

# Teams hope to have a ball at Buttermakers tourney

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The ball tournament that has provided the backdrop to the Strawberry Festival ever since its inception kicks off Thursday evening at the town park.

The 22nd annual Buttermakers Slow Pitch Tournament features a \$2,500 winner-take-all prize package in the elite mens A category. Toronto's Team Ringor will return to defend their title against five challengers, including Stouffville's Gravy Train.

But while the heavy hitters are chasing after the cash, the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will be the big winner once again. The Buttermakers traditionally use funds raised through running the competition to bankroll a host of initiatives benefiting the community. The Buttermakers, one of five gold-level sponsors of the Strawberry Festival, are the sole sponsor of the Festival Marquee tent that will be in operation throughout the weekend. The team will host a beer garden in the tent, with dances to be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Saturday's event features Midlife Crisis, a live band with a local flavour.

The team will contribute \$500 toward the special mural in memory of the late

Chris Pagani, which is being installed at the Over The Edge Skate Park. The Buttermakers plan to repeat last year's gift of 10 bicycles to needy families in town, with sponsorship of the Stouffville Mites Buttermakers fastball team to be continued as well. The team also donates toward the Mayor's Youth Program.

"It's very important to us that we continue to contribute to the town," said Jamie Showers, who has been a member of the Buttermakers for 10 years.

On the field, Showers said there should be plenty of long balls stroked in the glitter mens open A division.

"There were lots of balls flying out onto the parking lot last year," he said. In the mens recreational division, Stouffville's Kerry's Old Boys, formerly The Straughan Carpentry Red Sox, will be looking for a three-peat as they take on 11 challengers.

There will be 14 teams contesting the mixed open division. Four teams are vying for the Mens D title.

The action runs from 6 p.m. through 11 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. til 11 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. Sunday. The championship games in all divisions are scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

# Understanding the rules

With all the rain we have received over the last two months, there is a lot of standing water on the golf courses.

Standing water (water that is not usually there) is known in golf, as casual water.

As defined by the rules of golf, casual water is water anywhere on the golf course that is not defined as a water hazard or lateral hazard.

Casual water on the golf course allows you a free drop.

More simplistically, you get to move your ball without taking a penalty stroke.

The question is, where do you move it to?

The answer is, you get to move your ball to the nearest section of dry land, without moving closer to the hole.

In some instances there may not be dry land in sight.

In this case you would find the driest section of land, no closer to the hole



Perry Curiston

Let's hope for some sunny weather and, in the meantime, don't let the soggy conditions keep you off the golf course.

Address your letters to: Impact Golf Schools, c/o Perry Curiston, 19 Mill St., Stouffville, Ont. L4A 1C6.

Or e-mail your comments to impactgolfperry@3web.net.

Perry Curiston is director of Impact Golf Schools and was the 1996 and 1998 Ontario PGA Teacher of the Year.

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