

# SoccerCity exceeds expectations

**FRONT PAGE: Coach Corrado Panacci leads warm-up exercises at SoccerCity.**

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
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When the new state-of-the-art indoor SoccerCity facility became ready for players to kick up a storm, Mark Kozak-Holland anticipated it would be the perfect elixir to heighten the sport's profile during the winter months in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

While the facility, located on Innovator Drive, just recently opened its doors for business, the prediction of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club president appears to have hit the nail right on the head.

Having kicked off its indoor developmental youth house league program, that includes competitive groups, ranging from under five to under 18, Kozak-Holland reported there's more than 300 youths putting their best feet forward.

That number, he said, is almost double the number of participants registered a year ago, when SoccerCity was still under construction.

Along with running its own indoor youth house league out of the new facility, Kozak-Holland revealed its presence allows them to open up other new avenues.

One will see their organization work in close conjunction with the York Region Soccer Association to run competitive youth leagues and provide skill development clinics for those aspiring to improve their game.

When young players are finished kicking up a storm for the day, the indoor action won't stop.

Following the youths on the FIFA-sized artificial pitch, the adults will take over the field of play.

About 200 adults signed up to participate in their various competitive divisions, ranging from open, over-35 and over-45 for

men and open and over-35 for women. Kozak-Holland pointed out that number is "quite significant."

Especially since the club did not field any indoor adult programs last year.

Along with running their own adult programs, Kozak-Holland said the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is attempting to organize a competitive league to incorporate teams from other neighbouring centres to play out of SoccerCity.

Kozak-Holland said the up-to-date facilities at SoccerCity have exceeded his expectations.

That includes a high ceiling, tempered glass, change rooms, office space, observation area and dividers to allow for up to three matches to be played simultaneously.

"I played on the pitch last night and it was the best indoor field I've played on. The surface is realistic," he said. "And the scale of the place is large."

"During the winter it's a pleasant atmosphere to be in to get away from winter for a couple of months. I really wasn't expecting the experience to be as good as it is."

"It will be a popular facility." While the club has already instituted its youth programs and is about to launch one for adults, Kozak-Holland said one of the last things to do on their checklist is to arrange their club offices inside SoccerCity.

That, he said, should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Delighted with the new facility, Kozak-Holland was quick to give kudos to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Greenpark Homes for having the foresight to see that SoccerCity would be a viable place for various recreational activities, that includes indoor soccer during the winter months.

For more information on the club's winter programs, log on to [www.wssc.info](http://www.wssc.info)



## COMING UP

Artists Diane Jupp (from left), Jan Dolby and Jennie Creeggan are showing off their creations at next week's Beyond Craft Show and Sale.

# Something for everyone at craft sale

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Have a tarot card reading, take a yoga class, get started on your Christmas shopping — yes, it's that time of year — and help out the Latcham Gallery, all while staying downtown.

Once again, the Beyond Craft Show and Sale will take place in conjunction with the Girls' Weekend, Nov. 14 to 17.

"We know the Beyond Craft (show) is highly attended by women, so we decided to tap into that market," said Anna Rose, the municipality's downtown co-ordinator.

However, Ms Rose noted, "we don't discriminate in the downtown" and men are welcome.

Among the approximately 30 artists selling their original creations at the juried show at Nineteen on the Park is potter Jennifer Creeggan, steel artist Jean Pierre Schoss and Joanne Jones, who repurposes old fabrics and accessories to create new handbags, mittens and hats.

A portion from each item she sells is used to help an economically-challenged student in South Africa's Soweto area to attend school.

Cathy Mark, who creates wall and free-standing metal sculptures, will also be at the show.

"Her stuff will disappear starting Thursday night," said Jan Dolby, an artist and volunteer with Latcham Gallery.

Twenty per cent of the proceeds from the artists' sales during the show go to the gallery.

Last year, the show raised about \$9,000, according to Ms Dolby.

"It goes up every year," she said. "If I wasn't in the show, I would like to go for the shopping. It's like a mini One-of-a-Kind" show, she said.

As part of the Girls' Weekend, there will be tarot card readings and yoga flo classes at Moonflowers Magical Touch, while Stouffville IDA is holding a trunk show by Canadian jewelry designer Karley Smith, featuring semi-precious stones and Swarovski crystals.

The store is also offering 20 per cent off all giftware.

La Cuisine de ma Mere has a lunch special, while lawyer Ida Morra-Caruso will offer free legal advice to the business owner. She will also provide free advice on employment and family law, as well as will/estate law.

"I thought that was quite smart of her. There's a lot of women ... venturing out on their own," Ms Rose said.

People will be able to make their own holiday ornament at the craft show and sale Nov. 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as part of the Latcham Gallery's free family art day.

### Beyond Craft Show and Sale at Nineteen on the Park

Nov. 14 - 6 to 9 p.m.

Nov. 15 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Nov. 16 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 17 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Moonflowers Magical Touch tarot card readings are \$20 each and take place Nov. 16 and 17. A reservation is required and can be made by calling 647-296-0331.

Yoga flo classes are Nov. 15 to 17 at Moonflowers Magical Touch. The fee is \$5. A reservation is required and can be made by calling 647-296-0331.

Stouffville IDA trunk show runs Nov. 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Legal advice will be offered Nov. 15 starting at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling 905-640-0063.

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