

Looking for
Stouffville Events?

YorkRegion.com
it clicks home

Go to where the most are listed!

ART & ANTIQUES IN THE PARK
MARKHAM

12th ANNUAL
PREMIERE
FINE ART SHOW
& SALE
RAIN OR SHINE

SAT. JULY 14 &
SUN. JULY 15
10:00AM - 5:00PM
MARKHAM MUSEUM

For information call
Johanne or Karen at
905-294-2200

'One of the nicest parks in the GTA'

From page 1.

IT'S CLOSER THAN CALGARY!
MARKHAM BOARD OF TRADE PRESENTS

THE GREAT
MARKHAM
STAMPEDE

SATURDAY MAY 26th, 2007 - 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Markham Fairgrounds
10801 McCowan Road (McCowan/Elgin Mills)

EVENT SCHEDULE

Markham Economist & Sun Presents:
Rawhide Rodeo Production
(2) Shows 11:00am - 2:00pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm

North American Cavalry Challenge / Superdogs
York Regional Police Drums & Pipers
(3) Shows 10:00am - 12:00pm / 2:00pm - 4:00pm
6:00pm - 8:00pm

FTT Forklift Rodeo 9:00am - 5:00pm

Seneca Iron Man Outdoor Games 11:00am - 4:00pm

Markham Board of Trade "Trade Show" 9:00am - 9:00pm

Suzuki Freestyle Team Demonstration
12:00pm / 2:00pm / 4:00pm / 6:00pm

Guinness Book Records Line Dance 8:00pm

ATV Dealers Show, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Vendors,
Antique Cars, Outdoor Concerts and Beer Garden.

MAIN EVENT
STAMPEDE
Saturday, May 26th
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

GEORGE
CANYON
Friday, May 25th Outdoor Night Concert 7:00 pm
Also Appearing BEVERLEY MAHOOD
and WENDELL FERGUSON.

PRESENTED BY:

MOLSON THE NEW COUNTRY 95.3 MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN ARCTIC CAT Sun-Tribune

www.ticketweb.com www.themarkhamstampe.com

listened to an overview of the new park plans and then joined discussion groups to tell consultants and town what they liked and didn't like.

"We have incorporated almost all of the suggestions and addressed concerns we heard at the previous input sessions," Mr. Lockhart told the participants at the open house.

The move to improve Memorial Park was prompted by the fact many of the facilities, such as the 50-year-old outdoor pool, are nearing the end of their lifespan, Tom Graham, director of leisure services said.

Other factors are the closing of the sewage plant, the Park Drive extension that was given the green light by the previous council and the fact there are 12 acres available near the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

The town is studying 2006 census statistics to find out how many people there are in each age group and projecting these figures into the future so the most needed facilities are in place first.

The 60-acre park "is the one of the nicest parks in the GTA," Councillor Rob Hargrave said.

But before any work is done, Mr. Hargrave would like more people to have their say.

"I think we are not doing a good enough job to get the public out," he added.

The biggest concerns at the open house seemed to be the road, noise levels that will be coming from the new park, removal of two of the park's softball diamonds and the fact almost all facilities are to be in the south end of the park, requiring a bit of a walk or a bike ride to get there.

Some are concerned there isn't enough in the north part of the park to draw people to Main Street.

The park is designed so that it's easier to get to on foot or by biking from several locations, Mr. Lockhart said.

The removal of the outdoor pool, works yard, recycling plant and water treatment plant means there's more usable park space, he added.

But some participants raised the issue of security.

Secluded trails could attract the criminal element, resident Terry Arnott said, and the berm near Thicketwood Road will probably become a hang-out for young people to drink.

Children and adults will be able to walk through the park from north to south without encountering a road, town planner Andrew McNeely said.

The way Mr. Hargrave sees it, "When you put a road and kids and pedestrians together, it doesn't make any sense."

The road can be a danger when children want to cross the street to get to the other side of the park.

It has been narrowed to 7.9 metres from the 11 metres originally proposed and winds through the park with several blind spots to slow down traffic.

There's also a low wall on one side.

Trish Cabrelli wants to see the Park Drive extension made wider to accommodate regional and school buses and emergency vehicles.

There has to be more of a connection between the north and south part of the town, she said, otherwise traffic will spill into surrounding streets.

MEMORIAL PARK

CHEERS, BOOS

► **THUMBS UP:** What residents attending the Stouffville Memorial Park open house Monday liked:

- Stouffville Common, a large, circular open area in the centre of the park.

- Keeping most activities in the southern part of the park.

- Idea of a leash-free dog park.

- New walking and bike access.

- New basketball courts.

- Money to create park at Musselman's Lake

► **THUMBS DOWN:** What they didn't like:

- Lack of consultation with new residents.

- Keeping activities in the southern part of the park.

- Prospect of noise.

- Danger from road extension.

- Accessible playground is too far from the parking lot.

Al Piette echoed the sentiments of several participants when he noted the remaining ball diamond and bleachers will be under utilized once the ball diamonds are built in Bethesda Park on Bethesda Road near Ninth Line.

Creating parks is a slow process and before Memorial can be changed, Bethesda Park has to be in place with usable ball diamonds.

That might take a couple of years.

It features three ball diamonds and three soccer pitches with a number of smaller soccer fields in the centre of the area.

The new park has more emphasis on winter activities, with the planned skating trail and toboggan hill near Thicketwood Avenue.

There were some objections from participants that the toboggan hill might be unsafe with children going down the hill toward the proposed road extension.

The area proposed for the hill might be a good place for an off-leash dog park, resident Peter Mitchell said.

"Neighbours should be consulted before a road is put in their back yard," Mr. Hargrave said.

Several residents are in favour of keeping the park basically the way it is, but enhancing it.

Flo Neale suggested putting \$1 million into the existing park and putting in outdoor sport uses such as more basketball courts.

The estimate for the Memorial Park project is around \$6 million.

The final draft plan is expected to be presented to council June 19.