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**LEISURE:** Park common replacing outdoor pool

## Skate park location on agenda as redevelopment continues

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When the outdoor pool is removed next week, it will be turned into Stouffville Common.

The four acres of open land will be transformed into an area for unorganized play and the hosting of community events, according to a media release issued by the town yesterday.

The outdoor pool, which is more than 55 years old, was closed in August of 2010 as it exceeded its life cycle and the cost to bring it into conformity with provincial standards was deemed excessive, according to the release.

Also part of the Memorial Park master plan, is the construction of a new skateboard park.

The skate park is envisioned to be bowl-shaped and between 8,000 and 12,000 square feet in size, according to the Oct. 30 report.

The project is expected to cost \$425,000.

Back in April, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and the skate park committee hosted a fundraising dinner. It brought in more than \$60,000.

Between fundraisers, donations of materials, in-kind services and grants, the mayor and committee hope to raise the equivalent of \$175,000, according to the report.

A donation from the mayor's golf tournament committee is expected to be made to the skate park project during Tuesday night's council meeting.

There are two potential locations for the skate park.

One is within the Stouffville Common, which will be east of Stouffville Creek through to Park Drive and south of Burkholder Street.

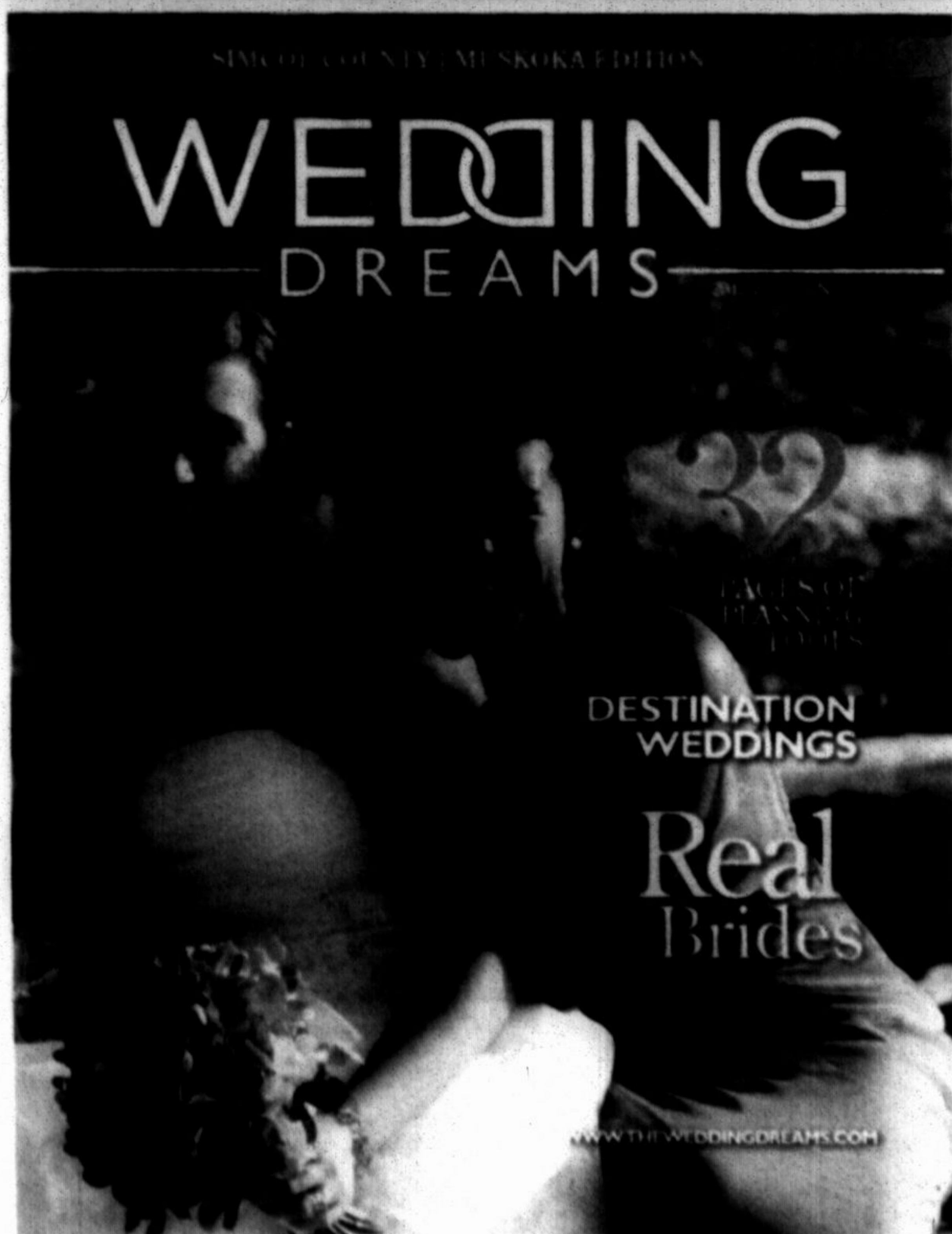
The area is influenced by the flood plain and regulated area of the creek, which creates "significant restrictions," according to the council report.

The preferred option by staff is constructing the skate park in the southern portion of Memorial Park, which already has the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre and public library.

The redevelopment of Memorial Park is expected to take place between 2013 and 2021. The skate park and basketball court, also slated for the southern portion of the park, is anticipated to be constructed next year.

"The redevelopment of Memorial Park will make this a community hub for all ages, providing a mixture of recreational and leisure opportunities. Memorial Park will be a fantastic destination for residents and visitors to the community," Mayor Emmerson said in the release.

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