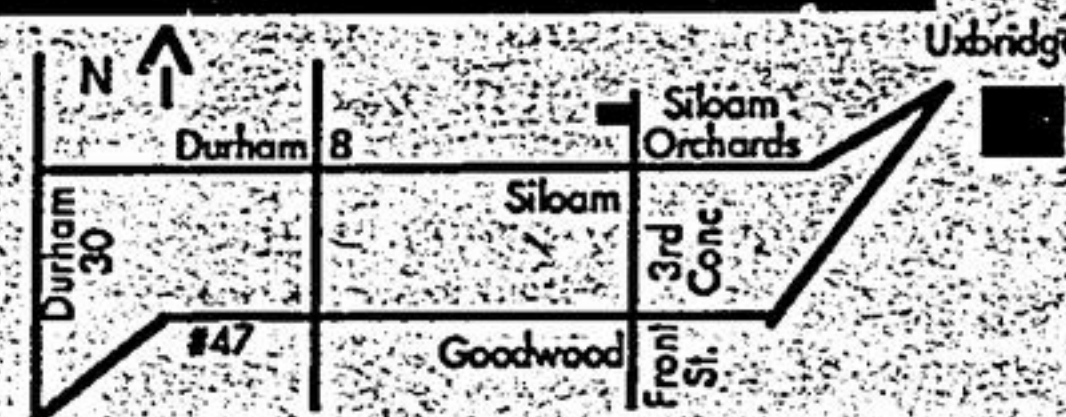
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