

Big Daddy Festival was fun

Organizers disappointed with turnout

“Too bad you missed it, because it was a fantastic event.” That’s what Kathleen Dills, Acton rep for the Big Daddy Festival said on Sunday afternoon in Prospect Park, following a disappointing turnout at a fishing derby, one of many Acton events scheduled in the inaugural Halton Hills Big Daddy Festival.

While Friday’s kick-off Battle of the Bands was a hit – hundreds enjoyed eight acts on the Roxy stage and Hometown Roots was the hands-down winner with the judges and crowd, earning a slot in Acton’s Canada Day concert, and a gift certificate from Long and McQuade music.

The talent and karaoke events drew

only a few to Prospect Park on Saturday afternoon – no prizes were awarded at the Rotary Bandshell. Hours later, an equipment glitch led to a 20-minute delay in the start of the movie Iron Man, at the Rotary Bandshell where uncommon swarms of mosquitoes buzzed the crowd of approximately 200 people.

Dills suggested next year, with more volunteers, they might hold all of the Acton events on one day, at one location. “Maybe if we had a picnic in the park – food seems popular – this takes a lot of effort from a lot of people,” she said.

Although 10 kids entered the Fishing Derby, only three fish were turned in, and a seven-inch, half-ounce Sunfish

captured (and released) by Will Maltby and his father, won the largest fish prize. Maltby, 12, from Strathroy, also landed a five-inch Sunfish.

A six-inch, half-ounce Rock Bass caught by Cassandra Spracklin, 11, of Burlington, was the largest. She also caught a five-and-a-half inch Sunfish.

Organizer of the Rotary Club of Acton “Dad and Me” fishing derby Herb Dodds, said while some kids had a lot of fun, he was “disappointed” with the low turnout – past derbies have attracted more than 70 young anglers. The winners received fishing poles and all participants received a gift bag.

Two experts from Trouts Unlimited offered fly-tying advice and demon-

strated, and then helped several local dads try some dry land casts.

Saturday’s Taste of Acton proved popular events with local eateries and hungry crowds that purchased a passport and then visited five of seven restaurants offering a special tasting menu.

“We’ve sold all of our 30 passports and had a great day,” said Tanners owner/manager Andrea Clark late Saturday afternoon.

There were 26 events on the Big Daddy Festival schedule across Halton Hills including the annual Classic Car Show for Cancer, try-it workshops at Williams Mill, and the Festival on Main in downtown Georgetown.



SHARP STINGRAY: This 1969 Corvette Stingray, owned by Acton’s Paul Mendes, drew appreciative crowds at the annual Classics for Cancer car show on Father’s Day in Georgetown. – Submitted photo



TASTY TREAT TOUR: Acton’s Shera Dancer, holding Marlan, and her children Paco and Linsy Eldridge, sampled the food at Tanners Restaurant on Saturday as part of the Taste of Acton tour. Participants bought a passport and then sampled tasting menus at five of seven Acton eateries. – Frances Niblock photo



ACE ANGLERS: Will Maltby’s seven-inch Sunfish and Cassandra Spracklin’s six-inch Rock bass earned them top prizes in the Rotary Club Dad and Me Fishing Derby, part of the Big Daddy Festival, on Sunday in Prospect Park. Both, who posed with their dads Jeff and Ray, won a new fishing rod. – Frances Niblock photo



SHE CAN SING: Acton’s Cierra Nadon, 7, showed no signs of nerves when she took to the mic at the Rotary Bandshell on Saturday during the Big Daddy festivities. – Submitted photo



FLY FISHING FUN: Acton’s Bill Dagleish tried his hand at fly casting under the watchful eye of Trouts Unlimited biologist Jack Imhoff during the Rotary Club of Acton’s Dad and Me Fishing Derby on Sunday in Prospect Park. – Frances Niblock photo