

Local News

Everything uptown for Apple Blossom festival

By MANDY MARTIN

mmartin@northumberlandtoday.com

The apple blossom tree is being replanted. It's back to the festival's roots for the 19th annual weekend-long Colborne event.

"Everything will be uptown this year," Apple Blossom Tyme Festival committee chair Donna Rusaw reports. "And, we're only running events is we have people to run them."

That said, it's already shaping up to be a real community happening May 26 and 27.

"We have favourite events back again, and we have some really fun new events, too," Ms. Rusaw,

who is taking on the chair role on her own time, says. She invites anyone wanting to come on board to call her at 905-355-2684.

"We're pleased to announce we're now being incorporated," Ms. Rusaw reports. "Now, we can apply for grants and funding."

Carrying a debt from previous year's, the Apple Blossom Tyme Festival committee is committed to clearing the debt and focusing on sustainable programming. There will be no admission or parking fees for any aspect of the uptown festival events.

A sponsorship program for businesses has been established: platinum level \$500, gold \$250,

silver \$100 and bronze at \$25 to support the festival organization and promotion.

"We have decided as a committee that we won't do more than our community will support, with volunteers and participation. This should be community celebration; that's what it's roots are.

"We're trying to get as much going as possible, with as many people as possible."

Yes, the vintage tractor show and games will be held Saturday, May 26, from King Street West in downtown Colborne. The Show 'N Shine car show and cruisin' music will be on Sunday, May 27.

The ever-popular Apple Blossom 500 Soapbox Derby will be held Saturday morning on Elgin Street, hosted by the Castleton-Colborne Optimist Club. There will be a midway with kiddy rides, too.

"We're going to have a stage show with a line-up of local talent — and a baby contest."

New this year, the baby contest will be open to kids under the age of 36 months. Becky Walsh is organizing the event.

"We'd also like to have a L'il Farmer contest for kids from 36 months up to six years of age, but we need someone to volunteer to take that on."

Cecile Geens is organizing an apple blossom bonnet contest. Caroline Whaley is organizing an amateur art show and sale at the United Church hall. Mandy Clarey is overseeing the marketplace and wellness displays and exhibits.

Carl Wilce is organizing the tractor and car shows and Jim Corkery is in charge of entertainment.

Vice chair of the committee is Pat Johnston, as well as coordinator of events and historian. Lenna Broatch is treasurer, Lynn Marshall secretary, Clinton Breau coordinator of logistics, Kim Emond overseeing sponsorship and Rebecca Goddard for marketing.

"We'd like to have a fun dog show, too, but someone needs to step up and offer to organize that," Ms. Rusaw says.

Because "we have so many fine dining establishments uptown, we're limiting the outside food vendors to a minimum" for this year's festival, Ms. Rusaw says. "We're encouraging businesses to have something outside or promote to entice people in to existing businesses.

"We want our community to benefit. It's our opportunity to let everybody know what a great place we are."

To that end, another first for this year will be the Apple Ambassadors, young people who can earn hours for their community service secondary

school requirement by working in the information booth, answering visitor's questions, helping marketplace vendors and generally stepping in to help where needed.

Heritage Cramahe is planning to run guided walking tours throughout the downtown area of Colborne. Hoselton Studio will again host its weekend-long open house and sale.

The Colborne Curling Club is repeating its successful antique dealers show and sale at the Curling Club on Durham Street. And, back by popular demand, and thanks to volunteers, the all-ages spelling bee with run Saturday morning at Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Colborne.

The Colborne Cramahe Figure Skating Club is holding a club fundraiser Saturday evening at the Keeler Centre - a Yuk-Yuk's comedy night, to dovetail with the festival. It's a paid admission event.

Thus far, the preliminary events line-up is as follows:

SATURDAY, May 26

8:30-11:30 a.m., Scout's pancake breakfast.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in downtown Colborne

Gable Bros. carnival rides and games

Vintage tractor show and games

James Quinn's antique tools

Marketplace vendors and wellness centre

Amateur art show and sale, United Church hall.

Hoselton Studios' annual open house sale

Heritage Cramahe guided walking tours

Charity vendors, bake sales, library book sale, apple history display.

Working bee hive demonstration, 10 a.m.: All-ages spelling bee, Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

Antique dealers' show and sale, Curling Club

Live stage show entertainment

Apple Blossom 500 Soap Box Derby

Sparky's balloon animals

Kid's pedal tractor pull

]Just-for-fun dog show

The Big Apple Pie-Eating Contest,

8 p.m.: Yuk-Yuk's Comedy show and dance, Keeler Centre

SUNDAY, MAY 27

9 a.m. - 5 p.m., downtown Colborne

Gable Bros. carnival rides and games

Vendors market and wellness centre

Show 'N Shine car show and cruisin' music

Apple history display and working bee hive demonstration.

Ag awareness play area.

Kid's tractor pull and Sparky's balloons

10 a.m.: Worship service, Old St. Andrew's lawn

11 a.m.: Antique dealers' show and sale, Curling Club

Noon: Hoselton Studios annual open house and sale

Heritage Cramahe walking tours.

