



Photo: LORI EMMERSON

Riding for C.A.R.D.

Young Joel Lyons leads riders and volunteers through the York Forest at the weekend C.A.R.D.-athon. The event raised money for the Canadian Association for the Riding Disabled.

Men's league angry over switched ice time

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Too many people; not enough ice.

That was the message passed to about 25 angry members of the men's local Amateur Hockey League (SAHL) last Tuesday night after learning the group is being squeezed out of their 6 a.m. Sunday ice time to accommodate another group.

SAHL members told officials they shouldn't be forced to take the red-eye, 5 a.m. Sunday time-slot to accommodate the Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association (WSGHA.)

SAHL president Wayne Jackson said the 15-year-old SAHL sports 210 players and probably registers more local taxpayers than any other league currently using the public facility.

Jackson said the group has

been slowly squeezed out of its prime Sunday morning spot, which started at 8 a.m. three years ago.

Jackson said the men's league now stands to lose members because of the early 5 a.m. slot, without warning the league before it began season scheduling.

But town recreation director Marlane McKee Wetheral said the girl's league required an additional hour on Sunday which forced her to re-align the entire schedule.

She said the town's policy has always been to accommodate minor or youth groups first, before considering adult leagues' needs.

McKee Wetheral said adults pay \$115 an hour for prime time ice from 4 p.m. to midnight weekdays and all day, all

weekend. Minor leagues pay only \$80 an hour through public subsidization.

She added however that the girl's hockey team will have to pay full price for the additional hour needed on Sunday to make up a loss of revenue to the town.

Former councillor and SAHL member Wayne Emmerson accused officials of changing the rules half way through the game and not including the league in negotiations before arbitrarily moving the time ahead another hour.

McKee Wetheral said meetings were held in June between all parties affected but "there was no room for negotiations" by any league, forcing the town to make an arbitrary decision.

SAHL supporter, Ken May told officials they should "look

at where the buck is coming from" when deciding which teams should get the best ice time.

Further meetings are scheduled between the leagues in order a compromise might be reached.

Are we Music Town?

(From page 1)

Music Mania is cause for great community pride, and rightly so, and a board on the Hwy 47 entrance sign proclaiming it (as the sign proclaims Keith Acton) would be an appropriate celebration of the three-day event. This is not a criticism of the fine efforts put forth by the more than 175 volunteer actors, stage hands and behind-the-scenes contributors at Music Mania. The production deserves all the praise and promotion it receives.

But it is a *community* event. One relished and produced by the community, for the community. Long may it run. Is it appropriate for the town to promote as its essence, its *raison d'etre*? Probably not.

It may be difficult to rescind the designation now, but further promotion of the 'Music Town' theme could be not only detrimental to attracting EDAC's much sought-after business, but it will be embarrassing for residents to have tourists hard-pressed to find anything to do with music.

Tourists and visitors to the town will ask, "What event is going on this week? Where is your music store? Your music museum? Your concert facilities? What musicians are appearing here? Do you have a record store? Why are there strawberries and not musical notes on your main street banners?"

What will we tell them?

If we come to a point where music pervades all aspects of the cultural life of the community, when we can proclaim the many musical accomplishments of our citizens, when we draw people to this town for our music attractions, when we have the facilities, events, and industry based on music, and when we have the community support for the notion, the designation will apply.

The *Tribune* welcomes your thoughts on this issue. Please send your letters to 6244 Main St., Stouffville L4A 1E2, or fax them to 640-5477.

~ Andrew Mair, with files from Tracy Kibble

Initiatives needed for ice pad

Whitchurch-Stouffville needs a second ice pad now - not in the year 2001, said one local official this week.

Ward 5 councillor Cliff Dunkeld, after hearing on-going discussions this year regarding overcrowded ice time at Stouffville's Recreation Complex, called for staff to meet with the parks and recreation advisory board to come up with some ideas on how to build a second ice pad.

But the estimated cost to install a 25,000 square-foot basic ice pad is about \$1.4 million and is unlikely to make a priority list with town officials during tough economic times when provincial funding is being slowly eliminated.

"The town needs a second pad and we need fundraising for recreation and sport events," Dunkeld said.

Dunkeld said the time has come for user groups to meet and discuss ways they can collectively raise funds to help build a desperately-needed second ice pad.

"We need volunteers and we need to raise money, or we are going to continue to go around in circles with this thing," Dunkeld said.

He was referring to the latest scuffle with the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League - angry because they must start their Sunday games at 5 a.m. to accommodate growing leagues.

The SAHL maintains the vast majority of their players, who pay \$115 an hour to use the ice, are

Stouffville taxpayers who deserve the best possible available ice time despite additional ice-time requests from other groups.

Town recreation director Marlane McKee Wetheral said the complex is booked 98.7 per cent of the time between minor and adult skating groups with the remaining time used by public skating.

McKee Wetheral said minor groups get the first 70 per cent of prime ice time - the remaining 30 per cent is allocated to adult groups.

She said boy's minor hockey if forced to skate eight hours a week outside the community because the growing league exceeds its 70 per cent available time.

Staff is expected to meet with various user groups next week to try and find a situation suitable for all leagues involved.



DUNKELD

Lake clean-up party

Preston Lake Country Club members are organizing a lake clean-up day focusing this year on removal of pockets of a noxious weed called the Purple Loosestrife which has infiltrated the Preston Lake area. The public is invited to attend a fun-filled day on Saturday, Aug. 14 starting with an 8 a.m. breakfast, followed by clean-up of the lake shoreline and turning into an afternoon of food, races and games for the whole family, including a theatre production at 4:30 p.m., a Loosestrife burning party at 8:30 p.m. and an adult dance. Preston Lake is located east of Woodbine Ave. at the North Road entrance.

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