

# SPORTS

## Higher costs force OJHL teams to charge players

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Members of the Stouffville Spirit will be on the fairways at Cherry Downs Golf Club in Pickering Aug. 15.

And the Ontario Junior Hockey League club would like its supporters to join them when they conduct their golf tournament.

Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows said it's a means to help in defraying the growing costs OJHL players incur.

"Most of the teams in the league are charging players," he said. "Even St. Michael's who won the league championship are charging players."

In the case of the 2012 OJHL champion Spirit, Burrows revealed each veteran player is responsible for \$3,000 plus HST.

Part of that outlay includes fees for the Ontario Hockey Association and OJHL.

Last season, Burrows noted that amounted to roughly between \$1,200 and \$1,300.

For a rookie, they are charging \$3,700 plus HST.

Acknowledging their operating standards have been raised and anticipating fees will continue to go higher in years ahead, Burrows said teams including the Spirit have to find creative ways to generate additional revenue to remain active on the ice.

**'There's not a lot of money there any more. Sponsorship generally remains the same each year, our crowds, while they're good, are roughly the same and ice costs continue to increase. Even if we have a good playoff run we lose money.'**

Kenny Burrows  
Stouffville Spirit

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For the upcoming golf outing, Burrows said each player will be responsible for rounding up a foursome.

With registration being \$200 per participant, a player who can get four players could have \$800 reduced from their player fee cost.

Other ways players can have some of their costs reduced is through their jersey sponsorship.

In return, the players receive six sticks and new equipment for the season.

"It's a new way of doing business," Burrows said. "To run (the golf tournament) isn't about making money. But it will ease some of the losses and the kids will get something out of it and take some responsibility for their product."

The day will include a round of golf, power cart, golf shirt from the Spirit and dinner afterwards at Stouffville's Royal Canadian Legion.

The event will also include raffles and games along with a number of prizes to be given away and a silent auction.

If you are interested in participating in the Spirit golf tournament as a player or sponsor, contact Burrows at kenshockey@hotmail.com

### WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PRAYER BREAKFAST

*Our 10th Annual Prayer Breakfast has been Celebrated and enjoyed by all who attended*

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:** To affirm the strong Christian roots and heritage of the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville and to be a voice of the community, along with many other voices that say we still hold true to this heritage and faith today. And further to demonstrate that the Christian Faith is real and valid and that the community is stronger and better because of the faith of its residents. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Prayer Breakfast offers an opportunity, at least yearly, for all members of the community, including those who may not worship regularly, to give thanks and worship our Lord and to pray for His guidance to all our politicians and political decisions at the Federal, Provincial and local level and to pray for our Emergency Services and others who help to keep our community strong, safe and loving.

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