

## New rec. centre will be affordable, state-of-the-art

**By Mark Pavilons**

The new state-of-the-art recreation centre planned for King will meet everyone's needs and be affordable.

Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Township and Seneca College to negotiate a ground lease and agreement for indoor and outdoor recreational facilities built by the Township.

Some of the features that could be part of the new community centre include an arena, indoor pool, gymnasium, multi-use space and a number of outdoor fields.

King Mayor Steve Pellegrini is pleased the community will get an indoor swimming pool. The design process, still some months away, will go out to the community for input. Plans for the facility include a running track and twin ice pad, as well as soccer pitches.

The facility will be built and paid for through development charges, the mayor said, noting the only cost to the municipality will be ongoing maintenance and operation. So, the facility will not be funded through tax coffers.

Admittedly though, recreation centres do not make enough money to sustain themselves, so they are a cost to the municipality.

But the social and community benefits far outweigh these costs, Pellegrini said. He noted that studies indicate that every \$1 spent on recreation translates to \$100 in terms of health and youth activity benefits.

Pellegrini is thrilled about the new pool, noting swimming is a life skill that everyone should have.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti is also thrilled with the project.

?With all the growth that King City is seeing today, and what is projected over the next 10 years, King City residents of all ages have been asking when are we going to see enhancements in terms of parks and recreation that will match the pace of this growth. Well this is it. We started our conversations with Seneca in 2010, and through the determination of our CAO Susan Plamondon and Mayor Pellegrini, we have managed to come to an understanding of how to utilize Seneca's 25 acres for the benefit of both Seneca College and the Township of King to be the site for a sports plex that we envision will include an arena, indoor pool, gymnasium, multi-use space and a number of outdoor fields.?