

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Pond-hockey enthusiasts – some in short-sleeves – take to the Stouffville Reservoir's rinks for games during Family Day Monday. Police advise against skating on ponds. See page 2.

ALLIANCE HOPES TO USE TRILLIUM GRANT TO ENTICE LOCAL FARMERS

Hemp production hyped for York's fields

BY DAVID FLEISCHER
dfleischer@yrmg.com

Could York Region become a hotbed of hemp-growing activity?

The York Region Environmental Alliance wants to find out and, armed with a Trillium

Foundation grant, it's hoping a local farmer or two is willing to give the crop a try.

Alliance executive director Gloria Marsh and her compatriots got the idea after realizing the impossibility of obtaining sustainable, local materials such as cotton.

Ms Marsh had a basic knowledge of the

uses of hemp, but dove headfirst into her research and concluded it would be perfectly suited for York Region.

The alliance hosts an information session in early March, aimed at demonstrating how it can inject life into York Region's farming community.

Beyond its many uses — as a biofuel, for construction, food, fabric and other materials — hemp is also a very sustainable crop that needs very little fertilizer, herbicide or pesticide, she said.

See **BANNED**, page 11

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