

**REMEMBER LAST SUMMER?**  
 NOW 'S THE TIME TO CHECK OUT YOUR A/C!  
  
**SX**  
 HEATING & COOLING  
 723-2290 • ESSEX



**The ESSEX FREE PRESS**

**\$1.00** (GST included)  
 Whole Number 6194  
 Registration No. 08565  
 Volume 127 No. 28

Phone: 776-4268  
 Fax: 776-4014

<http://essexfreepress.reinvented.net>



"Serving Essex and Community Since 1896"

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

# Essex puts the 'fun' in Fun Fest

The Essex Fun Fest whimpered to a close Sunday night as the fireworks were delayed one week due to high winds.

But this unexpected development didn't detract from the overall success of the weekend. With pleasant weather and sunny skies, the Fun Fest witnessed several firsts – the first mechanical bull competition in support of the arena project, the first Mardi Gras parade to hit the streets of Essex, and the first visit to town of the world-famous Stanley Cup.

Free Press staff worked hard over the weekend to capture the essence of the Essex Fun Fest for our readers. In this issue, you will find stories on the Prince and Princess Pageant (below), the Youth Talent Search (below), the Stanley Cup's arrival (page 15), and the Pet Show (page 8).

You will also find a large selection of photographs depicting some of the weekend's highlights on pages 12-14. And, for more candid photos, please visit our website at <http://essexfreepress.reinvented.net>.

And, just a reminder ... the fireworks will be held Sunday, July 16 at 10 p.m. at the arena fairgrounds.



The "Paratrooper" spins as festival goes line up at the midway during the Essex Fun Fest. Fun Fest Chairman Morley Bowman says about 30,000 people took in this past weekend's Fun Fest activities.

## Talent show finalists selected for Western Fair

BY SARAH FISHER

A crowd of parents, friends and onlookers watched the Youth and Junior Talent Show on the last day of the 2006 Essex FunFest July 9 as if it were an episode of Canadian Idol.

SEE YOUTH TALENT SEARCH, 2

## Fun Fest prince, princess named

BY MARIAH VIZI

Ten contestants stood in front of an audience and performed for the title of Prince and Princess of the 2006 Fun Fest July 6 at the arena fairgrounds.

Cole Hennessy and Summer Ellis were named the Prince and Princess by judges Liz Arkinstall, Carlene Frimer, Bill Gay and Marlene Markham.

The talent part of the competition began with nine-year-old Marcel Mallette telling jokes.

Seven-year-old Riley Gagnon followed Mallette by

singing I've Been Working in my Classroom. Jadyn Ryan, four, danced to All That Jazz. Other performances included a rendition of the Good Ship Lollypop by Sabrina Cipkar. Six-year-old Charles Bowyer danced to Everybody by the Backstreet Boys.

Eight-year-old Emma Conley tested her piano skills by playing My Favourite Things. Six-year-old Kayla Parussini sang the Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round. Nine-year-old Nicole Drouillard gave a dance performance to Two Worlds.

SEE PRINCE, PRINCESS, 2

**Young Drivers®**  
**The Driver Training Course**  
**Everybody Is Talking About**



**YOUNG DRIVERS® of Canada**  
 Your licence to survive.  
**AWARD WINNING CENTRE**

Leamington/Essex/Windsor  
 Centre Director, Mary Barraco

**COURSES STARTING**

Ask about Drive Fit™  
 12 Hours More Training Included

**LEAMINGTON CLASSROOM**  
 JULY 31  
 SPECIAL DAYTIME COURSE • 4 DAYS

---

**AUGUST 14**  
 SPECIAL DAYTIME COURSE • 4 DAYS

**ESSEX CLASSROOM**  
 JULY 18  
 SPECIAL DAYTIME COURSE • 4 DAYS

---

**AUGUST 21**  
 SPECIAL DAYTIME COURSE • 4 DAYS

Ask About Our Free Co-Drivers Session Offered Wednesday, July 19th or Tuesday, August 22nd

**To Register call Young Drivers® 519.250.8611 | Visit Us At [www.youngdrivers.com](http://www.youngdrivers.com). Learn more and enroll on-line.**