

Combine water park, pool complex, acting mayor says

From page 1.

Tuesday afternoon's meeting, as part of the group's delegation.

An online version of the petition is posted at stouffvillepolitics.com.

"People don't know about this. This is just going to happen. People (will) come to the summer and say: 'What happened to the pool?'" said Pamela Morin, spokesperson for the committee.

Before moving to Stouffville last year, Ms Morin lived in Markham, where she helped get the Morgan Pool fixed by the municipality.

People who came out in support of saving Stouffville's pool, cited a variety of reasons for why the town should keep it. Most notably, because it gives kids something to do besides play video games.

"They took out the skateboard park ... now they want to take out the pool," Ms Morin said.

Splash pads are being proposed to replace the outdoor pool. There are currently four throughout the municipality. According to the pool-saving committee, the pads are only suitable for kids ages three to six.

Other pool supporters noted the historical aspect of the facility. It cost \$40,000 in 1957 and was paid for by local philanthropist Arthur Latham.

"You had a free gift for 50 years, now you have to put an investment into it," Mr. Hargrave said. "Because he donated it, maybe there's an obligation from the town to keep it going."

Acting Mayor Phil Bannon appreciates this group's passion, but said what members have to remember

is the pool is 53 years old.

The average lifespan for these types of facilities is between 20 and 25 years, according to Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Although it is old and in need of at least \$980,000 worth of repair, according to one firm, it is still possible to save it, Mr. Bannon said.

"In my mind and my direction ... it's not over until it's over. People have the right to speak their minds on this decision and we must respect their interests."

In January, the town applied for a \$2.83-million grant to turn the outdoor pool in Memorial Park into an accessible water park.

The grant is part of the federal government's mid-sized project component of the Enabling Acces-

sibility Fund program, which is designed to assist the public and private sectors in retrofitting or constructing facilities that will level the playing field and broaden opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life.

The grant is available for a maximum of \$3 million or 75 per cent of a project's budget.

This project is estimated to cost \$3.77 million, with the town's contribution \$943,454.

"If we're so lucky to be recipients of this grant, we can dedicate some of that money to the pool," Mr. Bannon said.

The project consists of closing and replacing the outdoor pool with a multi-feature splash pad; barrier-free washrooms/change rooms; accessible play structures and associated outdoor activity areas and

a sensory garden. A portion of the area could be transformed into a skating rink in the winter.

The 2007 Memorial Master Plan identified closing the pool and converting the space into the "Stouffville Common," according to Mr. Raycroft.

"The plan, as prescribed by the leisure services department, provides for a water feature," Mr. Bannon said. "In my mind, that water feature may be a complex that provides some sort of pool and splash pad service, some sort of mix there."

Before making a final decision, Mr. Bannon has requested more quotes on the cost to repair the pool.


The pool is not expected to open this year as no money has been provided for its operation in the 2011 budget, according to Mr. Raycroft.

Stouffville Sun Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011

Downtown Stouffville

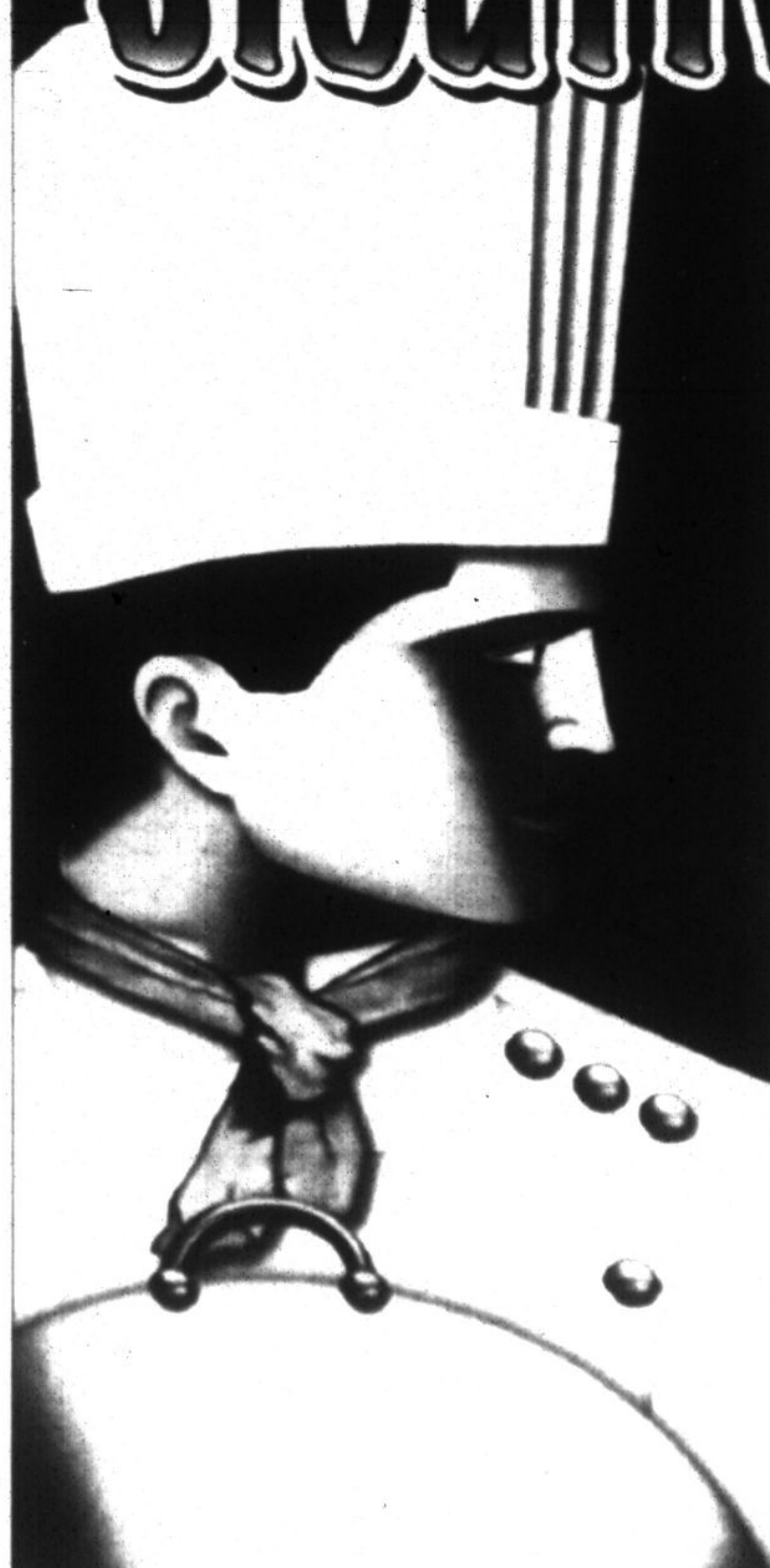
THE MEAT

MERCHANT.
 Your Home Town
 Butcher Shop and More
 6296 Main Street
 Open Mon-Sat: 9am to 6pm
 905.642.9892
www.themeatmerchant.ca

The Hearty Artichoke

 Do you have high blood pressure?
HEART HEALTH PRESENTATION
 DR. ELIE KLEIN-TUES. FEB. 15-7 P.M.
 Find out:
 • Which nutrients are needed for healthy cholesterol and blood pressure levels
 • Why in 75% of all heart attacks cholesterol levels are normal (American Heart Journal - Jan 199)
 • Which nutrients are needed to prevent plaques in the arteries
 RVSP: 905.642.8643 • 6333 Main St.

What do you want to see in Downtown Stouffville?
 Send your ideas and comments to Anna at anna.rose@townofjws.ca

It's **Stouffvillicious**



for more!

Discover the culinary delights that Stouffville's Downtown Restaurants have to offer.

February 15 - March 31, 2011

VIVID OPTICAL
 20% OFF ALL SUNGLASSES
 6292 Main Street, Stouffville
 905.640.3537 | www.vividoptical.ca

THE CORNER HOUSE ON MAIN

 Weekend Brunch
 Sat & Sun: 10:30am-2:30pm
 6403 Main St.
 Stouffville
 905.640.8494
www.thecornerhouse.ca

The Earl of Whitchurch

 Live Entertainment every Friday night at 10pm
 Sunday Jams from 2:30-6:30
 Check our website: theearlpub.ca
 6204 Main Street, Stouffville
 905-642-EARL (3275)