

TOWN: Hospital gala covered, but not mayor's tourney

# Councillors pay own way

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If members of Whitchurch-Stouffville council want to attend the mayor's golf tournament or any other event he hosts, they pay for it out of their pockets, according to the town's treasurer.

In Brampton, senior staff spent more than \$40,000 of taxpayer money in 2012 for tables and tickets to its mayor's private gala and golf tournament and are now creating a policy to curb that kind of spending.

For at least the past 14 years, this type of spending has never been allowed here, according to Marc Pourvahidi, who has been the municipality's treasurer and director of finance since 1999.

There are two funds councillors can spend from. One is for communications, which includes paying for newsletters, as

well as seminars and conferences.

The other is for public relations, which can include flowers for ill/deceased dignitaries or events such as the annual Markham Stouffville Hospital gala, according to the treasurer.

When it comes to the annual state of the town address given by the mayor at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce-hosted event, the town buys a table "to help the chamber" through its economic development department and fills it with councillors and/or staff, according to Mr. Pourvahidi.

"It's good news for us because we do have proper policies and procedures in place," he said.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson's golf tournament will be held July 17 at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club.

## Town's new crossing guard policy depends on school board, parents

Until last week, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has never had a written policy regarding the implementation of school crossing guards.

There are currently 10 permanent school crossings throughout town.

The formal policy was created on the heels of two new schools opening last September. No crossing guards were on duty for the first day of school at either location, which angered parents and caused the town to post temporary, now permanent, guards.

During the next 10 years, two more elementary public schools will open in Stouffville.

Determining whether or not one of the new schools will start the year off with crossing guards will be dependant on information obtained from the school board, principals and residents, prior to them opening. Council will have the final say.

"This touches on all the important buttons," said Councillor Rob Hargrave.

The school board will be responsible for all signage and pavement markings costs, which is standard protocol and the town will coordinate their supply and installation, according to the Jan. 22 report to council.



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