

First-year Stouffville dub good hosts at tournament

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Hot dog? Not likely during cold snap

Pets need protection during bitter winter

> BY SANDRA BOLAN Staff Writer

Baby it's cold out there.

For more than three months, we have been dressing like Michelin men in an effort to fend off those frigid winter temperatures.

But what about our pets? Yes, they come equipped with their own fur coats, but when it comes to battling those sometimes subzero, double-digit days, they have little to no protection against the elements. Yet, they are just as affected by the bone rattling cold wind as we are.

How long is too long?

"It really depends on the breed and it really depends on the acclimation of the animal," said Kristin Williams, spokesperson for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' provincial headquarters in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In extreme cold weather, such as -20 C and below, the OSPCA recommends animals just go outside to do their business and then back inside.

"You can't push them in this weather," said veteran Stouffville dog walker Pat Vandervoort. "It's just uncomfortable for all of us."

Dogs are like children and, if allowed, they would fly out the door with complete disregard for the weather, only to come running back to the door minutes

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READY TO RAMBLE

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Catherine Chartrand is dressed in her winter gear for a run through Stouffville with a local running club Saturday. There's still time to follow through on your New Year's resolutions, if they involved running. For more information, see story and additional photograph on page 3.

Budget good for town projects

Roads, park plan, new centre on wish list for cash from feds

BY SANDRA BOLAN Staff Writer

With nearly \$12 billion being pumped into infrastructure projects by the federal government, Whitchurch-Stouffville's chief administrative officer is confident the municipality will be able to go ahead with all six of its capital projects recently approved by council.

"Generally, we're pleased with what we see," said Dave Cash, the town's CAO. "It's a very positive budget, I would say, (but) the devil is in the details."

The budget also provided \$500-million over two years for infrastructure projects in small communities.

Mr. Cash views the infrastructure stimulus package as a positive for the municipality because it is hoping to qualify for more than \$9 million in grants so it can push capital project originally scheduled for 2010, into 2009.

These projects include reconstructing portions of Rupert Avenue, Maytree Avenue and Victoria Street. McCowan Road between Vandorf and Aurora roads was already on the books for this year and remains there.

Council also approved phase one of Memorial Park's re-development and the construction of a new operations centre on Bethesda Road that is going to cost more than \$11 million.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is requesting a grant of \$5.71 million from the government for the operations centre, however, Mr. Cash

See RENOVATION, page 7.





