

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**10** Former Stouffville pro golfer can show your group Vegas

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## BABY STEPS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

The stroller fitness class from the Lebovic Leisure Centre traverses Booth Drive in Stouffville Tuesday morning. For more information on leisure classes, call the town at 905-642-PLAY.

*Stouffville cinema fans applaud plans for Hwy. 48/Major Mackenzie complex*

# 10-screen movie theatre 'close to home'

BY CHRIS TRABER  
Staff Writer

It's for 'reel'.

Cinema-deprived residents of Stouffville and northeast Markham are ready to line up.

A new, 10-screen movie theatre and retail plaza has been approved by Markham town council.

The complex is scheduled to be built on the south side of Major Mackenzie Drive, west of

Markham Road.

Site plan applicant, Mississauga's ECL Properties Limited, detailed the project in a letter to the town, confirming Empire Theatres Ltd. as the anchor tenant.

Though the future site is still a barren field and construction schedules are unconfirmed, the news is all good for local movie fans.

"The closest theatres are at Woodbine and Hwy. 7 or in New-

market," Stouffville's Janice Davies said. "While we'd love a movie theatre in Stouffville. It'll be great to have one here."

A movie theatre has been discussed at length in Stouffville during the last 25 years, especially at youth forums and during municipal election campaigns.

Ms Davies estimates the new theatre will be less than 10 minutes from home.

"Yes, we definitely welcome it,"

she said. "Now, by the time we drive back and forth, it's a long trip."

Her daughter, Michelle, 18, smiled at the prospect of a nearby theatre.

"I like to go to the movies," she said. "I'll probably go more often if it's close."

Since a multi-screen complex vacated Markville Shopping Centre in 2000, film fans have few options save for locations north or at Woodbine and Hwy. 7 and further west.

Despite the advent of in-store and online movie rentals, people still enjoy being immersed in a theatre and its magic shadows.

"I'm a fan, especially in the winter," said Karen McDowall, who lives a few minutes east of the proposed development. "It'll be great. There's nothing in the area and I was always surprised by that. It'll be handy and gives us choices."

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