

You'll pay a little more to skate, swim in town

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

You'll be paying a little more to go swimming, play hockey or soccer and enjoy other leisure activities after fee increases were approved by Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday.

There was no opposition to rate increases.

Many of the town's fees either stayed the same or went up to reflect the rate of inflation, town treasurer Marc J. Pourvahidi said.

User groups were informed well in advance of the fee increases, Tom Graham, director of leisure services, said.

While the public library's

fees stay the same, the cost of renting ice at the Stouffville Arena is up. It will cost minor hockey teams an extra \$4 as fees go up from \$149 to \$153 per hour. For adults, renting ice during prime time will cost \$165 per-hour, up from \$159.

There was no opposition to rate increases.

There were some new fees for museum services, mainly for new educational programs.

If you want to have your hot dog cart inspected (\$25) or get a marriage licence (\$100),

fees stay the same. When it comes to soccer, minor soccer teams will pay \$7 instead of \$6.50 for an unlit pitch. Adult soccer fees are up from \$37 to \$40 per person, while non-residents fees go up from \$53 to \$58 each.

There is, however, no increase in public skating fees. An adult will continue to pay \$2.83 per skate, while a family pays \$5.66 per visit.

Fees for swimming at the indoor or outdoor pools are up from \$2.12 to \$2.35 per swim for youth under-18 and seniors more than 60 years of age. The adult swimmer pays \$3.53 instead of \$3.30, while a family of five pays \$8.02 instead of the current \$7.55.

Ban recreation fees, ex-councillor says

What some residents frequenting the Lebovic Leisure Centre had to say about user fees:

There shouldn't be user fees, former town councillor Jim Sanders said.

"Some people don't use the facilities because of the fees. If you have three or four children, it adds up. You should consider what percentage of your family income the fees would take," he said.

Terry Owen disagreed, saying the fees are well worth it.

"(The Lebovic centre) is a modern facility and it's a great place for the family to come. The price is still nominal."

Michelle Johnson felt that

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if swim fees were to go up much more, it would affect those with low incomes.

"I think the fees for swimming are too high already," she said.

Cathy Delios, a young mother, said she would still take her son to go swimming.

"If fees went up, it wouldn't affect me," she said, "especially since they are so low and it is a small increase."

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