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Diana White, 17, has no trouble getting along with her classmates in a male-dominated machine shop course. The Blair Rd. resident is this week's Girl Next Door. She one day plans to use the skills she is learning now to work at Markham Washer & Stamping. Diana also enjoys traveling. — Jim Thomas

Girl Next Door

Machine shop gal is one of the boys

By JIM THOMAS

She's one of the boys.

But don't get me wrong. Diana White, 17, of Grade 12 is a lady through and through.

But being the only girl in a male-dominated machine shop class could be an unnerving experience.

However, Diana handles it well.

"At first, I was intimidated but now I enjoy it. Sure, the guys joke around a bit and laugh when I ask dumb questions. But they're also anxious to help. It's fun; I have no regrets," Diana says.

She's our "Girl Next Door."

Diana hopes to put the knowledge she's gained to good use. Following graduation, she plans to work with her father at Markham Washer & Stamping. She already helps out on a part-time basis.

Diana is a native of Gilford, Ont., one of three in the family of Brian and Geraldine White, Blair Rd.

For eight years, they lived in Stouffville and Diana attended Summitview School. Then, they moved to Markham, returning to town three years ago.

"My brother, David, and I wanted to come back," Diana says. "Our friends are here."

When Diana talks about friends, she mentions specifically Leanna Boyd and Laura Appleton. Also on her appreciation list are her parents. She calls them "great."

"We're very close," she says.

Diana's travelled extensively, including memorable trips to Florida (twice) and Hawaii. The holiday in Hawaii was a present she'd like to return again.

Countdown to festival begins

By KATE GILDERDALE

STOUFFVILLE — The Strawberry Festival Committee met at the Rec. Centre April 26 as the countdown begins for one of Whitchurch-Stouffville's most eagerly awaited annual events.

Celebration dates are June 29 to July 3.

In addition to many old favorites such as The Buttermakers' Slo-Pitch Tournament, a Baby Contest, a Big Wheel Competition and Pancake Breakfasts, the committee is working on new attractions including a symphony orchestra and a visit from Ronald McDonald.

The most exciting new event, however, will be the Triathlon. It will take place July 1 beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Peter Arnott, working in co-operation with Recreation Director Marlene McKee-Wetheral, will co-ordinate this festival feature.

"There will be a one-kilometre swim, a 20-kilometre bicycle course and an eight-kilometre run," Mr. Arnott explained.

"It will be a short course," Mr. Arnott continued, "it will be limited to 80 entries."

The age categories will be 17 to 29; 30 to 39; 40 to 49; and 50 plus.

The entry fee is $25 per person. Registrations are being accepted at the Rec. Centre.

Prizes will be awarded in all age groups with a special award to the first town resident completing the course.

The committee is seeking sponsors for the event. Fifty volunteers are also required to organize entrants and monitor the course.

"It will be a combination of the competitive and the recreational," Mr. Arnott explained. There's no time limit for those who prefer to take things at a more leisurely pace.

Those wishing to offer sponsorships or serve as volunteers are asked to call 640-6527.

Following the Triathlon, singer Lawnie Wallace and ventriloquist Carla Mulcahey will provide entertainment for the crowds.

Steve Payne of Stouffville's Little League Theatre is planning a special area for children that will include a puppet show, clowns and magicians.

Mr. Payne will be assisted by Diane Peak in finalizing this segment of the program.

No Canada Day would be complete without a birthday cake and the usual spectacular display of fireworks in the park.

This year, the fireworks won't mark the conclusion of festivities. On Sunday, July 3, the Stouffville Ministerial will conduct an open-air service with a Strawberry Social to follow, courtesy of McNeil Pharmaceutical.

A festival wrap-up meeting is scheduled for May 31. The deadline for submission of new events or changes in the program is May 15.

"This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever," says Chairman Jim Heidema. "Plan to attend and join in the fun."

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