

Loss of park diamonds irks ball group, historian

Stouffville Memorial Park will be re-designed, according to plans approved by council. This decision doesn't sit well with Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association president June Doner, because one or two ball diamonds will eventually disappear.

Nor does the plan win the approval of town historian Jean Barkey. "The area bounded by Somerville Street on the north, Burkholder Street on the south, Church Street on the east and Duffin's Creek on the west was given by Dr. Walter Sangster in perpetuity, therefore it cannot be changed," she said.

"The main ball diamond and to the east was provided by the Booth family in the early 1920s. Franklin Park was purchased by Stouffville Athletic Association around 1950."

LAST CHANCE CLUB: Last week was my first opportunity to attend a gathering of the Markham-Unionville-Stouffville Last Chance Club, held at Ebenezer United Church on Steeles Avenue in Markham.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

President Neil Stiver of Unionville said the seniors social club, first numbering about 12, was initiated in 1977 by his father, the late Ewart Stiver, along with Howard Stiver and Harry Boadway.

Membership has grown to 93. Meetings are held twice yearly, the first Wednesday in May and the first Wednesday in October.

Others in attendance from Stouffville included Garry Grant, Norm Barker, Bun Sellers, Bert Baker, Polly Minton, Elson Miles, Bus Sabiston, Jerry Meharg and Bill Wilson.

PHENOM OF A FAIR: Phenomenal is the word used by general manager David Morrison to describe the 2004 Markham Fair. The Sunday crowd, estimated at 23,000, had people still streaming through the turnstiles an hour before buildings closed, he said. So huge was the Sunday throng, traffic was lined up bumper-to-bumper on McCowan Road from the fair entrance to 16th Avenue.

'We're still compiling information, but one would have to go back a long way to better this year's figures.'

David Morrison
on 2004 Markham Fair attendance

At the peak of the procession, hard-pressed officials were forced to park vehicles on the racetrack, Mr. Morrison said. "We used every nook and cranny we could find," he said.

"A combination of good promotion, excellent programming and favourable weather added up to a phenomenal four-day run," Mr. Morrison said.

"We're still compiling information, but one would have to go back a long way to better this year's figures," he said.

Despite the influx of Sunday late-comers, buildings still closed at 6 p.m. "We had to," he explained, "so people could pick up their exhibits." As it was, many of the 800 volunteers didn't leave the grounds until 10 p.m.

The president's banquet is set for Nov. 13 and the annual meeting Jan. 12.

FESTIVAL PRESIDENT: Sandy Stronach is the new chairperson of the Strawberry Festival. She succeeds Elizabeth Fraser, committee leader the past two years.

The vice-chairperson is Holly Reynolds. Elections took place at a Sept. 29 meeting. Next year's festival takes place June 29 through July 2.

MUSIC MONTH: Two concerts are scheduled for Stouffville churches this month.

Christ Church Anglican, on Sunset Boulevard, hosts Broadway Night Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. featuring soprano Donna Bennett and pianist Brian Finley.

For tickets, (\$35), call 905-640-1461. Proceeds go to the Christ Church building fund.

The famed Dalesman Singers from Whitby, England, perform Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. with the 35-member Men of Note choir and soloist Susan Brown at Stouffville United Church. The church is located on Church Street in downtown Stouffville.

Tickets are \$10 from 905-640-1163.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

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