

Get ready for a swarm of seniors

Arts 24/7 Denis Armstrong



Yo, Cumberland, I want to give a shoutout to all my homies at the new seniors' park out there. Coun. Bob Monette's hip to the needs of the fastest-growing segment of the Canadian mosaic — pensioners — so he promised them their own park at 315 Centrum Blvd. in Cumberland during the 2006 municipal election and, three

years later, he's delivered the goods: A place where people 65 and older can meet and play.

The new park, which officially opened Thursday, comes with a gazebo with an oversized checkerboard, wheelchair-accessible picnic tables, areas to play petanque — a French version of bocce or boules — as well as a walking path and pond. I remember the days when our city parks belonged to

teenagers hoping to get away from their parents, smoke dope and fool around. Now, the shoe's on the other foot. Sweet.

We don't hear much about our seniors I think because they're hard-working, uncomplaining sorts who have, in the past, been grateful for whatever little the government gave them, but that's about to change. For the better.

Seniors aren't willing to be quite as self-sacrificing as they have been in previous generations. Millions of healthy baby-

boomers are looking for a more active lifestyle than just a night of bingo. They want to do all the stuff they didn't have time for when they were working hard and paying their taxes — bike, date, golf, yoga, cook, volunteer. Never has being a senior been this sexy.

Meanwhile, the Canadian birthrate has bottomed out to record lows — though it is showing early signs of picking up again.

I think we've focused way too much attention on teens.

Television, film and music industries pander to them while paying almost no attention whatsoever to our seniors.

Yet, our seniors are the ones who have the most to share.

We better get used to seeing more seniors than teens on the street, in the malls and now, in our parks in the future. It's about time.

— DENIS ARMSTRONG APPEARS FRIDAYS IN 24 HOURS. SEND YOUR COMMENTS OR COLUMN IDEAS TO DENIS.ARMSTRONG@SUNMEDIA.CA