



At left, firefighters Roy Kenealy (left) and Fraser Lockhurst cook up some of their firefighters backdraft chili during Saturday's festivities at the Milton Fair Grounds. Below left, firefighter Barry Kory stands at the ready with a fire extinguisher as fellow firefighter Ryan Fraser — wearing a Haz-mat suit — prepares to deliver the judges a sample of their chili.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Chili Festival hot, hot, hot

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Local fiery-food lovers put their tastebuds to the test at the second annual Chili Festival held at the Milton Fair Grounds Saturday.

The event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Milton, drew just under 1,000 people looking to sample the interesting varieties of chili prepared by 10 competing teams, ranging from vegetarian to ostrich meat.

"The chilis were fantastic — all different," said festival committee member Barb Saxby, who also entered a chili with her team, the Red Hot Chili Peppers. "It went very well. It was just lots of fun."

The chilis were so popular, some participants were faced with the same dilemma as last year — running out of chili before the event was over.

"The Halton Regional Police ran out first. They were very pleased," said festival committee member Carolyn Keyworth. "We all just about ran out by the end of the event."

The Rotary Club reported nearly \$4,000 was raised for local charitable projects, but the money hasn't been designated yet. "Most of the winners donated their money back to Rotary," said Ms Saxby.

The chili cookers were judged in a variety of categories by Mayor Gord Krantz, Loblaws Manager Mark Richards, and Wayne and Gail Williams from the Wheelchair Foundation and Burlington Rotary Club.

"They measured not only the taste, but also the spice balance, heartiness and texture of the chili to arrive at their conclusions," said Ms Keyworth.

The Milton Fire Department reigned as champions again this year, taking first place in the best chili, on-site preparation category. Second place went to Julie Hall of Milton.

Tom and Shirley Dusmet of BMO Nesbit Burns came in first in the best chili, off-site preparation commercial section, with Bryden's Pub of Milton placing second.

Bonnie and Bruce Ross of Acton earned the best non-traditional chili title with their ostrich meat chili, with the special ingredient coming from the local White Rock Ostrich Farm.

The Canadian Eh! team of Rick Saxby and Steve Prevost took home awards for best booth/showmanship and people's choice, on-site preparation.

Matt's Rib House of Milton was also a crowd-pleaser, winning the people's choice award, off-site preparation for its concoction.

An addition to the festivities this year was the car show and shine, which had a turnout of 50 classic and performance cars.

The vehicles were judged by the public and a Rotary Club committee, with trophies presented by Ries Boers of Bill's Auto Body and Dale Devlin of Halton Automotive.

Miltonian Al Kiernan won the people's choice award with his 1930 Nash, while Terry Weber of Cambridge took the judge's choice and overall best in show titles for his 1947 Ford Coupe.

"We were absolutely delighted with the car show. We'll definitely be repeating this event," said Ms Keyworth.

Music for Chilifest was provided by Dan and John Borrelli and their group, along with disc jockey Greg Parsons.

In addition to the Rotary Club, the event was sponsored by Milton Loblaws, The Canadian Champion and Proforma of Toronto. The Halton Region Health Department also attended Chilifest to ensure safety at the event.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



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ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

A temporary road closure of Thompson Road for a period of 7 days is required to accommodate road improvements to benefit existing and future residences.

**This road closure is planned for
AUGUST 23 THROUGH AUGUST 29, 2004.**

Traffic will be detoured around the closure via Derry Road, Britannia Road, Fourth Line and Ontario Street. Residents with direct residential frontage onto Thompson Road within the road closure area will have access maintained at all times during construction. Through traffic will not be accommodated.

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