

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 3, 2002**

### **THORNHILL ATHLETIC AND SWIMMING CLUB – CSO STATUS**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture recommends:

1. THAT the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club be given limited CSO status.
2. That the activities of the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club be restricted to the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre and the Thornhill Outdoor Pool
3. That the facilities permitted to the Vaughan Aquatic Club and the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club be reconsidered when the Vellore Village Complex is opened in the Fall 2004
4. That both the Vaughan Aquatic Club and the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club make every effort to achieve the 90%Vaughan residency requirement detailed in the Council approved Policy for Facility Allocations.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with some points to consider when deliberating the request for CSO status by the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming club.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 17, 2002 the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club appeared at Committee of the Whole to request the granting of Community Service Organization (CSO) status for a new swim club in the Thornhill area.

The club appeared at the Committee of the Whole as a result of the Council approved Policy for Facility Allocations. The policy states, "Groups applying for CSO status intending to offer a similar or duplicate service to an existing one may be asked to appear before Council to justify their request if the existing group is not in agreement and can meet the overall demand for service."

For the past fourteen years the Vaughan Aquatic Club (VAC) have been providing specialized aquatic services to Vaughan residents. They use both the Woodbridge Pool and the Dufferin Clark pool to provide specialized aquatic programmes to 144 participants of which 65% are Vaughan residents. Throughout the years, the Vaughan Aquatic Club and the City of Vaughan Department of Recreation and Culture have cooperatively provided aquatic services. Learn to swim through to leadership and competitive levels have provided residents with a variety of programmes and opportunities. During this period, the Vaughan Aquatic Club has operated to the satisfaction of the City of Vaughan.

Early in 2001, as a result of differences in training and coaching styles, a former Vaughan Aquatic Club coach and some VAC participants formed the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club. This Club has a current membership of 39 participants of which 38% are Vaughan residents. Although there are some differences, the programme is similar to that of the Vaughan Aquatic Club and they are also seeking to use the same pool. (Dufferin Clark Community Centre)

Staff has made an effort to resolve the situation between the clubs however no satisfactory solution has been achieved to date

## **Conclusion**

Although each club approaches aquatic training somewhat differently, both clubs are competing for the same participants and facilities and unlike soccer, baseball or hockey, no geographic territories are assigned by the governing body. It is recommended that the Thornhill Athletic and Swimming Club be granted CSO status with the condition that their activities be limited to the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre Pool throughout the year and the Thornhill Outdoor Pool during the summer months.

In order to provide a broader level of service to the growing Vaughan population, when the Vellore Village Complex opens in Fall 2004, the facilities permitted to Vaughan Aquatic Club and the Thornhill Athletic and Swim Club should be evaluated in the context of the facilities available and the numbers being served.

## **Attachments**

None

## **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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