

DISCOVER THE HILLS

Grand Valley ready for firefighter frolic

PREVIEW

EVENT: Summer Festival.
WHEN: June 28 to 29.
WHERE: Grand Valley.
WHAT: Firefighter water-ball, talent show, activities for children, beer garden.

Grand Valley residents are getting ready for another Summer Festival at the Grand Valley Arena on June 28 and 29.

Water started as a waterball competition for firefighters both from Grand Valley and from other fire departments, grew three years ago into the Grand Valley Summer Festival involving several local service and sports groups.

"Everything is falling into place," said festival committee chairman Andy Van Eik. "The advertising has been done, the acts have been booked."

He said that among the organizations taking place in this year's festival include the police committee, the soccer club, the skating club, the Firefighters' Association and the Grand Valley Lions.

"It got to the point three years ago that the firefighters were so involved in playing water ball and other water sports that there was not enough manpower for the other events," said Mr. Van Eik.

"It was turned over to the committee which has representatives from all these groups and it has become a community event. Everyone is

involved," he said.

Among the scheduled events for the Friday include a beer garden, activities for the children and a talent show.

"We are still booking more acts if people want to get up and sing and dance and make fools of themselves," he said.

TAI CHI

On Saturday, starting at 10 a.m., there will be a karate and Tai Chi demonstration as well as a '50s and '60s dance, a dog show and a classic car demonstration. There are also activities for the children including a magician.

One of the highlights of the day will be the fire fighters water ball competition which will feature teams from Ontario and the United States,

many of whom have been to the competition before.

The competition consists of a steel ball suspended on a pole over both teams, the object of the game being to pass the ball over the opposing team using a fire hose.

WATER, WATER

"It's not as easy as it sounds but it is a lot of fun for the competitors because everyone gets soaked. For

the families and the competitors, it's great fun," he said.


Mr. Van Eik said it was difficult to estimate how many people will be coming through the festival since it is heavily dependant on the weather. Last year, there were between 3 — 5,000 participants.

Last year, the festival raised over \$3,000 which Mr. Van Eik said all goes back into the community.





OUR COVER PHOTO

Scrumptious berries

Debbie Keeble give three-year-old Kelly Lynn an advanced taste of the juicy berries being picked at Birkbank Farms. There will be plenty of strawberries to be found around Dufferin County in the upcoming weeks with the numerous Strawberry Festivals being run in the area.



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