

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Residents passionate about plans for park

But newcomers ignored in process: councillor

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Stouffville residents talked as passionately about Memorial Park as if it were their own backyard at Monday's open house for the park's draft plan.

And that's what consultant Brian Basterfield has seen in the previous two open houses the town has held to gather residents' input into the park planning process.

While many of those at the latest open house were pleased with park plans, some, like Councillor Rob Haigrave, feel the newer residents in town haven't been adequately represented at these meetings.

Bloomington resident Bob Lewis agrees. He'd like to see any construction on the Park Drive extension delayed until more people in the new subdivisions to the south of the park have had a chance to have their say.

On the other hand, resident and business owner Maureen Wood was pleased with the park plans, particularly that a skate park and lawn bowling facility are included in the plans.

About 60 people came to hear Mr. Basterfield and Rob Lockhart at the third open house at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church.

They included business owners, politicians, town officials and mostly long-time residents, who

See ONE, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

LUNCH BREAK, BROTHER

Jack Burrows, 17 months, and his brother Owen, 3, enjoy a snack at the football toss booth during Orchard Park Public School's fun fair Saturday. For additional photos, see page 17.

ANIMALS SUFFERING SAY RESIDENTS CALLING FOR RODEO BAN

Stampede stirring up storm

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

When the rodeo comes to the Markham Fairgrounds, as it will May 25 and 26 at The Great Markham Stampede, it undoubtedly stirs up controversy.

Letters to the editor have called for the event to be banned. A Stouffville resident asked that a poster promoting the rodeo be

removed from the window of The Sun-Tribune.

Markham councillor Erin Shapero said she has received telephone calls from about 100 residents since the event was first held last year.

"There has been calls to ban this kind of activity," she said, adding people came to protest last year.

"I hope we will be looking at this

going forward. This year's rodeo is going to happen. I think we will have to look at this issue moving forward," she said.

"They don't think this is humane that we should go to feel good events where animals are suffering," she said.

The York Region Media Group, including The Sun-Tribune, is a sponsor of the stampede.

B.J. Prince's company, the Rawhide Rodeo Company, runs the event. He travels around North America putting on rodeos and says he has noticed an opposition to the rodeo in Markham, which is unique to this community.

"Markham is unrivalled. I'm not sure of the specific reasons. Maybe it is the lack of a rural area.

See ANIMALS, page 9.

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