

LEISURE: Tennis, soccer, ball in plans

New pool 2 years away

More tennis courts, mini soccer fields and a junior ball diamond are recommended future facilities for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

So, too, is a cricket pitch, providing there is demand, according to the leisure facility strategy update.

It appears the demand may be there.

The Pioneer Cricket Club practises on an undeveloped section of Bethesda Park's southwest side that has overgrown grass, small rocks and no goal posts, according to Raphael Samson, president of the two-year-old club.

"At present, what we have can be dangerous to our members, especially the younger ones," he said.

"A good facility would be appreciated by all the members," Mr. Samson said.

Despite the less-than-ideal cricket pitch, which Mr. Samson said is temporary, the all-male squad is currently in Israel representing Canada in the Maccabiah games.

"It might be difficult, but we are trying to win one of the medals," Mr. Samson said.

Maccabiah, or the Jewish Olympics, is the world's largest Jewish sporting competition event. The games occur every four years and attract close to 10,000 Jewish athletes from around the world, according to Maccabiah website.

The team is not affiliated with any league, therefore, matches throughout the season are against "anybody who invites us", he said.

The squad typically competes against clubs from Toronto, Unionville and Scarborough.

This is the first time a cricket pitch has been placed on the town's future facility needs list and that is because "many new, younger and more ethnically diverse residents" now make Whitchurch-Stouffville their home, according to the report.

Also on the recommended facility list are two neighbourhood-scale aquatic facilities in community parks that have yet to be

determined.

A second indoor pool is expected to be a part of the Memorial Park leisure centre's expansion, which is anticipated to begin construction in 2015.

"I still think the pool should go with the (Stouffville) Clippers' complex and the running track and all that," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson during a recent council meeting.

A fifth ice pad will likely be required in the 2023 time frame, according to the strategy report.

Staff recommended adding it to the Clippers' complex on Weldon Road and not the Stouffville Arena because in order to add a third pad to the Ninth Line facility, as well as provide for additional parking, one or both of the adjacent soccer fields, which were recently upgraded, would have to be relocated, according to the report.

Research for the updated master plan did not consist of consultations with user groups, civic leaders or residents at-large.

— Sandra Bolan

CRICKET, ANYONE?

The ball and flat-bat game has 11 players on each team.

In the centre of the somewhat circular field is a rectangular pitch.

The bowler (pitcher) throws the ball to the batsman down the length of the pitch.

The batsman's goal is to not have the ball hit the wicket behind him. He does this by hitting the ball.

If the batsman hits the ball beyond the boundary prior to it touching the ground, the at-bat team scores six runs and can't attempt any more. If the ball touches the ground and then reaches the boundary, the batting team scores four runs and can't get any more.

Games cannot be played in wet weather because it affects the bounce of the ball.

Cricket was first played in southern England in the 16th century. It became the country's national sport by the end of the 18th century. The only time cricket was played in the Olympics was 1900.

Former SDSS site could house new school

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

The former Stouffville District Secondary School site remains in the possession of the York Region District School Board, for now.

After years of school board officials saying they would entertain offers for the Bramble Crescent land, they now want to retain it in case it's needed for an elementary school.

"It's just allowing flexibility because growth is coming," Lorelea Carruthers, school board trustee for East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville told The Sun-Tribune this week.

"So hanging onto (the) land to build that school is the prudent thing to do," she said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is expected to reach a population of 58,300 by 2031.

Most of those new residents will be accommodated within the urban portion of the municipality.

If the school board changes its mind and sells the land, the town has it unofficially earmarked for high density housing, according to Mayor Wayne Emmerson, because it is close to its park, track and Stouffville Arena complex.

Whether the land remains barren — the school was demolished a number of years ago — or once again houses a school or has housing on it, Mr. Emmerson wants a gate

removed that prevents traffic from accessing Millard Street via Edward Street/ Bramble.

"For the merchants downtown, we need to get that road open," he said.

However, the town is "not going to buy it" in order to get it done, Mr. Emmerson said.

The school board has "a timeline but I wouldn't want to say it's fixed. I wouldn't want to get into that to create expectations," said board spokesperson Licinio Miguelo when asked when a decision will be made on putting it back on the market or constructing a school on it.

There is one new elementary school definitely scheduled for Whitchurch-Stouffville — in 2016. The unnamed school will be located in the town's southeast area and have a capacity of 615 students, according to the board's website.

There is another location reserved for an elementary school outside the Glad Park area but "that might never get developed", according to Ms Carruthers.

Whether or not that school gets constructed depends upon spaces available in other schools, the number of houses to be built and funding from the Ministry of Education, according to the trustee.

"A lot of it is predicting," Ms Carruthers said.

Advertorial

Sears Hometown in Stouffville!

Sears Canada recently announced that it hopes to open a Sears Hometown store in Stouffville, Ontario. The company is actively seeking a dealer to join its national chain.

Based in Toronto, ON, Sears Hometown opened its first store over 20 years ago and now has over 250 locations across Canada. Hometown Stores carry products ranging from home appliances and mattresses to tractors and lawn mowers, as well as full catalogue service. Sears is Canada's largest retailer of major appliances.

"Stouffville has the potential to be a great market for a Sears Hometown store dealer," says Jane Clementino, Associate Vice-President of Recruitment with Sears Hometown. "Stouffville is one of the fastest growing towns in Ontario. We've done a deep analysis of the area and see that the time is right to find a strong dealer to partner with and grow into this market."

According to Ms. Clementino, "The type of person who makes a great store dealer is someone who is committed to being involved with their community, sales and customer-focused and wants to be in business for themselves but with the help of a national company like Sears. Starting your own business can be a rewarding process. As one of Canada's premier retailers, Sears knows what works and offers smart business models that allow you to do what you do best — develop and maintain relationships with both customers and the community while we take care of back-end management, computer systems, advertising, marketing and inventory. This means low cost of entry for you and as part of the Sears family and our retail opportunities, you focus on the rewarding part of the business instead of trying to manage administrative tasks. It's a win-win scenario."

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Sears Hometown dealer, contact Marianne Schuts mschuts@sears.ca or call 1-800-698-7088 for more information.

Sears
Hometown Store

WIN A GRAND PRIZE ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE VALUED AT OVER \$4000!
AS WELL AS EXCITING WEEKLY PRIZES

THE GREAT YORK REGION ENTERTAINMENT Giveaway
BROUGHT TO YOU BY **yorkscene**

Visit us at yorkscene.com to enter

STAY AT THE BRIARS RESORT, GOLF AT ANGUS GLEN
ENJOY DINNER FOR TWO FOR ONE YEAR AT CHILI'S,
ATTEND MUSIC CONCERTS, LIVE THEATRE & MUCH MORE!