

Weekender

Comment

Village Festival is alive

It looks like the Markham Village festival isn't going to fold after all.

Ward 5 Councillor Gord Landon — the first chairman of the festival nine years ago — has agreed to take the reins as chairman of the organizing committee for 1987.

But Mr. Landon needs help. He's looking for volunteers to join the organizing committee — and not just people who belong to service clubs or community groups and organizations.

Interested individuals are invited to join the committee. Rather than dying, the 1987 festival could be bigger and better than ever with events planned on the Saturday and the Sunday.

But it takes people — volunteers willing to pitch in and help out. Those interested are invited to call the Town of Markham office at 477-7000 and speak with Jeannette Anbinder. She'll take a message and Councillor Landon will contact those who are interested.



CFTR grudge match this weekend

Ah, Valentine's Day. A time to reaffirm a loving bond, or to rekindle a flickering flame. A day characterized by candlelit dinners, chocolates in heart-shaped boxes, red roses. The crack of a bat.

The crack of a bat?

Perhaps it's a way of showing "warped" radio personality Tom Rivers that Stouffville can be a few weeks ahead of the times instead of 20 years behind. Then again it could be that we're finally succumbing to the effects of Stouffville water. Or maybe it's just that Stouffville's age-old love affair with baseball makes it a natural.

Whatever it is, it's happening this Valentine's Day Weekend, even as you sit in your kitchen savouring that Saturday morning java. The Second Annual Stouffville Slo-Pitch Baseball Tournament is underway, being played under conditions almost as bad as you'd expect to find at Toronto's "Excruciating" Stadium in early April.

Sure, it's crazy, but come on



now. Deep down inside you kind of like the idea, don't you. After all, we've got January well behind us, and February is fading fast. The Blue Jays are only a week or so away from flocking in Dunedin, Florida for the delightful ritual of spring training.

It's all about to happen. Spring is just around the proverbial corner. It's time to get excited again!

Now, what we have going on in Stouffville this weekend is far more than a baseball tournament with pancake breakfast, hay rides, a dance, etc. It's a matter of civic pride. The self respect of Mayor Fran's little town is on the line here.

The focal point of the weekend

just so happens to be a grudge match pitting Stouffville's Royals against the "girls" of C.F.T.R. Radio, Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the main diamond. Yes, the same C.F.T.R. that lets Tom Rivers out of his padded cell every morning long enough to pollute the air waves with extremely tacky anti-Stouffville verbiage. Stuff like "The groundhog came out and saw his shadow today. That means six or more weeks of 1963 for Stouffville." Or "The population target for Stouffville has been upped to 20,000 for the year 2000. They're going to turn it into a maximum security prison".

This guy can best be described

as a combination of McLean and McLean, Don Rickles and a bad dream. Absolutely no points for originality.

I tuned him in the other morning because I had already wakened up with a bad taste in my mouth anyway. Robert Palmer was singing "Addicted To Love". Other than being the second best dance-floor number ever recorded, (the best? Okay, Seger's "Old Time Rock And Roll"), this song serves as the Tom Rivers radio show theme, because of the tune's opening line "The lights are on — but you're not home."

We could go on about this guy, but let's just sum him up by saying that if B.S. was music, he'd be a brass band.

In last year's ball game between Stouffville and C.F.T.R., Stouffville easily defeated the disc jerky and his entourage. Rivers was forced to become an honorary citizen of our town. Had Stouffville lost, we would have had to become part of Manitoba.

This year's incentive is that if the deranged D.J. wins, he becomes Mayor for a day. Of course, Stouffville will win again, playing good old country baseball, and that will entitle local newspaperman Jim Mason to take Rivers place on C.F.T.R. morning show for one day. Should give him plenty of time to counter the anti-Stouffville propaganda Rivers has been force feeding his listeners for so long.

So I want all of you to be in the stands to lend your verbal support to the Royals as they fight the good fight against these poor misguided big city radio types in their fruity outfits. Old Rivers will be all washed up once we're through with him.

Yes, and I'll even offer a full apology to the good folks of Gormley if they'll send a contingent of cheerleaders. They've certainly proven in the past that they can speak out in public. Ha! Just kidding. Please, no more torpedoes.

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