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## Board may nix programs due to lack of interest

BY TERESA LATCHFORD

tlatchford@yrmg.com

You may have one less option for adult art and language classes as the York Region District School Board considers nixing its programs.

The board's budget committee recommends the board no longer offer general adult programs

ranging from art and photography to drama and language, due to lack of interest.

In 2006, these programs were offered at six sites across the region and attracted 6,000 registrations.

This vear. took sites to accommodate the 200 registrations for the general adult learning programs.

People can access a host of information online for free and that has contributed to the decline, community and international education services principal Drew McNaughton said.

In the past five years, municipalities and post-secondary institutions have also offered these recreational and interest-based programs to residents, creating competition for the board.

If the programs are not sparking the interest of the public and the school board is not receiving enough registrations to at least recover the funds spent on advertising the programs, it is not worth the board's resources, Mr. McNaughton said.

"The funds can be redirected to programs that are in high demand at the school board." he added.

For example, the board's summer learning strategy — a full summer school program offering everything from junior kindergarten to Grade 12 credits and recreational courses -- attracts more than 15,000 students each year.

It would make more sense to direct the funds to that program, which continues to grow. Mr. McNaughton said.

The recommendation will be presented to trustees at the next school board meeting in lune.



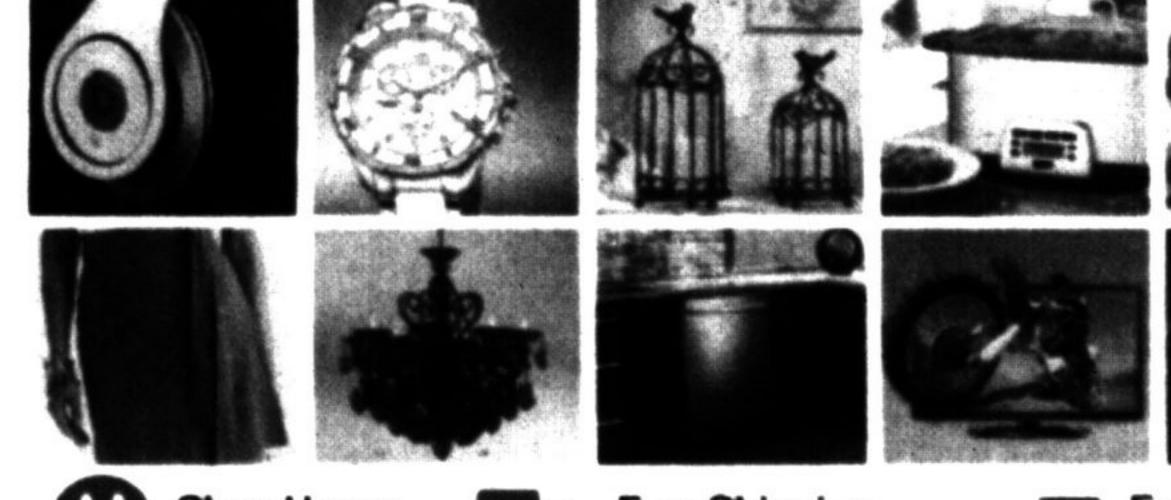
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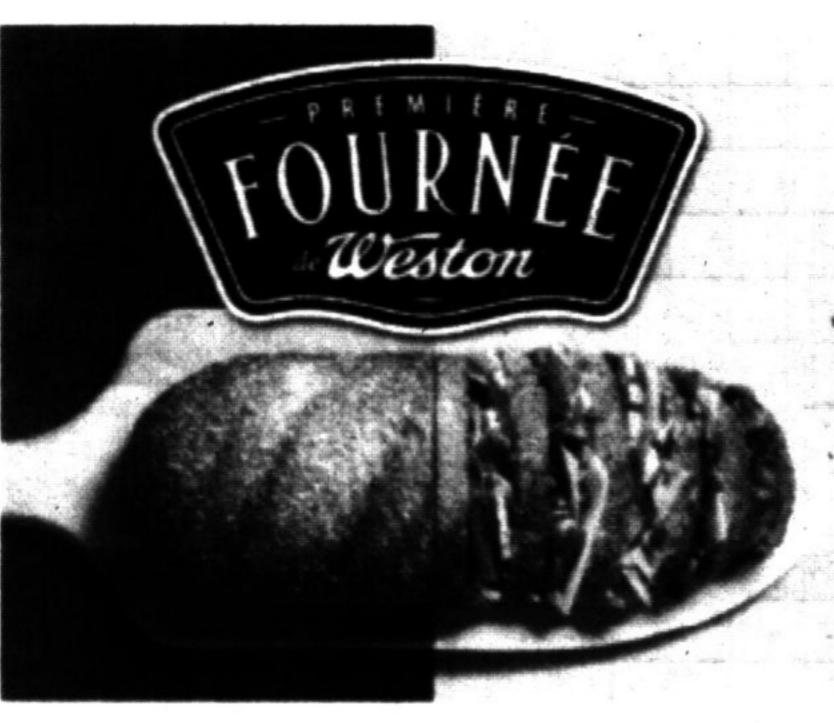


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