

# Ice rates up in 2006

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Staff Writer

An \$8-an-hour increase in ice rental rates at the Stouffville Arena was approved by Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday, but it won't come into effect until Jan. 1, 2006.

The increase will be used to contribute to the arena's capital equipment replacement program.

In the meantime, ice rates have been set for the 2005 season in time for hockey and skating groups to hold registration for their fall and winter season.

Rates for the rest of 2005 remain the same as those approved in May, except for non-prime ice time, which jumps from \$80 to \$100 an hour. The minor prime rate is \$142 per hour with the adult prime rate pegged at \$147. The hourly commercial rate remains at \$173-plus.

The cost of providing one hour of ice time at the arena is \$170, town staff said.

## Gallery appeals for money

It will be wait and see for the Latcham Gallery and its quest for funding.

Gallery members Kate Gilderdale and Ray McNeice spoke to Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday in a quest for long-term funding from the town.

The gallery receives around \$20,000 annually from the town.

Its operating budget is around \$126,000. The gallery is funded by an Ontario Trillium grant, which runs out in 2007.

Discussions at council centred on whether the gallery could become more economically viable by reducing staff, using more volunteers and increasing membership.

Mr. McNeice invited council to meet with gallery representatives to see what it takes to run a gallery.

Mayor Sue Sherban agreed that gallery and council members should meet this month "for the future and survival of the gallery."

"It is a vital part of the municipality," she said. "The commitment is here that the gallery will not go away."

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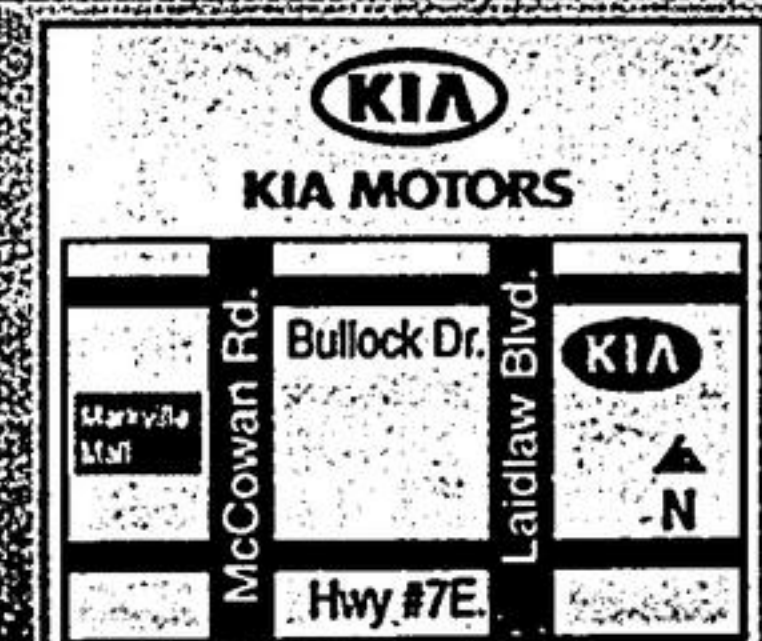


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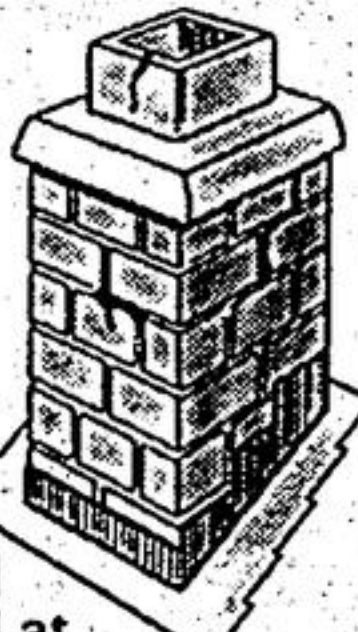
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