

Town aims to curb basketball nets on street

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Portable basketball nets are not allowed on Whitchurch-Stouffville roads because they interfere with curbside collection of garbage and recycling as well as the flow of traffic, according to Linda Mainprize, senior bylaw officer for the municipality.

However, the portable nets are allowed on the streets while in use.

"Kids have to play outside," Mainprize said.

But just like hockey nets, when the game is over, they are to be put back onto the homeowner's property.

The municipality issued a notice regarding basketball nets not being allowed on the roads earlier this week, accompanied by a photo of a truck having to manoeuvre around one.

Enforcement of the encroachment bylaw is based on complaints and Mainprize noted one was lodged this year. The homeowner has subsequently been spoken to.

Failure to remove the nets, may result in the town doing it for the resident and invoicing the homeowner, according to the notice.



TOWN OF WHITCHURCH STOUFFVILLE PHOTO

While portable basketball nets are permitted on local roads when in use, they have to be removed once the game is over to make room for waste removal trucks, the town says.

Charitable horseback ride called off this year

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After seven rides and roughly \$150,000 donated to various charities, the Al Humphrey Memorial Ride has been cancelled this year.

"It's sad. I feel very bad to see it go," said Norma Humphrey, founder of the ride dedicated to the memory of her husband Al.

Prior to his death in 2006 from prostate cancer, her husband loved to lead fellow horseback riders through the trails around their Vandorf Road tack shop and then feed them. But there was a catch. It would cost them \$5 each with all the money going to charity.

When he died, his wife decided to carry on the tradition.

However, registration numbers for this year were too low at the end of June to make the annual Civic long weekend event a go, so she called it off.

"It's very sad. Life has to go on," Hum-



Norma Humphrey was forced to cancel the Al Humphrey Memorial Ride, named in her husband's honour, due to lower interest.

phrey said.

She also admitted the too few volunteers organizing the 25 km ride through the York Region Forest were being stretched too far.

"I'm tired too, but I had a bigger stake in this, more than anybody else," she said.

However, Humphrey noted it wasn't just her ride that had to be cancelled this year. A number of other ones also suffered the same fate for very similar reasons.

Over the past seven years, the one-day ride and barbecue has donated money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Markham Stouffville Hospital foundation's palliative care unit, Princess Margaret Hospital foundation's stem cell research department and the WindReach Farm Foundation.

The ride may be back on next year or Humphrey may consider hosting a different kind of fundraiser.

"Who knows? The future's there and we'll see what it brings," she said.

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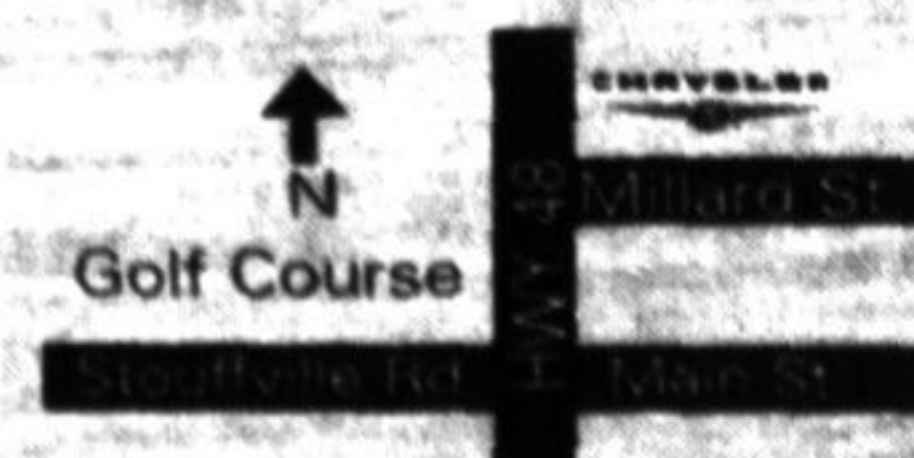
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