

New court, track upgrade from federal grant money

The track and tennis courts at the Stouffville Arena on Ninth Line will be refurbished this year thanks to funding from the federal government.

A fourth tennis court will also be added.

"It's going to be state of the art," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson, who was surrounded by councillors Phil Bannon, Richard Bartley, Ken Ferdinands and Susanne Hilton, as well as Oak Ridges-Markham MP Paul Calandra in making the announcement on the snow-covered track Friday afternoon.

The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund grant is for \$371,250.

"It's going to be a great facility," Mr. Emmerson said.

"By improving facilities such as this one, we are helping to boost economic activity and maintain a high quality of life for residents of all ages," Mr. Calandra, a Stouffville resident, said in a media release.

The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund is providing \$150 million over two years for repairs and improvements to existing public community infrastructure, such as recreation centres, parks and libraries.

All projects must be completed by March 31, 2014.

The Franklin-Connell Track, three tennis courts and two lit soccer pitches were purchased by the town from the York Region District School Board in 2007.

Mr. Emmerson said the plan was to fix the sports complex up once it was paid off, which occurred last year.

'It's going to be state of the art.'

The mayor was not sure when the refurbishment would get underway, but he hoped it would be done before the start of the school track meet season.

"But that may be too soon."

The track was built in the early 1990s and named after Stouffville District Secondary School coach and teacher David Connell and then-student council president Julian Franklin after the school community raised about \$400,000 on its own to build the facility. It hosts several large school meets every year.

The school board sold the facility, which used to sit across from the original Stouffville Secondary, when it opened the new high school on Hoover Park Drive.

- Sandra Bolan

RECORD \$8.27 MILLION

Volunteers, donors beat United Way's 2012 goal

BY CHRIS TRABER
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Some 500 United Way of York Region donors and volunteers erupted Thursday as they learned the current campaign raised a record \$8,271,000, surpassing last year's tally by a single per cent.

The award celebration at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts recognizing the generosity and hard work of community members hit a crescendo when volunteer 2012 campaign chairperson Barbara Bellissimo and Chief Executive Officer Daniele Zanotti unveiled the dollar amount.

"Thanks to each and every one of our hardworking, ever-loyal volunteers, we are able to maximize our resources, keep costs down and ensure the bulk of dollars raised go directly to frontline services in our nine municipalities across the region", Ms Bellissimo, State Farm Canada's senior vice president and chief agent, said.

The phenomenal effort and push to reach this record achievement represents the drive and determination of United Way volunteers and above all, represents their generosity of spirit, Mr. Zanotti said.

He cited Lloyd, an adult with intellectual disabilities, as a perfect example.

A volunteer board member with Community Living York South, Lloyd recently became a donor to United Way York Region. Over the

past three months he began saving his own money and recently sent in a donation in support of United Way's fundraising campaign.

"It made me happy to help out," Lloyd said. "I really like going to the programs at Community Living and I like seeing all the different people there. I really wanted to give something back to United Way for all the work they do for me and others."

The more things change, the more generosity and caring stay the same, Mr. Zanotti said.

"So often in this campaign, the goal seemed out of reach and then Lloyd saves for months to help," he said, in reference to the campaign goal of \$8.26 million.

"A new friend like York Downs Golf & Country Club steps up with a holiday fundraiser for their very first United Way campaign, long-time supporter Allstate Insurance calls in the last few days with a gift to push us over the top."

"The generosity of residents across this region, year after year, never changes. To the thousands of donors who made this achievement possible this year, thank you. Your generosity is giving hope and dreams to thousands more across the region."

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