

Your letters to Santa Claus

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The Tribune *Stouffville*

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Town's skating prices under fire

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Local families are being forced to pay an outrageously high price this season for less than one hour of pleasure skating at the town's recreation complex, several residents complained last week.

Stouffville mother, Anna Bartell told *The Tribune* she is appalled at the \$8 family fee now being charged by the recreation department to take her family to the arena for 50 minutes of skating.

Bartell, who hopes to start a petition opposing the fee, said the cost is about \$3 higher than what the Town of Markham charges and about four times higher than Scarborough's \$2.50 family fee.

She said the town shouldn't place a lack of funding on the backs of small children who have "nothing else to do in the town."

Bartell said if the town thinks hiking the fee will create more revenue, the opposite will likely happen.

"People will stop going - if they want to raise money they should lower the fee to get more people out. Eight dollars is a lot of money," Bartell said.

The resident said if the town wants to raise revenue it should place parking metres along Main Street or create other means of fund raising without taking away from family time.

Recreation director Marlane McKee Wetheral, who acknowledged the fee is high, is asking the public to be patient while she works out a better, more fair system for everyone.

McKee Wetheral said the \$8 fee is not a "flagrant charge" to deter people from pleasure skating, but a backlash of the newly-imposed user fee system that council passed this year to

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Tribune Special

Downtown 'plum waiting to be picked'

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on revitalizing Stouffville's downtown core. In the coming weeks we will be turning the spotlight on merchants, surveying their thoughts on downtown, and gathering ideas to improve the retail core of Stouffville.

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

For veteran Stouffville merchant Tom Thompson, the downtown business district is a plum waiting to be picked.

Thompson, who operates The Villager, a men's and women's clothing, coffee, and specialty foods store on Main St., would like to see the downtown core

transformed into an aesthetic focal point. Sidewalk cafes, a pond, and the proposed antique railroad would draw both local residents and weekend passer-by motorists.

Thompson, who first opened in Stouffville in 1982, believes the existing merchants in the central area are more than accommodating. They have a wider variety of products and better prices than most people give them credit for.

But while efforts at beautification have been made in the past five years by Business Improvement Area (BIA) members, he would like to see something more done to liven things up.

"Flowers on the street are all

well and good, but grave yards have flowers too; don't forget," he told *The Tribune* recently. "The little tributary of the river could be dammed up like they've done in Unionville. Put a few swans in it, and make it a

real attraction. Then they could put the sculpture walk there instead of off the Main St. where it is now, and you've got your focal point."

Thompson said such an

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Staff warns against policy

Town staff is suggesting politicians not approve a draft policy on special events or outdoor concerts on private property.

The policy, which outlines terms of agreement the applicant must meet to hold special events, was spearheaded by Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice after he stressed concerns that the town's current bylaws are inadequate when dealing with the issue. But staff this week will tell officials a special policy is not necessary because it duplicates restrictions imposed by other agencies. Officials were expected to discuss the matter at the council in committee meeting Tuesday.

Kinsmen Club looking to restore town pool

The Stouffville Kinsmen Club wanted to make a splash at town council this week by presenting politicians with a plan to restore the town's pool.

In a letter to council, Kinsmen Brian Daley told officials their main project for

1994 is to finance repairs to the Park St. outdoor pool.

"It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that the town pool building and grounds are unsightly and as a result has proven to be a deter-

rent for those residents who would otherwise use it."

The club would provide skilled and unskilled labor for a complete restoration at the pool facility starting in April, 1994.

The town's commitment would be to provide enough money in the next budget to supply the materials to complete the project.

Council was expected to discuss the matter Tuesday.