



14 Former CBC radio songstress
kicks off house concert series

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They're off!

STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Erin Fowler (with headband) and her Stouffville Glad Park Public School teammates are all business as they take off in the Grade 7 girls race during an area elementary schools' cross-country meet at Milne Park Conservation Area in Markham Wednesday. Schools from Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham competed.

Spirit GM latest to leave Jr. A team

Fourth executive to leave hockey club in year and a half

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The Stouffville Spirit is without a general manager, again. Matt Gibson, in his first year as general manager of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey Club e-mailed his resignation yesterday to club owners Zeev Werek and David Laren.

He wasn't at the Stouffville Arena Thursday night watching the 8-4-2 Spirit hammer the Couchiching Terriers 7-0 for their fourth straight win. The 33-year-old Stouffville resident acknowledged his decision to leave was a difficult one to make. He said it had to do with responsibilities he thought he had with the team but really didn't. "I've never quit in the middle of a hockey season in my life. But this (decision to resign) was a culmination of four to five weeks of various items going on. The opinions and

hockey decisions of what I was looking for and what they (club ownership) were looking for were two different things," he said. It's the fourth time in less than past two seasons the Spirit has had someone from its front office leave. Mr. Gibson succeeded long-time general manager Ken Burrows who was fired last spring. Also in the off-season, Gerry McDonald resigned from his post as director of hockey operations after only a few months on the job. Mr. McDonald had succeeded Marshall Starkman, who was turfed a year-and-a-half ago.

Mr. Gibson was assistant coach with the Spirit during its North and North West championship season two years ago and the assistant GM last season. "The toughest decision for me to leave were the kids on the team. The kids in the dressing room are a fantastic bunch. This is a strong team and I hope they succeed," he said. Mr. Werek said the decision didn't catch him offguard. He said Mr. Gibson's young family and new business have been taxing on his time.



MATT GIBSON: Stouffville Spirit GM resigned from hockey team yesterday after five months on job.

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