

LEISURE: Jr. golf program also in plans

Treetop Trekking, BMX track to breathe new life into Bruce's Mill

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Bruce's Mill has more to offer than the maple syrup festival.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff hope by it becoming home to North America's first Goblin Forest, as well as a 1,000-foot zip line and aerial park, a BMX track and revitalized driving range, people will have more reason to visit the Stouffville Road conservation area.

About 25 people, including Mayor Wayne Emmerson, attended a meeting in the park's chalet earlier this week to hear what the TRCA plans for the site.

Bruce's Mill used to be "quite a draw", according to Steve Joudrey, co-ordinator, conservation lands group, restoration services for TRCA, thanks in part to its swimming hole. But after realizing damming up a river, in order to create the swimming hole for kids and

families was great for them and the park's coffers, but not ecologically sound, a shift towards more naturalized activities within the 267-acre park was made, which included closing the swimming hole. The result was fewer visitors.

If the treetop trekking facility is as successful as TRCA staff hope it will be, it could net \$100,000 to \$130,000 in its first year, based on the lease and ticket sales, according to Derek Edwards, director of parks and culture for TRCA.

A pass into the facility is expected to cost \$45 per person.

The treetop trekking facility will be constructed and run by Arbraska, which currently operates seven parks in Quebec and four in Ontario.

The venue will have three components. One is an aerial park with a 1,000-foot zip line, Tarzan swings and cargo nets. The second is a tree hugging area for kids ages nine and up, while the third section is

a Goblin Forest for children aged four and up, which will consist of colourful treehouses connected with nets.

'It's a magical forest. They'll feel like they're in a totally different place.'

"It's a magical forest," Mr. Edwards said. "They'll feel like they're in a totally different place."

In order to construct the treetop trekking zone, a few dangerous and dead trees will be removed, otherwise, it will be built around what is naturally available and "no live trees will be cut down", Mr. Edwards told meeting attendees.

"It's a great way to keep interest in our forest and it doesn't seem too invasive," said one member of the gallery, noting people will be able to see the forest from a whole

new vantage point.

The BMX track proposal brought before council two years ago appears to have finally found a home.

The 110-metre soft earthworks track will be operated by a not-for-profit group headed up by Stouffville resident and Ontario Cycling Association head coach Brendan Arnold.

The goal, according to Mr. Arnold, is for the track to be used by the community and within two to three years be a money maker and host to a few annual events that would bring in between 300 and 400 people each.

For safety reasons, in order to create the track, six trees will be removed.

Back in 2010, a BMX track and rope climbing facility were proposed for the conservation area. However, those, along with the RV and tent camping ideas were taken out of the master plan.

There was public outcry against the camping idea, but it was TRCA brass who opposed the rope climbing and BMX track, Mr. Joudrey told The Sun-Tribune.

For people who want to participate in more passive recreation at Bruce's Mill, the trails will get maps and post markers.

"It won't be so intimidating for new visitors to the park," Mr. Joudrey said.

The driving range will be revitalized with a chipping area and putting green. However, in order to do this, approximately 120,000 cubic metres of new fill will be brought into the park.

A junior coaching/teaching component will be a part of the driving range, which is anticipated to be headed up by Henry Brunton, a Stouffville resident who currently leads the Bathurst Glen Golf Course junior program.

The new driving range isn't expected to be open until 2015.

Announcement

Empty Nesters: FREE Special Report Reveals 9 Costly Mistakes to Avoid When Selling Your Home

Stouffville Are you an "Empty Nester"? Is it time to downsize or to move into another home more suitable for your glorious retirement years?

Like thousands of residents in our area, you may be discovering that after years of non-stop child traffic in and out of your doors, toys on the floor, music floating throughout, suddenly you can hear a pin drop over the quiet hum of the refrigerator. Your rooms are filled with pictures and memories of this wonderful time of your life, but there are many empty rooms gathering dust now that your children have moved on. The freer years ahead are exciting ones to look forward to, and it's time for you to move on as well.

If you find yourself in this situation, you're in vast and good company. And what that means is that there are many wonderful opportunities for you to create this

new chapter in your life - if you know what it takes to get the most out of the equity you've built up in your current home.

To help you understand the issues involved in making such a move, and now to avoid the 9 most common and costly mistakes most Empty Nesters make, a new report called "Empty Nester: How to Sell the Place You Call Home" has been prepared which identifies these issues, and shows you how to steer clear of the mistakes that could cost you literally thousands of dollars.

To order your FREE, NO OBLIGATION Special Report call Lesley O'Connor, Salesperson with Gallo Real Estate Ltd. Brokerage at 905.640.1200.

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VIVIAN RISI PRESENTS YELLOW BRICK HOUSE WITH GENEROUS DONATION

Local philanthropist demonstrates unwavering commitment to cause

RICHMOND HILL, ON: September 11, 2013 - Today, Vivian Risi, who is the Owner/Broker of Royal LePage Your Community Realty, presented a cheque to Yellow Brick House reflecting donations raised for the organization through the Royal LePage Your Community Realty's annual charity golf tournaments in 2012 and 2013. The donation of \$50,000 includes a \$10,000 contribution from the City of Vaughan, which was presented by Vivian Risi on behalf of Mayor Bevilacqua. Next year's tournament is scheduled to be held on June 23rd.

Vivian Risi is a true champion of philanthropic spirit, a passionate supporter of Yellow Brick House, and the former Chair of its recent "Second Shelter, Second Chances" capital campaign. Under Vivian's bold leadership, the campaign raised funds to purchase, renovate and start the operation of Yellow Brick House's second emergency shelter located in southern York Region. Royal LePage Your Community Realty's support has been critical to the success of life-saving services offered by Yellow Brick House.

About Yellow Brick House

Now operating in its 35th year, Yellow Brick House is a non-profit organization serving abused women and their children across York Region. Its mission is to empower abused women and their children to rebuild their lives and live free from violence. Yellow Brick House delivers on its mission through providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, outreach services, and violence prevention and public education.

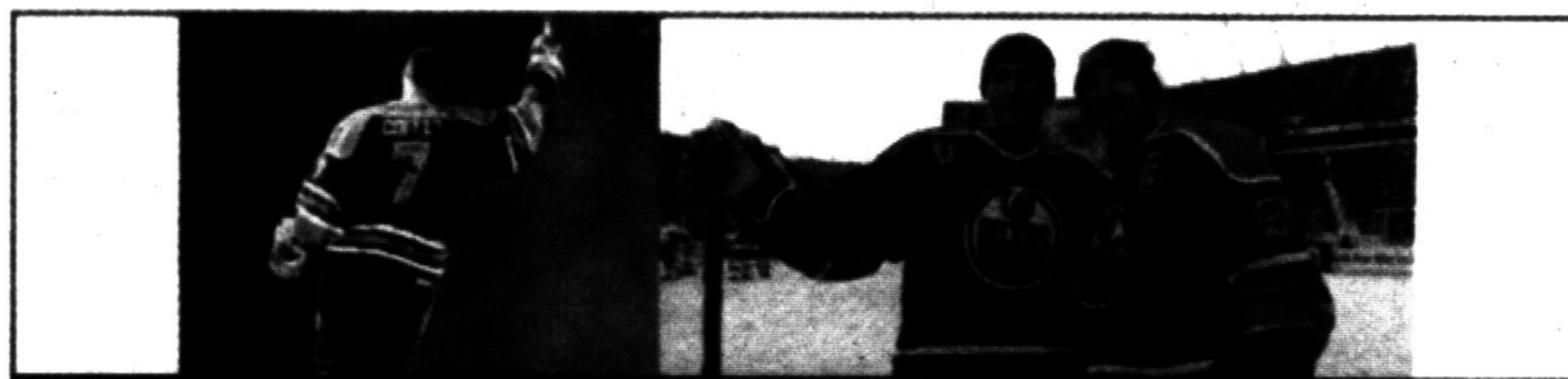
In the 2012/2013 fiscal year, Yellow Brick House served more than 6,000 clients through its programs and services. This number represents an increase of 15% from the year before. Our shelters operated at 99% of capacity and, even so, the demand for our services continues to increase.

To learn more about Yellow Brick House, please visit

www.yellowbrickhouse.org



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WHY: To raise money for the 20,000 children and youth with a physical disability in Ontario



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