

# Markham's loss, Stouffville's gain

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with while growing up in Stouffville who weren't playing and I talked to the guys when I came back about starting another team."

Another factor which led to the creation of the team was the folding of the Markham Majors franchise.

With the Majors disbanding, some of their players still had an interest in playing competitive ball.

Noting some of the Majors' players hailed from Stouffville while others came from Brooklin, Koert welcomed them with open arms. In total, Koert said they picked up five players from the Majors.

"Markham came to me back in February and said they had problems in that they couldn't get enough players committed to play each game and they had some talented guys on their team," Koert said.

## PRaise FOR JONES POOLS

While the Jones Pools entry currently has 13 players on their roster, Koert was quick to note the team wouldn't be possible were it not for the interest of their sponsor, Mike Jones.

"Without Mike (Jones) we wouldn't have a chance to form the team," Koert said. "To operate a first-year team can be expensive because you need uniforms, there's also a league entry fee and you have to pay the umpires."

In creating a new team, Koert acknowledged they might lack some cohesion at the start of the season.

**'I think it makes more sense to spread things around like having our team and one in Markham. But on the other hand, fastball is a dying sport except in certain hotbeds, so the more teams there are, the better, no matter where they're located.'**

Art Burkholder  
Stouffville Mennos

But he's optimistic once they get a few games under their belts, they can contend for the league championship.

"It might be a tough start for us, but I think we'll have a good team and we can challenge to be one of the top three clubs in the league. We have a talented, athletic team and a mixture of guys who are coming back to play the game," he said.

Koert will serve as a player-coach to start with before hoping to strictly concentrate on pitching at some point in the season.

Other players expected to play significant roles on the club include pitcher Jeff Wilson, shortstop Mike Samways and third baseman Darren Crawford. All three were with the Majors last year.

Other key players, Koert said, include second baseman Brett Boyd, centre fielder Norm Davis, right fielder Kevin Hackert and left

fielder Scott Assinck.

With a second team operating out of the Whitchurch-Stouffville area, the Mennos had some mixed feelings. But in the long run, they feel if their presence keeps the game alive, it's all for the better.

"Ideally, instead of two teams in Stouffville, there would be one," Art Burkholder, Mennos' manager said. "I think it makes more sense to spread things around like having our team and one in Markham."

"But on the other hand, fastball is a dying sport except in certain hotbeds, so the more teams there are, the better, no matter where they're located."

Burkholder anticipates the Jones Pools team will be competitive and was quick to note several years ago, Mr. Jones sponsored a talented junior team in Stouffville and things worked out well for both organizations.

## SEASON OPENS NEXT WEEK

As well, Burkholder noted there will probably be five teams from Oshawa playing in the Oshawa City and District Fastball League this season.

"Overall, I don't think it will affect our operation that much," he said of the new team.

The Jones Pools team is slated to begin league play May 12 on the road against defending league champions Aurora Shoeless Joe's.

Placed in the league's North Division with the Mennos, Aurora, Lake Simcoe Lightning and Scarborough Athletics, Jones Pools will play a 22-game schedule.

## KOERT SPLITTING YEAR BETWEEN NEW YORK AND STOUFFVILLE

While Paul Koert will take on an active role in getting the Jones Pools team up and running in the Oshawa City and District Fastball League, some of his weekends during the spring and summer will be spent south of the border.

Koert revealed he signed to pitch for a team based out of New York City, known as the New York Gremlins, to compete in six International Softball Congress tournaments this season.

Koert is looking forward to the challenge.

"I haven't played in the U.S. in a few years, but I'm excited at the opportunity," he said.

In describing his second team, Koert said it's a highly competitive team with players hailing from the U.S., Canada and even New Zealand.

What tempted Koert to join the Gremlins was their potential of possibly winning the ISC championship. That's something that has eluded Koert to date.

"For the calibre of players and the team they have they have a good chance to be in the ISC final," he said. "I've never won the ISC title. I've had a few fourth's. That's the challenge."

— Michael Hayakawa

# Stouffville Churches Welcome You



Welcome to...  
**ST. JAMES  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister  
6432 Main St. Stouffville  
Phone - 905-640-3151  
email: st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca  
Wheelschair accessible

**SUNDAY, MAY 9**  
Christian Family Sunday  
Pre-service sing-along - 9:45 a.m.  
Service of Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
Guest Minister Rev. Jim Cuthbertson  
Church School - 10:15 a.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**  
'Thru the Garden Gate'  
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
40th Annual 'Sacred Music Night'  
7:00 p.m.

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Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
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[www.springvale.org](http://www.springvale.org)  
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming  
Associate Pastor: Jay Sandiford  
Student Ministries: Alex Street  
Ben Bartosik  
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell  
Counselling Services: Karla Kamerman

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
9:45 a.m.  
**Celebration Service**  
Bob Flemming  
11:11 am Sunday School for all ages

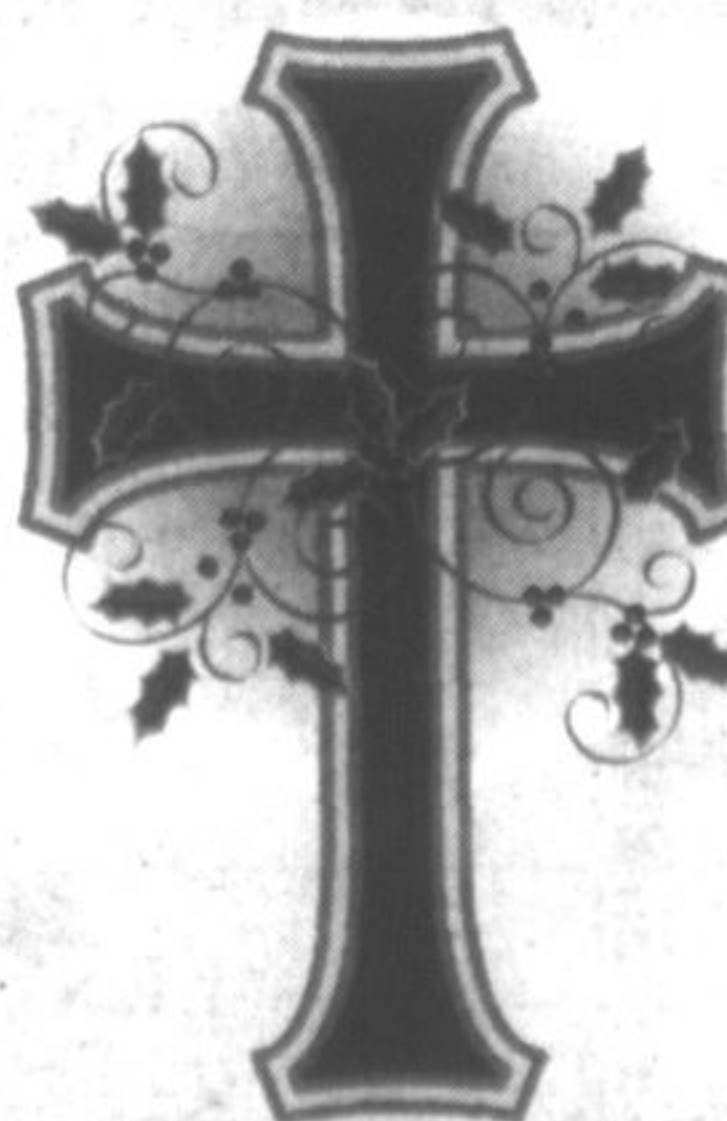
 **Parkview Village**  
12184 Ninth Line South  
**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> • 7pm**  
Graham & Bev Butcher  
Baptist Church

**Stouffville  
Pentecostal  
Church**

6853 Main St. • Stouffville  
905.640.5696

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 am  
**Pastor Jeff Laird**  
**Family Fun Camp**  
ZIP, ZIP, ZOOM -  
August 23-27, 2010 5:30-8:30pm  
includes dinner. Ages 2 and up.  
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**Everyone Welcome!**



**BLOOMINGTON  
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13660 Ninth Line N.  
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Rev. Peter Pallant

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:55 am - Morning  
Worship Service  
6:30 pm - Evening Service

**Everyone Welcome!**

 **STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163  
**Minister of Worship:**  
**Rev Nancy Waterman**  
[info@stouffvilleuc.ca](mailto:info@stouffvilleuc.ca)

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
**Christian Life  
Mother's Day**  
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