

ARTS



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

GREAT FAMILY FUN: At top, Donna Jagoe and four-year-old daughter Sarah enjoy Sunday's TVO Kids 'Don't Sit Still Tour' at Milton Memorial Arena. Above, tour personalities Jackie English and Mark Sykes entertain the crowd by tossing around a beach ball. The tour is designed to get youngsters up and active.

Arts festival to hit the street June 10

Plenty of entertainment planned for free event

By **Stephanie Thiessen**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Next month, downtown Milton will be transformed into a pedestrians-only hub of activity as artisans, performers and local businesses take to the streets for a day-long celebration of the arts.

The Arts Milton Festival will take place June 10, presented by Arts Milton and the Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA).

On a hopefully sunny, spring day, Main Street will be closed to traffic and lined with artists of all sorts showcasing their talents. At the same time, roving performers — maybe a busker, caricature artist and magician or two — will aim to impress with their unique abilities.

All of that is in addition to dancers, musicians — with styles ranging from folk to country to rock — and actors who'll take to one of four stages, providing constant entertainment.

Best of all, everything will be free.

Local businesses will also be pulling out all the stops, with sidewalk sales and more.

"The DBIA has been absolutely fantastic, and we're thrilled to have that relationship with them now," said Greg Nelson, president of Arts Milton.

He said the event was inspired by places like Quebec and Europe that have foot traffic-only areas where performers and artists gather.

"Creating community with the arts" is the slogan for the festival.

"It's going to be a wonderful event," said Jacquelyn Garrard, DBIA co-ordinator, adding it'll be a good way for new residents to become better acquainted with the downtown core and Milton's art community.

The festival will start at Victoria Park in front of Town Hall at 10 a.m. where there'll be displays set up by members of the Fine Arts Society of Milton and poetry reading in the gazebo.

Tim Hortons, the newest corporate sponsor of Arts Milton, will have two kids' fun zones set up, and will be selling coffee and doughnuts.

At 2 p.m., after the Farmers' Market shuts down, the festival will change gears — and locations. An opening ceremony with Mayor Gord Krantz will take place at Main and Martin streets,

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GREG NELSON

followed by a concert with folk music group Silver Birch.

From 2 to 8 p.m., the street will be alive with the arts.

At 2:15 p.m., former world champion figure skater and martial artist Elvis Stojko will perform the traditional Chinese lion dance.

And Waldie's Blacksmith Shop on James Street will be open, so families can drop by and take a look. Also, a kids' art experience centre will be set up in front of St. Paul's United Church.

"(Residents) are going to be hard pressed to decide what to go and see," Nelson said.

At dinnertime, area bars and restaurants will feature music acts and St. Paul's United Church will be holding a steak and lobster dinner.

Not to be outdone, participating businesses have lots of ideas up their sleeves, Garrard said.

"It'll be a real surprise to see what they do," she said.

Organizers are still looking for people to set up displays along 'artisans way.' Painters, sculptors, jewellers and other artists are being sought.

"All art is welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase your abilities, however great they may be," Garrard said. "It's nice to have an eclectic feel."

Nelson added the opportunity will give artists a chance to gain exposure and maybe even sell some of their work.

The cost of setting up a booth is \$75 for anyone who's not a member of Arts Milton or the DBIA. Pre-registration is required.

Organizers are also looking for roving performers of all sorts.

And high school students looking to complete their required community service hours are welcome to volunteer.

For more information or to download a registration form, visit www.downtownmilton.com or call Garrard at (905) 876-2773.

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