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THURSDAY FOCUS

Should fluoride be added to our water?

Concern with cavities from residents

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Would adding fluoride to Whitchurch-Stouffville's water supply make a difference in the number of cavities local children get?

That's what Councillor Phil Bannon wants to find out after several residents expressed concerns about what they called high rates of tooth decay.

If adding fluoride to the municipal water supply benefits residents, Mr. Bannon supports it.

He's awaiting more detailed information from York Region, among others.

Currently, Georgina has fluoride added to its drinking water to a level of between .5 and .8 milligrams per litre. Fluoridation was put in place after residents requested it.

Markham, which uses Lake Ontario water, has fluoride levels of .52 milligrams per litre on average.

Naturally occurring fluoride is way below that level with a reading of about .09 in Stouffville and .06 in Ballantrac.

Aurora, where the water supply is a mix of groundwater and Lake Ontario water, has levels of fluoride fluctuating between .2 and .48. The maximum concentration of fluoride recommended by Health Canada is 1.5 mil-

See TREATMENTS, page 16.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville Spirit defenceman Myles Gomes winds up during Monday's 3-3 tie with the Vaughan Vipers. The defending North Conference and North/West champion Spirit (28-16-3-2) finished second and hosts the Cobourg Cougars starting tonight.

Catching the Spirit

The Stouffville Spirit earned two championships in the 2006 Provincial Jr. A Hockey League playoffs.

The Spirit opens the 2007 post-season with the Cobourg Cougars tonight.

[FULL REPORT/PAGE 18]

You'll get say on new park plan

Winding road, new pool, bowling club proposed

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

A barn and cows, a new outdoor pool and splash pad and a winding road are in new plans for Memorial Park in downtown Stouffville.

Two softball diamonds and the lawn bowling green could disappear from their current location if final park plans are approved in June. The diamonds would move to the new Bethesda Park, on Bethesda Road between Ninth and Tenth lines, and the bowling green within Memorial Park behind the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

If the plan gets the go-ahead, the first thing to go would be the sewage plant near the outdoor pool. That could happen in a year or two, said leisure services director Tom Graham.

He gave no other timelines.

These are only a few of the changes planned in the project estimated to cost \$6 million for Memorial Park and \$4 million for Bethesda Park. Park construction itself would take several years.

"A large percentage" of the cost would be covered by development charges paid to the town, Mr. Graham said.

The plans were presented at Tuesday night's council meeting by consultants Rob Lockhart of The RETHINK Group and Brian Basterfield of Basterfield & Associates.

You can have your say about what you like and dislike about the park plans at a public consultation this spring.

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