

Proposed swim course should make waves

Town to incorporate swim program that has been successful in other parts of the country

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

A proposed swim course that, if completed, will lead to certification in first-aid and CPR as well as bronze medal, bronze cross, lifeguard and instructor accreditation, will begin next month and continue through May at the Lebovic Leisure Centre in Stouffville.

"One course incorporates everything," explained Micole Ongman, the centre's community programmer, "you need only know how to swim."

Because in-house instructors are used, the cost is trimmed by one-third, Ms Ongman said. Participants can arrange their own schedules.

This is a new venture for Whitchurch-Stouffville. It's proved popular in other centres, said Ms Ongman, including Mississauga.

"We're hoping for a good response," she said, "the training is fabulous."

Once certification is received and participants are employed, they will be paid.

Certification is national in scope.

Individuals showing an interest in the course will be contacted by a member of the Leisure Centre staff and training schedules will be arranged.

New screening program to protect youths

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Children are our most precious commodity. They must be protected.

With this thought in mind, a Volunteer Screening Program, approved by Parks and Recreation Ontario, will be initiated by Whitchurch-Stouffville's Leisure Services Department.

The course date is Jan. 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

The cost is \$15 per person.

Focus of the program will be on leaders of town organizations whose job it is to acquire the services of local volunteers be it hockey, soccer, softball, babysitting, the library, the museum or any other activity involving children, youth, older adults, disabled persons or vulnerable individuals.

Explains community programmer Micole Ongman: "It's important to know those volunteers spending time with our children are appropriately screened. People should know the questions to ask; they should be more knowledgeable. It's a case of training the trainer."

It's a first for the town.

Ms Ongman explained problems have undoubtedly occurred in other areas, prompting Ontario to embark on this program.

"It's obviously an issue," she said.

"Many people want to serve as volunteers. We want to make sure those people are appropriate," she continued.

Registration forms are available at the Lebovic Leisure Centre. For additional information call 905-642-7529 (ext. 323) or e-mail micole.ongman@townofws.com



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans' forward Brandon Walker cannot escape the close checking of Markville Secondary School Mustangs' defenders John Degray (top) and Neil Degray (right) during action in Tuesday's York Region high school senior boys' hockey game at Centennial Arena in Markham. The two teams skated to a 2-2 tie. Brandon Walker and Josh Spang scored for the Spartans, now 2-1-1 on the season. The Spartans resume their schedule today with a home game against Thornhill Secondary School.

Stouffville senior cagers hope to hoop it up

Jim Fletcher likes to compare the building of his Stouffville District Secondary School senior boys' basketball team to that of the building of Rome.

It can't be done in one day.

With just three returnees from last year's team that won the York Region Athletic Association senior boys' tier two title, the Spartans head coach acknowledges it will take a little time for his team to be competitive with their rivals.

However, positive spin might have taken place over the last week as the Spartans won their second straight YRAA tier two game on Tuesday with a 52-40 decision over visiting Toronto District Christian Academy.

The victory came on the heels of a 52-39 win last week over Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and improved their league mark to 2-3.

"We're definitely a young team," acknowledged Mr. Fletcher. "It's a builder for next year. Right now we're taking things one day at a time. We're developing our skills."

Not helping the Spartans in the early going of their season has been the

schedule maker, who pencilled the team to play three league games in a one-week span.

If the Spartans hope to make their presence felt down the stretch run, Mr. Fletcher says he must get good efforts from his three returning seniors in Tyler McMaster, who scored 13 points in the Spartans' win over Toronto District Christian Academy, Mike Sutton, who also chipped in with 13, and Andrew Lowrie.

The Spartans also have two Grade 10 students starting in Justin Brugger and Sean Humes.

After playing volleyball for the Spartans earlier this fall, Gavin Howe and Dan Locksley, both Grade 11 students, are also making contributions on the basketball court.

Rounding out the squad are Graeme Taylor, a Grade 12 student whom Mr. Fletcher describes as being a "great three-point shooter," and Marcus Makinen, who played with the junior team a year ago.

"The way we're progressing we could win the tier two title. Don't count us out at the end," warned Mr. Fletcher.



Bantam Stars score silver in local tourney

The Markham-Stouffville bantam A Stars skated off with the silver medal at the third annual Markham-Stouffville Bantam Classic Girls Hockey Tournament after being edged 3-2 by the Barrie Sharks in Sunday's gold medal tilt at the Stouffville Arena.

The Stars narrowly missed sending the game to overtime, hitting the goal post with seven seconds remaining.



The Stars began the tournament with a 1-1 tie against the Rochester Edge and then routed the Hamilton Hawks 8-1 and Leaside Wildcats 4-0 to advance to the semi-final game.

In the semi-finals the Stars met a strong team from Saugeen-Maitland. The Stars scored with less than one second remaining on the clock to prevail 2-1 and advance to the championship game.

Scoring for the Stars throughout the weekend were: Hayley Hughes five goals, one assist; Nyssa Kuwahara three goals, one assist; Jordanna Peroff two goals, two assists; Jenna Callaghan four assists; Corliss Bean, Lauren Chin-Fook and Stephanie Krucas one goal, two assists; Amanda Fawns three goals; Kelly Setter and Bethany Oeming two assists; Ashley McLellan one goal, one assist; Brittney Bince one assist. Also adding to the Stars successful weekend were Jade Penna and Alexandra Forsyth.

Goaltending duties were shared between Danielle Skoufranis and Cassandra McNichol allowing only six goals between them in five games throughout the weekend.

Pee wee Stars bring home silver from Whitby

The Markham-Stouffville pee wee C Stars advanced to the final of the Whitby tournament before settling for the silver medal with a 3-2 overtime loss to Guelph in the championship final.

After losing their first game to Port Hope 2-0, the Stars recorded victories over Whitby 4-1, Kingston 5-2 and Cobourg 4-0 in its semi-final game.

Scoring for the Stars in the tournament were: Anne Silegren five goals, three assists; Sandra Holling two goals, one assist; Alexandra Villarin two goals; Jesseka Paguirigan one goal, four assists; Lauren Barber one goal, three assists; Melody Cunningham and Julia Chalkley one goal, two assists; Chelsea Trenouth and Brittany Convery one goal, one assist; Kirstie Hembruff, Meagan Hulshof and Melanie Anderson one assist.

Samantha Harman recorded a shutout in the win over Cobourg and was voted the club's most valuable player in the final after the Stars were outshot 37-7.