

Spirit player on the ball for worlds

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Making summer vacation plans for 2008 may seem a tad premature. But Tom Kokelj already has part of his summer mapped out.

From June 25 to 29, the 18-year-old Stouffville Spirit defenceman will play for the Canadian junior men's ball hockey team at the 2008 World Junior Championships in St. John's, Nfld.

"I'm pretty excited," the six-foot, two-inch, 170-pound Cookstown native, said. "It's cool you can play other countries and it's great to be able to play for your country and the fact that the championships will be played in Canada."

Being chosen to the 24-player roster means Kokelj became the second member of the Spirit to participate in the championships, which are held every other year. In 2004, former Spirit player Kevin Lord, who died in April 2006 from a brain cancer, also played for Team Canada.

Playing the game for the past four years in Beeton, which is a ball hockey hotbed,



TOM KOKEJ: Stouffville Spirit defenceman will be play at world junior ball hockey championships.

Kokelj's earned his national roster spot because of his play for the Beeton men's team that won gold at the provincials last summer in Oshawa.

He then went to Saint John, N.B. for the nationals.

Kokelj's performance on the floor caught the eyes of Mauro Cugini, Team Canada general manager.

"His play at the national qualifier, men's nationals and junior provincials far exceeded those of players who were his age," he said. "And he has wonderful composure when he's on the floor. He understands the game and knows when to pinch and he's mild mannered. He doesn't take bad penalties."

Kokelj was acquired by the Spirit last season in a trade with the Orangeville Crushers. Fitness training helps in both sports, but there are differences.

"There's a lot of running that you have to do in ball hockey," he said. "You can't afford to coast like you can at times when you're on skates."

Spirit head coach Dave D'Amazio couldn't be happier for his big defenceman.

"I've played ball hockey and I've had some friends who played for the Italian national team. Ball hockey is picking up huge in our country and for Thomas to play for Canada is a huge honour," he said.

For more on the world junior championships, go to: cbha.com

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC) #2

TENTH LINE IMPROVEMENTS CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is completing a Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to the Tenth Line in the community of Stouffville. The study area includes a 3 km section of the Tenth Line located between the southern boundary of the Town and Forsyth Farm Drive which is located north of Main Street. The study is being conducted in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MEA, October 2000 as amended in 2007), which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act.

This notice is to announce the second Public Information Centre (PIC) for the project. The purpose of this meeting is to present and discuss the proposed design options for the improvements to Tenth Line, and to receive feedback from affected property owners and interested parties.

The meeting will be held on:

Thursday, December 13th, 2007
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
37 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville
4th Floor, Council Chambers

A brief presentation will be made by the Town's Consultant at 6:30pm.

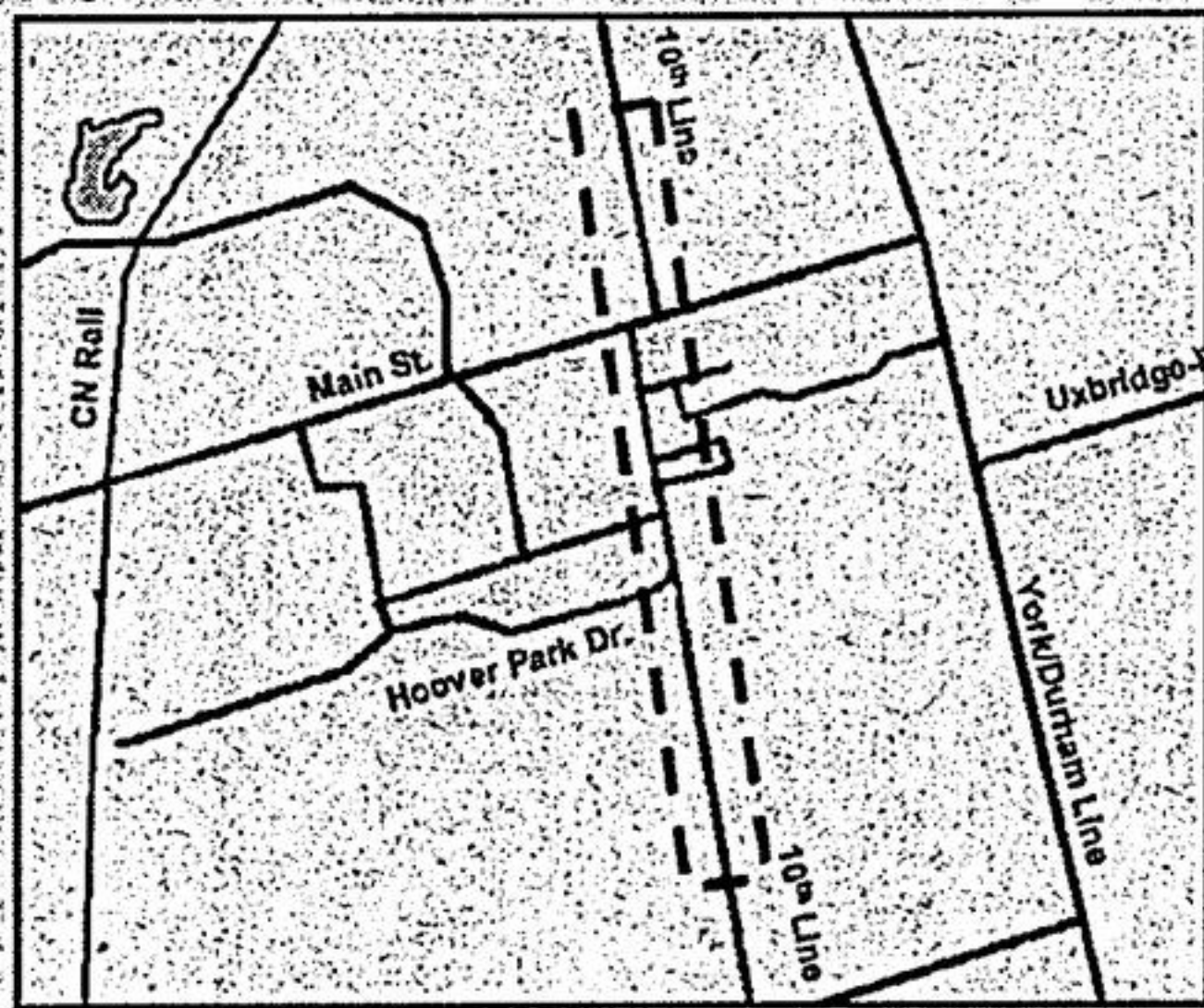
Agencies and interested members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide their input on the Alternative Designs for improvements to Tenth Line.

Information requests or questions may be directed to:

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STUDY AREA



With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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