

# New library-pool passes the test

As a shareholder in Whitchurch-Stouffville's indoor pool-library-fitness complex, I have this to say: a job well done. Contractor Atlas Inc. and its crew, along with architect MacLennan and Jaunkalns and Miller should stand and take a bow.



Joan Ransberry

The \$7.5-million facility is a class act. We, collectively, own a fine-looking building. It's big, it's bright, it's ready for use and it opens Tuesday. If you can't make it, you have another chance. The grand opening is Sept. 8.

This was not an easy birth. Many local residents opposed the project, or at least its location. They didn't want their library to move from Main Street and insisted swimming pools and books are not a good mix. I personally thought we should have two separate buildings.

My preference was an add-on to the existing library and an indoor pool on its own in Memorial Park South. I do, however, recognize that the council of the day makes the final decision. I accept that reality and I can live with this one without any concern.

The project always had merit. However, the town failed spectacularly in selling it to the public. To add insult to injury, the town's makers and shakers refused to acknowledge they lacked public relations know-how.

The bureaucrats and council members might as well have stood up and made this announcement: "We have a multi-million dollar scheme and we're going to cram it down your throat until you choke."

That was then. This is now. Some town officials are gone. Things have improved. So I'll make a prediction: in a year's time, most residents in Whitchurch-Stouffville will agree the new indoor pool-library-fitness centre is worth every penny put into it.

Week-long public tours run until Tuesday. When peo-

ple leave the building, they're smiling.

Everyone seems to gravitate to the six-lane, 25-metre pool and the tot pool. Since there's a kid in everyone, the giant one-and-a-half-revolution slide is the show stopper.

Whoever decided a fitness centre should be part of the building gets my vote. Measuring 24,000 square feet, the centre includes five treadmills, four elliptical trainers, three stair climbers, two rowers, five Lifecycles, 12 Cybex strength machines and an assortment of free weights.

As for the library portion, it has one thing the old library lacked: space. There's room to browse, room to relax and room to read. With more than 60,000 books, there's plenty of choice, browsing and reading options, too.

The library features two study areas, a general meeting room and a fireplace corner for a quiet read. The tots have Courtney's Corner, donated by John and Donna Trempe in memory of their eight-year-old daughter who died three years ago in a dog attack.

In total, the new library is twice the size of the old facility. On top of that, the operating hours have been extended.

In keeping with the needs of the community, the pool, fitness centre and library are all offering various programs covering everything from swimming lessons to fitness classes to library programs for children, youth and adults.

My final advice to everyone is: Use it. You own it.

# THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPES SQUARE DEAL

We search through all the different labels, sizes and qualities of grapes at the produce terminal each week in order to find the best (there must be 30 or 40 types lots to choose from). You'll love these this week!

**1.99** lb.

## NEW SALAD!

We've been working in our kitchen to develop a few new items to add to the "tried and true" menu. This is a salad that Cathy's sister (Carol) has worked up and I think you'll like it. It's on the light side and it's delicious. It's made with Napa Cabbage which is lightly tossed with toasted Chow Mein Noodles, sesame seeds and slivered almonds all done up in a light soy-based vinaigrette! (From Friday on.)

Reg. \$1.49/100 g.

**1/3** OFF THIS WEEK

## COMING NEXT WEEK!

We'll be making quantities of our wonderful smoked chickens.

We tell you now so you can get your cookbooks out and plan ahead!

## CHILLED SOUPS

We've made a selection of chilled soups which will be available from our frozen section. More often than not, they'll separate a bit when they freeze - a gentle stir fixes this. The flavours are ... gazpacho, honeydew with pear and ginger, cantaloupe with mint and cucumber dill.

**3.99** ca. 1L size

## IN TOWN THIS WEEKEND!

Visit the Brainchild Fair at the Fairground this Saturday. It's lots of family fun - and if you get hungry try either a burger or sausage - they're from our store.

## EXTRA-LARGE CANTALOUPE 1.99 lb.

We have a good supply of extra-large (size '9') melons this week. They've got good colour, sweetness and really good flavour - and a great price too!

## MUSKOKA ORGANIC LETTUCE

From the Muskoka Farm we'll have Lettuce: Red & Green Oakleaf, Red Butterhead, Red & Green Romaine, Green Onions as usual plus some Zucchini and some sweet little Cherry Tomatoes. Delicious stuff!

## GINGERBREAD COWS 1.49 ca.

I finally got Jaana to bake up some beautiful store mascots.

Check them out.



We make many different types of dessert squares. I look at these as "Dessert Maintenance" - they'll tide you over until you can get at the dessert cupboard with no one around. Others may think of them as dessert itself, since they are a good size - precisely 9 square inches of deliciousness.

A couple of rules apply:

1. Don't eat them right out of the fridge - room temperature is best and
2. Buy more than one in case you have to share.

Flavours are:

- Coconut Lemon
- Cream Cheese
- Full-Chocolate Brownie
- Date
- Chocolate Pecan

Reg. \$1.99 ea.

**1/3** OFF THIS WEEK

## HARDY MUMS

This is the time of the season that hardy outdoor mums are available. I use them to replace some of my less successful plantings or those that have become overgrown or straggly. Hardy mums are instant colour, they're nicely filled out and they provide a perk-up for your garden.

Available now.

**6.95** ea.

## CHORIZO

These are sausages of a Spanish character with a medium amount of spice, a higher amount of heat and a maximum amount of flavour.

They are great in cooked dishes and bar-b-que'd on a bun. Reg. \$3.99 lb.

**25%** OFF THIS WEEK

## TOMATOES

Local field tomatoes again, very large hamburger size.

As delicious as can be. **99¢** lb.

**3.99** basket 3L

## NIAGARA PEACHES

Great, full-flavoured peaches. They've been great this year.

**99¢** lb.

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>

Hours: Mon. 11:00-7:00 - Tues. - Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

548 Carlton Road, Unionville

940-1770

# Handguns stolen

Six handguns were stolen Monday from a shooting range in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Thieves caused an estimated \$5,000 damage in their efforts to remove the guns, smashing open the front glass door, several other doors and the locked display case containing a quantity of firearms at United Sports Shooting Range near Woodbine Ave. and Stouffville Road in Gormley.

The stolen guns, which were valued at \$7,350, were described as three Heckler & Koch semi-automatic pistols and three Beretta pistols. The thieves also stole \$150 in cash.

# Men assaulted

Two young males were assaulted and robbed by a group of men in Markham early Friday morning.

York Regional Police say the robbery took place when the victims, a 20-year-old from Scarborough and 21-year-old from Markham, left the Midnight Oil Cafe on Steeles Avenue and were approached by five men.

After a verbal confrontation, the two were punched and kicked and a cellular telephone belonging to one of the victims was stolen.

The victims suffered minor injuries as a result of the robbery.