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# Sports & Leisure

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**KICKING UP A STORM:** Investment planning Counsel of Canada's Jenna Cutting (left), kicks the ball away from an oncoming Glan MacKenzie Society's Teresa Burkart during this under-11 Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer League houseleague contest at the Rec Centre on Monday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Maples course links up with Thornhill group

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The Maples of Ballantrae is to undergo a change of ownership.

The popular public course becomes part of the Premier Golf Properties in Canada and Premier group, formerly Can Am Golf Enterprises, owns golf properties in Canada and the United States.

The Maples is the Thornhill-based Corporations first purchase in the Greater Toronto Area. Mac Lewis, former owner of the Carrying Place Golf Club in King Twp., is the company's chief operating officer for its Canadian division.

Current Maples owner Mike Wade said while the deal has been made, it won't be official until the transaction is completed in August.

"I never figure anything's sold until the cheque has been paid," said Wade. "But everybody thinks it's sold."

Wade would not divulge the exact purchase price of his Hwy. 48 golf property but suggested it was between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Lewis couldn't be reached for comment on the Premier group's purchase.

Wade said ClubLink Corp. which owns several Stouffville area courses, also made an offer on the Maples.

The purchase of the Maples includes a new executive par three course, which is currently under construction to the south of the existing course.

The new facility is scheduled for completion this fall, and is to open next

spring.

"The new course is to be part of the deal," said Wade.

The Maples is an 18-hole, 6,421 yard, par-72 facility.

The new par three is to be a 2,200-yard, par-31 nine-hole course located to the south of the current course.

Wade said Maples head pro Tom Aird would stay on under the new ownership, along with course superintendent Mark Elliott.

**EVERYTHING STATUS QUO**

"Apparently, everything is to stay the same," said Wade.

Wade, a Stouffville resident since 1972, started the Maples as a nine-hole course in 1983, then added the second nine holes a year later.

He also owns the Pines of Georgina Golf Club in Pefferlaw and the Oaks of Cobden in the Pembroke-Renfrew area. He said the sale of the Maples will allow him to spend more time on his other two courses. Wade also owns a contracting company.

The Maples averages roughly 40,000 rounds a season, while hosting roughly 90 tournaments including the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit tourney, the Mayor's Cup, and Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce event.

The Ontario Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Summer Seniors Championships are to be played at the Ballantrae facility in July.

The course is to host an Ontario Golf Association (OGA) Public Golfers qualifier in August.

## Midget girls get their season off to good start

The Stouffville midget girls' softball team managed to overcome some adversity as they won four of six games to start the season.

The Stouffville squad split their first two games of the campaign, downing Barrie 17-1 May 26 in Stouffville before falling 2-0 to Markham two nights later.

Morgan Dubkowski struck out three in a 5-2 loss to Whitby June 4 as regular pitcher Kelly Higgins was sidelined with a shoulder injury suffered in a car accident.

The team pressed new pitching recruit Erin Willers into service against Aurora on June 8, as Dubkowski had to join Higgins on the sidelines. The newcomer responded by posting a 12-5 victory.

Bowmanville came to town for a doubleheader June 13, with the host crew handing the visitors a pair of 12-3 defeats.

Amanda Connolly was borrowed from Stouffville's other midget girls' rep softball team to pitch the first game, which was an exhibition match.

Game two, which counted in the league standings, saw Higgins return to pitch despite a tender

shoulder.

In the season opening win over Barrie, Dubkowski and Higgins shared the pitching duties, with each picking up three strikeouts.

**GIRLS SWING HOT BATS**

The offensive punch came from Graeme Sawayama (three triples), Higgins (two doubles, a single), Jullian Finley (a double and a single), Willers (two singles), Lindsay Murray (a triple), Sarah Morrison (double) and Philena Abate (double).

Higgins was sharp in pitching the close loss to Markham, striking out four. The Stouffville hitters were held hitless.

Jelinda Hough had two singles and a double in the win over Aurora in game four.

Julia Peters (single, triple), Sawayama (double, single) and Murray (double) also had key hits.

In the exhibition match with Bowmanville, Connolly struck out five batters while Sarah Morrison (double, single), Murray (two singles), and Finley (double) had the big blows.

In the second game with Bowmanville, the big bats belonged to Willers (two singles, a double) and Finley (two singles).

## All spots filled for annual Mayor's Golf Tournament

It's a sell-out as all 320 spots have been filled for next Thursday's Fourth Annual Mayor's Golf Tournament in support of the Mayor's Youth Program.

There's a new twist to this year's event as the popular event will be staged at two different courses.

Shotgun starts are scheduled for 12 noon at the Maples of Ballantrae and a half-hour later at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club.

The tournament has raised roughly \$35,000 in three years, with the funds going towards programs involving the youth of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

## Festival run on Sunday

Its berries for the winners and ice soaked towels for all as the Strawberry 10-K run takes to the streets of Stouffville Sunday morning.

The run, which is being held for the sixth straight year as part of this weekend's Strawberry Festival, is the anchor event of a three-race package offering something for runners of all ages and levels.

There is a five-kilometre race for younger runners, and those not prepared to tackle the longer distance. A one-km fun run is to be staged for kids 10 and under. All three races get underway at the Stouffville Community Track at 8:30 a.m.

The 10-K event will see runners make two loops along a course that winds its way along Millard St. to the east end of Main St. before heading up Edward St. and back to the track.

The five-K event, which was introduced two years ago, includes just one loop of the course.

The kids run is to take the youngsters

around the track once, followed by a lap around the grass at the adjoining Stouffville District Secondary School property.

Strawberry 10-K organizer Fred Robbins said he's taken steps to minimize the effects of the heat if the weather is as hot as it has been in recent days.

"We're starting a half-hour earlier than in past years, and there will be ice cold towels waiting at the finish line," he said.

Water stations will be located along the course as well. Race winners will receive strawberries for prizes.

The 10-km route has been declared a Certified Accurate Course by the Ontario Track and Field Association, said Robbins.

The event qualifies as a Class B race. The fee for the five and 10 km races is \$15.

The kids run is free, but runners must be accompanied by a parent.

To register call Robbins at 640-6781.