

Riverfest ready to roll June 5

Life on the Credit River will be celebrated in Norval next weekend at Riverfest. The annual event, designed to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our waterways, will be held all day Saturday, June 5 at Norval Park on Mary St. and at Willow Park Ecology Centre, and will feature many familiar favourite activities and events and lots of new ones as well.

A concert with George Fox and other artists is set for the evening.

"I think it's going to be fantastic," said Stephanie Crammond, chair of Riverfest. "There's more of everything for everyone."

The festival kicks off in Norval Park with a pancake breakfast hosted by Georgetown Rotary Club from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Opening ceremonies are set for 9 a.m. on the bridge to Willow Park with Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, local councillors and Rae Horst of Credit Valley Conservation.

A market, featuring 28 vendors, will run from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Events lined up include a fly-fishing demonstration and lessons with professional fly fisherman Don Whiting from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by a karate, ju-jitsu, kumite and self-defence techniques demonstration with Sensei Chris Boreland of Boreland's Karate and Sensei Vern Tilley. Dan Kyoshi will demonstrate the self-defence techniques.

Crammond said those who attend will also have a chance to try their hand at a rock climbing wall.

Food from Village Fine Foods at Crawford's will be available in a food tent from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for those who would like to relax with a beer, they can find one at the beer garden sponsored by Coolbeer.com.

The afternoon is full of folk music including Nonie Crete from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by James Gordon from 2 to 3 p.m.

Children's entertainers Kirk & Magoo will perform from 3-4 p.m. and Crammond said "if people have small kids they will really want to be there for this."

David Francey will take the stage from 4:15-5 p.m. At 5 p.m. he will make the draw for a Typhoon kayak, sponsored by Dimension Kayak worth \$700. Anyone who has purchased an admission ticket will be entered in the draw.

More musical entertainment will be provided at an open stage from 1-5 p.m. run by the Brampton Folk Club. Anybody who has a guitar (acoustic only) and is interested in getting up on the stage and performing folk music is welcome.

Willow Park will also be a busy place with several events scheduled throughout the day.

In that park from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. boats in the Paddle to the Sea competition will be decorated.

From 10-10:30 a.m. Georgetown Seniors will demonstrate tai chi and from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. everyone is encouraged to visit "Wet and Scaly", the frog and amphibian display.

From 10 a.m. to noon those who attend Riverfest can check out Electro Fishing with Loveleen Clayton and Bob Morris, and from 10 a.m. to noon, River Critters with Trout Unlimited river ecologist Jack Imhof.

Other activities in Willow Park include butterfly releases from noon to 2 p.m. in the garden, and birds of prey with Debbie Dulong from SOAR.

The Paddle to the Sea boat races will be held from 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Also throughout the day festival-goers can take in the tree and bake sale held at Norval United Church directly across the road from Norval Park. Small trees will be available for sale, along with baked goods and coffee.

Art-lovers can check out more than 50 works of art featuring the Credit River at the Celebrating the Credit River Art Show & Sale in honour of Credit Valley Conservation's 50th anniversary at 484 Guelph St., the brick heritage home next to Norval United Church. Proceeds from the show will support the efforts of Credit River Alliance.

Crammond said the park's gates will close at 5 p.m. and reopen at 6:30 p.m. for the evening concert.

During the break, she said festival-goers should consider visiting La Vita and House of Ribs in Georgetown for dinner as they will offer special menus and special prices for Riverfest participants. All they need is their Riverfest wristband or concert ticket to qualify.

She said Riverfest gates will open again for the evening concert at 6:30 p.m.

Crammond said concert-goers should bring their own chair, but stressed no coolers should be brought in.

At 7:30 p.m. Nonie Crete will take the stage with her song about the Credit River entitled *Where the Credit River Flows*.

Other performers for the night include James Gordon who will perform at 7:40 p.m., David Francey at 8:40 p.m. and country singer George Fox will take the stage at 9:45 p.m.

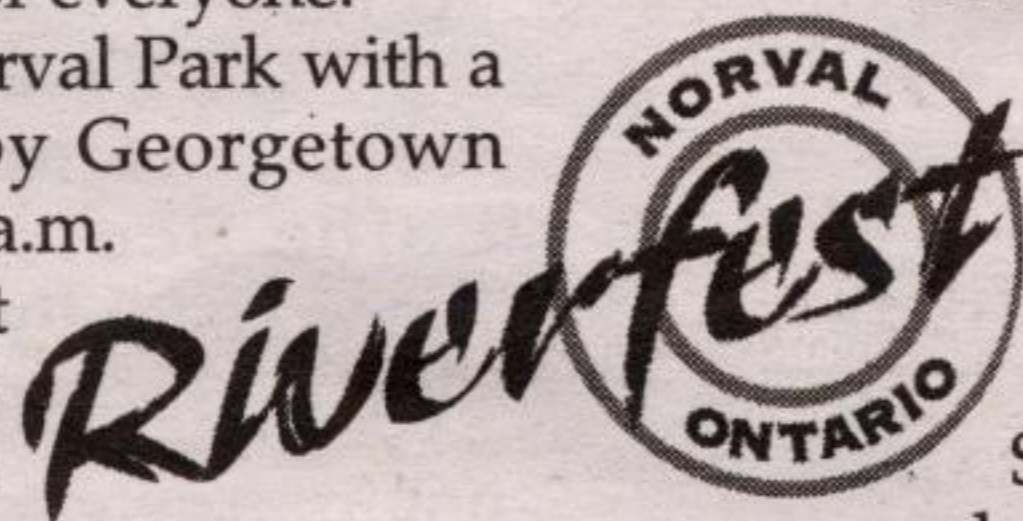
"We're really lucky to get him (Fox)," said Crammond, who has won four Juno and seven Country Music awards.

In the evening the beer tent will reopen at 7 p.m. and the food tent, sponsored by LaVita Bakery, will open at 7:30 p.m.

Crammond stressed there will be plenty of free parking and a bike rack will be provided at the Ollie's Cycle & Sports booth.

Admission at the gate during the daytime festival is \$5 per person, and \$10 per family. Evening concert tickets are \$15 per person. To order call 905-877-8533.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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Bring along any pics or mementos!