

STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

A construction worker toils on the roof of the addition to Springvale Baptist Church yesterday. Phase one, a gymnasium, will open this spring. The second phase is a new sanctuary.

# Gym, Chinese church coming to Springvale

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

The double gymnasium in the massive addition to Springvale Baptist Church could be complete before summer arrives.

That's the estimation of building committee chairperson Alan Brooks, who, along with other committee members, has babied the project along for more than five years. The grand opening of the 70,000-square-foot addition is expected in September.

The current church building, at Stouffville and Kennedy roads, is about 22,000 square feet.

While the gymnasium in the westerly part of the addition is nearing completion, finishing the second phase, the sanctuary in the east side, requires separate fundraising.

The gym could seat more than 1,000 people and the new sanctuary 1,200. The addition also boasts a large foyer, kitchen and change rooms.

Springvale is ready to welcome members of the Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church, who are expected to hold their Sunday services in the old sanctuary and have use of other rooms during the week. The 1,000 people in the congregation will use the Stouffville location as a satellite church.

Sunday services for the Springvale congregation will be held in the new gymnasium until the new sanctuary is completed.

Stouffville Christian School, which wants to move from rural north Pickering to Stouffville, has expressed an interest in the church's facilities, Mr. Brooks said.

## SPORTS FACILITIES

Eventually, there will be two sports fields on the property, a soccer pitch, basketball court and ball diamond.

As a regional church, Springvale already draws people from Aurora, Uxbridge, Markham, Newmarket and Richmond Hill, although the majority of the 450 members are from Whitchurch-Stouffville. About 400 people attend the 9:45 a.m. Sunday service each week. And that number is expected to grow with the influx of new people in Stouffville.

Springvale was a small country

church for most of its 158-year history, Mr. Brooks said. "Within the last 20 to 25 years, it has really taken off."

A large church can offer more to its members and other residents of the community, he said. The church will be working with the town and local organizations on the use of its facilities.

Construction of the giant structure is continuing at a good clip after a brief hold-up in the late spring and summer.

The delay won't add to the project's estimated \$7.2-million price tag and "we are back on track," pastor Bob Flemming said.

Although rumours have abounded about why construction was held up, it had nothing to do with the builder, the building's design or a fundraising shortfall, Mr. Brooks said.

The church had to significantly increase the budget of the new building about two years ago to include unforeseen costs. The new budget had a more than 97-per-cent approval rate at the church, Mr. Brooks said.

## FREING UP FUNDING

Church members, their families and friends raised close to \$4.9 million, Mr. Brooks said. Financing from a bank was in place, but it took longer than anticipated to free up the funds, causing the slowdown in construction.

Building committee member Stacey Campbell played a large role in handling the paperwork that helped free up the funds. Part of the slowdown is also attributable to the rural location of the church, which meant the church had to supply its own fresh water and get rid of waste water.

In addition, "we had to get a lot of approvals," Mr. Brooks said.

The new facility will be a "drawing card" for the whole community, Bob Panizza, a member of the church's building committee, said.

Fundraising continues. A Field of Dreams dinner and auction is being held Feb. 17 at the Premier Ballroom and Conference Centre in Richmond Hill.

Hundreds of auction items have been donated. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available by calling Springvale at 905-887-5651.

## HELD OVER! PERFECT SOLUTION FOR EVERY RESOLUTION SALE DON'T PAY 'TIL 2008 or TAKE 3 YEARS TO PAY

### OUR BEST VALUED FITNESS EQUIPMENT LIMITED QUANTITIES

#### Hoist V1 Home Gym

- Space Efficient
- Guided Press Arms
- No Cable Changes

**NOW \$999<sup>99</sup>**

our reg. price \$1399<sup>99</sup>

or \$33<sup>00</sup>/mth

**\$400  
IN SAVINGS**

#### Lifefitness F3 Treadmill w/Advance Console

- 3 HP CD Motor
- Folding Design
- Contact & Interactive Heart Rate

**NOW \$2199<sup>99</sup>**

our reg. price \$3199<sup>99</sup>

or \$72<sup>60</sup>/mth

**\$1000  
IN SAVINGS**

**NOW \$699<sup>99</sup>**

or \$23<sup>10</sup>/mth

#### Bremshy Orbit Pacer Elliptical

- Programmable
- Contact Heart Rate
- Smooth Magnetic Drive System

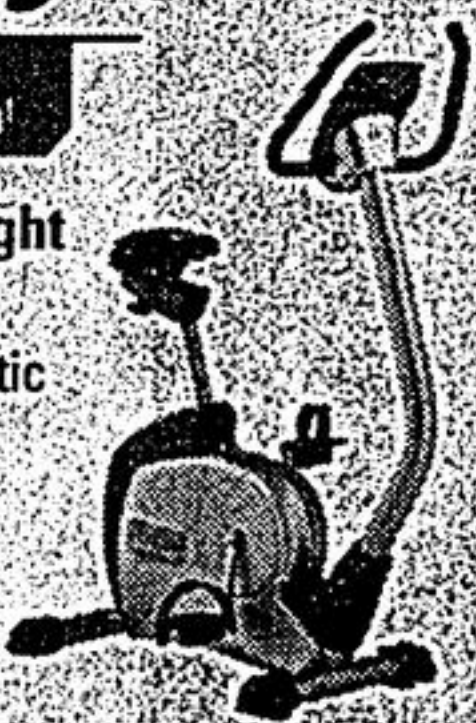


**NOW \$399<sup>99</sup>**

or \$13<sup>20</sup>/mth

#### Bremshy Upright Bike Control

- Smooth Magnetic Resistance
- Adjustable Handle Bars
- Contact Heart Rate



**NOW \$699<sup>99</sup>**

our after sale price \$899<sup>99</sup>

or \$23<sup>10</sup>/mth

**\$200  
IN SAVINGS**

#### Lamar 74R Recumbent Bike

- Adjustable Back Pad
- Step Thru Design
- Fully Programmable



**NOW \$999<sup>99</sup>**

or \$33<sup>00</sup>/mth

#### Horizon EX-75 Elliptical

- 18" Stride
- Orange Backlit LCD
- 9 Preset Programs



**NOW \$1299<sup>99</sup>**

or \$42<sup>90</sup>/mth

#### Horizon T74 Treadmill

- 25 HP CD Motor
- Large Folding Surface
- Cushioned Belt



Canada's Widest  
Selection of Benches

from \$99<sup>99</sup>



Now Available

The Famous  
Bosu Ball



now \$158.00

**NOW \$1999<sup>99</sup>**

our reg. price \$2399<sup>99</sup>

or \$66<sup>00</sup>/mth

#### Hoist V2 Home Gym

- Moisture Resistant Upholstery
- Unlimited Range of Motion

**\$400  
IN SAVINGS**



LOFITNESS | TRUE | GYM SOURCE | BOWFLEX | PEPPER | NAUTILUS | SCHWANN | StarMaster | GELCO

VOTED BEST RETAILER IN THE GTA 5 YEARS IN A ROW! www.fitnesssource.ca

109 Doncaster Rd. (905) 747-0802 | 5261 Highway 7 East (905) 471-4118 | 2780 Yonge St. (416) 440-0244 | 3240 Langstaff Rd. (905) 660-4883 | Meadowlands Power Centre (905) 304-5919

1740 Yonge St. (905) 836-7610 | Heartland Town Centre (905) 755-9000 | 166 South Service Rd. (905) 815-0123 | 1755 Pickering Parkway (905) 426-5700

**FITNESS SOURCE**  
FOR ALL THINGS FITNESS

## AN EVENING OF STEWARDSHIP FOR LANDOWNERS ON THE OAK RIDGES MORaine

An Open House presented by the Durham and York Stewardship Councils and the Township of Uxbridge on behalf of all partners involved in the Caring for the Moraine Project: Durham - York Headwaters Area

Where: Goodwood Community Centre, 268 Highway #47, Goodwood (corner #47 & Durham Rgn. Rd. 21)

When: Tuesday, January 30th, 2007 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Presentations begin at 7:00 p.m.

Hear: Landowner perspectives on stewardship on the Oak Ridges Moraine  
Talk to: Representatives of organizations offering stewardship programs and services  
Learn about: Forest, stream, wetland and grassland stewardship, protecting your property's natural features for generations, where to access technical and financial support, and more

Open House: Meet representatives of the "Caring for the Moraine" Project: Durham - York Headwaters Area partner organizations:

- Community Stream Stewards Program
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation
- Durham Land Stewardship Council
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
- Oak Ridges Trail Association
- Toronto and Region/Conservation
- Township of Uxbridge
- Wetland Habitat Fund
- York Environmental Stewardship

No Cost to Attend - For further information call: Brian Peterkin, Stewardship Coordinator - York Environmental Stewardship at (905) 713-7732