

Pickleball trumping seniors' needs

Re: Downsized library/leisure centre plan proceeds, Dec. 3.

I would like to clear up the misconceptions presented by Stouffville council and staff to the public regarding the proposed expansion of the leisure centre at the Dec. 1 meeting.

Council and, in particular Councillor Rob Hargrave and Mayor Justin Altmann in their comments, led the public to believe citizens who spoke against the proposed expansion presented that night were advocating a revised plan to cost \$30 million.

On the contrary, all eight presenters were advocating a plan that will accommodate all the needs of the town in the future. Council's proposed plan addresses the needs of today with no vision for the future. The presenters were appealing for council to step back and prepare a plan with a vision for the future; establish their priorities and build as finances are available.

Council seems to think they can revise the plan and make an addition when the need arises. One only needs to look at Latham Hall with all its piecemeal additions to realize the problems and extra costs created when renovations are necessary. The blueprints must show the finished product that will provide all the services necessary to serve all the citizens in the future. Then, when finance allows an addition, the renovations can easily and inexpensively be accommodated.

I find it interesting the bureaucrats were able to convince council to increase the square footage of the multipurpose room to accommodate the wishes of 150 pickleball players, while any consideration for 12,000

seniors in Whitchurch-Stouffville is ignored. As a senior, it sorta gives you that warm feeling, doesn't it?

It is also interesting councillors Ferdinands, Kroon, Upton and Lovatt did not address the proposal at the meeting. Did they want to have input from the public? I don't think so!

WILF MORLEY
STOUFFVILLE

Arts, culture bring people together

On behalf of the Nineteen on the Park advisory committee I would like to offer my sincere thanks to attendees, volunteers, sponsors and donors for their participation at the sold-out Snow Ball Gala Fundraiser held at 19 on the Park last Friday night.

It was wonderful to enjoy a delicious meal together, catered by our popular Fishbone Bistro. It was also exciting to enjoy local musical talent: The Musical Duo Hyssop, as well as Graham Playford and the Flying J's had us all moving and grooving. Stouffville's own Johnny Wideman captivated the audience when he premiered his story Christmas Skeptic. The silent auction was a huge success.

The committee believes arts and culture bring people together and we are seeing to it that our strong and close-knit community continues to thrive. Please go to nineteenonthePark.com to peruse the remaining shows for 2015 and the upcoming 2016 season.

I wish you all the best this holiday season and hope to see you at Nineteen on the Park again soon.

DAVID PARMER
19 ON THE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

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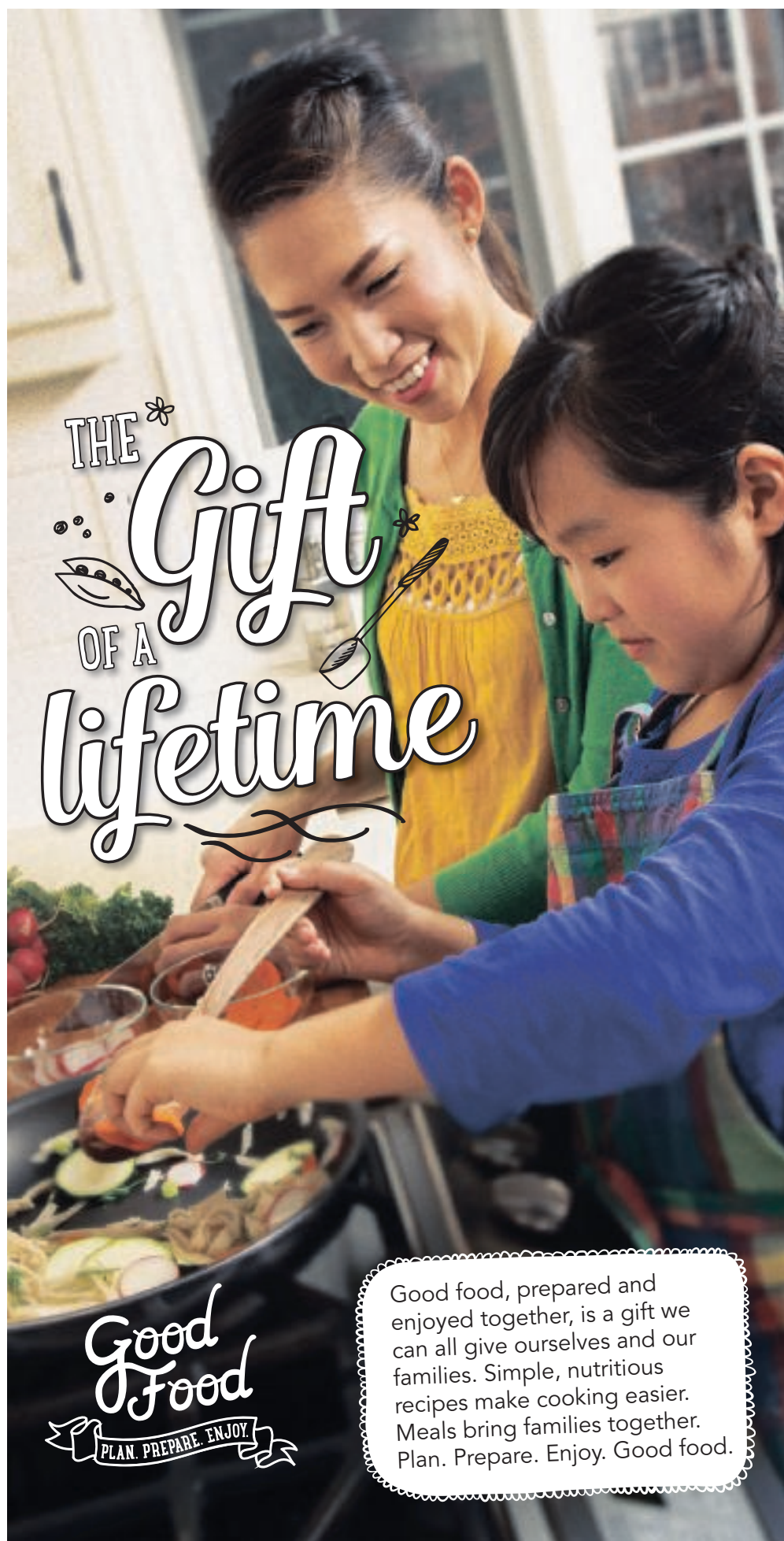
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