

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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10 Stouffville Secondary scores rugby sweep

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Recognition of youth initiatives for town

Queen's Park ceremony for politicians, teens

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Nothing for young people to do in Whitchurch-Stouffville, you say?

Not according to an independent provincial organization that promotes youth play.

Play Works will honour the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and four other municipalities, the 2007 recipients of its Friendly Community Recognition Program, at a reception at Queen's Park Monday.

Other honoured communities are Brampton, Welland, Port Hope and Caledon.

Minister of Health Promotion Margaret Best will host the reception and present plaques. Twelve local residents, including youths, town staff, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and representatives of community groups, will attend.

The criteria for the award is "outstanding commitment to providing adolescent youth with opportunities to play and to participate in and contribute to their communities".

Whitchurch-Stouffville met 13 of the 16 youth friendly criteria.

Communities must meet at least 10 of the criteria, including providing opportunities for play, youth engagement, accessible programs and opportunities for youth activism, to be considered.

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SHE CAN DIG IT



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Bri King takes part in an archaeological day camp at The Lewis Site in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area last Saturday. Some items found in the dig, including 1800s pottery ruins, will be on display at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum during Doors Open next Saturday. Go to doorsopenws.ca for information. For more on the dig, see photographs on page 3.

Hospital expansion delay slammed

Markham Stouffville 'bursting at seams,' Emmerson says

BY CHRIS TRABER and TERESA LATCHFORD
Staff Writers

The province's delay of major hospital expansion projects will weigh heavily on York Region's health care delivery system and patients, stakeholders said.

Increased demand from hospitals and a shortage of qualified construction companies is being blamed for the province's decision to phase in funding.

The Public Infrastructure Renewal Ministry has assessed infrastructure needs of hospitals across the province and determined all the projects simply can't be done at once, the government announced Thursday.

The delay will impact health centres across Ontario, including the planned expansion of Markham Stouffville Hospital.

"It's disappointing news because we're already bursting at the seams, especially in the ER," Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

"We're going to have to bring this to the public's attention because it seems we won't see progress at the hospital until 2016. That's a long time and we need another game plan."

Mr. Emmerson said he is scheduled to discuss the delay with Markham Stouffville Hospital president and CEO Janet Beed. He's willing to go to Queen's Park, if necessary.

"I'm prepared to meet with (Health Minister George) Smitherman," he said. "I'm sure my colleague, (Markham Mayor) Frank Scarpitti will join me. We need to know why there's a change and delay."

The province's decision doesn't bode well

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