

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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ELECTION 2010

Dollars for dogs?

Canine club lobbies for leash-free park

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Brendan OSullivan doesn't see why he should drive to Pickering, Richmond Hill or Markham so his four-year-old golden retriever Quinn can play in off-leash parks with other dogs.

So he created the Stouffville Dog Owners Association in an effort to get like-minded dog lovers together to lobby council for a local off-leash dog park.

"They're good for the people, good for the dogs," he said. "Dogs are happier, healthier and more sociable if they're off-leash."

Last year, Whitchurch-Stouffville had 2,008 dogs registered.

Along with founding the association, Mr. OSullivan has started an online petition to garner support for the off-leash park.

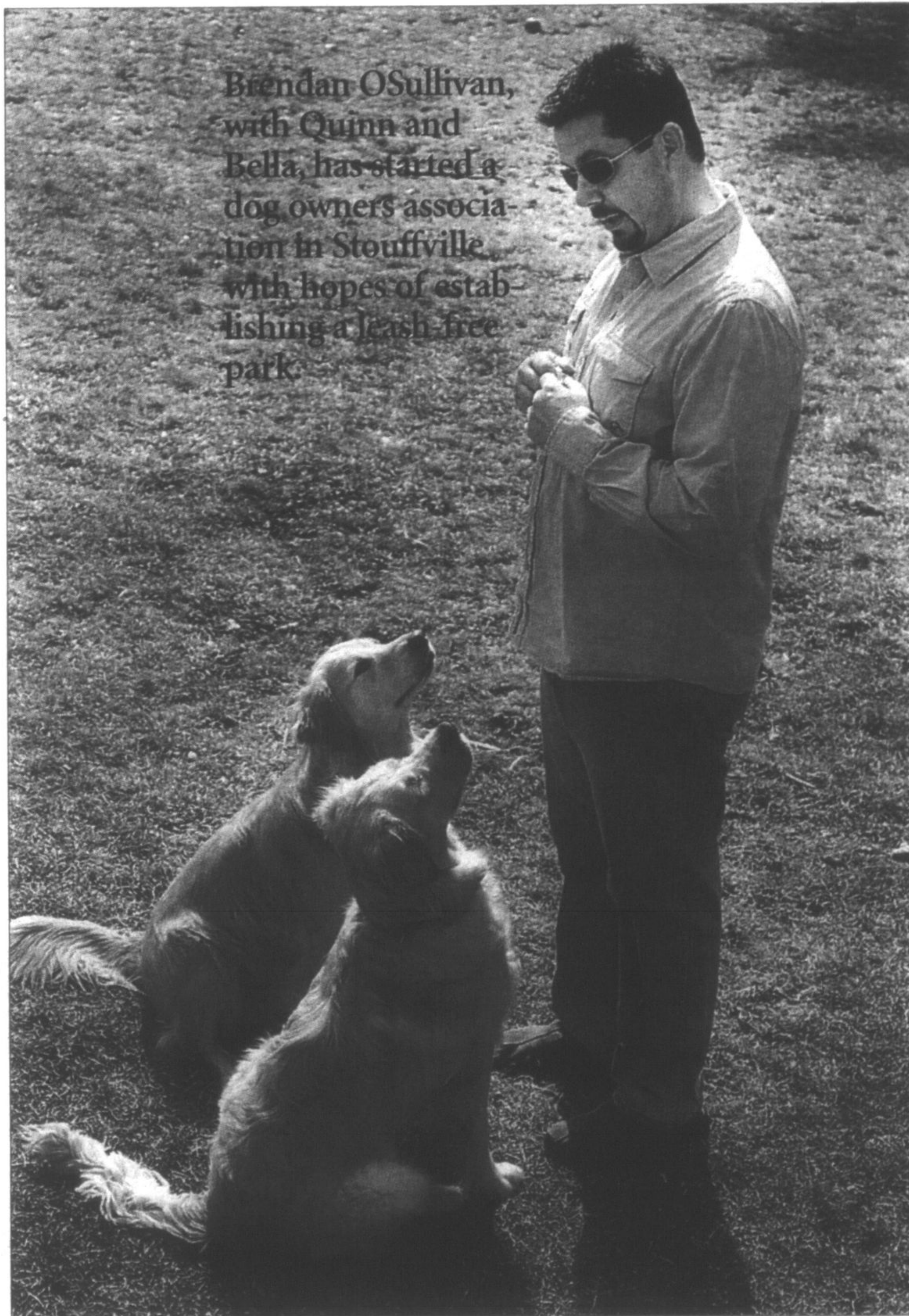
So far there are 44 signatures. "I'm hoping to get more people involved and it just isn't me," Mr. OSullivan said.

An additional question on the petition is: "would this affect your vote in municipal elections?"

All but three of the 44 petitioners said 'yes'.

"Every time I read the paper, they're spending money for arts buildings, town halls, but not a nickel for dogs," he said.

Mr. OSullivan wants to partner with the town in much the



Brendan OSullivan, with Quinn and Bella, has started a dog owners association in Stouffville with hopes of establishing a leash-free park.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Soccer club pitches for indoor field

Private groups also interested in year-round facility

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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If an indoor soccer pitch is going to be built within Whitchurch-Stouffville, it will have to be done in partnership with the private sector.

"If the private sector or others can lead on the construction of a facility, we can partner on providing programs," said Dave Cash, CAO for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville at a recent council meeting.

But, the town isn't saying no.

"The town has or has not decided on any funding or not providing any funding," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson in an interview with The Sun-Tribune this week.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club relaunched its bid for an indoor soccer pitch at the March 23 council meeting and will be meeting with the mayor later this week to discuss the creation of a joint committee that would investigate various options to facilitate its creation.

The club has 1,250 members.

"It's very important to this club, it's also very important to the community," said Klaas Westera, the club's secretary and head referee.

In 2006, the club, under the advice of council at the time, commissioned an indoor soccer pitch feasibility study, which became part of the town's 2008 leisure facility study.

The club's study revealed there is indeed a

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