

# Splashpads hit with parents, kids

Looking for the coolest place in town?

During July and August, hundreds of children are doing just that. And they're finding it, three places in fact, some only a few blocks from where they live.

They're called splashpads, a type of playground paradise engineered by Vortex Aquatic Structures International Inc. of Montreal and sold through A.B.C. Recreation Ltd. of Paris, ON.

More than 2,000 have been installed across Canada and the United States, as well as Europe and the Far East, since the company was founded in 1995.

Stouffville sites include Millard Street, west of Winlane Drive and Hoover Park Drive at Mostar Street and Byers Pond Way.

A fourth is planned next month in the area of Tenth Line South and Durham Road 30.

According to Rob Raycroft, manager of facilities and parks, others will be added as residential development warrants.

The splashpad is a system of sprinklers, activated when a child touches what is called a bollard, a small black ball atop a pole. This action generates a computerized flow of water that continues for nine minutes unless re-activated.

According to Mr. Raycroft, splashpads are in use in other areas of York Region including Markham, Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket.

But on a per capita basis, Stouffville has more than most.

The leisure services staff, working in close co-operation with the department of planning, viewed a similar facility in Ajax before giving Stouffville's projects their stamp of approval.

"We combined the best features of everything we saw," Mr. Raycroft said.

Splashpads are only in neighbourhood parks, Mr. Raycroft explained.

Added features include basketball courts, picnic tables, monkey bars, swings and slides.

Weather permitting, the courts will be flooded in winter for hockey.

There's no age restriction with regard to Splashpad use, Mr. Raycroft said but the overall play area is set up mainly to accommodate junior and senior aged children.

"We've incorporated a little bit of everything," he said.

The cost per splashpad is about \$100,000, with all funds coming from development charges.

Because the surface is rubberized, the facility requires little maintenance and is perfectly safe.

No lifeguards are required.

"They're like a magnet



**Roaming Around**

with Jim Thomas

to kids," Mr. Raycroft said. "It's very rewarding to see so many using them, much like watching children run through sprinklers in their own back yards. Parents also love them. We're very pleased with the result."

Because the outdoor pool is still in use, no decision has yet been made with regard to a splashpad in Memorial Park.

"It's whatever the public wants," Mr. Raycroft said.

The parents I spoke with are pleased.

"Fantastic," said Peter Mitchell, grandfather of three. "They're safe and child friendly."

"A healthy activity for kids," agreed Lida Kalbassi, mother of two.

"It's a great idea and very convenient," said Franca Ioannou, also a mother of two. "My children love it."

Glenda Reynolds, a grandmother, called them "ideal". "The water may be cold but children don't seem to mind. It's fun for them. They soon get used to them."

She, like Mr. Mitchell, appreciates the safety aspect of the facility.

"They're wonderful," said Kelly Krabi, mother of two, "and very clean."

Jennifer Lehman glanced back in time when she was a child.

"We never had this sort of thing when I was a kid," she said. "I might just sneak in and cool off, too."

With regard to water temperatures, she said children can run in, then warm up and run back in again.

"My children love it," said Kate Rego, "and we don't have to pay for all this fun." She described the Byers Pond site as "a beautiful park".

"I hope it remains this way."

In another municipality where she lived, vandalism caused considerable damage.

While residential development remains a source of irritation for some, others welcome it as a boon to new and vibrant recreational programs.

The splashpad is one. Visit a site and see for yourself.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

# WHAT'S FOR DINNER! — OUR — TERIYAKI SALMON

From our entrée freezer we will be featuring Doreen's chicken supreme. It's made with chunks of air-chilled chicken breast which are poached in white wine and served in a velvety white cream sauce with mushrooms.

All the work is done here, just warm it and serve with either rice or egg noodles.

Serves 3 - 4

Reg. \$18.95 ea.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

From our little fish counter we'll be featuring our teriyaki salmon. It's made with totally boneless Jail Island Salmon Fillets, our homemade teriyaki sauce (with sherry and lots of dotting). Further, we make this with orange and ginger as well as 'au naturel'.

Reg. \$14.95 lb

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI ...

We've got a tasty treat for you on Friday — which is our normal fish day at the deli. We'll be making some truly great beer-batter fish and chips using Guinness in the batter and fresh — not frozen — Atlantic Halibut as the fish. I had some for dinner and it was amazing! This will be available from lunch time to dinner time on Friday.

— AND —

We'll be making lots of our Singapore noodle salad for the week. This is something that can be served a bit warm or as a cold salad — either way is good.

It will be 1/3 off this week and made a few times daily.

## LOCAL CAULIFLOWER

We've got lots and lots of local cauliflower this week, just in time for the second wave of kids returning from camp. At our house, the summer treat season is now over (so I heard) and we'll be eating more of this. I have to assume that our household is like any other, so you'll probably need some too!

Large heads.

**99¢ EACH**



By: Katie MacDonald

## APPLEWOOD SMOKED CHEDDAR

This cheddar is on the milder to medium side with the nice flavour of having been smoked over applewood. Room temperature works best here, and I'm thinking that a nice cold beer would too!

Reg. \$4.40/100g

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## M PORTABELLA MUSHROOMS

I'm never sure of the name of these mushrooms. Some call them Portabello, some Portabella. I'm going with the latter for reasons of translation: Porta to me means 'Portly,' or big, while Bella means 'beautiful'. So big and beautiful sounds like a good description of these.

Now, since it's BBQ season, you'll want to BBQ these — but how?

First, remove the stem — (actually, we will) and then brush them with a seasoning. (We use olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper) and just put them on a medium heat on your grill, have one glass of wine and they're done!

Stemless!

Reg. \$5.50lb

**3.99 LB. THIS WEEK**

## NIAGARA PEACHES

We'll be receiving these beauties ongoing now as peach season goes into full swing. We'll have these loose by-the-pound or in baskets. Melons are still amazing, corn is local and getting better and better, wild blues are still wild, blackberries will be here very soon — and life is good down on the farm.

## OUR BRATWURST

We'll be making copious amounts of our beautiful Bratwurst sausages this week. What makes them beautiful? All sausages have a certain component of water — some more — some less. For these, we use beer — and a few robust spices that collectively make these my favourites.

Reg. \$3.99 lb.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## WHAT'S BAKING? THIS WEEK ...

It's an apple week in our bakery, and we'll be making ...

**APPLE PIES** - of course! These are the big deep — dish size, perfectly spiced, with either a crumble top (Cathy's fave) or lattice top (mine) — these travel well if you're headed away for the weekend.....

..... Reg. \$16.95 ea.

**COFFEE CAKES** - These use lots of apples, a layer of caramel, some pecans and a bit of apple clover brandy to smooth out all the flavours — and you if you eat too many!.....

..... Reg. \$17.95 ea.

**CARAMEL-APPLE SCONES** - Scones made better with apples, cinnamon and caramel.....

..... Reg. \$1.69 ea.

**APPLE BUTTER TARTS** - I love these warmed ever so slightly. The pastry is flaky, we spice the apples and add a bit of caramel to the butters tart filling. ....

..... Reg. \$5.99/6pk.

**CARAMEL-APPLE CHEESECAKE** - These have a shortbread crust, cooked spiced apples in the mix and some caramel in and on the top. These are best served just a bit warm as well — the flavour — and texture (I'm a texture guy) are sublime.....

..... Two sizes, \$14.95 and \$22.95 ea.

Over in our big bakery, Jaana will be whomping up batches of beautiful, hand-painted **APPLE SUGAR COOKIES**.....

..... Reg. \$2.99 ea.

All these items will be featured this week at ...

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

**SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>**

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