

FUN abounds

No shortage of activities in Whitchurch-Stouffville, York Region this summer

Summer days and the living is sweet. Now if only the weather would get it together.

It is time to get off the porch and check out what's going on in the neighbourhood. You might be surprised what is out there awaiting your arrival.

Whether it's hands-on or spectators sports, there's plenty to keep you going outdoors through the summer months.

PARTICIPATION/ACTIVITIES

Mini-golf

(Outdoor facilities)

• Timber Creek Golf & Family Fun Centre, Ninth Line, Stouffville. Thirty-seven holes of miniature golf. Facility also includes driving range, putting green, batting cages and water. For more information, call 905-642-5174 or visit info@timbercreekgolf.ca

• Northern Adventure at Cardinal Golf Club, Davis Drive, west of Newmarket. 905-841-7378. \$8 per round.

• Northern Greens Golf and Family Fun Centre, 18444 Yonge St., Newmarket. Facility includes driving range, beach volleyball and Arizona-desert themed mini-putt. 905-853-4400.

Golf

More than 70 public and private courses are in York Region, including several in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Visit www.yorkregiontourism.com and follow the golf directory links for a full listing and details.

Go-Karts

Check out the outdoor NASCAR SpeedPark at Vaughan Mills. The family friendly facility includes five tracks, a climbing wall, state-of-the-art arcade and NASCAR simulators.

Call 905-669-7370 or log on to www.nascarspeedpark.com for more information.

Nature trails

With 32 recreational trails and 18 regional forest tracts throughout York Region, including many in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville, there is plenty to explore. Other examples:

Nokidaa Trail System: A 20-kilometre stretch of trails from Aurora to Holland Landing, the Nokidaa Trail System has a myriad of multi-use trails and numerous access points along the way. Part of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the trail system links through many town parks, including Fairy Lake, Rogers Reservoir and Sheppard's Bush.

Trail handbooks are recommended and available at local municipal offices.

Also, contact the York Region Administrative Centre in Newmarket at 905-888-448-0000 or www.yorktourism.com

Kortright Centre for Conservation: located in Vaughan, Kortright offers 16 kilometres



STAFF FILE PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Chiara Cilia sinks a putt from an impossible lie as her brother, Carlo (right) and Erik Fraunberger look on at Timber Creek Golf earlier this year. The Ninth Line facility is one of several local spots for summer fun – now that summer appears to be with us.

of hiking trails that allow exploration of 800 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands.

Others:

• Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, Stouffville Road, east of Warden Avenue.

• Cedar Beach Park, Stouffville. 15014 Ninth Line. 905-642-1700.

• Boyd Conservation Area, Woodbridge. 8739 Islington Avenue. 416-661-6600.

• Georgina Island Tourism Company & Nanabush Trails — The Path of the Chipewas. Georgina Island. Contact rbiganoe@georginaisland.com

Also contact the Lake Simcoe Region

Conservation Authority. 1-800-465-0437 or visit www.lsrca.on.ca.

Skate parks

• Over the Edge Skate Park (Stouffville) at Memorial Park. 905-642-7529.

• Richmond Hill Skate Park at northwest corner of Richmond Green Sports Centre & Complex at 1300 Elgin Mills Rd. East.

• Newmarket Kinsmen Youth Centre and Skate Park on Charles Street, Newmarket.

• Town of Markham Skate Park at the Markham Centennial Community Centre at 8600 McCowan Rd. 905-477-7000, ext-2120.

ON THE WEB

► For a full slate of summer activities, visit yorkregionnews.com/fun.html

► For other events, visit pop.yorkregion.com

• Vaughan Skate Park at The Sports Village, 2600 Rutherford Rd.

Fishing

Anglers should contact the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in Downsview (416-661-6600) to get the Urban Fisheries of Toronto Region map.

It describes various species of fish that can be caught in the Greater Toronto Region, along with conservation areas and parks where families can fish.

For information on residential licence fees and catch quotas, go to www.mnr.gov.on.ca or call 905-713-7400.

Here are a few local spots of interest:

• Public pier at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe for yellow perch in early spring or fall or at the Holland River Bridge at Holland Landing for black crappies and yellow perch in early spring and bass during summer.

• Toogood Pond in Unionville for large-mouth bass during summer and other course fish, such as carp.

• Fairy Lake in Newmarket for northern pike during spring, summer and fall and other course fish, such as carp or suckers.

• Mill Pond in Richmond Hill for large-mouth bass or other course fish.

Paint ball

Combat Zone. With themes ranging from Capture the Flag to Band of Brothers, this 200-acre adult-themed facility near Stouffville takes bookings at 905-642-1922.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Fastball

Check out senior men's fastball from the historic grandstand in Memorial Park as the Stouffville Mennos battle rivals in the Oshawa City and District Fastball League each Thursday night. Games start at 8:30 p.m. Playoffs start at the end of August.

Soccer

Check out the Italia Shooters of the 10-team semi-professional Canadian Soccer League. Based at St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School in Maple, the Shooters' regular home night is Sunday with 5 p.m. kickoffs.

Visit italiashooters.ca for a schedule.

— Compiled by John Cudmore with files from Michael Hayakawa