

Stouffville Tribune

VOL. 103 NO. 1

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, January 2, 1991

16 Pages

50 cents

Report findings

Stouffville pool bid creates employment but operates at loss

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Building and maintaining a \$4-million recreational pool complex in Whitchurch-Stouffville could create employment within the town, according to projections from a study.

Leisureplan International Inc., the town-hired consultant which presented Council with its final report last month, lists several positions that could be created if a pool is built.

Although the consultants said the recreational pool and racquet courts are the most popular sport with residents, and said the need for such a facility is warranted, the pool may never be built.

Much depends on whether Council - which may change with next year's municipal election - will vote to proceed with the capital project.

Its construction would also depend largely on whether the town would qualify to receive a Tourism and Recreation Ministry grant.

But if the facility is to be built, the 19,200-square-foot addition to the Recreation Complex would probably mean an expansion of recreation department staff.

According to the Leisureplan report, the town would have to hire an aquatic supervisor (\$42,000 annual salary); a head instructor (\$31,000); a part time instructor and guards (\$103,000); a racquet court instructor (\$9,300); and maintenance staff (\$30,000).

When benefits for the above employees are paid (\$22,000) the town could be looking at annual total salaries and wages of about \$237,000, the report projections state.

When maintenance costs (\$23,000); utilities (\$63,000) and administration (\$7,000) costs are included, the town is looking at a \$173,000 operating deficit in 1994.

This figure is raised to \$208,000 in 1999, according to the report.

Revenues expected from the facility will be generated through swimming lessons, recreational swimming, rentals, racquet court memberships and meeting room rentals totalling about \$157,000, which falls short of the operating cost total of \$330,000.

Council has not supported nor approved any of Leisureplan's recommendations and will further discuss financial feasibility of the project in the new year.

Local teens benefit at Markham clinic

Confidentiality and respect go hand in hand with information and advice at a new Markham clinic which also serves residents in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area.

The York Region Public Health Department's Birth Control and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic opened its doors Nov. 13 in Markham.

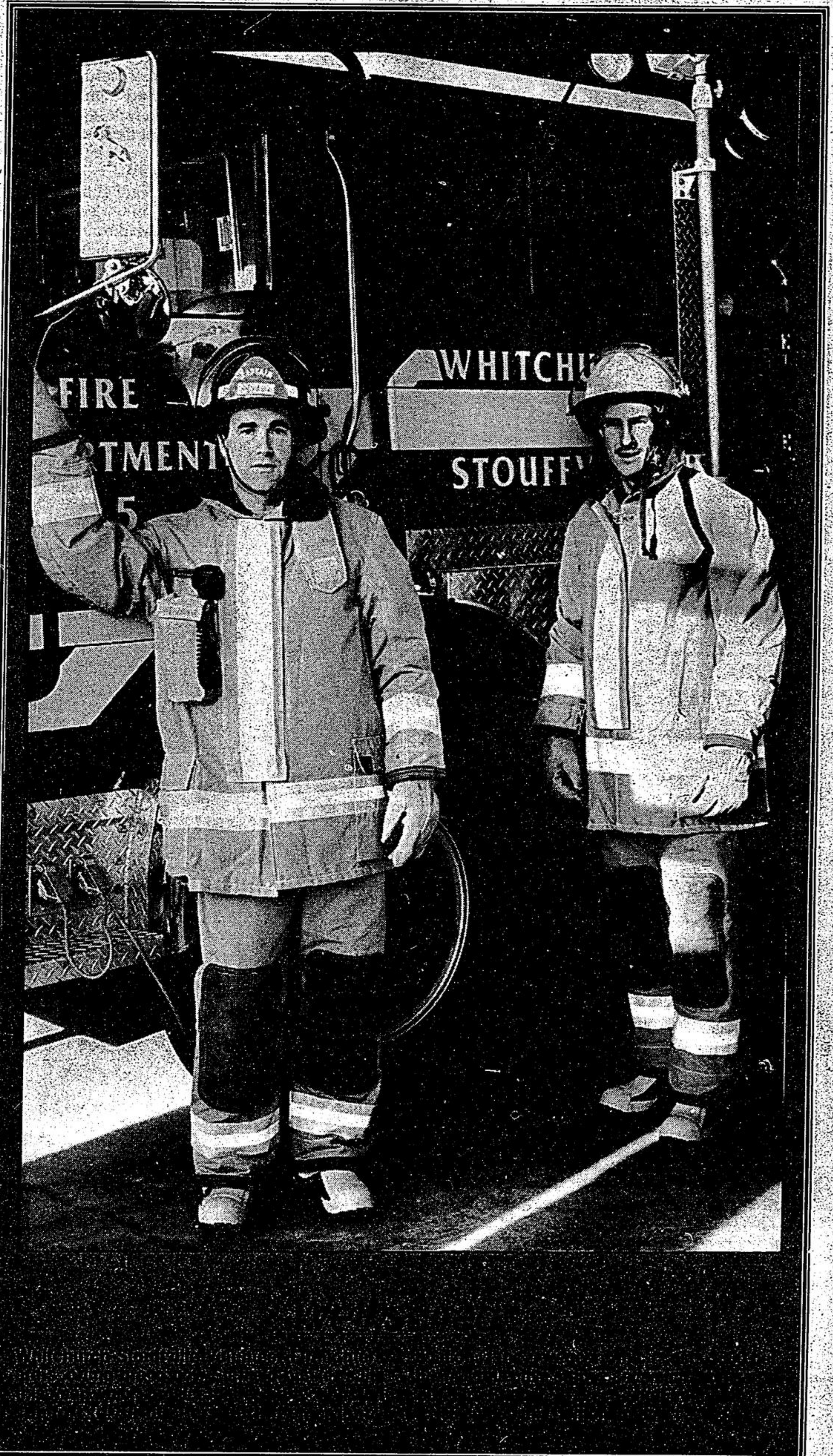
The clinic runs every Tuesday, 4 to 6 p.m., and department nursing manager Cathy White said an average of three to four clients visit the Hwy. 7 offices weekly to ask about birth control or STDs. Pregnancy and AIDS testing are also carried out at the Hwy. 7 facility.

"We offer high-quality service, good medical monitoring as well as high-quality counselling," Ms. White said.

The clients are mainly females ranging in age from 14 to 19, although all ages are welcome. "They're usually looking for birth control after being sexually active for six months to a year," Ms. White said last week.

Nurse Sheila McDowell said "the planners," young people who seek contraception advice before sexual activity, are the exception. Some older clients also visit the clinic, although as a rule most patients are in their mid-teens.

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Happy New Year!
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