

# Plenty of time, effort spent on second ice pad

By **BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

With the town's long awaited and somewhat controversial second ice pad taking shape in the October rain, Jim Hamm cringes at a light hearted suggestion that someone might have to spearhead a drive for a third pad some 10 or 20 years down the road if the town should experience a growth spurt.

"It won't be me!" said Hamm, who served as the spokesman for the user groups who first began petitioning council for the second pad four years ago. "I'll be curling or lawn bowling by then."

With the debenture for the no frills \$1.1 million facility being assumed by the user groups, and all subsidies and special rates taken away from users of the original Rec Centre rink and the new pad, the advocates of the second facility have insisted all along the deal won't cost the tax payers a penny. But when pressed as to how much Hamm and his cohorts are out of pocket after four years of pushing for the second pad, it became apparent that some tax payers have already paid dearly. Hamm estimated he's spent around \$1,000 in phone calls, auto related costs, as he combed southern Ontario arenas and visited contractors and designers in an attempt to come up with the ultimate cost-efficient ice pad. He was quick to point out that everyone who helped get the thing in motion has also taken time off work at their own personal expense as well.

He said the Branick Group, the Stouffville based contracting company which was awarded the contract to build the facility, has itself thrown roughly \$15,000 into the pot by way of agreeing to build a change room for free. Sue Harmsen, who wears three hats as secretary of the fund raising, technical and building committees, suggested the local contracting outfit has rewritten the good corporate citizen book.

Harmsen said chairman Andy Cartwright's fund raising committee has to date raised \$35,000 of the 100 G's they've targeted. The remainder of the debenture is to be paid through user fees over the 10 years. Upcoming fund raising projects include a skate-a-thon Nov. 29 and a ground hog day dance next February. The com-

mittee is still looking for takers for personalized bricks for the new rink's Wall of Fame at \$250 a shot.

mittee is still looking for takers for personalized bricks for the new rink's Wall of Fame at \$250 a shot. Harmsen, like everyone else who's poured so much time and effort into this project, said it's frustrating to listen to nay sayers who don't understand that the rink won't burden tax payers. "There's not going to be any egg on our face after we're done. The town will own it (the second pad), it's

theirs, and we're paying for it for them." Hamm and Harmsen both insisted their efforts be seen as just a part of the whole now that the goal has been reached. Mike Burns and Debbie Forsyth were right there with Hamm four years ago lobbying council to put the second pad on its agenda when it became clear there that the chronic ice shortage was resulting in local kids and adults going out of town to find ice time.

"I listened at council as Bob McNeil and his men's group lost their ice time, and he had helped with the electrical work at the Rec Centre when it was built," remembers Hamm.

Garth Bell, Tom Brillinger, Charley Ramsey, and John White also deserve credit, says Hamm, for their technical contributions, with Bob McNeely presenting their findings to council. The town's John Crawley also played a part.

"I don't think a lot of people realize how many hours went into this, the meetings, research and consultations," said Hamm. "It would have cost \$40-50,000 to go to an outside group to do this work."

Hamm suggested it might be appropriate to install a special plaque, or have a group photo taken to honor those who contributed so much time and effort to the cause.

With the year round facility scheduled for a mid to late January completion date, Hamm said it's been a

long difficult struggle, but it's been worth it.

"There are high points and low points. We'd be kicked in the rear end at one council meeting, only to regroup and come back again. And you've got to give credit to everyone who

helped because without these people the kids would have to continue to go out of town for ice time."

## Minor novices win two

The Birkett-Hassard minor novice Clippers were stingy on defence as they chalked up a pair of wins in recent action.

The Clippers got strong goalkeeping from Jake Balsdon and an outstanding defensive effort in a 3-1 victory over East Gwillimbury.

Brandon Walker had the hat trick in a 7-1 triumph over Aurora at the Rec Centre Monday.

Adam Craig opened the scoring, from Luke Mabley, against East Gwillimbury.

Brandon Jupp, from Eric Gainsbrook, and Mabley on a breakaway finished off the Stouffville scoring.

In the win over Aurora, Mabley and Nick Jago each netted a pair.

Assists went to Luke Harrison, Chris Schell, Craig, and Chris Normandeau.

## DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JAMIE GARRICK

Jamie Garrick played a key role for the Markham Waxers in their Metro Junior A Hockey League road contest with the Muskoka Bears last Sunday.

The 18-year-old centreman delivered two third period goals to help the Waxers post a 5-2 victory, their second triumph this season. A second-year member with the Waxers, the six-foot-two 180 pound Garrick amassed 34 goals and 40 assists in 70 games last season.

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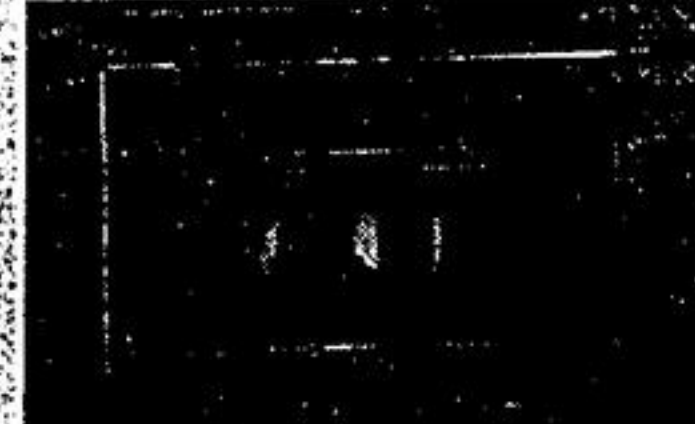


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