



Cedar Valley couple married 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Perrin, R.R. 1, Cedar Valley, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Sunday. In honor of the occasion, an "Open House" was enjoyed with many friends and relatives attending. Mr. and Mrs. Perrin have one son Walter of R.R. 1, Cedar Valley; one daughter Elaine (Johnstone), of Whitby and five grandchildren — Brian and Jeffrey; Adam, Timothy and Greg. They are pictured here holding a plaque from the Town presented to them by Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall. —Jim Thomas

Strawberry Festival

Best show yet claims program's chairman

By BRUCE STAPLEY
STOUFFVILLE — For the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, it's time to dance in the streets, listen to symphony music and experience the excitement of musical fireworks.

For Strawberry Festival chairman Jim Heidema and his Committee, it's a time to see their planning and organizing become a reality.

This year's Festival, that begins officially with Opening Ceremonies on the Town Park stage, June 29, (today), at 5:30 p.m., it's the biggest yet. And according to Mr. Heidema, our Festival's fast becoming a major attraction for people in town and beyond.

"It's growing every year," says the man who's taken it upon himself to wear the chairman's hat two years in a row. "We now have a good solid base of events such as the Slow-Pitch Tournament; the Beauty Pageant and many others, all of which pretty well run themselves without the Committee having to become involved."

"I feel it will some day develop into a major regional event, like Caravan in Toronto," says Mr. Heidema.

Jim's pleased the Town, particularly the Recreation Department, has become such a strong Festival supporter.

"The Town's been wonderful, Marlene (McKee-Wetheral, Recreation Manager), and Peter Arnott, (Recreation Program Planner), have been very willing participants. The Recreation Department sees the Festival as a major event. They've been very anxious to assist."

Jim admits, however, there have been a few last-minute occurrences that have kept the Committee on its toes. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the

sponsoring organization for the Baby Contest was forced to pull out at the last minute.

"The Committee decided to run it themselves," said Mr. Heidema, adding that the original organizer has offered to take over again next year.

The second curve came when the federal government, always a major financial supporter, decided to cut back its spending. "They only advised us two weeks ago that they were reducing their funding by half," reports Mr. Heidema.

The government decided not to chip in with free balloons and flags as in the past. "We don't have the budget to handle that kind of thing. Everything keeps going up in cost. We made about \$90 last year, but it'll be touch-and-go as to where we stand financially when all is said and done this year," the chairman explained.

But that's to-morrow's worry. To-day is show time; to see the Festival all come together once again.

Jim says he's confident the weatherman will co-operate, and he seems to have developed an uncanny ability to deliver the goods weather wise since he became affiliated with the program four years ago.

The chairman points with pride to the over-all lineup of activities. He's particularly excited about the Friday night program. The Scarborough Symphony will be playing in the Park pavilion; there'll be events for the children such as a magic show, clowns, animals and games plus the musical fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's agenda is equally dazzling with such attractions as the Baby Contest, Hot-Air Balloon Rides, the Big Wheel Competi-

tion, the Pie-Eating Contest, the Freckles Contest, a Dance and a Torch-Light Parade.

"There's definitely something for everyone," says Jim, "it's been arranged so there's something for everyone to enjoy."

Mr. Heidema says the Festival is another reason why Whitchurch-Stouffville has become an attractive place in which to live for he and his family as well as others.

Since moving to Stouffville 11 years ago, Jim and wife Bonnie have become involved in many Town activities, with Jim's Festival affiliation the most intensive.

And while he hopes to stay on in an advisory capacity, he states it's vital that a successor be lined up soon and be groomed to take over.

"This is definitely my last year for someone to step forward. I'll continue to serve on the Committee but I won't be in charge."

Jim's been able to bring an organized approach to the position of Committee chairman. He describes it as "an enjoyable experience. I really get a big charge out of it."

He's quick to add that all Festival participants do a tremendous job of handling their particular responsibilities and events.

"The Committee works well together. As for the events themselves, we merely co-ordinate them. The sponsors organize their parts themselves," he explains.

It would appear, under Jim Heidema's guidance and Committee members' co-operation, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival has definitely come of age.

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Musical fireworks

STOUFFVILLE — The sky will be a maze of multi-colored stars, streams and streaks Friday night.

It's the Strawberry Festival's first Musical Fireworks Display. The extravaganza attracted 5,000 people to the Town Park last year, and it's been put to music this time around. The theme is "Love and Rock and Roll."

The cost of this year's fireworks is about \$6,000. The Town is a major supporter, and the federal government also chips in.

A large crowd is expected, since no other towns are planning a Canada Day display this year. The fireworks will last about a half hour. Marlene McKee-Wetheral will ignite them.

"You have to be licensed by the provincial government to set off a fireworks display like this one," says Peter Arnott, (Stouffville's Recreation Programmer). "There is a certain element of danger involved in being the person doing the lighting, and Marlene is licensed."

Stouffville's Tom Brillinger will put together sound system that will accompany the fireworks. There will even be some synchronization.

Mr. Arnott explains that fireworks displays are ordered according to star signs, and different ones are available. "You then make your own music," he explains. "This has all been done in advance, to match the power of the fireworks."

The display begins at 9:30 p.m.



To reside in Uxbridge

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome van Vliet sign the register following their marriage, Saturday, in St. James Presbyterian Church, Stouffville. The bride is the former Claudia Wutke of R.R. 1, Cedar Valley. Rev. Herb Gale conducted the ceremony with the reception following at Woodland Trails, Whitchurch-Stouffville. The happy couple will reside at R.R. 1, Uxbridge. —Jim Thomas