

SPORTS: No shortage of spring and summer outdoor recreational activities for adults

The emphasis is on having fun

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

For adults looking to rediscover outdoor sport for the sheer pleasure of it, Stouffville would appear to offer a field of opportunity.

The town boasts numerous recreational leagues for athletes of both sexes for whom the years have served to diminish their keen athletic edge.

With the approach of the spring and summer season, the softball diamonds at memorial park will once again play host to three adult fun softball leagues.

The Monday Night Ladies Softball League offers an outlet for women of all ages looking to combine sport and fun.

"We try to keep it as much fun as possible," said Millie Amos, league president. "We've had girls call and say they've never played ball before. We tell them to just come out and bring a glove."

The league consists of six teams of roughly 15 players. Teams are switched each season, with an eye towards an equal distribution of the seasoned veterans with the raw rookies.

Ages range from the 20s through the 60s, Amos said.

Lillian Cordell, who started the league 25 years ago, is still getting in her swings.

The game is low key. Pitching is lob style; players take turns umpiring and coaches play.

Every effort is made to prevent injuries. Safety bags are used at first base and players are not required to touch home plate to score.

Slightly more competitive is the Tuesday Night Ladies Softball League.

With paid umpires and non-playing coaches for each of the six teams, the pitchers are required to achieve the standard slow pitch arc.

But while standings are kept, with a wrap up tournament held each September, the emphasis is still on fun, president Sandra Murphy said.

"We've had some players come from other leagues because they said they were too competitive," Murphy

said. "I joined the league seven years ago. I had never played the game before."

Murphy said the league is made up of new players, others who haven't played since high school, and former competitive players.

Like their Monday night counterparts, the Tuesday league includes players from all age groups.

"We have some mothers and daughters playing," Murphy said.

Both women's leagues have openings for the upcoming season.

Shifting to the men's side of the diamond, the Monday Night Mens' Lob Pitch League offers a chance for casual players to take to the diamond.

With 12 teams and a waiting list of players eager to join, the league is a haven for slow pitch players looking to ease up the pace, former fast pitch players, and those just looking to combine social contact with sport.

"It started out with Bill Hassard (a Stouffville senior and former Toronto Maple Leaf) and a few others," recalled Jim Brazier, a veteran player coach in the league.

Teams remain together from year to year, with newcomers added when players drop out. Players pitch to their own team mates, with a three-pitch maximum.

There are no umpires and no standings kept, although a championship tournament is held at the end of the season.

"It was very relaxed in the beginning," Brazier noted. "Now it's a younger group and they're a little more competitive."

Recreational soccer players can also get their kicks.

An over-35 league including players from Stouffville and other neighbouring towns takes to the rec centre field Wednesday nights.

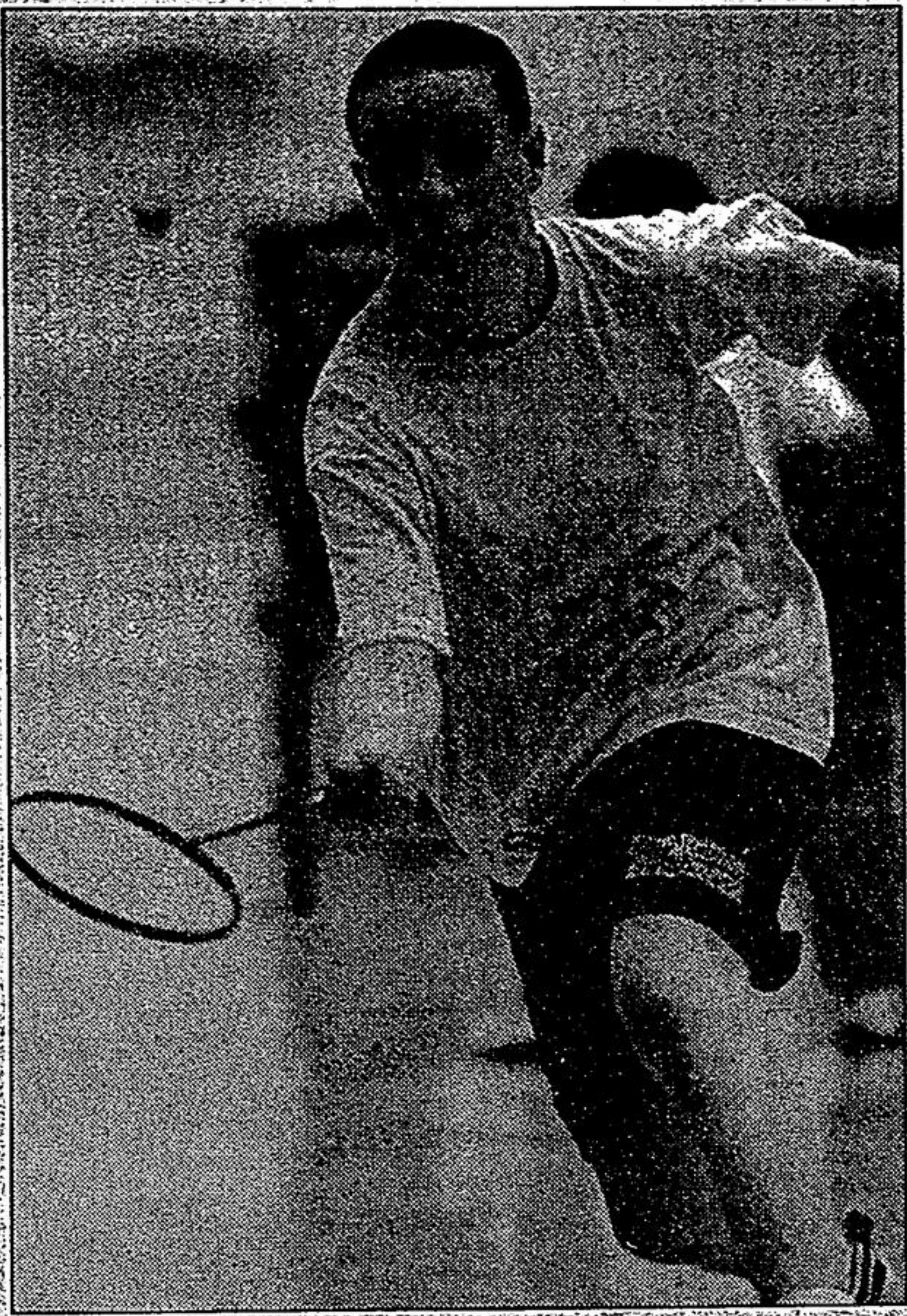
Standings are not kept in the six-team loop. However, referees are used and things get a little competitive, said organizer Joe Caldeira, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

A Monday night pick-up soccer

night, that in the past included men and women players, will be split into two groups this season.

The club is introducing a recreational adult women's program in response to the huge increase in females taking up soccer in Canada. Women players of all ability levels can participate.

The men will form their own casual league, with both groups playing on Monday nights.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

BIRD WATCHING TIME

Stouffville District Secondary School's Ben Crawford attempts to return the birdie against his Middlefield Collegiate opponent in Thursday's YRAA junior boys' singles zone badminton contest at Brother Andre Catholic High School.

Novice Stars shine

Bailey Gummy and Hayley Hughes each scored twice to ignite the Stouffville-Markham Stars novice girls' hockey team to a 2-0 win over Etobicoke in the finals of the recent 32nd annual Brampton Canadettes tournament.

In reaching the final, the Stars tied Burlington 1-1 and posted wins over Leaside 6-0 and Mississauga 7-0.

Scoring for the Stars were Mackenzie Manning eight goals, three assists; Gummy four goals, one assist; Hughes two goals, three assists; Corliss Bean two goals; Robyn Laing and Shannon O'Connor two assists each and Devon Robertson one assist. Cassandra McNichol recorded three shutouts in net.

LEGACY 5 KM RUN/WALK

Sunday, April 25, 1999, 10:00 a.m.
Legacy Community at 9th line and 14th Avenue, Markham
Proceeds to Markham Stouffville Hospital Diagnostic Imaging Services

Sponsored by:

ECONOMIST & SUN, STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

in Support of

Markham Stouffville Hospital

APRIL 25, 1999

For more information please contact the Run "Hotline" at (905) 472-7373 ext. 3949

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PHILIP DE JOURNO
Philip ruled the lanes at the recent 4 Steps to Stardom provincial five-pin championships as he captured the bantam boys' title. The 10-year-old Unionville resident rolled a five-game score of 1,110. In winning the provincial title, De Journo will represent Ontario at the upcoming 4 Steps to Stardom national championships in Winnipeg from May 2-4.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA
3120 Steeles Ave. E.
East of the 404 (Pkwy.) 475-0722

CORRECTION NOTICE

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "Best Prices, Best Sales" Flyer.

Page 7 Selected Mastercraft Lawn Tractors. The Beetle Tractor, 60-1819 illustrated in the flyer is not on sale.

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current "Always a Great Sale" Flyer.

Page 7 Deck Sealer Kit, 49-1483-0. The deck sealer kit comes with one roller, not two as illustrated.

Page 7 Item #4 Deck Cleaner 48-8864-4. The Olympic Deck Wash is on sale, not Thompson's Deck & Patio Wash as illustrated.

Page 15 Aerowheels Sr. In-Line Skates 84-7650X. Product not available. Sorry no rainchecks.

We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current 1999 Performance Catalogue "Hot Trucks Hot Cars, Hot Looks".

Page 29 Item #3 High Performance Air Filter 41-4523-0. Copy reads: Each 34.99. Should read: Each 129.99.

Page 50 Item #2 Niehoff Ignition Wire Sets 18-7000X. Copy reads: Set 11.99. Should read: Set from 11.99.

Page 50 Item #3 Niehoff Platinum Mag Core Ignition Wire Sets 18-7007X. Copy reads: Set 16.99. Should read: set from 16.99.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.

note d314/315-Zone 06/8

DON'T PAY THAT TRAFFIC TICKET!!

Traffic Ticket Experts is staffed by ex-police officers who will act as your agent in court defending all traffic tickets (speeding, accidents, careless, impaired, etc.).

Call for FREE consultation.

Guaranteed Service (905) 940-3000 4418 Hwy. 7 East, Unionville