

SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE

ON BLITZEN, ON...



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Kyle Broadbent (left) and Sergio Pincivero watch their dogs Blitzen (left) and Bandit play in the snow in Stouffville Memorial Park on Tuesday.

STOUFFVILLE ARENA MALFUNCTION CANCELS 10 HOURS OF GAMES FOR TEAMS FROM ACROSS ONTARIO

Bad ice has tourney playing catch-up

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

The way Tom Graham sees it, mechanical malfunctions can take place at hockey arenas any time.

Unfortunately, when a new brine pump that was installed last summer, malfunctioned at the Stouffville Arena's Pad A Saturday, ice conditions deteriorated badly.

Ten hours of playing time was lost during a Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association annual rep tournament. Twenty-six teams from across Ontario were taking part.

Some finals were delayed and moved.

Mr. Graham, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's director of

► Stouffville teams win two of four tourney titles. See story on page 19.

leisure services, said the incident was a case of bad luck.

To prevent such mishaps, Mr. Graham said upgrading and maintenance work is carried out each summer at the rink.

It could have happened anywhere.

"It was really nothing," Mr. Graham said. "Every arena crew has mechanical issues at some time. Even an office building could have problems with their heating or air conditioning. We had our company (Cimco Refrigeration) come in and they fixed the problem in five to six

hours. This could have happened at any time. Unfortunately, this happened during the tournament. It was a blip in our system."

One month ago, the arena experienced ice-making difficulties and some games were played in puddles of water.

Fortunately, no contests were lost during that period, minor hockey administrator Charlene Mason said.

The town incidents were unrelated, Mr. Graham said.

Above-normal early fall temperatures affected ice-making conditions in the first incident.

The town will compensate the association, Mr. Graham said.

"Every year we have something

happen like the glass breaking or a power failure in the arena. We will sort something out with the association," Mr. Graham said.

Minor hockey president Mike Humphreys said the town acted in an expedient and professional manner.

"They called us right away and we worked out a fair ice time settlement. They went above and beyond," he said. "That's all we can ask for. They advised us of what was going on. Unfortunately with machines you can't get a part as quickly as you would like. We did some changes here and there with our tournament schedule. Fortunately, it was done and everyone was happy with the result."

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

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Missing Ballantrae cyclist safe in Richmond Hill

A Whitchurch-Stouffville man who went missing Saturday morning was found safe and sound Monday morning in Richmond Hill.

Joshua Christensen, 20, left his home in the Ballantrae area at 7 a.m., saying he was biking into Stouffville to take his pay cheque to the bank. He cashed the cheque in Aurora.

York Regional Police were concerned because Mr. Christensen was not dressed for winter weather.

Video game help from cops

Just in time for Christmas, York Regional Police are unveiling a new program for anyone who is considering buying video games for the children or teenagers on their shopping list.

The It's Not Just a Game Program is designed to educate children, parents, relatives and caregivers about responsible gaming.

It explains the dangers of playing violent video games at an inappropriate age and sets out the ratings system to ensure age-appropriate gaming.

The program also details the harmful effects these games can have on children who may not be old enough for the material being presented and the risks to younger children who may not be playing the games themselves, but watching older siblings as they play.

The It's Not Just a Game Program will be a core component of the York Regional Police Values, Influences and Peers Program (VIP). This program is delivered throughout the region by police officers to children in grades 6, 7 and 8.

In addition, officers are available to present the program to community groups on request.

The program consists of an educational video and pamphlet children can take home with them to share with their families. These components are also available at www.yrp.ca



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