

Council also enters partnership at Ballantrae tennis dome

Town has option to buy SoccerCity

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SoccerCity is a town-operated facility it doesn't own, but might, in 10 years.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has worked out a leasing agreement with Cabrera Ridge Building Corp. that gives the town the option to purchase the newly named facility for \$7.7 million in a decade.

The building is being completed on Innovator Drive, which is north of Hoover Park Drive, between Hwy. 48 and Ninth Line.

"This option would mitigate any risk of backlash/negativity from future residents and/or user groups who will enjoy the facility ..." according to the Aug. 13 report to council.

The lease rate starts at \$200,000 a year and tops out at \$350,000 at the end of 10 years. Those fees are "fully recoverable", according to the council report.

Lease payments do not start until Jan. 1, 2014.

The town has 100-per-cent exclusivity to the facility's use, however, one of the user groups will be the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

It's been more than 12 years in the making, Klaas Westera, secretary of the soccer club, told The Sun-Tribune back in May.

FRISBEES TO FLY

"It's monumental. It will establish soccer as a legitimate full-year sport within Stouffville and will foster the development of better quality teams and participants," he told The Sun-Tribune.

There were about 1,600 members in the soccer club last year ranging in age from under four to over 70, he said.

Club officials were not available for comment this week.

Also being run out of the 55,850-square-foot facility that has one FIFA regulation sized soccer pitch that can be divided into three mini fields, is the York Adult Soccer League and ultimate Frisbee.

Both sports will be offered via the town come October when league play is anticipated to start.

Seasonal rentals are expected to start next month.

The fields can also be used for off-season training of lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, football and baseball as well as for golf simulations.

SoccerCity also has the potential to be used for special town events such as movie nights, concerts, plays, corporate parties and special sporting events

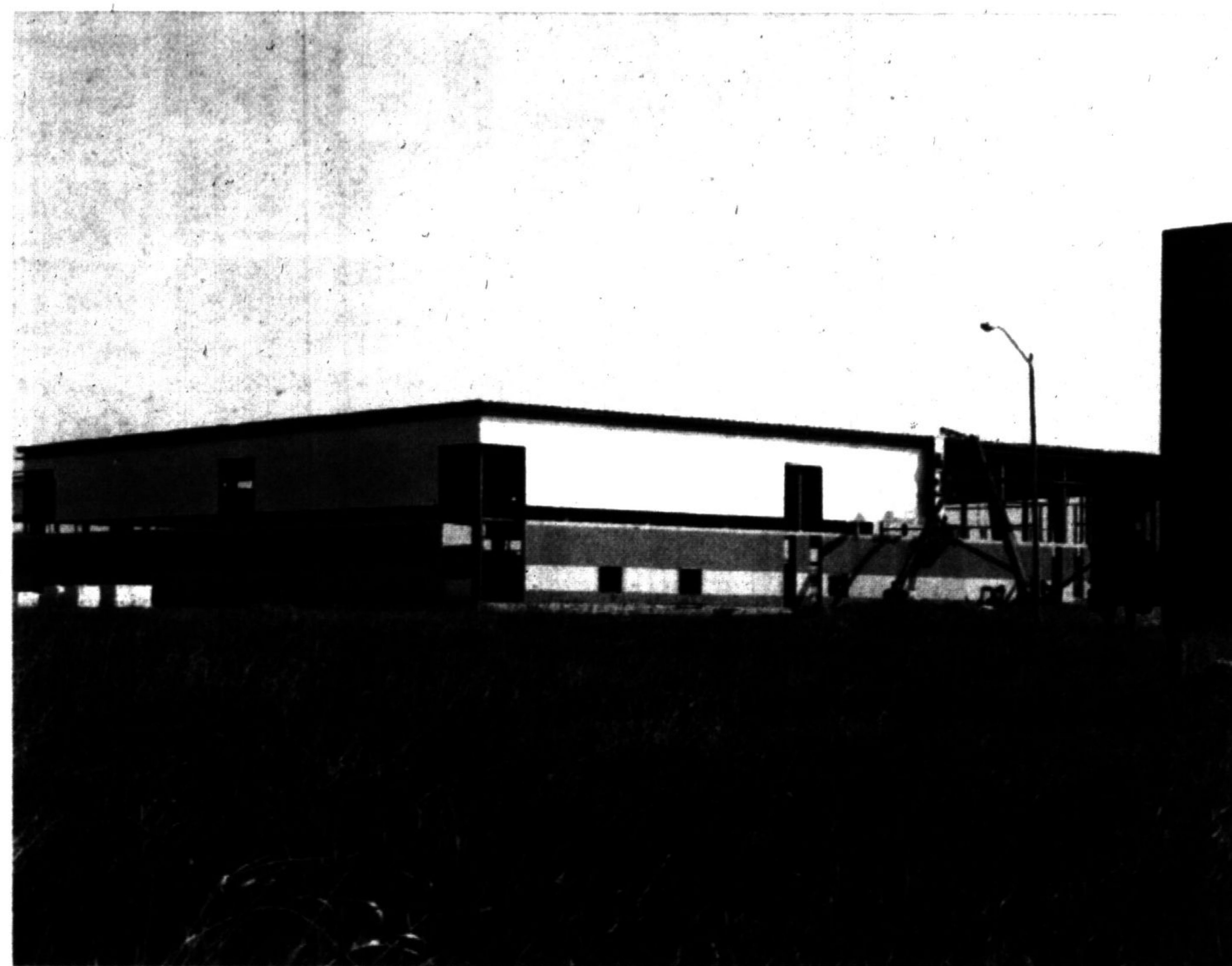
SoccerCity also has the potential to be used for special town events such as movie nights, concerts, plays, corporate parties and special sporting events, according to the council report.

The fall/winter rental rates range from \$125 to \$180 an hour for one third of the field. Spring/summer rates are between \$75 and \$125 an hour for a third of the field.

In all documentation leading up to the Aug. 13 report, the facility was known as the Stouffville Sportsplex.

It has been renamed SoccerCity, but unlike the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex, council did not ask for suggestions from the residents.

"The name SoccerCity was branded by the town. There were discussions and this name was



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The SoccerCity complex, under construction in southern Stouffville earlier this year, opens this fall.

received well, including by council," said Maria Schembri, spokesperson for the town, in an e-mail to The Sun-Tribune.

This isn't the only sports-related partnership the town has lined up this year. The municipality also entered into an agreement with the Ballantrae Sports Dome group.

The organization will construct the dome and new club house, as well as offer lessons, round-robins, house and team tennis leagues for all ages and

levels, including wheelchair tennis from September to April.

Adam Johnston is the facility's tennis director. He is certified Professional Level 1 coach with the USPTA and is a Tennis Canada Certified coach.

YEAR-ROUND TENNIS

Membership ranges from \$140 to \$740. Guest passes are available. Court fees are \$21 to \$26 and lessons range from \$25 to \$65.

From May to September, the courts, in Ballantrae Park on

Aurora Road, will be used, as they are now, by the Ballantrae Tennis Club and general public.

Construction on the dome and club house are expected to start shortly, according to the group's website.

For more information, go to iluvtennis.ca/memberships/

Registration information for the York Adult Soccer League and ultimate Frisbee will be available via the town's digital leisure guide, when available, according to Ms Schembri.

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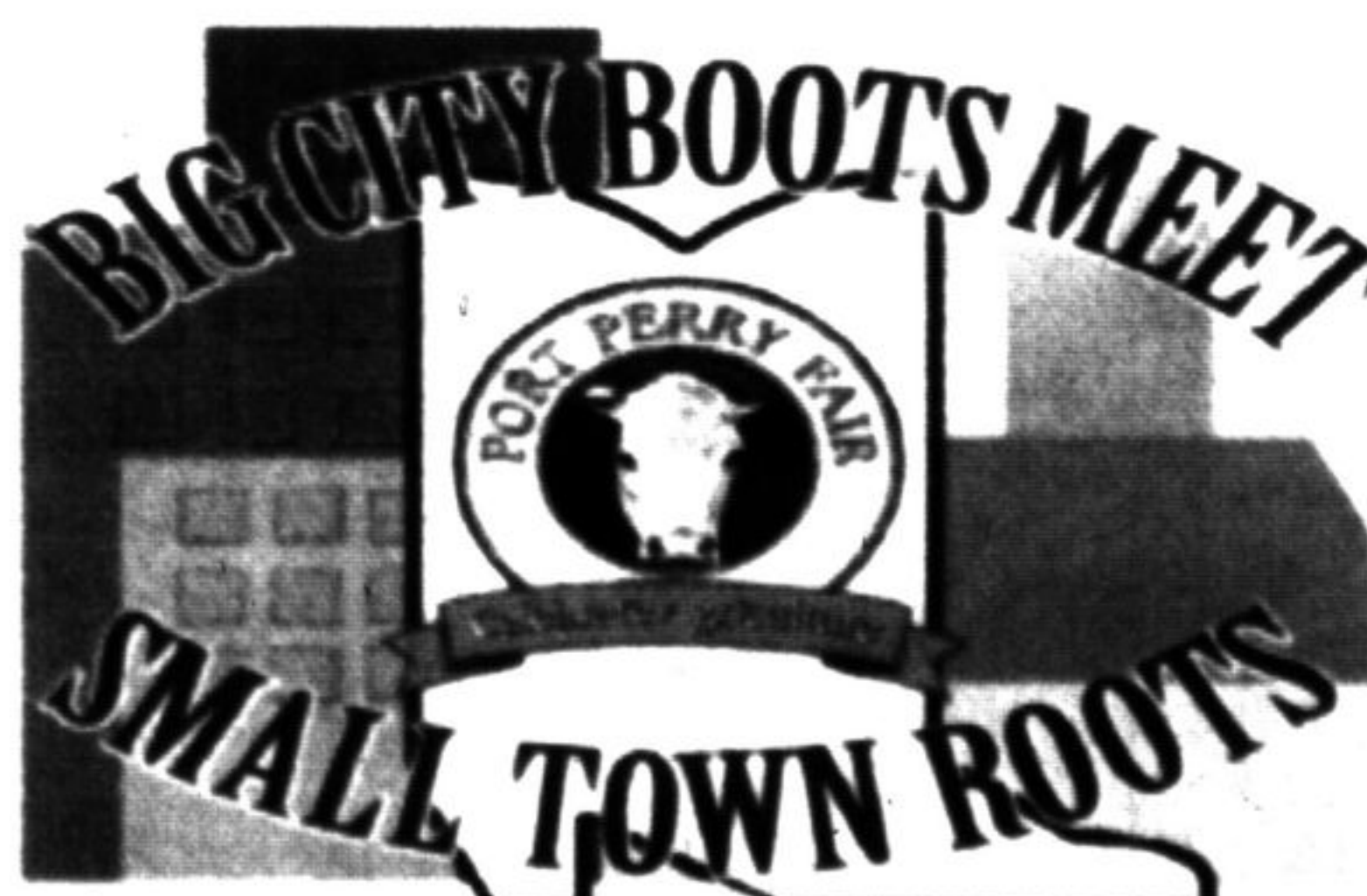
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