

It's party time!

Street festival promises something for everyone

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Downtown Milton Street Festival's growing popularity isn't restricted to the crowds.

Since its 2007 inception to celebrate the town's 150th anniversary, the annual summer kick-off celebration has had bands and other entertainers clamouring to be part of the festivities.

"This year we had over 300 applicants wanting to be part of the festival. That's a pretty good indication of just how big the event is getting," said returning entertainment co-ordinator Donna Danielli, who through her annual trips to the Canadian Music Week extravaganza in Toronto each March has developed plenty of contacts. "We've had requests from people all over the world."

Among those will be Parklane, a mellow alternative ensemble from South Africa that will get the party rolling next Saturday (June 6) as the opening act.

Of course that's just the tip of the iceberg as far as three-stage music line-up goes for the third annual festival, which will run from 3 to 11 p.m. in the core.

Headlining this year's event will be For Those About to Rock, a Toronto-based AC/DC cover band that'll end things off on the main stage at 10 p.m.

Milton's own The Randalls — who won an Ontario Independent Music Award last year and are set for a U.K. tour this fall — will hit the stage at 9 p.m.

Before that there'll be a wide array of talent, with a total of 35 acts offering something to please festival-goers with just about any

musical taste imaginable.

Said Danielli, "We've got crooners, folk and alternative rock, reggae and even a Celtic fiddler. Basically there's something for everyone. And 80-to-90 per cent of the bands have members who either live in Milton, grew up here or work in town. Working with the festival has really opened my eyes as to just how much great talent we've got here."

And the festival's appeal is hardly limited to music. Along with the Milton Community Resource Centre's Fun Fair — which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Town Hall's Victoria Park — this year's street party promises more for its young visitors.



Downtown



Milton Street Festival

A rock-climbing wall has been added to the mix, while a balloon launcher, clowns, face painting, possible BMX demonstrations and a visit by Reptile Rob and his slithery friends will combine to keep kids and adolescents alike entertained.

"We've even got a stilt walker this year. Of course at some point I guess I should warn him that Main Street is kind of an uphill walk," quipped Danielli, who expects attendance to be on par with the 15,000 who came out the past two years.

The street party will also feature dozens of vendors — many from the area's arts scene — as well as plenty of scrumptious food to savour.

Parking will be available at the fairgrounds and Mary Street parking lots, but with Mattamy Homes once again providing free shuttle service, festival-goers are encouraged to leave their vehicles at home.

For a schedule of events and shuttle service times, visit www.downtownmilton.com.

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HEY KIDS, WANNA HAVE SOME FUN?

Above, Daisy Ovtcharova (left) and Mariya Garmenova dance up a storm during TVOKids' Don't Sit Still show at the Milton Mall Sunday afternoon. At right, Mark Sykes (left) and Ryan Field delight their young audience.

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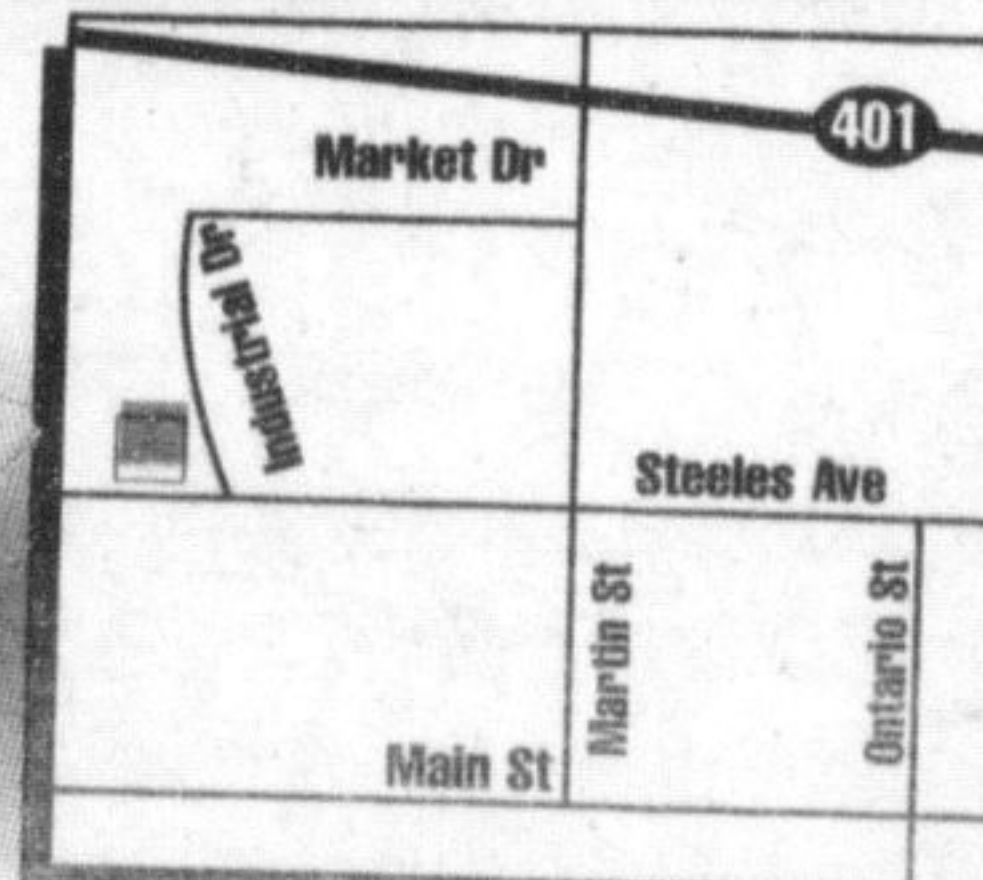
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